

Batt interview

'SG is official voice of the students'

By TERESA COSLETT
Staff Writer

"Perhaps student government is a misleading name," said Jeff Dunn, student vice president of academic affairs.

"A completely independent student government is nearly impossible to achieve. But we do claim to be an official voice of the students. That is essentially what we are," he said. There are five committees under academic affairs: academic services and information, academic research, minority affairs, study abroad and academic lecture series.

There is also the Student Academic Council, a newly-created Student Senate agency to:

- publish evaluations students can use in choosing professors.

- provide the administration with student input to use in deciding tenure and promotion.

Dunn said he considered the Academic Services and Information committee most important in achieving more student input.

The committee serves as a public relations liaison between the senate and student body, publicizing student government issues and services.

The committee may print a news-

letter next week giving facts on grading criteria or ticket allocation.

The academic research committee is drawing up a master plan showing TAMU's progress and projected trends in curriculum. Next semester the plan may be sent to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. If the plan is approved by HEW the university will receive federal grants.

Also, the committee is working to get more students on the University Academic Council. The 130 council members are mostly faculty and a few administrators.

Student Body President Steve Eberhard is now the only student member of the council, said Dunn. Eberhard does not have voting privileges.

"I'm in favor of getting more students on the council. But there is a problem in having such a large and diverse student body. It's hard to decide how many students should be on the council and how they should be picked," he said.

The minority affairs committee is a channel minority students can use to approach the administration for policy changes. It investigates discrimination and is planning a one-

day minority conference in February.

Dunn explained MSC minority committees handle programming but are restricted under the Directorate's charter from handling administration policy changes.

"Nobody has to have student government approval to seek change but they have a better chance by going through an organized body like the senate," said Dunn.

"People don't realize the potential we have. They expect tangible results and we give students some. But they don't realize most of our accomplishments are policy changes.

"We don't want change for change's sake. We want change if there's a need for it," he said.

The study abroad committee's major objective is getting transferable credit for summer study overseas. Financial aid for the committee is also being investigated.

Present MSC travel loans are geared towards vacation, not study, Dunn said.

The fifth committee, academic lecture series, works with the Great Issues lectures series in arranging

lectures specifically on academic reform at TAMU.

One has already been held this year on academic appeals. Another on the future of theater arts at TAMU is scheduled for Dec. 4.

Explaining the Student Academic Council's (SAC) function, Dunn said, "We want it to work, to be good and we want it to be respectable."

He said the SAC will establish a uniform criteria for professor evaluations, distribute and collect them and maintain a permanent file.

Each senator on SAC will be responsible for contacting his college's council for reactions on the evaluations.

Dunn said considerable research has already been done on other universities' evaluation systems.

"It's a very sensitive and critical area. We're getting professional help and have three professors from the College of Education investigating criteria for us," he said.

The senate's failure to approve many sections of the National Student Lobby's (NSL) Title IX resolution concerning sex discrimination resulted from the NSL's failure to send the resolution information in time.

The information arrived a week before the Oct. 9 senate meeting. A response was requested by Oct. 15 which did not give time for a second reading of the resolution.

Dunn felt most of the senators didn't have enough information to understand the provisions. "They gave their opinion in the best way they knew how considering the amount of information available," he said.

In his freshman year, Dunn was elected as one of six freshman senators. The junior economics major served as a senator representing the Corps living area in his sophomore year and became involved in academic affairs.




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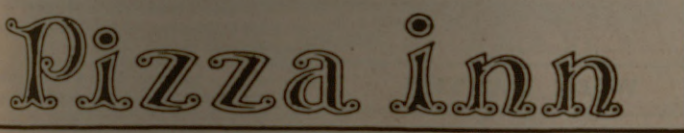
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The countdown for space pioneering is green and go

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — An astronaut who walked on the moon said Wednesday that the initial exploration phase of space is over and the pioneering phase is beginning.

On the horizon is the civilization of space, said Dr. Harrison H. Schmitt, and he foresees the day when students of all ages and nations will attend orbiting classrooms, studying everything from nuclear physics to poetry.

Schmitt, a geologist who flew on Apollo 17 two years ago, addressed a conference on scientific results of the Skylab space station program.

He said the Apollo and Skylab projects had proved conclusively that man can live in space and play a useful role there, opening the way for routine flights to earth's new frontier in the space shuttle starting in 1979.

"Compressed into the last decade of space activity, history has seen the equivalent of two centuries of exploration of the great American West," Schmitt said. "The first movements into space, which culminated in Apollo, catalyzed our imagination. Skylab gave direction to our imagination. The space shuttle now gives license to our imagination."

The shuttle will be a reusable

rocket ship, capable of scores of round trips into space. It is expected to ferry hundreds of researchers from many lands into orbit in the 1980s.

Because of Skylab, Schmitt said, "space observatories become possible from which research and services in meteorology, oceanography, geology and environment can be conducted and from which

broad-scale exploration for new earth resources can be carried out."

"The greatest discoveries of the future probably lie in investigations of stellar and interstellar phenomena," Schmitt said. "The nature of gravity, the origin of planets, the limits of our ability to manipulate matter, energy and time and our future as explorers of the universe are all issues at stake."

Bulletin Board

TODAY
MSC DANCE COMMITTEE will sponsor a Halloween dance at Deware Fieldhouse from 9 to 11:30 p.m. Skydog will perform. Costume contest with prizes. The film "Spirits of the Dead" will be shown at 11:30.

CEPHEID VARIABLE will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 601 of the Rudder Center.

CHESS CLUB will meet from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. in room 607 of the Rudder Tower.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING WIVES CLUB will meet in room 125B of the Zachry Engineering Center at 7 p.m. There will be a women's self defense demonstration.

FREE U—Automotive Principles and Applications at 7 p.m. in room 101 of the M.E. Shops.

FREE U—Biblical Interpretations at 8 p.m. in room 108 of the Academic Building.

FREE U—Comparative Religions at 7 p.m. in room 510 of the Rudder Tower.

FREE U—Radio at 7 p.m. in room 230 of the MSC.

FREE U—Yoga in room 231 of the MSC at 7 p.m.

FREE U—Contract Bridge in room 229 of the MSC at 7 p.m.

FREE U—Ballroom Dancing in room 225 of the MSC at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
A CAR WASH will be sponsored by the Marketing Society at the Texaco service station on the corner of Hwy. 6 and Dominik from 12 to 6 p.m.

HAMBURGER FRY AND BEER BUST sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery at 1218 Lancelot Circle at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$1.50 for members and their guests and can be bought from Mike Quick, 9-K Furyear.

SATURDAY
IRANIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION will meet in room 402 of Rudder Tower at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY
GROMMETS will meet in room 225 of the MSC at 1 p.m. to play war games.

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