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MSC Council enforces rules

All campus groups must obtain University approval for speakers

By Jacqueline Mason

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M University MSC Council officers are questioning the authority of student organizations who invite controversial speakers to Texas A&M without approval by the University.

"If they're going to do a program that affects the whole campus, they have to get approved by Student Services," said MSC President Heather Hartman.

Associate Director of Programs Kevin Jackson said the reason for the rule is to ensure that organizations are providing a balanced perspective of the issues.

"The concept is we are an educational institution," he said. "There is a certain environment the University expects to be maintained."

Maintaining an educational environment means bringing in speakers representing all sides of an issue, he said.

Currently, no rules restrict groups from inviting figures to speak only to their members, but when a student organization wants the speaker to address non-members also, it must obtain approval from the director of student services and possibly the MSC director, according to University Regulations.

Many groups do not seek this approval because they do not know of the restrictions placed on them.

Richard Stadelmann, adviser to the College Republicans, said while these rules might apply to MSC organizations like Political Forum, they do not apply to all student groups.

"We have never had any restrictions placed on us," he said.

The distinction between Political Forum and College Republicans is that Political Forum receives money from the University, he said.

However, Jackson said, all recognized organizations must adhere to the rules set forth in the University Regulations handbook, even if they do not receive funds from A&M.

When the College Republicans invited Oliver North to A&M this fall, the MSC was flooded with letters and phone calls from the community and students wondering if someone representing the democrats or an independent party would appear, he said.

"That was a very pro-republican stance," Hartman said. "In the MSC, we would never allow that to happen without a counter-speaker."

Political Forum Chair Jodi Adcock said if a potentially biased source is invited to speak at the University, her organization brings in another speaker to provide a balance.

"It's an MSC policy that we have to provide speakers to all sides of an issue," she said.

But, Stadelmann pointed out the problems with such restrictions.

Many times, he said, major political speakers do not like to appear in a program with other less-known candidates. And, the University would lose out on the opportunity to have the major speakers come to campus if someone representing an opposing viewpoint always had to appear.

Adcock said if speakers do not want to come to A&M because of such reasons, it is their loss.

"The rule is not going to change, though," she said.

MSC administrators have established a system to assure that organizations are not violating the regulation. If an organization is claiming to have a speaker address only its members, yet reserves a large room or auditorium, the MSC will look into the nature of the program.



Pump it up!



Holly Organ/THE BATTALION

Wolfgang Volcker, a senior kinesiology major, lifts 800 pounds and Cully Stoilis, a senior construction science major, during their afternoon workout Tuesday at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Voters approve income tax veto power

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — A ballot proposal to give voters the final say on whether Texas ever has a state personal income tax was overwhelmingly approved Tuesday.

With 99 percent of the precincts reporting, Proposition No. 4 had 750,708 votes, or 69 percent for and 332,805 votes, or 31 percent against.

The proposed constitutional amendment also would require at least two-thirds of a personal income tax's net revenues to be used to reduce school maintenance-and-operations property taxes. The rest would go to support education.

Supporters said the measure was meant to give Texans a voice in a crucial tax policy issue. Without it, lawmakers could pass an income tax without a statewide vote.

But the proposal drew a wide range of opposition. Some pointed out that the prospect of approving an income tax has been widely viewed as political suicide for lawmakers.

They said giving the voters the final say over the tax could make it politically palatable for lawmakers — and that voters then could be enticed into approving the levy if they believe their school property taxes would go down or education would be helped.

"I believe it's just a slick way of the Legislature getting around a very controversial issue," said Rep. Warren Chisum, D-Pampa, head of the Legislature's Conservative Coalition.

Others were suspicious because the idea was pushed by Democratic Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who earlier supported a state income tax and is up for re-election next year.

Karen Hughes, state GOP executive director, called it a "very crafty political move" by Bullock to escape political heat on the issue. Bullock's office has denied political motivation.

Still other opponents — including the League of Women Voters, Common Cause Texas and the Texas Alliance for Human Needs — called the measure misleading and bad public policy.

They said lawmakers' hands shouldn't be tied on an important tax issue, and questioned whether the measure would increase education funding.

They also said the chief beneficiaries of lower school property taxes would be businesses, while individuals would pay a personal income tax.

Haiti's prospects for democracy bleak, researcher says

By Mark Smith

THE BATTALION

The forming of a democratic government in Haiti may be an unrealistic expectation, said an expert at the Mosher Institute for International Policy Studies.

Cory Ortigova, research associate for the Mosher Institute, said Tuesday that the country's prospects for democracy in the near future are bleak, even if exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is returned to power.

Aristide was supposed to return to power on Saturday Oct. 30, but the military leaders who ousted him two years ago refused to step down until they received amnesty.

"Haiti has not been a democracy for two centuries, and there's no prospect that it will be a democracy any time soon," Ortigova said.

A government comprised of members of all of the factions is the best hope for Haiti, Ortigova

said. These factions include Aristide's followers and the more moderate supporters of Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras and police chief Michel Francois, who currently holds power in Haiti.

"I think that a government of that type probably is the best prospect, even though that does offend the sensibilities of a lot of Aristide's supporters," he said. "That probably is the best prospect for assuring an end to the bloodshed and anarchy."

Concerns have also been raised as to Aristide's ability to be an effective leader and his true intentions for the country.

"He won't be an effective leader," Ortigova said. "These reports like the CIA assessment, his personality profile, that's been rumored in the past. It's been verified by other people that he is probably is not as democratic as he might appear."

The report labeled Aristide as mentally unstable, but the report's accuracy has been ques-

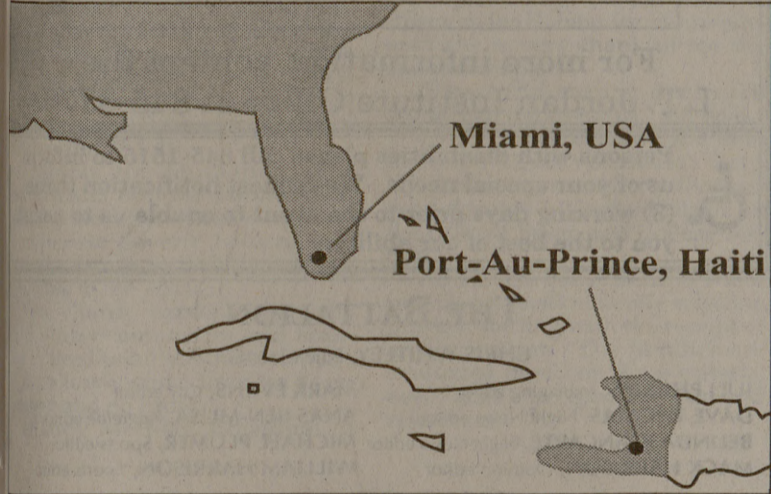
tioned by the Cable News Network, which tried to corroborate some of the information.

The United States became involved in Haiti because of the flood of illegal Haitian immigrants coming into the country.

"The reason we're concerned about the situation at all is the potential for renewed migration or immigration of Haitian refugees to the United States," he said. "The administration is in such disarray with regards to foreign policy, that I don't think they were too interested in taking on this situation unless they had to, and they do have to, because of the threat of renewed immigration."

Ortigova said that although Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, the United States would be unlikely to grant any aid even if the United Nation's demands are met.

"There may be some token aid, but we're so overstretched right now with our foreign aid budget that Haiti is really a low priority," he said.



Angel Kan/THE BATTALION

Candidate for Student Services VP awarded by A&M traditions, values

By Michele Brinkmann

THE BATTALION

The second of six candidates being considered for the vice president of student services position ended his visit to Texas A&M University Tuesday.

Dr. David Markee is currently the vice president of student services at Northern Arizona University.

"This is a very special place," he said. "Before I came here, I read all of the material about Texas A&M, and when I got here, I found a great consistency in what I read and what I saw.

"I find the students here very upbeat and have a

real commitment to this University," he said. "Compared to Northern Arizona University, the students here have more traditions and values from the past that they maintain. Their past and tradition give them pride and a sense of self."

Markee said he wanted to apply for this job because he has heard many good things about A&M.

"After all of the things I had heard, I wondered 'Can it be real?'" he said.

Markee said he feels he is qualified for the job because he has been the vice president of student services for 20 years at two institutions.

He said he believes a student services division is as good as the staff it has.



Markee

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WEATHER

•Wednesday: cloudy, scattered showers, highs in 60s

•Thursday: continued cloudy, scattered showers, highs in 70s

•Weekend forecast: turning colder, highs in 50s, lows in 30s



•Former basketball player accuses Baylor of NCAA violations

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