nday • January 23, 1995

THE BATTALION • Page 5

anel: Changes in panel help define its purpose

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tions that needed to be aned in simpler terms," Schaf-"Basically, the changes rpen the task and make it easfor the students to recognize correct the discrimination." chaffer said the Students hts Appeals Panel never met. One of the problems in the t is that students have not n aware of the committee,' affer said.

Kibler said Schaffer was preed with discrimination cases, she was able to act as a mediand fix the problem without eting of the panel.

I did have cases where stunts felt they were discriminatagainst and we were able to rays solve it in the favor of students, except once," affer said.

Gayle Schmidt, professor of esiology and current chair of e Illegal Discrimination Apals Panel, said the students ed to follow the new procees carefully and be specific. "Students need to read the structions stated and follow Schmidt said. "The stuts need to have written inmation that is focused on a

WEATHER

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ecific incident or situation

and not on generalities."

Kibler encourages students to consult the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs about pursuing any kind of grievances. Staff members are also knowledgeable about the procedures used to file complaints with the panel, she said.

The panel's procedures would be used when one student is involved in an action or behavior determined to be discrimination, but not a violation of the Texas A&M discipline code, Kibler said.

Disability is a potentially discriminatory issue and therefore is included in the list of cases the panel will hear, he said. "Both illegal discrimination

and disability issues are the two sets of grievances that go to this panel," he said. "Disability is-sues potentially can really involve discrimination issues.

Gail Walters, the head of the Office of Support Services for Students with Disabilities, said there haven't been many problems working out differences between faculty and disabled students, but the potential for that type of problem is always present.

"Usually we are able to work the disagreements out between

the students and faculty," Wal-ters said. "We were lacking a final step though, so I'm happy to see that done.

Kibler said the new panel has written procedures for disability accommodations in academic programs. "If disabled students need

some kind of accommodation or change in their academic program because of their disability and they have a disagreement with the department about that, we now have a procedure of how a student pursues that,' Kibler said.

The new panel will consist of a chair, four faculty members, two staff members and three students: two undergraduate and one graduate student.

Bowen will appoint panel members to make decisions on his behalf and all panel deci-sions will be final.

Kibler said Bowen has also endorsed the idea of forming a third section to the Texas A&M student handbook focusing on student grievance procedures. Most regulations are scattered throughout the current handbook, but to make the process more "user friendly", a new section may be added to the handbook for the 1995-96 academic year, he said.





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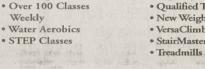
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Wednesday Mostly cloudy and mild with high Source – A&M Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

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Tuesday Night

Computing Toolbox A weekly column dedicated to computing at Texas A&M

The legal and ethical use of software

oftware piracy, the illegal copying of software, is a hot-and often confusingtopic in the computer industry these days. Many people don't realize that the illegal copying of software is a felony punishable by fines up to \$100,000 per copyright infringement. The following questions and answers might clear up a few issues for you.

loaned

May I loan software?

The 1990 modification to the Copyright Law makes it illegal to "loan, lease or rent software" for purposes of direct or indirect commercial advantage without the specific permission of the copyright holder. Non-profit educational institutions are exempted from the 1990 modification, so institutional software may be

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of the software copyright owner. "Non-copyprotected" software enables you to make a backup copy. In offering non-copy-protected software to you, the developer or publisher has demonstrated significant trust in your integrity.

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Isn't it legally "fair use" to copy software if the purpose in sharing it is purely educational?

Historically, the Copyright Law was modified to permit certain educational uses of copyrighted materials without the usual copyright restrictions. However, "fair use" of computer software is still a cloudy issue. The "fair use" amendments to the Copyright Law are intended to allow educational use of legally protected products, but it is limited (for paper-based products) to small portions of full works. For most software it is clearly illegal to make and distribute unauthorized, fully-functional copies to class members for their individual use. Making copies of a small section of code from a program in order to illustrate a programming technique might not be a violation. The best alternative is to clear any such use with the copyright owner or consult the appropriate authorities at your institution.

For more information about software piracy, consult the Fall 1993 issue of Computing News. Check a CIS Help Desk for copies or access the articles online through Gopher. A brochure entitled "Using Software: A Guide to the Ethical and Legal Use of Software for Members of the Academic Community" is also available. Send requests to COMPDOC@TAMU.EDU or call David Lawrence at 845-9325.

The information in this article was taken from "Using Software: A Guide to the Ethical and Legal Use of Software for Members of the Academic Community," a brochure produced as a service to the educational community by the Educational Uses of Information Technology Program of EDUCOM and the Information Technology Association of America.

Computing Taalbox is published by Computing and Information Services (CIS) at Texas A&M University Please send comments, topic suggestions, and questions for the Computing Wizard to SUGGEST@TAMU.EDU or call 845-9325. We want your input!

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