Students plead for McNaspy

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Staff Writer

Save McNaspy. Save the pavement. Save the green. This was the plea at the Student Government Association's meeting March 9 as several USL students expressed their disapproval of the set destruction of McNaspy Stadium.

"I don't see why it's necessary to destroy one of the two buildings that have been here for a long time," said Amanda Rivera, an architecture student.

"The asbestos was removed from the building and as a result provided us with the ability to tear down the building," said SGA President Chris Gradney. "The reason the university wants to tear down the building is because it serves more as liability than an asset to the university."

According to Gradney, it would be too expensive to renovate the stadium.

"About 10 years ago, Judice Hall was supposed to be destroyed," said Rivera. "The architect who built the new additions onto the library donated Judice Hall to the honors program and it will re-open in November 1999, hopefully as the new home of the honors program. I don't see why you have to continuously destroy things that people take pride in just because of expenses."

Rivera also said that the decision to demolish McNaspy was made by people who were not aware of all the uses of the stadium.

"It doesn't feel like there were any students' voice in this decision and that doesn't feel right," said Geneviève Monclin, a philosophy student.

"Although USL does take part in expanding, expansion does not always mean covering more ground," explained Rivera. "There is a lot of space that we can expand by reusing different places on campus that are not being used now. There are different things that USL is considering bringing to the campus that can be used with the space at McNaspy."

Rivera said that there are many people, excluding USL students, that come to use McNaspy stadium.

"A lot of people feel safer running at McNaspy than at Girard Park," she said.

"I am in the marching band and we practice there," said Alison Carlino, education senator.

Some students suggested that the architecture students should be involved with handling possible changes to McNaspy.

"I have seen the architecture students plans for renovating downtown," said Joy Blanchard, engineering president. "They do have good ideas. If they could renovate McNaspy and make a few small changes, it would cost much less money than building a brand new structure."

"It's a professional conference," said Rondell Albaradé, vice president of AICE. "We have people represented from international and national companies. It also represents a chance to mingle with the chemical business.

At USL we are primarily limited to recruitment by the petroleum industry. At the conference we will not only get a chance to attend meetings but we will also get a chance to work with the professionals."

"This is a pretty important trip for the chemical engineers considering it takes us out of the oil business and puts us into the chemical business," said Terry Bean, engineering president.

The engineering organizations were given a total of $550 to include the AICE national conference as well as the electrical engineers regional conference in Dallas April 17-19.

An appropriation of $750 was given to Beta Gamma Sigma business fraternity to help with the costs of its annual honors banquet to be held at the Holidome April 21.

The Criminal Justice Society was given $144 to help with the costs of its annual job fair April 3.

USL's Love Alive Christian Fellowship received $343 to attend its annual workers meeting March 6-7 in Bossier City.

The Southwestern Association of Student Nurses, Nursing Day, and the senior luncheon received a total of $1,328 to help fund its events.

"I think the key issue here is don't bring a problem to (USL President Ray) Authement. Bring a possible solution. Then he will be more receptive toward you."

—Jeff Daigle, liberal arts senator

Gradney also said that he has talked with Authement about the demolition of Caffery and Roy halls.

Gradney explained that the two buildings were more of an "eyesore" than anything on the campus.

Gradney also announced the senator of the month would be awarded to Liberal Arts Sen. Maja Johnson.

"Maia has done an exceptional job on the appropriations committee and with all the requests for student organizations," said Gradney. "The legislative wants you to know your work is appreciated."

What do you think about McNaspy Stadium?

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