

Holdout

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tus quo in SWC.

Although Texas A&M is a state institution dependent on taxpayer money, it has a right to do what's best for A&M, not Texas.

If that means leaving for the Southeastern Conference, Pac 10 or Big 8, A&M should dump the decaying SWC.

Money and prestige should drive A&M's decisions, not loyalty to the SWC or Texas.

Some people might say A&M has too much tradition that includes these schools. Those people must realize that when it came to A&M maintaining the annual A&M - Texas Thanksgiving bash, every SWC member voted against Groff and the Aggies.

Yes, even Texas. UT associate athletic director Christine Plonsky said the SWC had to look at its best interest, which included bowing to the Cotton Bowl.

"It was not a case of sticking it to A&M," Plonsky said. "One of the premiere institutions in the SWC is not eligible for TV appearances.

"So we have to supply a game to ESPN.

"... it would not be good for A&M to beat Texas so late in the season,"

-Christine Plonsky, UT associate athletic director

"And, say if Texas was to go to the Cotton Bowl, it would not be good for A&M to beat Texas so late in the season."

So much for tradition. These schools have long taken advantage of A&M's capability to land TV appearances.

Of the \$730,000 the SWC received from the A&M-Tech

football game last year, A&M only got \$182,500.

Tech got the same as A&M, and the other schools shared in the other \$365,000.

And from the \$3 million the Cotton Bowl pays its participants, A&M only got \$850,000.

Why should A&M share revenue it works hard to earn. If that doesn't sound like punishing for hard work, I don't know what does.

A&M must find a conference with capable revenue earners, not parasites.

The Pac 10, with UCLA, USC, Cal Berkeley, Stanford, along with the two major schools in Oregon, Washington and Arizona should be A&M's move.

By joining the Pac 10, not only will A&M play in one of America's major TV markets - Los Angeles - but Pac 10 schools also provide prestige as outstanding academic institutions.

Texas A&M interim president E. Dean Gage might be proud to associate with such a group.



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