



MSC president may become elected office

By Joaquin Salcedo
THE BATTALION

A referendum will appear on this spring's student body election ballots that may determine if the Memorial Student Center president will be elected instead of appointed.

The Student Senate passed the MSC President Referendum Bill at its meeting March 10.

This decision was introduced by a record coalition of 18 senators and is the result of strong and widespread student demands that the Student Senate could no longer ignore, said Matthew Wilkins, speaker of the Student Senate.

Currently, the MSC president is selected through an interview team of eight to nine people that includes the acting MSC president, MSC director, MSC senior staff, MSC executive vice presidents, MSC committee chair and a campus representative. The president is selected at the beginning of the spring semester.

"If the majority of students vote for a democratically elected MSC president, the Senate will decide the best way to implement it (the bill) and move forward," Wilkins said.

Once appointed, the president oversees the MSC Council and committees and acts as the primary MSC representative to students, former students, faculty and administration. The president also serves on many University committees and as of recently

serves as a representative in the Tuition Policy Advisory Committee.

Elizabeth Dacus, current MSC president, said a student body campaign is an expensive and time-consuming task that comes too late in the school year to be effective for the MSC.

"It would be a disservice to the MSC and its volunteers for MSC officers to spend all of their time campaigning when they could be focused on MSC programs and activities," Dacus said.

Dacus said there are no plans to change the MSC president to an elected position, and that only the MSC council has the power to make that decision.

"The MSC president must oversee a variety of activities, programs, committees and other efforts that require a great deal of experience with the Texas A&M community and the MSC," she said.

Scott Smith, an off-campus senator, said Dacus is opposed to a democratic election of MSC leadership and does not consider student opinion to be important in matters concerning president selection.

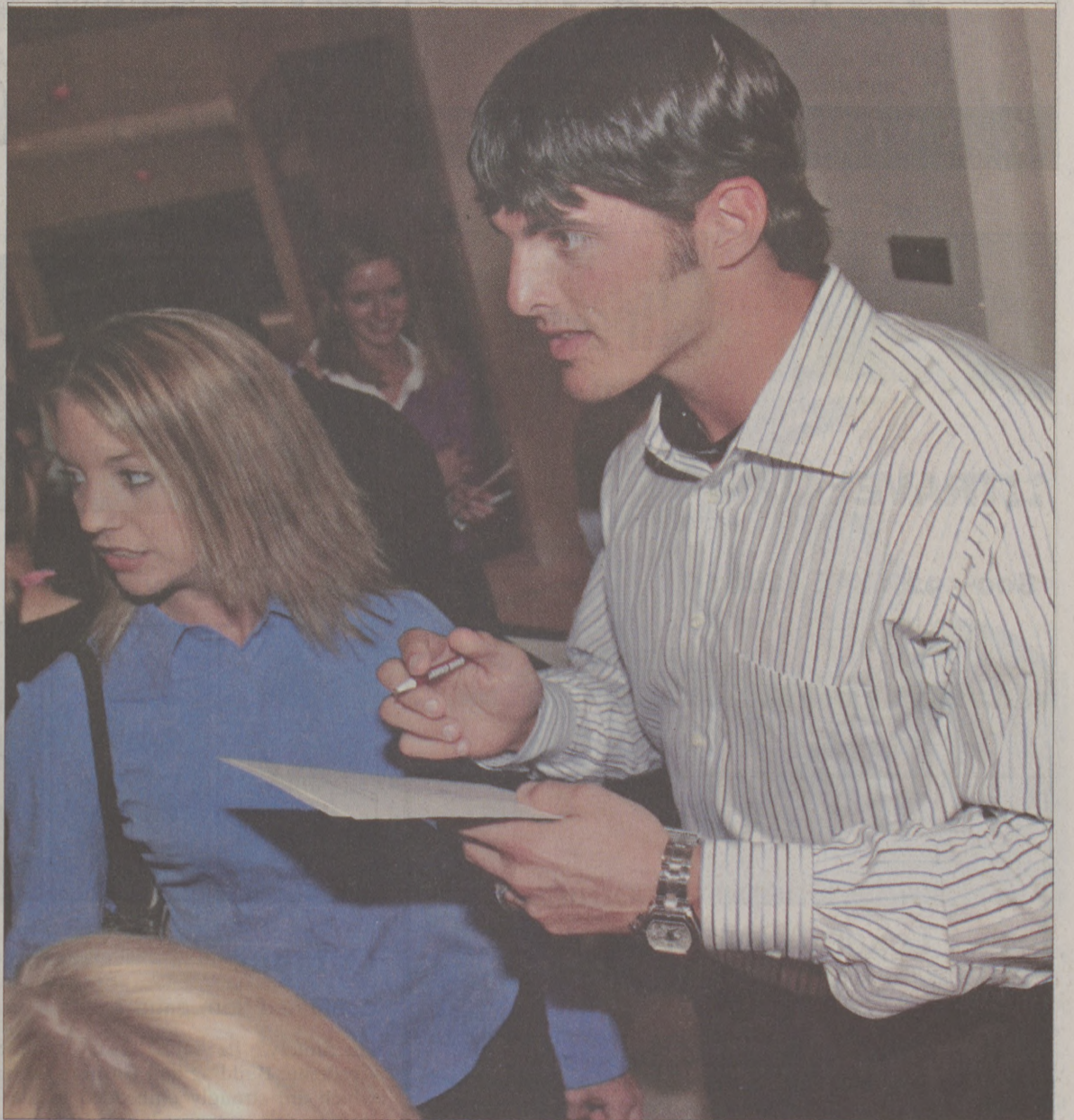
The Senate's main claim for the bill is that students are tired of being taxed by the MSC but denied representation, Wilkins said.

Also, scandals surrounding the MSC such as the more than \$60,000 in T-shirt funds that were misplaced by the MSC earlier

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— Elizabeth Dacus
MSC president

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JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Houston Texan quarterback **David Carr** signs autographs after the "Leadership On and Off the Playing Field" forum held on Monday at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center. Former President

George Bush, Houston Texans head coach **Dom Capers**, former Houston Astros manager **Larry Dierker**, CBS sports announcer **Jim Nantz** and Carr answered questions from the audience.

A&M to enhance campus over next five decades through Master Plan

By Kyle Ross
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M officials have determined that the campus needs a makeover—a huge makeover.

During the next five decades, major expansion will be taking place all over the campus as the University tries to compensate for expected climbs in enrollment, said Campus Master Plan Committee officials.

For the past three years, members of the committee have been putting their heads together to plan the best way to ease the University into its future. The committee's proposal to construct more than 100 new buildings, while destroying around 40 is almost complete, said Bill Perry, executive vice president and provost.

Perry said the selection and due date of certain buildings tagged for demolition is in the early stages and that some buildings are too important to be destroyed.

"Many buildings should be kept

TIME FOR A FACE-LIFT



Over the next five decades, Texas A&M will try to compensate for increased enrollment numbers by demolishing 40 buildings on campus and constructing 100 new ones.



Buildings slated for demolition include:



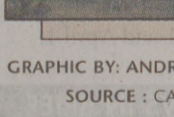
• Heaton Hall



• Reed McDonald Building



• Beutel Health Center



• The Pavilion

• Several residence halls

GRAPHIC BY: ANDREW BURLESON • THE BATTALION

SOURCE : CAMPUS MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE
PHOTOS COURTESY OF : TAMU

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Open forum emphasizes leadership

By Carrie Pierce
THE BATTALION

Everyone, everywhere is a role model or should try to be, said Dom Capers, head coach of the Houston Texans, at the Annenberg Presidential Leadership Conference Center Monday night at the George Bush Presidential Library.

The open forum, entitled "Leadership On and Off the Playing Field," was moderated by former President George Bush and featured Capers, David Carr, Houston Texan quarterback, Larry Dierker, former Houston Astros manager and Jim Nantz, broadcaster for CBS Sports.

The open forum gave Texas A&M students the chance to ask questions regarding leadership in sports and life, and to discuss their inspirations and how to deal with setbacks.

Nantz said getting where one wants to be begins with a dream. He said that as a young boy, he dreamt of being on CBS Sports. The Hollywood native got his big break when he hosted the Jackie Sherill show at A&M.

"Find people who believe in you," Nantz said. Capers said the core of being a leader is generating trust.

Dierker, who began playing professional baseball at age 18, said his parents told him he could do anything.

"If you are going to make a mistake, make a mistake on the active side, not the passive side," Dierker said.

A leader's job is to set the course and then moderate it, Capers said, and that a lot of what drives him



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Former President **George Bush** and Houston Texans head coach **Dom Capers** answer questions from the audience Monday evening at the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center.

to lead well is passion.

"A man with great passion and few skills will always outperform a man with great skills and little passion," Capers said.

Carr stressed the importance of retaining character on and off the field. The 24-year-old husband and father said he is consistent with his leadership at home

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SBP candidates present 2004 campaign platforms

McAdams seeks to stress Aggie traditions | McCaig focuses on financial responsibility

By James Twine
THE BATTALION

Corps of Cadets Commander **Will McAdams** said he wants to stress to students that participating in Aggie traditions and events that make Texas A&M an individual among all other universities is important.

"We need to hold the line on Aggie traditions," he said.

McAdams, a senior political science major and one of the candidates running for student body president, said he wants student body leaders to be more involved with getting students to events. He also said he believes that getting more people to live on campus is a big

part of living the Aggie experience, and a way to promote spirit and traditions.

With experience in setting up an equal opportunity office for the Corps, McAdams said he would like to see student organizations set up their own diversity officers and have these officers set up a committee dealing with diversity on campus and recruiting.

McAdams said he believes that diversity has developed a negative connotation, and this sets diversity programs back. He said he supports programs,



MCADAMS

policy and ideas on diversity, but fears that blowing these programs out of proportion can be detrimental to minorities.

"When you make diversity such a high profile event it becomes like the 'D' word, and it will decrease the support for the very programs you are trying to support," he said.

Vision 2020 is a set of goals designed to work toward a perfect campus, McAdams said,

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By Rhiannon Meyers
THE BATTALION

Mark McCaig, a junior accounting major and president of Student Government Association Watch, is running for student body president on a platform of financial accountability.

"Right now, the SGA itself gets \$160,000 on investments, and I don't think the student body is getting a return on that investment," McCaig said. "I think the student body deserves a student government

that does work out in the public view and not self serving work behind the scenes."

McCaig said that if elected SBP, he would make sure SGA serves its role as a messenger of student concerns to the Texas A&M administration and to other groups.

"The student body believes, and I believe rightly so, that the student government does not accurately represent their concerns," McCaig said. "I want that to change."

McCaig said that as a member of the Young Conservatives



MCCAIG

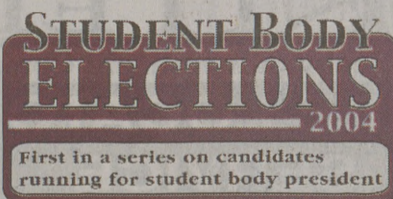
of Texas, he has a lot of experience working with elected officials, and he will use this experience to promote the appeal of tuition deregulation.

"It is very realistic that if we can't get outright appeal of tuition deregulation, we can get some serious reforms," he said.

McCaig said he will not bring his personal political beliefs into student government.

"I'm trying to make it very clear in my campaign as student body president that I'm not liberal, Democrat, conservative, or Republican," McCaig said. "I'm an Aggie and I'm looking out for the interests of all Aggies."

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First in a series of candidates running for student body president