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At Ease

Student's hobbies

Greek task force works on alcohol policy

By Karen Kroesche
Senior Staff Writer

The Alcohol Issues Task Force, a subcommittee established by the Interfraternity Council in an effort to reduce the threat of alcohol-related incidents, met for the first time Wednesday.

Prompted in part by the recent death of Sigma Alpha Epsilon member Gary Wayne Corn, the IFC established the 12-member task force to recommend policy guidelines governing fraternity parties and hopes to make recommendations to the council before the end of the semester.

Greek adviser Charles Goodman

said Corn's death was one of many factors that led to the establishment of the alcohol task force, and he commended the SAE fraternity for changes that they have already made in their chapter regarding alcohol policy.

"Sure these issues existed before," Goodman said. "But we owe an obligation to both Gary and the family to see to it that if changes are necessary that those changes are made."

Corn, a sophomore, died in a one-car collision after leaving a fraternity mixer last month.

Task force chairman Bill Harrison said he does not know whether Corn was under the influence of alcohol when the accident occurred,

The 12-member Alcohol Issue Task Force Committee is in the process of formulating recommendations that emphasize "specificity rather than glittering generalities."

— Greek adviser Charles Goodman

and a spokesman for the Bryan Police Department said the results of a blood-alcohol test on Corn have not been filed yet.

IFC President Steven Parker said the University asked the council to

formulate policies in order to minimize risks to the individuals involved in fraternity activities, as well as to the fraternities and the University, either of which potentially could be held liable for alcohol-related acci-

dents or deaths under the new hosts laws.

Goodman said the 12-member committee is in the process of formulating recommendations that emphasize "specificity rather than glittering generalities."

The committee will be looking at such issues as what food and alternative beverages should be provided at parties, carding, designated driver programs, and even proper advertising.

Once concrete policy recommendations are formulated, they will be presented to the Interfraternity Council for approval, Goodman said.

Harrison said the first meeting

was productive, and that the task force should have solid recommendations to make to the IFC by May.

"Our primary focus is to establish a working alcohol policy for all 26 fraternities," Harrison said. "By the end of the semester we will have some concrete plans."

Parker said he thinks the committee and its eventual recommendations will be a step in the right direction.

"It will be something that we all agree to, it will be something that the University agrees to, and it will lessen our liability and promote alcohol awareness, and try to prevent anything like the SAE incident from happening," Parker said.

Panel advises Senate to pass weapons treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee recommended overwhelmingly Wednesday that the Senate ratify a historic treaty to eliminate all U.S. and Soviet medium-range nuclear weapons.

"This is a small step away from the nuclear brink," Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., said following the committee's 17-2 vote.

Committee chairman Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., said, "It means the elevator of nuclear escalation will finally stop and hopefully descend."

Cranston said his head count shows no more than five senators will vote against the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty when the full Senate takes up the treaty, probably late next month. Ratification requires a two-thirds Senate majority, 67 votes if all 100 senators are present and voting.

The only dissenting votes inside the committee were cast by Sens. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., and Larry Pressler, R-S.D. Helms has worked vigorously to derail the treaty.

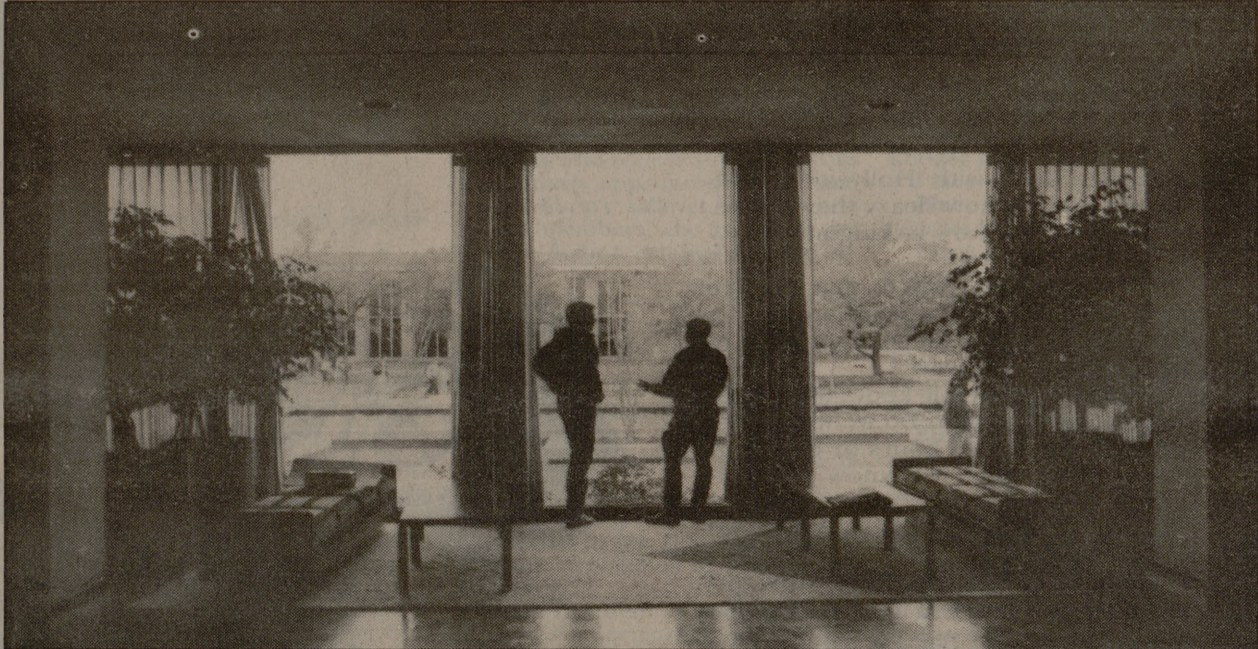
The resounding committee vote paped over a bitter partisan dispute over an amendment added to the treaty on Tuesday with the aim of assuring that the meaning of the pact cannot be reinterpreted by a future president without the consent of Congress.

Many moderate Republicans said the amendment represented a partisan jab at President Reagan and his

administration's reinterpretation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty to permit the deployment of a Star Wars missile defense system.

Several GOP lawmakers said the controversy may cause them to reassess their support of the treaty and Cranston said he may be willing to search for a compromise when the Senate debates the issue.

The treaty, signed Dec. 8 by President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, requires both sides to destroy, within three years, all nuclear-armed missiles with a range of 300 miles to 3,400 miles.



On the lookout

Freshman Matt Mars and senior Tom Skrocki look out a window in Rudder Tower Wednesday as

they wait in a warm place for their Fish Camp sponsor.

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

PUC extends case until May 16, gives GSU \$22.5 million increase

AUSTIN (AP) — On the day it had planned to end the marathon case, the Public Utility Commission Wednesday extended the Gulf States Utilities rate case until May 16 and gave the company an interim increase of \$22.5 million.

That increase is in addition to a \$39.9 million interim hike in effect since last April. Under the interim plan, GSU's residential customers

will initially pay about \$2 to \$3 more per month for 1,000 kwh, according to GSU spokesman Kim McMurray.

Sometime next month, residential rates will increase again by "several dollars a month," McMurray said.

The interim rates must be refunded to customers if the PUC eventually approves lower permanent rates. The final decision is now

due by May 16. The commission set a May 9 hearing to begin making that decision.

Wednesday's 3-0 decision to delay came a day after the commission seemed on the verge of wrapping up the case that began in November 1986 when the Beaumont-based company requested a \$144 million increase.

A series of votes taken by the commissioners added up to a net increase of about \$22 million, including a \$30 million refund for fuel charge overcollections, according to PUC staff figures calculated Wednesday.

But the last-minute delay became necessary because commissioners had reviewed briefs from a lawsuit that includes arguments on points similar to those at issue in the GSU case. Commissioner Jo Campbell said a decision in the GSU case might be thrown out by the courts if parties in the case did not get a chance to comment on the documents that the commissioners had read.

The briefs were filed by several utility companies, including GSU, in requesting the Texas Supreme Court to reconsider its December decision in a Houston Lighting & Power Co. suit challenging a PUC ruling.

"It's absolutely clear it would be reversible error," Campbell said of

deciding the GSU case without allowing the parties to respond to the HL&P case briefs the commissioners had read.

But the GSU case could not have been extended beyond a Friday deadline without the company's approval. The commission secured that by offering the interim increase. PUC Chairman Dennis Thomas said the interim increase would "at least keep the company in business until we can come up with a solution."

The interim decision allows GSU to keep the \$30 million it owes to customers for fuel charge overcollections until a final decision is made.

McMurray said the interim increase "is enough in the short term," but could be a problem when the company must borrow money, probably in May, about the same time the final decision is now due.

Thomas said the company's financial hard times will not end soon, regardless of the final outcome of the rate case.

"I personally believe the company is very short on cash," the PUC chairman said. "I also believe when they have to borrow it is going to be at extremely high rates."

"This company didn't get in financial difficulty overnight and they won't get out of it overnight. At best, we're looking at a 3- to 4-year recovery period."

House expects no trouble with passing Contra aid bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — House leaders agreed Wednesday on a \$48 million package of humanitarian aid for the Contra rebels in Nicaragua and for children injured in seven years of civil war, and they predicted easy passage on the House floor.

Authors of the compromise package portrayed it as a gesture of U.S. support for a temporary truce reached last week between the rebels and the Sandinista government, and for talks aimed at achieving a long-term end to hostilities.

"The hope is that this will lead to political instead of military processes now taking over" in Nicaragua, said House Majority Leader Thomas Foley, D-Wash.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., promised speedy consideration on the other side of the Capitol, although it was unclear whether the matter could come to a vote on Thursday. GOP lawmakers said President Reagan had indicated strong support for the measure.

The legislation would renew aid to the rebels, whose last U.S. support ran out Feb. 29, and keep them together as a fighting force while they wait in cease-fire zones inside Nicaragua for a long-term truce to be worked out with the Sandinista government.

"It sends a message to the Contras that they are not abandoned, that we do care about them and want to keep

them healthy and a viable force," said Rep. Mickey Edwards, R-Okla., who participated in negotiations to draft the compromise.

"And it lets the Sandinistas know that it's important to the United States Congress that the talks that take place down there take place with good faith, and that they move toward democratization," Edwards added.

The agreement, made possible by a 60-day cease-fire reached by the two warring sides last week, broke a weeks-long deadlock in Congress over whether to keep up the flow of U.S. aid. The House had killed efforts to provide new supplies to the rebels on two earlier occasions this year.

In agreeing to the deal, Republicans accepted the assurances of House Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas, that he would give any future request from President Reagan for military aid for the rebels "fair and orderly" consideration.

The White House apparently dropped its past insistence on an ironclad legal guarantee of an expedited vote, settling instead for the pledge contained in a letter from Wright to the president and to Minority Leader Robert Michel, R-Ill.

Wright's pledge says Reagan can ask Congress for additional rebel aid if Nicaragua's leftist government violates the March 23 cease-fire or any later peace accord and if the Contras continue to observe its terms. Wright would send Reagan's request to the appropriate House committee, which would have 10 days to act and return the measure to the full House for action.

The letter suggests that Reagan first get advice on whether new military aid is warranted from a commission established by the March 23 agreement to oversee the cease-fire.

Winners of elections to be released tonight

The names of winners in the Student Government elections will not be released until today at about 10 p.m., election commissioner Steve Steinbridge said Wednesday.

The official results will be announced in front of the Academic Building near the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, he said.

Steinbridge said the election results used to be announced by midnight on the day of the election, but that those involved with counting the ballots no longer were at the University. Employees at Texas A&M's Measurement and Research Services office, who are tallying the results this year, can not work overtime, he said.

Getting the election results involves a two-step process, he said.

Steinbridge said the Measurement and Research office would run the scanners during normal working hours. The results are coded on magnetic tape through this process, he said.

An independent program specialist then will run a computer program on the magnetic tape, which decodes the results.

Steinbridge said announcing the winners at night is more dramatic, but he also said the election results would not be decoded from the magnetic tape until then, so they could not be announced earlier in the day.

President's office reports classes will go on as usual on Good Friday

By Amy Couvillon
City Editor

Texas A&M will have classes as usual on Good Friday, a representative from President Frank E. Vandiver's office said Wednesday.

"There will be no holiday," said Stella Bosquez, a secretary in the president's office. "The University will be open."

The Texas Legislature, when it is in session, usually passes a resolution granting a day or a half-day off for state agencies. It is up to the individual agency to decide whether to observe the holiday.

Last April Gov. Bill Clements signed such a resolution during the week before Good Friday and Vandiver called a half-day holiday for Texas A&M and canceled all classes meeting after noon.

"I am keenly sensitive to the problems and confusion this late announcement may create," Vandiver

wrote in an April 15, 1987 memo. "Also, given the uncertainty already created by various rumors and the lack of time for usual consultation, announcing these policies immediately is really the only alternative left to me."

But the Legislature is not in session this year, and Clements has not called a state holiday.

"No action has been taken on that," said Karen Yaeger, a spokesman in Clements' office. "It will be a regular working day."

Some A&M faculty members have complained that last year's unplanned holiday caused substantial problems for faculty.

The Faculty Senate on Feb. 8 passed a resolution that protects A&M's academic calendar from last-minute state holidays granted by the governor.

The resolution — which proposes

A&M releases nominee list for president

Dr. Ed Hiler, chairman of the Texas A&M search advisory committee, said a list of applicants would be released today at a press conference.

The list is expected to include James C. Miller III, director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Gordon Eaton, president of Iowa State University. Both have held positions at A&M.

A committee member said that between 150 and 200 individuals had been nominated for the position.

President Frank Vandiver announced in January he was resigning to become head of the newly established Moshier Institute for Defense Studies. Vandiver's resignation will become effective Sept. 1.

that "the academic calendar approved each semester by the Faculty Senate of Texas A&M University be fixed except in cases of severe emergency as determined by the President" — will not take effect until it is signed by Vandiver. It has been sent to the president's office and is under consideration.

According to 1987-88 University Regulations, religious holy days are included in the list of reasons for authorized absences.

But to be allowed to retake an examination or make up an assignment in a class missed Friday, a student must have notified the instructor of the class of the holy day before Feb. 5, the 15th day of classes.

This stipulation is part of the state education code and is listed in Appendix IX of the 1987-88 University Regulations booklet.