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Students approve run-off referendum

By JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

Students voted to have yell leader run-offs Wednesday after a petition made it possible have the referendum.

Out of 1,938 votes, 53.8 percent were in favor of yell-leader run-offs and 46.2 percent were opposed.

Jason Jaynes, elections commissioner and a junior computer science major, decided Wednesday night not to count ballots cast in the MSC between 9 a.m. and noon. The decision came after complaints that Gary Kipe, senior yell leader and an agricultural development major, attempted to encourage students in the MSC to vote, Jaynes said.

Of the 378 votes that were disallowed, 308

were for having yell leader run-offs and 70 were against.

The approval of the referendum requires a run-off election following the general election to vote for the top four junior candidates and top five senior candidates.

Jaynes said no challenge of the election results is expected.

He said the election was conducted well, and the results are valid.

"There was a good student turnout for the election," Jaynes said. "It went well with one exception, which was handled properly."

Carl Baggett, Student Body president and a senior accounting major, said Jaynes conducted the election well.

"Jason [Jaynes] was fair and even-handed in how he dealt with the whole election," Baggett said.

Credit should be given to those who helped in the election, he said.

"Jason Jaynes, Kevin Jordan (Student Government judicial board chair and an accounting graduate student) and all who helped in the election should be commended for their hard work," Baggett said.

The next step in the elections process is to enact the results of the referendum by making changes to the Student Government Association constitution.

Baggett said he will adjust the constitution to add yell leader run-offs.

"The student's voice is stated," Baggett said, "and we are taking necessary actions to enact what the students voted for."

Chris Torn, head yell leader and a senior agricultural development major, said before the election results were announced

that he will abide by the student vote although he was opposed having yell leader run-offs.

Chris Williams, MSC president and senior political science and speech communications major, said he is happy about the results of the election.

"I am glad to see that so many students voted," Williams said. "I think students have said, 'This is what I want.'"

Williams said that after last year's attempt to initiate yell leader run-offs, he is sorry to see that it had to come to a second vote.

Jessie Czelusta, RHA president and senior agricultural economics major, said he is thrilled about the results of the run-off election.

"It's a great big whoop, and I am so happy it passed," Czelusta said. "It is about time the students get what they want."

Election Results

- 1,938 votes total
- 1,042 votes for yell leader run-offs (53.8 percent)
- 896 votes against yell leader run-offs (46.2 percent)
- 378 votes were disallowed
- 308 of the disallowed votes were for yell leader run-offs
- 70 of the disallowed votes were against yell leader run-offs

Student Senate passes bike plan

By ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

Yellow bicycles will be rolling across campus when a Student Senate plan passed Wednesday night is implemented in March.

The program will use abandoned bicycles sent to Purchasing Services after being confiscated by Parking, Traffic and Transportation.

Freshman senator Cass Burton, a political science major, began working on the program, in September to provide students with a form of transportation other than walking or riding the bus.

"The size of Texas A&M is mind-boggling," Burton said. "This would be a wonderful service to the student body."

Burton said the program will provide convenient transportation to students without costing them money.

"It (Borrow-a-Bike) is a convenience," he said. "[It is] a quick form of transportation and it's free."

Javier Martinez, an off campus senator and a junior English and philosophy major, said the Aggie Code of Honor should contribute to the program's success.

"I think it's the greatest bill to come out of the Senate in a long time," Martinez said. "I think it will really fit in at A&M," he said. "It will give people a sense of community."

Volunteers from MSC University Plus will repair the bicycles donated to the program. The bicycles will be reduced to one-speed and the brakes will be tested.

The bicycles will then be sent to PTTS, where they will be painted bright yellow with

In other Student Senate business:

- The Student Service Fee Bill was referred to the Student Services Committee. This bill approved the Student Service Fee Allocation Board's recommendations on the use of the Student Service Fee and the Health Center Fee.
- The constituency relations bill was referred to the Rules and Regulations Committee. This bill will change the Senate by-laws to include a report to be done after the new Senate session begins and before the last day of spring classes.
- The computer registration bill was referred to the Academic Affairs Committee. This bill calls for computer registration over the Bonfire System to begin in the spring of 1998.
- The senate restructuring bill was referred to the Rules and Regulations Committee. This bill includes changes such as reduction of residency seats, appointed caucus leaders through application and a mandatory candidate's meeting before elections.

the words 'Borrow-a-Bike' on them.

The University Police Department will finalize and register the bicycles.

The bill established a committee to oversee the program, with a chair selected by the student body president and the Senate speaker.

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Pebble Creek students spend day on campus



Paige Kieke, a Pebble Creek Elementary student, attends a mock Student Government Association meeting yesterday on the A&M campus.

By JACKIE VRTIL
THE BATTALION

The pitter-patter of little feet was heard all over campus yesterday when Pebble Creek Elementary School's Student Council visited Texas A&M.

The children's day included a pizza lunch, followed by a mock Student Government Association meeting and a tour of the MSC given by MSC Hospitality.

Dawn Dewald, enrichment specialist at Pebble Creek, said she has always wanted to start a student council. Pebble Creek Elementary, a school that is only a year old, gave her the opportunity.

"When I approached the principal about starting the student council," she said, "all he said was to go for it."

Dewald said she asked A&M's student government to help because the children

look up to the A&M students.

"Most of the children have fathers or grandfathers who attended A&M," she said. "I wanted them to meet one-on-one with the community heroes — the Aggies."

Last fall, Laurie Nickel, vice president of programs and student development and a junior business analysis major, was assigned the duties of helping the children run their campaigns, writing their speeches and putting together a swearing-in ceremony. Since then, Nickel has attended their Friday meetings.

Josh Jeter, president of the council and a fourth-grader, said he became president because the other students liked his speech.

"We had to make up speeches and get up in front of everybody and tell them our speech," he said.

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Ballet Fever

Moscow Festival Ballet dancers warm up before Thursday's opening-night performance in Rudder Auditorium.

Ags carry on Replant tradition

By GRAHAM HARVEY
THE BATTALION

Replant, in its eighth year as an Aggie tradition, kicks off tomorrow at Lake Somerville at 9 a.m.

Replant was founded in 1990 by Scott Hantman, a graduate student and director of the Environmental Issues Committee at Texas A&M at the time. The purpose was to plant seedlings to offset the cutting down of trees for Bonfire. Chip Loomis, director of Replant and a junior biology major, said the number of trees replanted has increased from 400 in 1990 to 25,000 last year.

He said Replant draws a diverse group of participants.

"[It's] pretty much a mix of the whole student body," Loomis said. "Sororities, fraternities, Corps members, off-campus Aggies, Aggi Mom's Clubs and others."

Around 2,500 students will travel to Lake Somerville tomorrow and Loomis said

about 75 percent of the participants were also Bonfire participants.

Amy Butler, Replant executive and a junior accounting major, said students who participate in Replant do not necessarily oppose Bonfire.

"I just wish that the student body as a whole would know that we are not anti-Bonfire," Butler said. "[Replant is] a very positive experience working with the University and all the students who come out."

Loomis said Replant is a cyclical process. The seedlings are provided by the National Tree Trust, a fund privately supported by Texaco. Replant participants then pot the seedlings and leave them at the Welsh Park tree farm near Lake Somerville where they are cared for by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The following year, the potted seedlings are planted at the Replant site.

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American's strike deadline draws near

WASHINGTON (AP) — American Airlines officials began around-the-clock bargaining Thursday night with leaders of their pilots' union in an effort to head off an approaching strike at midnight Friday. President Clinton urged both sides to "reach out to one another" and settle their differences.

"We have a long way to go and a short time to do it in," the airline's president, Donald Carty, toothbrush and shaving kit in hand, said as he showed up for what both sides expect to be a marathon ses-

sion of back-and-forth proposals.

Clinton, at a news conference Thursday afternoon, gave no indication whether he would exercise emergency powers to prevent pilots from striking at 12:01 a.m. Saturday. He was urged to do so by the airline's chief executive officer, Robert Crandall, and by mayors and some members of Congress from areas that would be particularly affected.

The airline canceled most overseas flights and about a dozen round-trip domestic flights today so that aircraft would not be stranded at airports with no room to store them for an extended period.

John Hotard, an airline spokesman, said the canceled flights included those into and out of White Plains, N.Y., and Orange County, Calif. He said passengers booked on the canceled flights were notified Thursday to rebook on other flights to the same destinations.

At the White House, Clinton received a report from the Transportation Department estimating that the strike would cost up to \$200 million a day and could strand up to 40,000 passengers.

The department also said it was prepared to temporarily assign American's landing slots to other carriers if a strike develops.

"We hope that that analysis of economic damage won't need to be a useful

document," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

The president, who has emergency powers to intervene temporarily, urged both sides to reach an agreement. Clinton said the airline and the pilots union should "think about how they can reach out to one another in the best interest of the nation."

Hopes for a settlement rose early Thursday, when the union offered to have its pilots accept lower pay scales for operating jets on regional routes as long as the company accepted its other demands.

But American's parent company, AMR Corp., says it doesn't want American pilots to fly the new jets that have been proposed for regional routes. AMR wants its American Eagle subsidiary, with lower-paid pilots from another union, to fly the commuter jets.

The company did not directly reject the offer, but a spokesman suggested the pilots' plan would not work.

"In reality, those jets are going to be operated as American Eagle or they are not going to be operated," spokesman Al Comeaux said. "There are costs involved beyond pilot costs. We have to be competitive."

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THE BATTALION INSIDE TODAY

"Mr. Cowboy:" Former defensive tackle Bob Lilly visited TCA Cable yesterday.
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