

'Different Strokes' star's death raises c

THE DAILY

The student newspaper of The University of Texas at Austin

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Associated Press

Bridges said.

LOS ANGELES -

and her fellow *Differ*

stars Gary Coleman

bridges enjoyed heav

inded more than a

seems they've been

ver since.

Plato, 34, died Satu

mental drug overdose

telling Howard Stern

he was clean and sob

as fought to overc

legal problems; Cole

ceset by legal and fina

But to blame the

experience is wrong,

Todd's mother said

"The media portay

on the show being cursed. It had

nothing to do with that. The show

was a very positive experience," Ms.

Cries for tort reform abundant

Todd Bridges, 34, was unavailable for an interview because he has an

body." "Not to diminish the tragedy of blame for a child star's downfall.

concurrent that Hollywood is not to find themselves acting out in nega-

getting attention as stars, they are so addicted to the spotlight that they

was placed on five years' probation.

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Students criticize candidate Lariviere

Dan Carnevale
Daily Texan Staff

In an open forum Monday, students berated a candidate for Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Richard Lariviere, for his former job as chairman of a search committee responsible for finding a director for the long-awaited Asian-American Studies program.

Lariviere, the third and last finalist for the dean's position, is UT's associate vice president for international programs and a professor of Asian studies. He met with 13 Liberal Arts students to address their concerns over the college and the AAS program.

The controversy surrounding the program revolves around the fact that Liberal Arts Interim Dean Judith Langlois rejected the search committee's recommendation for a director.

Several of the students criticized the lack of student input in the entire

search process.

"The students weren't very well represented," said Quincy Tran, a history senior. "As chair of the committee, I would think that it would be your duty to see that it happens."

Tran expressed concern that students would continue to be left out of the process if Lariviere were appointed dean.

But Lariviere defended himself by saying that the committee was represented by two students out of the six total members. After its recommendation was made to Langlois, it was out of his hands as she had the final say.

"It's the dean's decision, ultimately," he said. "I maybe should have insisted that we have a meeting with the dean."

The problem lay in the fact Langlois and the committee couldn't agree on any one particular candidate, Lariviere said.

But he praised the students on their

devotion to making sure the program is created. He asserted that it's the students' power that got the whole process in motion.

However, in order to make sure that the program is successful, Lariviere said, the absolute best director needs to be hired.

"I've got the patience to wait another year rather than make a mistake," he said.

Although the Asian-American Studies program dominated the forum, Lariviere also discussed other problems facing the College of Liberal Arts.

He said one of his main priorities is improving the student-to-faculty ratio, which is now 25-to-1 at the college.

"It's frustrating for the students, and it's very frustrating for the faculty," Lariviere said. "It diminishes the quality of life."

Some students in attendance said they weren't impressed with the candi-

date.

"I felt a lot of broad visions were given, but as far as concrete decisions, that really wasn't given at all," said Shomial Ahmad, a Plan II senior.

Tran said Lariviere seemed to be defensive the entire time.

"I appreciate him coming out here to answer the questions, but he seemed kind of evasive," he said.

The other two finalists are Peter Nardulli, chairman of the political science department at the University of Illinois, and Robert Newman, chairman of the English department at the University of South Carolina. Both have previously held discussions with Liberal Arts students.

The post was vacated when then dean Sheldon Ekland-Olson was appointed to provost of the University. Langlois has since been acting as interim dean.

A 17-member consultative commit-

tee for the dean of Liberal Arts is in charge of making a recommendation to Provost Ekland-Olson and UT President Larry Faulkner, who will make the final decision.

Alan Friedman, chairman of the committee, said they are looking for somebody who is articulate, good at analyzing problems, and has a proven track record as a scholar, teacher and administrator.

"We want someone who can walk on water, obviously," Friedman said. "Someone who understands that Liberal Arts is essential to what a university is all about."

As for the Asian-American Studies program, Friedman said it is sure to weigh in on the decision-making process.

"It can't help but be a factor," he said.