

# CCSU, A&I, Pan Am presidents like new proposal

By Ben Goodwin  
STAFF WRITER

The presidents of Corpus Christi State, Texas A&I and Pan American universities are happy with the latest plan in Austin to seek a four-year college here.

But the president of Del Mar College urged that local legislators exercise caution. Six South Texas legislators met behind closed doors yesterday and emerged with this consensus, that legislation will be introduced this session to create a comprehensive university system in South Texas and make CCSU a four-year institution.

Both B. Alan Sugg, CCSU president and interim chancellor of the University System of South Texas, and Texas A&I University president Steven Altman said they were "very pleased and excited" about the news.

Miguel Navarez, Pan American University president, said he fully supports a four-year CCSU and a comprehensive South Texas university system.

Del Mar College president Ed Biggerstaff said while he isn't against a four-year university, he believes a cautious and studied approach should be taken before a major decision is made.

"It will open a potentially tremendous development in higher education for South Texas," said Sugg. "It will enable both CCSU and A&I to offer both doctoral and professional degree programs at some future date."

Sugg said a four-year university at Corpus Christi would have a positive effect on all of South Texas.

"This means the South Texas delegation and the Valley delegation can work together to create two comprehensive systems," said Sugg.

Mayor Luther Jones said the proposed legislation to make CCSU a four-year institution was good news for the city.

"I'm absolutely delighted," the mayor said. "The most important reason is to provide the educational opportunity for

students in this area that deserve it."

One system would include CCSU, A&I and Laredo State. The other system would include Pan American University at Edinburg and a branch campus at Brownsville.

Sugg said the idea of two comprehensive systems is not out of line, considering the geographical area.

"South Texas and the Valley deserves to have more than a single system. There are two comprehensive universities alone at Denton - North Texas State and Texas Woman's University," said Sugg.

Sugg said general appropriations this year for CCSU, A&I, Laredo State and Pan American total \$36 million, while North Texas was appropriated \$39 million and Texas Tech's medical school, \$34 million.

"The facts are overwhelming. South Texas has absolutely been left out in funding for higher education," said Sugg. "We only are asking for what South Texas deserves."

A&I's Altman said he is pleased the South Texas delegation had gotten together

because unity will make things happen.

"The comprehensive system will be good for South Texas. If approved, we can begin moving forward for improving the educational opportunities at each institution," said Altman.

He said the proposed legislation would open the door for careful development and advancement of graduate and professional degree programs for South Texas.

"This will allow us to use our established base at Texas A&I to improve and expand plans for the future," said Altman.

Biggerstaff said if a bill is introduced, he would expect the legislative delegation to give responsible consideration to protecting Del Mar.

"I would like to know what kind of timetable, if any, has been set for implementation of CCSU as a four-year institution. Would this be phased in? Would admission standards be changed at CCSU?" Biggerstaff asked. "Would there be coordination with Del Mar regarding programs? Would

state funding be appropriately maintained during a recovery period due to potential enrollment decreases at Del Mar?"

Pan American's Navarez said the four-year CCSU and a comprehensive university system for South Texas, the same being proposed for Pan American.

"We need to coordinate all the educational programs for the Valley and South Texas," said Navarez.

Navarez also said cooperation is needed between Valley and Corpus Christi area legislators.

"This announcement will give all of us a better chance for appropriations than we had two days ago," said Navarez.

The legislators who agreed to the plan include Sen. Carlos Truan and Reps. Hugo Berlanga, Eddie Cavazos and Ted Roberts; all of Corpus Christi; Rep. Irma Rangel of Kingsville; and Rep. Ernestine Glossbrenner of Alice.

## Aquarium

FROM PAGE 1A

issue from the city for site improvements on Corpus Christi Beach.

"To accelerate this project, it's mandatory that the city be behind us," Dorn said. "The worst thing we can do is spread our resources over a bunch of projects that can't stand alone."

A firm financial commitment from the city could expedite the project's progress by two years, Dorn said.

The association needs \$1 million for "uninterrupted" architectural plans for the 33,000-square-foot exhibit hall, Dorn said.

Also, a \$10 million bond pledge from the city would be required for construction to begin by the end of the year.

"The association has no ego. We just have two goals - to build the aquarium and make sure it's operational," Dorn said.

Mayor Pro Tem Jack Best suggested the city could use its \$1.2 million in reinvestment zone funds for the aquarium and that the zone could float \$10 million in tax increment financing bonds to speed up the project.

While most council members seemed receptive to Best's suggestion, the council took no action yesterday.

Mayor Luther Jones said the council should make the completion of the aquarium its "number one civic project."

"We need to know specifically what needs to be done," said Councilman David Berlanga Sr. "We've been highly criticized for not moving quickly with our reinvestment zone monies."

Councilman Bill Pruet said the council should investigate all of its financial options to get the aquarium project under way by 1988.

Dorn said a full commitment from the city would be coordinated with the association's private fund-raising efforts.

"You need to look at the alternatives and get it done and not look at the politics of the situation," Dorn said.

Dorn said the association is forming a development council comprised of prominent local residents to formulate a "common plan" to finance the aquarium.

In related business, the council yesterday authorized the city staff to appropriate \$1.3 million from the Aquarium Bond Fund for land acquisition, parking improvements, utility relocations, drainage and bulkheading at the aquarium site on Corpus Christi Beach.

## Reagan

FROM PAGE 1A

the gallery, chose to wear purple for the speech, which has been called one of the most important of Reagan's presidency.

Reagan said it was not wrong to try to establish contact with a nation of strategic importance and "certainly it was not wrong to try to secure freedom for our citizens held in barbaric captivity."

He added, "But we did not achieve what we wished and serious mistakes were made in trying to do so."

Reagan said his administration had made progress on many fronts, but "I have one major regret."

"I took a risk with regard to our action in Iran. It did not work, and for that, I assume full responsibility," Reagan said.

Earlier Tuesday the administration ordered the Navy to extend the deployment of the aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy in the Mediterranean Sea. The action keeps two carrier battle groups in the Mediterranean indefinitely.

Informed sources said the action was taken as a precaution in the wake of the latest wave of hostage-taking in Lebanon and reports that Anglican church envoy Terry Waite was missing.

Striking an upbeat theme reminis-

cent of earlier days, before disclosure of the Iran-contra affair, Reagan declared, "America isn't finished, her best days have just begun."

Reagan said that under his administration, interest rates have tumbled, unemployment is down to a seven-year low and inflation is at its lowest level in a quarter of a century.

"Let's roll up our sleeves, go to work and put America's economic engine at full throttle," he said.

Reagan said that "the world is a safer place" because of the big Pentagon buildup under his administration. While vowing not to bargain away his Star Wars missile defense plan, Reagan said, "This is a moment of rare opportunity for arms reduction."

Under the domestic front, Reagan called for an overhaul of the federal budget process, a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget and authorization for a line-item veto allowing him to veto individual parts of bills.

Denouncing the "welfare monster" that is a shocking indictment of our sense of priorities," Reagan said he will propose a national welfare strategy based on community demonstration projects.

## Universities

FROM PAGE 1A

Truan also acknowledged after the meeting that he hasn't given up on his idea of adding Pan American University to a new comprehensive University System of South Texas.

The Corpus Christi Democrat said he has met with state Sens Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville, and Judith Zaffirni, D-Laredo, and understands their effort to have Pan American designated as a comprehensive university separate from the University System of South Texas.

For that reason, Truan said, he has moved the idea to the back burner.

Legislation already has been drafted to bring Pan American into the University System of South Texas should Uribe and Zaffirni's effort falter during the legislative process, he said.

Truan added that he would need Uribe's and Zaffirni's support before he would introduce the bill.

Without Pan American, the system would include only those schools now in the system - Texas A&I, CCSU and Laredo State.

But bringing the two boards together, Truan said, would better serve the educational needs of all of South Texas.

Truan also said in a prepared

handout that the distance between the Rio Grande Valley and Corpus Christi and Laredo would prevent a comprehensive Pan American University from meeting all the region's higher education needs.

Other major points in Truan's handout called for:

- The system board to consider and to minimize any adverse impact on Del Mar College and Texas A&I if CCSU is elevated to a four-year school.
- The regents to reduce any duplication of programs among the schools by creating a master plan showing which universities would offer which graduate- or professional-degree programs.
- The master plan to be submitted to the Texas Legislature by Sept. 1, 1988, and that any plan should "strive to utilize fully the existing facilities and resources of component institutions."
- A study of higher-education needs in South Texas that might include a look at additional degree programs needed, new strategies for providing higher education to minorities, "distinctive yet complementary missions for each of the component institutions," and expanding each school's research capabilities.

# a bounty of Sealy bedding values

from our outstanding selection of Sealy bedding at low everyday prices

enjoy the comfort and durability of Sealy Paramount 4 bedding

**\$99** Twin, each piece

This wonderful bedding is made with you in mind!! It features 336 double tempered steel coils for durability as well as support! The cover is a lovely cream floral quilted to a luxurious 1 1/4" of foam for extra comfort. Full size, each piece \$139  
Queen size, 2-piece set . . . \$349 King size, 3-piece set \$449



Shop and compare Dillard's everyday value prices with others' suggested retail prices.

Queen and king bedding sold in sets only

### Paramount Century

Twin size, each piece . . . \$119  
Full size, each piece . . . \$159  
Queen size, 2-piece set . . \$399  
King size, 3-piece set . . . \$499

### Lyric Firm Posturepedic

Twin size, each piece . . . \$129  
Full size, each piece . . . \$179  
Queen size, 2-piece set . . \$449  
King size, 3-piece set . . . \$549

### Carlisle Extra Firm Posturepedic

Twin size, each piece . . . \$179  
Full size, each piece . . . \$229  
Queen size, 2-piece set . . \$549  
King size, 3-piece set . . . \$699

### Celestial Super Plush Firm Posturepedic

Twin size, each piece . . . \$229  
Full size, each piece . . . \$279  
Queen size, 2-piece set . . \$649  
King size, 3-piece set . . . \$899