...government. Indeed, the administration contended that the only way to secure realistic proposals from those companies was to conduct a marketing and management study of the facility.

After several weeks of discussion between the council and the mayor, the study will take place. After approving the RLS contract, the council voted to appropriate $38,000 for the study to be conducted by the CPA firm of Laventhol & Horwath. The study, which should be completed by May, will likely look into a number of critical areas of the dome.

The proper marketing mix for the facility, i.e., the estimated balance between shows, conventions and other events;

The best governing arrangement for the dome and the proper relationship between the university, the city and the Convention and Visitors Bureau. One possible avenue is the creation of an independent authority which would take the dome out from under the city's aegis;

Possible revenue sources to make up the huge deficit. If revenues from ticketing, security and the like. He plans to spend about half of the month at the dome site and will be temporary for the dome manager;

A fight with the City Council over a study to determine the future marketing direction the facility should take;

A reporting deadline for the dome which could range anywhere from $500,000 to $750,000 for the current fiscal year in a city that has been forced to impose austerity measures on other departments within municipal government.

Several of those controversies came to a head at a City Council meeting last week and when the smoke had cleared the administration was waving a victory flag of sorts. Lastrapes gained approval for the appointment of Recreation and Leisure Services as acting manager.

LANDRY: "We should be talking about a permanent agreement."

BACON: "Why are we negotiating with only one entity?"

LAstrapes says the Cajundome is a very functional and very beautiful facility. And expenses "It could have been designed differently and built for a lot less," says Young. "And I'm not talking about putting up four walls and seats," he estimates that a 13,000-14,000 seat facility, like the Cajundome, could have been built for $35 million to $40 million. But he adds, "It wouldn't have the same effect the Cajundome has when you..."