

local

SCONA considers technology's effect

By SUSAN HOPKINS
Campus Reporter

The issue of whether technology aids or controls society will be the topic at the Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA) Wednesday through Saturday at Texas A&M University.

Sharon Kuhn, SCONA vice chairman for public relations, said technology is so abstract that people can't see it as a governing force in their lives. The fact that there is a fine line between technology aiding society and eventually controlling it, is what Kuhn said made SCONA choose the topic "Technology: Tool or Tyrant?" for its 25th anniversary conference.

She said SCONA tries to stay away from topics that are very controversial, like abortion, because everyone already has opinions formed, and no discussion would change those opinions.

More than 200 delegates from nearly 80 colleges and universities throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico, including 25 delegates from Texas A&M, will attend the conference.

Delegates were chosen by applications and interviews at their individual schools. Texas A&M's delegates were chosen by the Memorial Student Center Directorate.

Kuhn said about 100 committee members have been planning almost a year for the three and one-half days of speeches, round table discussions, entertainment and accommodations.

"There are no household names in technology that everyone would jump to come see," Kuhn said, "but they are all experts in their fields."

Joseph F. Coates, who will speak on the past and future of technology at 2:45 p.m. Wednesday, is a think-tank president. His corporation deals with futures research and technological decision-making.

The effects of technology on the environment will be discussed Thursday by Tom L. McCall, environmental protection advocate and

former governor of Oregon.

At 2 p.m. Thursday, there will be a presentation on the implications of technology for the individual by Langdon Winner. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor is the author of a book on technology and political thought.

Samual C. Florman, principal and vice president of Kreiser Borg Florman Construction Co., and advocate of large technology, will debate Hazel Henderson at 10 a.m. Friday. Henderson is an independent futurist and small technology advocate.

SCONA vice chairman for speaker arrangements Robert Navarro said large technology involves a lot of technology under the control of a few. He said it is highly developed and centralized, and usually favors big business. Small technology, on the other hand, is highly dispersed, decentralized and in control of many small technological businesses.

The last speaker will be Melvin Kranzberg, at 11 a.m. Saturday. He is a pioneer in the history of technology and has written several articles on that subject. His topic will be "Technology is the Answer, But That's not the Question."

After each speech, the speaker, delegates and anyone else interested will break up into round table discussions to ask questions and discuss the topic in depth. Kuhn said there will be round table co-chairmen who will monitor the discussions and keep them in gear with technology, then summarize the discussion after an hour and 15 minutes.

Kuhn said all students, faculty and staff are encouraged to come to the conference. She said the talks are as much for the Aggie students as they are for the delegates.

Kuhn said SCONA has a \$51,000 budget, most of which is comes through the committee's solicitation from businesses in the United States, Canada and Mexico. She said SCONA received a \$5,000 grant from the Moody Foundation, but that the

committee does not receive any MSC funds.

The money will be used for transportation and accommodations of speakers and delegates and for printing costs of study guides, handbooks, posters, etc.

Social activities have been planned for each night of the conference, and are designed to give delegates and speakers a chance to talk with one another on a one-to-one basis, and to learn how others think on technological issues.

Similar conferences are held each year at the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy.

She said all publications for the delegates' use, advertisements, speaker arrangements and planning of the agenda for the conference are done by the committee of students and advisers at Texas A&M.

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Bryan firemen will check on elderly citizens

By KATHLEEN HARTNEY
City Reporter

A 85-year-old man lays at the bottom of the stairs after having fallen down them 14 hours earlier. He cannot move; no one comes for him; no one called.

This situation could happen at any time to any elderly person living alone.

The Bryan Fire Department started a new program Feb. 4 to keep in touch with elderly citizens living by themselves.

Chief Paul Philbin explained how the program works: every morning the dispatcher on duty calls each per-

son on the list to make sure they are all right.

If the person does not respond to the call, Philbin said, someone is sent to their home to check on them and provide assistance, if needed.

There is now a list of 15 people the fire department calls, Philbin said. There have been no mishaps yet.

Philbin said he expects the list to grow as soon as more people find out about the program. The list will then be broken down and each station in Bryan will handle a certain number of calls each day.

Philbin said he got the idea while working with the El Paso Fire De-

partment. They had initiated a similar program, Philbin said, and the response was tremendous.

"We're concerned with the welfare of the citizens," Philbin said, "and we feel like a lot of times the sons and daughters don't get by as often as they would like."

Ethel Peel, one of the elderly citizens the fire department calls, said she thinks the program is an excellent idea.

Peel, 82, said she lives near her

daughter, who can't always get by to see her every day, and the daily phone call is a relief to her.

Most of the citizens live in Bryan, Philbin said, but there are people they call who live outside the city. He said it would be hard to turn down anyone in need of service.

Any elderly person living alone who would like to be included on the list can call the Bryan Fire Department, Philbin said.

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Almanac

United Press International
Today is Monday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 1980 with 324 to follow.

The moon is moving toward its new phase.

The morning stars are Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

The evening stars are Mercury and Venus.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Aquarius.

American inventor Thomas Alva Edison was born Feb. 11, 1847.

On this date in history:

In 1937, General Motors agreed to recognize the United Auto Workers Union (CIO) as the bargaining agent for GM

workers.

In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin ended a week-long World War II conference at Yalta.

In 1965, U.S. and South Vietnamese planes staged the first bombing raids on North Vietnam in retaliation for a Viet Cong attack.

In 1976, President Ford named former Pennsylvania Gov. William Scranton to be ambassador to the United Nations.

A thought for the day: American inventor Thomas Edison said, "There is no substitute for hard work."

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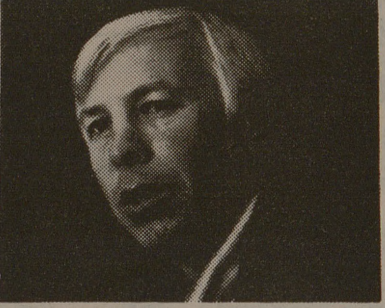
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