

Wednesday, March 8, 1989

Aggie spring break activities extend beyond beach parties

Student religious groups plan trips to various impoverished areas

By Mia B. Moody

REPORTER

People usually think of spring break as a time to soak up some rays, party and relax. But some Texas A&M students have chosen to spend spring break helping people who are less fortunate than themselves.

The Baptist Student Union, the Wesley Foundation and Campus Crusade for Christ plan to travel to different areas and provide religious and material services to needy people.

Susan Smith, associate director of the Baptist Student Union, said

BSU is sending a group to Canton, Okla., and a group to Atlanta.

"I am taking 20 students to the Techwood Baptist Center in inner-city Atlanta where we will work in an elderly center," Smith said. "We will visit elderly people and work with other groups to renovate the home."

Smith said the group going to Oklahoma will work at the Canton Indian Baptist Church.

"They will take up and put down floor tiles in the church," Smith said. "They will also provide evening revival services and the Saturday before school starts they will have a rally for Indian youth."

Rhonda Johnson, a senior el-

ementary education major from De-Soto, said she chose to go to Atlanta because she feels it is what the Lord wants her to do.

"Lots of people do things for me," Johnson said. "This gives me an opportunity to do something for other people."

Seanna Dermody, a junior elementary education major from Dallas, said she is going to Brownsville because she likes to serve people.

"I like to help people and I wanted to do something different, so I chose to work with Indians on a real reservation," Dermody said.

Max Mertz, campus minister for the Wesley Foundation, is taking 27

students to the Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville. Mertz said they chose Brownsville because it is in the third poorest county in the country.

"We will work with underprivileged children, which is fulfilling because the children are loving and cuddly and they crave a lot of attention," Mertz said.

Mertz's group also will work at a refugee center owned by Catholics.

"We will worship with Central American refugees," he said. "They will preach to us and we will preach to them."

Ray Anderson, director of ministry for Campus Crusade for Christ, is taking 64 students to Guernavaca, a city about one-and-a-half hours from Mexico City.

"We will show a film called 'Jesus' which is based on the gospel of Luke," Anderson said. "We will travel to different villages and set up the film in streets and invite everybody to watch it. Last year 2,400 people saw the film."

Anderson said students will give testimonies and puppet shows translated to Spanish.

For people who aren't going on missions or to the beach, here's a list of things to do in Bryan-College Station:

- Go swimming.
- Go to the LRD in Sterling C. Evans Library and watch videos.
- Go shopping either at the Post Oak Mall or the Manor East Mall.
- Go to the dollar movies.
- Visit area parks.
- Go bowling.
- Go to Bryan Lake.
- Visit downtown Bryan area and do some sightseeing.
- Join a gym and get in shape.
- And if all else fails, read ahead in all of your classes.

House approves bill cutting worker comp insurance premiums

AUSTIN (AP) — A sweeping overhaul of the Texas workers' compensation system, that includes a proposed 15 percent decrease in workers' comp insurance premiums, was passed by the House on Tuesday after nearly seven hours of debate.

Supporters of the bill, which is sponsored by Bryan Rep. Richard Smith, successfully fought back major changes to the bill and won tentative approval by a 117-27 vote.

After a final vote, the bill will now go to the Senate where it is expected to face strong opposition from trial lawyers and organized labor.

Moves to reinstate jury trials of disputed claims, without regard of previous administrative rulings, and to beef up job-related worker safety provisions failed.

The House approved decreasing workers' compensation premiums by 15 percent over three years, but a provision tacked onto the rollback will guarantee the decrease will never take effect, opponents said.

The rate reduction would be contingent on a finding by the State Board of Insurance that such a decrease would be fair and reasonable.

In other action, the House removed a proposed \$1.3 million per year workers' comp research center at Texas A&M University, after opponents said the center was a "pork barrel" project for the bill's author.

Smith said he was pleased with the House action.

"I'm delighted with the way the bill went. We didn't have any crippling amendments. The amendments that went on in regard to rates I think were productive and helpful," Smith said.

Smith presented the 200-page bill as a balance between competing and powerful lobbies for insurance, business, doctors, lawyers, and labor.

The bill would expand the oversight and regulatory powers of the state's administrative agency for workers' compensation, raise some benefits for injured workers, and

lessen court involvement in the adjudication of disputed claims.

House Speaker Gib Lewis said if the Senate made any major changes to the bill it could force a special legislative session.

"If the Senate weakens the bill... I don't think we will accept a weak bill."

"I think there is a good possibility we could go into a special session. That is one of the issues that could take us into a special session," said Lewis, D-Fort Worth.

"I think it's a good bill. It will address the problem we have in the workers' comp system," Lewis said. Businesses have complained about the rising costs of workers' comp premiums, while labor groups say workers' benefits are too low.

The major battles during House debate were on adding worker-safety provisions and reinstating a procedure by which a disputed claim goes to state district court without regard to previous administrative rulings.

"We appear eager to turn our backs on the Texas Constitution and particularly the Texas Bill of Rights," said Rep. David Cain, D-Dallas.

But Smith argued most states have removed this procedure — called trial de novo. Smith's bill would allow courts to only decide in contested cases whether the previous administrative decision was fair.

Travel agencies say students' break will include more slopes than sand

By Andrea Warrenburg

REPORTER

Because of this winter's intensely cold weather, more students have chosen to party on the slopes rather than on the beach during spring break.

"Skiing is more popular this year probably because the snow has been so good," Diane Stribling, owner of A&M Travel Service, said.

"The skiing resorts usually have to offer special packages every year to get people to come. This year they didn't have to," Stribling said.

Of course students also are flocking to the beaches, Hollie Brandesky, travel agent at AggieLand Travel, said.

"Florida is extremely popular this year and, of course, so is Padre," she said.

For certain sunshine, Mexico destinations are popular. Acapulco and Puerto Vallarta are the hot spots this year compared to Cancun and Cozumel during last year's spring break, Brandesky said.

The travel agents said ski trips are more expensive than beach trips, but students usually do not like to spend more than \$300-\$400.

Dorothy Hernandez, a travel agent at ITS Tours and Travel, said, "People this year are budgeting, so it was smart to plan early and get the best deals."

Travel agents said hotel and airplane reservations are still available, but are expensive and limited.

"Flights out of College Station have been full since January," Brandesky said. "But if people are really desperate they can still do things in Texas, such as go to San Antonio and visit Sea World and the river walk."

The best advice travel agents can give to future spring breakers or any vacationers who want to get the best prices on package deals is to make arrangements well in advance.

Students will be traveling by car, bus and airplane to all destinations.

Agents said the Eastern Airline strike will not affect travel plans in this area of the state.

Correction

The age of Valerie Kay Hurta, who was honored Tuesday night at Silver Taps, was incorrectly listed as 26. Hurta was 21. The Battalion regrets the error.

MSC University PLUS

ARTS & CRAFTS

Basket Weaving

Wed, Mar 29 - April 19
6:30-9pm
\$16/student

Calligraphy II:

Wed, April 5 - May 3
7-9pm
\$18/student

Stained Glass:

Wed, Mar 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19
6-9pm
\$25/student

Etched Glass:

Tues, March 28
6-9pm
\$10/student

Matting & Framing:

Wed, Mar 22, 29, April 5, 12
7-9pm
\$25/student

Counted Cross Stitch:

Mon, March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17
7-9pm
\$15 class fee

Embroidery:

Tues, April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2
6-9pm
\$20 class fee

Jewelry Construction Seminar:

Sat. & Sun. March 25 & 26
9am-12noon & 1-4pm each day
\$38/student

Jewelry Casting Seminar:

Sat. & Sun. April 8 & 9
9am-12noon & 1-4pm each day
\$38/student

Watercolor:

Thurs, March 23, 6-8:30pm
Saturday, March 25, 10am-3pm
Tues, March 28, 6-8:30pm

Thurs, April 20, 6-8:30pm
Saturday, April 22, 10am-3pm
Tues, April 25, 6-8:30pm
\$18/student

Drawing in Color:

Mon, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1
6-9pm
\$25/student

Pottery - Wheel Throwing:

Thurs, Mar 23 - April 27
5-7pm
Thurs, Mar 23 - April 27
7:30-9:30pm
\$25/student

Spring 89 Workshops

LANGUAGES

American Sign Language:

M/W, Mar 20 - April 19
\$25/student

Conversational Spanish:

T/Th, March 21 - April 27
8-9:30pm
\$25/student

Int Conv Spanish:

T/Th, March 21 - April 27
6:30-8pm
\$25/student

English As A Second Language:

M/W, Mar 20 - April 19
6-9pm
\$25/student

COOKING

Authentic Mexican Cooking:

Wed, March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19
6-9pm
\$32 Class fee

Survival Cooking:

Tues, March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18
6-9pm
\$32 Class fee

Ethnic Cooking:

Mon, March 20, 27, April 3, 10
6-9pm
\$25 Class fee

PLANTS

Home Landscaping:

Tues, Mar 21 - April 18
7-9:30pm
\$20/student

Herb Gardening:

Tues, Mar 28, April 4
6-8pm
\$8/student

SPECIAL INTEREST

Auto Mechanics:

Thurs, March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20
7-9pm
\$18/student

Blke Maintenance:

Tues, Mar 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18
7-9pm
\$16/student

Intermediate Guitar:

T/Th, March 21 - April 18
8:30-10pm
\$23/student

CPR:

M/W, Mar 20 & 22
6-10pm
\$10/student

M/W, April 17 & 19
6-10pm
\$10/student

Personal Safety & Self Defense

M/W, April 10 & 12
6-8pm
\$12/student

Yoga:

T/Th, Mar 21 - April 27
\$20/student

Wine Appreciation II:

Wed, March 22, 29, April 5, 12
7-8:30pm
\$25/student

Bartending:

M/W, April 3 - May 3
7-10pm
\$36/student

Potpourri:

Thurs, April 6, 13
6-8pm
\$12/student

PHOTOGRAPHY

Beginning Photography:

Mon, March 20, 27, April 3, 10
6-9pm
\$22 class fee

The Visual Art Of Photography:

Thurs, March 23, 30, April 6, 13
7-9pm
\$17/student

Beginning Black & White Darkroom:

Tues, Mar 21, 28, April 4
6-9pm
\$25/student

WOODWORKING

Decoy Carving:

Tues, Mar 21, 28 April 4, 11
6:30-9:30pm
\$25/student

Beginning Woodworking:

Thurs, Mar 23, 30, April 6, 13
6:30-9pm
\$27/student

Int. Woodworking - Jewelry Boxes:

Sun, Mar 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
6-9pm
\$20/student

Wooden Toys:

Mon, March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24
6-8pm
\$18/student

BUSINESS

Career Counseling:

Thurs, Mar 23, 30, April 6, 13
6-8pm
\$14/student

Business Etiquette

M/W, April 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19
6:30-8pm
\$10/student

Interviewing:

Thurs, March 9 OR Thurs, April 27
6-9pm
\$8/student

Resume Writing:

Thurs, March 2 OR Thurs, April 20
6-9pm
\$8/student

Register Now !

845-1631