

In Advance

Student Senate to discuss Board seat

The Texas A&M Student Senate will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in 204 Harrington to vote on a measure to urge the A&M Board of Regents to add a student representative to the Board.

If passed, the bill, which was presented to the Senate at its last meeting, will create a committee consisting of six members, three of whom will be from A&M's Legislative Study Group, to research and lobby for a student seat on the Board.

Jay Hays, speaker of the Senate, said he expects the bill to pass easily.

The Senate also will consider a resolution that calls for a study of

the University Q-drop policy. The resolution, which will be read to the Senate but not voted on at this meeting, calls for the extension of the time period allowed for Q-drop each semester, Hays said.

Another bill to be presented to the Senate calls for a longer time period for campaigning in Student Government runoff elections. If passed by the Senate in a future meeting, the bill will allow for a minimum of seven days of campaigning between the primary and the runoff elections.

Some senators don't think the time available for runoff campaigns is sufficient, Hays said. This year there were two days between the primary and runoff.

Damaging beetle outbreak decreases, foresters report

ATLANTA (AP) — An outbreak of Southern pine beetles has done \$500 million worth of damage to timber in nine Southern states, but reports indicate the insects are becoming less active, the head of the region's largest forest landowner group said.

B. Jack Warren, executive vice president of the Atlanta-based Forest Farmers Association, said a survey of state forestry agencies and data collected by the U.S. Forest Service show beetle damage to be decreasing sharply in areas that were hardest hit over the past four years.

The beetle, no larger than a grain of rice, attacks trees en masse, boring into the bark and feeding on the cambium layer just beneath the bark. This interrupts the normal

flow of nutrients through the trees, causing them to die.

The area of beetle infestation extended along a 200-mile-wide belt from eastern Texas, across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia, Warren said.

Warren cautioned that the latest cycle of the Southern pine beetle attack is not entirely over.

"The higher elevations of Tennessee, Virginia, Alabama and Georgia and the Piedmont and Mountain regions of North Carolina are still reporting high levels of... beetle damage," he said, estimating damage to public and private forest lands in the South at \$500 million.

Education agency chooses winners for teacher of year

DALLAS (AP) — Margurette Troutman didn't decide to go to college until she was 32, divorced and mother of a young child.

Now in her eighth year of teaching 10th- and 11th-grade English at Highland Park High School, Troutman has been honored as Secondary School Teacher of the Year by the Texas Education Agency. She will represent Texas in the National Teacher of the Year contest.

Troutman, 59, finished four years of college in 2½ years, graduated with honors and is now in her 23rd year of teaching.

She borrowed money and rode a school bus 100 miles a day to and from the nearest college because there was no college in her small hometown in Arkansas.

"Every day I stepped aboard the school bus I grew younger," she wrote in a biographical essay about her life. "I fell in love with young people, with the magic of learning."

Jimmie Rose Driver, a first-grade teacher in the Agua Dulce school district in Nueces County in the Rio Grande Valley, was named Elementary School Teacher of the Year. Driver has been a teacher for 16 years, the last 10 in Agua Dulce.

This year was the first time in the 19-year history of the contest that winners were named in two categories.

They were chosen from more than 80 entrants who submitted a series of essays on such topics as the

philosophy of teaching, personal teaching style and perceptions of national education issues.

Six finalists were interviewed in Austin over the weekend. The two winners will receive a cash award and a plaque, and they will be recognized at the state board of education meeting in May.

William Kirby, Texas education commissioner, said, "Mrs. Troutman and Mrs. Driver represent the thousands of fine dedicated teachers throughout Texas. We will be proud to have them serve as examples of the very best of the teaching profession throughout the coming year."

Troutman wrote in an essay on the philosophy of teaching, "Teaching, to me, is a way of life. The rewards have been great and far-reaching."

"To see the light of understanding for the first time in a child's eyes; to see a youth grow physically, mentally, emotionally and psychologically; to see the successful development of a selfhood emerge in a child — these are some of the rewards of teaching."

She wrote that teaching "is not an easy life." And in an essay on educational trends she said teachers are often looked upon as "a parent, a friend, a moralist, a psychiatrist, a nurse and a humanist."

Troutman taught English for 15 years at Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler before coming to Highland Park.



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Purchasers raise North Texas crude oil price

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — Eight major purchasers raised the price they pay for North Texas crude oil from \$18.50 to \$19 per barrel and eight others probably will follow suit, an oilman said.

The eight purchasers still at \$18.50 will probably go up soon, said William T. "Bill" Thacker, a past president of the North Texas Oil & Gas Association.

"I would think they would go up before long," he said Monday. "They generally have followed suit in the past when some have taken the lead and gone up, and I don't expect an exception at this time."

Sun Oil Co. and Permian Oil increased their postings in North Texas from \$18.50 a barrel to \$19 Friday after about 10 days of an upward trend in the futures markets.

On Monday, Conoco, Geer Tank Trucks, Marathon Corp., Pride Oil Co., Unocal Oil and Koch Oil Co. also increased their prices from \$18.50 to \$19.

The price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil in New York Monday closed at \$20.20 per barrel, up from \$19.80 per barrel Friday. The West Texas price is that paid by oil companies to purchasers of oil and North Texas oil prices generally fol-

low increases on that spot market.

Thacker said he doesn't expect Monday's virtual free fall in the stock market to have a strong impact on oil prices because the oil and gas industry already is in a weakened state and therefore doesn't have as far to fall as other segments of the economy.

What happens in the Middle East is more important to oil prices than the stock markets, he said.

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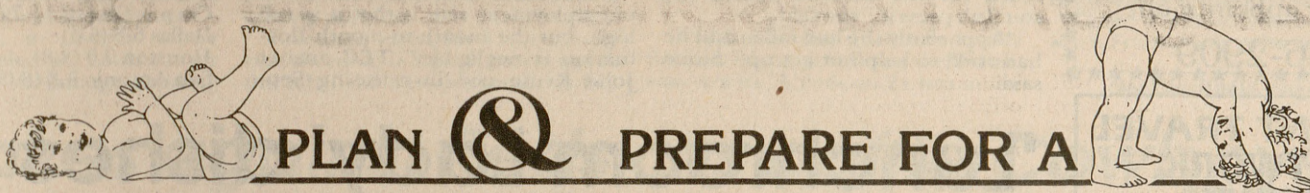
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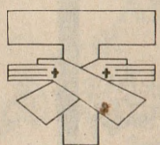
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