

Communication, involvement are key words

# Student Government is line to administration

Communication and involvement are the key words in Texas A&M's Student Government (SG) for the 1976, says Fred McClure, student body president. McClure said that SG hopes to involve more students in SG, involve SG more in campus and community affairs and increase communication from students to SG to University officials.

McClure said that SG has come under criticism in the past years for being invisible at times when it is needed. He added this year's SG believes that it has been around working all along but has not communicated properly with the average student. The communications problem has not only been a problem of telling what has been done, but asking what should be done.

To improve communications SG officials will become more visible by visiting meetings of campus organizations. McClure said that there will be an "open door" policy with students invited to visit the SG office in MSC 216 to register complaints or ask questions.

SG is the "students' voice" through its action on University committees and day-to-day contact with administrators. It also works to develop programs to benefit the student.

Structurally, SG is broken into the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

The executive branch is headed by McClure, a senior agricultural eco-

nomics major from San Augustine, Tex. McClure is responsible for carrying out the instructions of the student senate and administering SG activities. He is assisted by Susan Price, executive director; Jody Smothers, recording secretary; and Scott Sherman, information director.

Price supervises SG's daily and recurring programs. Smothers records the senate meetings and supervises senate and executive aides. Sherman disseminates SG information.

Regular meetings are held between the executive members and representatives of the other two

branches on Sunday afternoons. Students are welcome to attend.

The legislative branch is composed of an 80-seat senate and their committees. The senate is responsible for developing and approving legislation to advance the students' desires. Senate committees handle such things as student service fee

allocations and liaison with College Station City Hall.

The senate seats forty senators from the academic colleges and thirty from living areas. Five seats are filled by freshman elected at-large from the entering class in October. The remaining five seats are vice-presidencies representing stu-

dent interest areas of academic affairs, external affairs, finance, rules and regulations and student services. Senate committees are filled with both senators and students at-large, with anyone who is a member of the student body eligible.

The judicial branch of SG is the judicial board composed of a chair-

man and a representative from classification. The board appeals on the SG rules and regulations and suggests changes in rules.

Anyone interested in SG, contact Student Government 845-3051.

## Researchers studying heat stress on rocks

One would hardly equate the avalanche of noise in an earthquake with the snap of a rock expanding or contracting from the effects of heat. But that's much of what it is, a miniature earthquake.

When rock fractures, it gives off acoustic emissions. A team of researchers at Texas A&M University are monitoring the emissions as part of an effort to plumb the secrets of why and how rocks crack when subjected to temperature changes.

The team, made up of Drs. John Handin, Melvin Friedman and Brann Johnson, from the College of Geosciences, will do basic rock mechanics research into the thermal cracking of rock in a project funded by the U.S. Air Force.

"Primarily, the Air Force is interested in this work in terms of rapid excavation as related to the

construction of silos, site footings and other underground structures in hard rock," explained Dr. Johnson. "Naturally, since construction costs are escalating, they are looking for alternate methods. However, it should be pointed out that this work becomes public domain and can be used by industry or anyone in other areas of research.

"We are pursuing basic research into crack initiation and propagation resulting from thermally-induced stresses," he said. "For example, we are trying to understand how various rock properties affect the number of cracks formed and the extent of their

growth for a given thermal treatment. How can we start a crack and how far will it go?"

"Man has been observing the way rocks crack in heat since he discovered fire," Johnson pointed out. "He didn't use certain stones to bank his fire because he knew they would fracture explosively.

"Unfortunately, although the phenomenon has long been recognized, our understanding of the way rocks respond to temperature changes is limited," he said. "A real understanding of how and why is just being developed.

"Future extensions of our present

studies of thermal cracking of rock will be related to geothermal energy extraction (using the earth's heat), an energy resource that could supplement nuclear, solar and fossil fuel sources," Johnson said.

One proposal being investigated by another research group is the dry, hot rock geothermal scheme. In basic terms, the idea is to drill into rock that is 200-300 degrees Centigrade, hydraulically fracture the rock at depth to develop a large vertical crack.

"A second well is drilled to intersect the crack," he said. "Water is then pumped down one well, becoming heated as it flows to the second well, where it is brought to the surface.

"The thermal energy is then removed by a heat exchanger and used ultimately in the generation of electricity," Johnson continued. "In this closed system, the cooled water is then pumped back into the hot rock and the cycle continued.

"As the geothermal energy is removed, the rock in the vicinity of the wells and hydraulic fractures gradually becomes cooler than the rock some distance away," he said. "This, in turn, results in thermally-induced stresses which are expected to generate more cracks in the cooling rock.

"Ideally subsequent water flow through these subsidiary thermal cracks will allow more efficient extraction of thermal energy from a larger volume of rock," Johnson said.

"Although it doesn't appear that thermal cracking is necessary for the success of this scheme, it could possibly lengthen the life-time and power output of an extraction site.

"Unfortunately, our present knowledge doesn't allow us to

adequately predict the change in thermal cracking," he added. "Thus there's need for basic research into thermal cracking of rock.

"It is the aim of our future mental and theoretical study this problem under conditions that closely simulate those existing in the dry, hot rock geothermal scheme," Johnson concluded.

### Nematode mosquitoes enemy

BELTSVILLE, Md. (AP) — A Department of Agriculture scientist says that a tiny parasite, a nematode called "Reesimermis Nielseni," is the deadly enemy of many kinds of mosquitoes, including those that carry encephalitis and malaria.

Dr. William Nickle has been raising the nematodes in enormous quantities in his laboratory at the Agricultural Research Center here and watching them go to work on hundreds of thousands of mosquito larvae.

The parasite, a worm-like creature a fraction of an inch long, swims on the top of water where the mosquito larvae are growing. Once the parasite

touches a larva it emits a that sticks to the larva.

Then, Dr. Nickle says, the nematode bites a hole in the larva and crawls inside it, glue hardens and seals the hole.

Inside, the nematodes to on the larva in typical parasitic fashion. After a few days, the parasite cuts another hole in the host and emerges into the water. The second hole dries and hardens. The essential fluids the larva drain out and the larva dies.

The parasite, which is harmless to humans, might prove to be the logical alternative to DDT, Nickle said.

## A&M med school awarded \$320,000 grant by HEW

Texas A&M University has been awarded a \$320,000 grant by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to assist in start-up expenses for the institution's new medical education program.

The grant represents first-year funding as part of a four-year program through which HEW helps new medical schools accelerate the start of instruction or increase the size of the entering class.

Texas A&M's medical program is being organized in association with Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple and Veterans Administration hospitals in Temple, Waco and Marlin, said Dr. James A. Knight, Texas A&M's dean of medicine.

Knight envisions enrolling the first 32 medical students in the fall of 1977.

The program calls for enrolling students in a pre-clinical curriculum during what would normally be their junior year and senior years at Texas A&M and then continuing with the clinical phases of their medical education for two years at Temple, Waco, Marlin or Houston.

The \$320,000 grant, first to be received from HEW for the Texas

A&M medical program, is in addition to grants totaling \$17,071,609 from the Veterans Administration. The VA funds will be applied to faculty salaries over a seven-year period and also make possible VA facility modifications and improvements.

The American Medical Association/Association of American Medical Colleges Liaison Committee on Medical Education had a survey team visit Texas A&M and the other participating institutions earlier this summer to evaluate the program for provisional accreditation, which would pave the way for enrolling the first students, Knight said. The survey team's formal report is expected at the liaison committee's October meeting.

The program passed the first major step leading to accreditation when the liaison committee earlier issued a "letter of reasonable assurance," indicating that prospects were good that the program would develop in a manner leading to full accreditation, the dean explained. If the program develops in the desired manner, full accreditation could be expected shortly before the first students are to graduate, he added.

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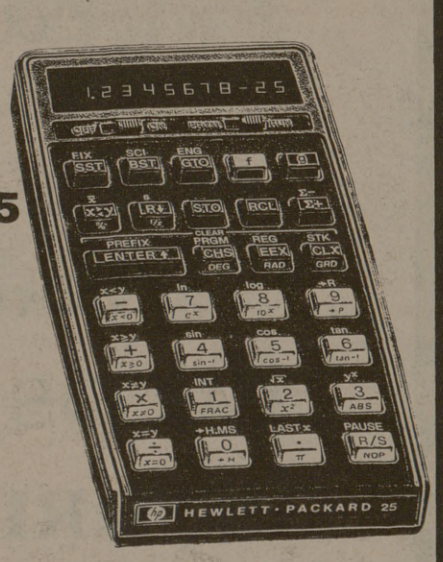
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