

Ag Olympics

Student Senate gives the go ahead

by Stephanie M. Ross
 Battalion Staff
 Plans for the Aggie Olympics, project to raise money for the 1984 Olympic Games, are officially under way following Student Senate approval Wednesday night of the Aggie Olympic Bill.

The Aggie Olympics is a project in which students will compete in Olympic-style games with an "Aggie twist." The tentative date for the event is February 26.

The purpose of the games is to involve students and raise money for the Olympic Games at the same time. The Aggie games will be structured along the same lines as the Olympic Games, said Debbie Robertson, who read the bill to the Senate. The other bill introduced at the meeting proposed raising current overall grade require-

ments that graduate students must meet to run for office. The bill also specifies the grades these students must post at mid-term while they are in office.

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Diane Baumbach, speaker pro tempore, introduced the bill and recommended that it be passed onto the rules and regulations committee for study. The Senate unanimously voted to have the bill researched be-

fore being reintroduced for final approval.

If a bill concerning the requirements is passed, it must be approved by two-thirds of the student body as a referendum in the spring elections so it can become an amendment to the Student Government constitution, Baumbach said.

In other business, Senate Speaker David Alders declared 11 senate seats vacant. The seats declared vacant are in Ward II, Ward III, Ward IV, an engineering junior, University apartments senator and the McFadden/Haas/Hobby/Neelley senator.

Alders said the internal affairs committee will have appointments for the vacant positions by the next Senate meeting.

The newly appointed freshman aids also were introduced during the meeting. This year Student Government has 70 freshman aids.

Columnist discusses life

by Ronnie Crocker
 Battalion Staff
 If you read the Houston Post, chances are you've seen the column by Lynn Ashby that runs Monday through Friday in the News-Features section.

And if you read the column, you're likely to see almost any topic — from traffic problems on Katy Freeway to a slogan campaign for special edition license plates commemorating the upcoming Texas sesquicentennial.

Wednesday morning Ashby told a group of Texas A&M journalism students, "I've got the best job in journalism."

Ashby was in town to participate in Tuesday's MSC Great Issues program.

He said he likes his job because writing a column allows him more freedom than do general assignments.

His day usually starts in the mid-morning hours watching television and reading the

newspaper to see if anything is going on that might be column material.

If something interesting comes up, he asks himself several questions to see if he can do something with the topic:

- Is there anything new to be said about it?
- Has a column already been done on it?
- What approach should be taken with it?

This must be done daily, Ashby said, because he writes on a day-to-day basis.

Being a columnist involves special demands that other journalists don't experience, he said. For one thing, "you have to be a self-starter," he said.

Ashby said his job is different from that of the reporter who comes in every morning and is given an assignment.

Deadlines also present a special problem for columnists, he said. A columnist's page is not as flexible as the news page — if a story doesn't

get done, another can be used in its place.

The columnist, on the other hand, is given a certain amount of space to fill. "If I don't do it, it doesn't get done," Ashby said, and there's a large blank space on the page.

Although column-writing never gets easier, "the longer you do it the more you know how to do it," he said. For example, he said that through experience he now knows who to call to get questions answered.

Ashby didn't begin as a columnist-writer, however. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Texas in 1962, he went to work for the New York Times.

In 1968 he was hired by the Post as a general assignment reporter, and then as an assistant city editor.

In 1971 Mickey Herskowitz's column was expanded to seven days a week,

and Ashby was selected to write two of those columns. That continued for about six months until Herskowitz left the Post. Ashby then was asked to write seven columns each week.

That lasted for only two weeks before the load was reduced to five a week, where it now stands.

Ashby said he doesn't miss reporting much because whenever he gets the urge to do some, he gets his pencil and pad and does interviews and other types of reporting.

About journalism as a whole, he said although there is a lot of sloppiness in the media, "very few companies put out a product that has so few mistakes" — especially for the amount of news that is carried every day.

"But," he reminded the students, "people only remember the mistakes."

OCA chooses 29 council presidents

by Tricia Parker
 Battalion Reporter
 Off Campus Aggies announced its new apartment council presidents for 29 complexes in the area at its Wednesday night meeting.

Stacey Roberts, vice president of OCA, said apartment council presidents act as liaisons between students living in apartments and the activities on campus.

Presidents set up everything from carpools and pool parties to meetings with managers, she

said. They also set up parties and intramural sports between complexes, she added.

"It's a way to get not only the apartment council presidents involved but to get everyone involved and to make the complexes more of a community," Roberts said.

Members of OCA won't miss out on cutting logs for bonfire either.

Mike Golladay, OCA's bonfire chairman, said the group will cut again this weekend. It also will sponsor an all-you-can-eat hot dog roast, Saturday

Oct. 22 at the cutting site, Golladay said. Tickets will be \$2, he said.

OCA also will sponsor a street dance October 29, from 8 to 12 p.m. at Culpepper Plaza and will donate the proceeds to the United Way.

Other events scheduled by OCA include a car wash for bonfire on from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday at the Exxon station in Culpepper Plaza. The group also will sponsor a bake sale Monday and Tuesday and a keg party for OCA members on either Nov. 5 or 12.

Ethics in technology discussed

by Michael Raulerson
 Battalion Reporter
 Ethical questions that deal with the changes in technology over the centuries is a fairly new approach to looking at the issues of appropriate technology, Dr. Bruce E. Seely, a panel member of the Appropriate Technology Group, said here Wednesday.

The ethical questions to which Seely referred were those presented during the panel discussion by Dr. James H. Copp, a panel member from the sociology and rural sociology department.

Copp presented questions dealing with the results of technology on society. He referred to his questions as questions without answers.

His first question was directed to the change in quality or nature of a commodity as

affected by new technology. He questioned whether the quality of the commodity increased or decreased as a result of new processes.

He addressed the question of the workers who are affected by technology. Advances in technology in agriculture may cause some of the workers to be replaced by machines such as the cotton picker.

Copp next questioned the results of technology on the organization of industry. He said agricultural technology has seemed to lead to larger producing units and the displacement of the family farmer.

The large production units have greater capital needs in the agricultural case, so new people are involved in the decision-making in production. As a result, the banker gets involved

and it becomes hard to determine who is making the decisions, the farmer or the financial institution, he said.

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