

Women's issues focus of group

by Kelly Krauskopf
Battalion Reporter
The Texas A&M Women's Student Organization offers female students the opportunity to share interests and get involved in current women's issues such as women in war and women in the work force.

Leslie Hames, WSO president, said the organization was formed last spring to obtain a better understanding of women's lives and to promote an atmosphere of friendship, unity and equality among other women's groups and students.

"To achieve this purpose, the WSO provides programs on women's issues for education and awareness and cooperates with other women's groups on campus and in the community," Hames said. "We just really started solidifying and getting our foundation last year."

Hames said the WSO is open to all ideas and issues. "The issues don't necessarily

have to be ... feminist issues like equal rights," Hames said. "We've had Planned Parenthood and the Rape Crisis Center speak to our group."

With only 25 members, the WSO's main goal this year is to start a "networking" program with other existing women's groups such as the Society of Women Engineers and American Women in Science, Hames said. Networking, sometimes referred to as "women's talk," is a way for women to help each other develop and use contacts for jobs, ideas, work strategies and inside information about their fields or companies.

Hames said the women's groups at Texas A&M are not currently united in any way.

"I think there is a lot we could do for each other as far as establishing contacts, getting publicity and even fund raisers," she said. "These are things that are really difficult to do on your own as a small group, but as collective groups maybe we could work together."

Monopoles: future energy source?

A&M scientists seek particles

by David Johnson
Battalion Reporter
An experiment by two Texas A&M physicists could have the impact of the experiments that led to the atomic bomb.

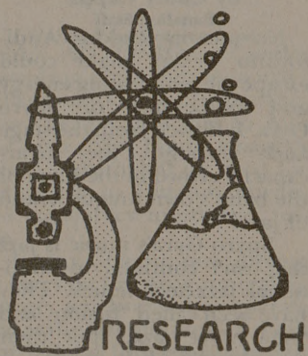
Drs. Robert Webb and Peter McIntyre, associate professors of physics, are conducting an experiment to detect magnetic monopoles. McIntyre compared the effect of discovering monopoles to the discovery of the neutron in the early 1930s which led to the atomic bomb and modern physics.

Webb and McIntyre said monopoles could be a source of energy if a method could be devised to harness them. One monopole reaction has twenty million trillion times more potential energy than a hydro-

rogen fusion reaction. Monopoles are thought to exist on Earth in 1 to 2 billion-year-old magnetic ores.

Both Webb and McIntyre said the discovery of the monopole is important because it would support the grand unified theory that ties together all the forces of the universe. The unified theory predicts that monopoles could be factors in the nuclear fusion process as catalysts and as the large body of hidden mass that is necessary to explain the oscillating universe theory (in which the universe eventually collapses in on itself and is reborn).

Magnetic monopoles are thought to be slow, massive particles that were created in the Big Bang that scientists believe created the universe. These par-



positive and negative poles — they have only a positive or negative pole. Like matter and anti-matter, positive and negative monopoles will destroy each other if they meet.

McIntyre said monopoles exist only at very high energy states and were created in the first few microseconds of creation when temperatures and pressures were high enough to allow them to exist. In the fraction of a second after the fireball cooled, the monopoles were frozen into their present state.

Webb said the theory that monopoles exist has been around for about 50 years, but until recently they were thought to be fast, light particles that

could be detected through ordinary means. The recent formulation of the grand unified theory changed the concept of the monopole to a slow, massive particle that would not show up in ordinary detectors.

The experiment is being conducted in a salt mine under Avery-Allen, La. The detection apparatus is located 700 feet below the surface to shield the detector from cosmic rays. The detector is composed of three layers of "Plexi-Pop" scintillation plastic, which is a type of plastic that emits light when a charged particle strikes it. Webb and McIntyre hope to record 12 to 14 passages of monopoles through the detector over the next year.

Dorm key rule may limit thefts

by Tracy Johnston
Battalion Reporter
The next time you find yourself locked out of your dormitory room, don't ask a resident adviser to let you in. Since Sept. 1, RAs haven't had pass keys.

Dan Miser, area coordinator for Moshier and Aston Halls, said the policy was adopted to cut down on theft and to put more of the responsibility on the students to keep track of their key.

"We've had continued problems throughout the years with students on floors realizing that the RAs have keys, and they just rely on the RA to let them in. That's not the primary role of an RA," Miser said.

Numerous pass keys have been lost or stolen in the past. Once a pass key is missing, all of the locks in the dorm must be replaced to ensure security.

If a hall resident does get locked out, he or she must notify an RA. The RA will get a duplicate room key from the head resident's office. The key must be

returned immediately to the head resident after the door has been unlocked.

If a student continually misplaces or loses a key, he or she will be referred to the area coordinator. The area coordinator will try to find out what the problem is.

Miser said students should get in the habit of carrying their keys with them at all times.

"Once you get out of the resident halls and move off campus, you're on your own," he said. "When you live in an apartment or house, you can't rely on somebody else to let you in."

Kay Mann, an RA in Moshier, said it's a relief not to have to open doors for students.

"I didn't mind opening doors for somebody who was locked out of their own room but many times they would ask me to open a friend's room," she said. "It was hard explaining to them that I could not open another door even though I did have a key. Now I don't have to worry because I don't have a pass key to let them in."

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