

Student Senate creates Governance Council

By STACEY BECKS
Staff writer

The Student Senate Wednesday created a Governance Council that gives the executive board of Student Government Association influence over the implementation of constitutional bills.

passes something, it immediately goes into effect and the executive board can't say if they like it or not," he said. "Executive branch and legislative branch are two independent bodies, but we are one Student Government Association. We would have a better SGA if we brought all of these together."

The Governance Council will be made up of the six senate officers, the student body president, five executive vice presidents, and the judicial board chair, who will not have voting privileges.

Kristen Paris, executive vice president and a senior biomedical science major, said the Governance Council will allow the executive board to give its opinion on bills before they go to the floor of the Senate.

"A lot of communication needs to take place before an issue goes before the Senate or executive branch," she said. "Differences can be hammered out together beforehand."

The bill states that after the Student Senate passes a bill by one over a majority vote, the Governance

Council must pass the bill by one over a majority vote for it to go into effect. If the council does not approve the bill, the Senate can put the bill into effect with a three-fourths vote.

The Governance Council can initiate bills by a two-thirds vote, but the Senate can override the bill by a two-thirds vote.

Aaron Bigbee, a senator and a sophomore speech communication major, said there is already enough communication between the Senate and Executive Board.

"There is no need to create a committee to have communication because there's already interaction," he said. "In no way has communication been impeded under the current system."

In other business, the Student Senate:

- Passed a bill that made the Speaker of the Senate first in line to fill the office of student body president if the president is unable to fulfill his or her duties. The Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Senate then rules and Regulations Chair is next

- in line.
- Passed a bill that says the freshmen senators are to represent freshmen even though there is no freshman caucus.
- Passed a resolution that asks the Director of Open Access Computing Labs Search Committee to give extra consideration to candidates for the position of Director that will incorporate student input for decision making.
- Passed a bill that makes the student body president chair of Senate meetings until the Speaker of the

NEWS BRIEFS

Cartoonist to paint mural at Post Oak

Cartoon artist and literacy advocate will paint a mural today and Saturday at Post Oak Mall to promote literacy efforts in the Bryan-College on community.

Neil Yeh, the founder of Cartoon-Across America and the World, provide comedy entertainment paint a 60-foot mural in conjunction with a community book drive in Post Oak Mall Food Court.

Community members can donate or watch Yeh paint and enter today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Activity will continue Saturday from 10 to 4 p.m.

Creation Center host symposium

The third South-Central Regional Student Sport and Exercise Psychology Symposium will be held Friday and Saturday.

The two-day event is sponsored by Psychology Department and will be held at the Student Recreation Center, Arnold LeUnes, a Texas A&M psychology professor said the focus is innovation sharing among students.

The purpose of the symposium is help students in the field of exercise psychology gain experience making presentations while sharing research ideas interacting with other students and professionals in their area," he said.

Reality check



Tina Bright, EMT-I, Sharon Jones, EMT-B/EMD and Seth DeCamp, EMT-P work on Ryan Carney, a freshman business administration major in a simulation Thursday afternoon. Hart Hall hosted a tailgate barbecue and open recreation party. The alcohol poisoning simulation was used to discourage drinking alcohol over Spring Break. Texas A&M's Spring Break begins March 16.

Students to participate in eighth Replant

By KATY LINEBERGER
Staff writer

Nearly 3,000 Aggies and community members will descend upon Lake Somerville tomorrow, shovels in hand. By the end of the day, they will have planted 10,000 seedlings and 3,000 trees as part of Aggie Replant '98.

Replant, now in its eighth year, is quickly taking root as a Texas A&M tradition. Organizers say it is one of the largest single-day, student-run environmental projects in the country.

"It's a really special tradition because it allows us to go out in one day and actively make a big difference and impact the environment," said Dana Arriens, Replant publicity and advertising chair and a sophomore civil engineering major.

Dr. Carolyn Adair, Director of Student Activities, said Replant is an important project. "It's really grown and grown through the years," she said. "It's a very healthy activity."

Arriens said that although Replant began in response to Bonfire's consumption of trees, the two projects are now independent of each other. The trees planted are not used for Bonfire, nor are they planted at cut site, she said.

"The cut site was cleared by request of the land's owner," she said. "Replant plants trees for reforestation and beautification."

More than 100 campus organizations will participate in Replant this year.

For the first time this year, organizers invited members of the community to participate. Arriens said more than 100 individuals representing A&M mothers' clubs, local student councils, Boy Scout troops and the Bryan High School National Honor Society will help with the planting.

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eteorologists find ways to cut costs

A plan developed by Texas A&M meteorologists could save Texas power companies upward of \$40 million a year and help farmers cut costs of millions of dollars from their harvest crops.

Bruce Gammon and Gary Sickler's MesoNet plan would place at least one weather recording station in each Texas county, allowing power companies to better match the changing energy needs of customers and help farmers more accurately plan, irrigate and harvest crops.

INSIDE AggieLife

Student organization leaders speak out on the importance of International Week.

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Baseball team faces Big 12 Missouri in a three-game series this weekend.

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Winston: MSC cookbook fundraiser should reflect complexity, diversity of organization

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online

http://battalion.tamu.edu Look up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.

Whoopin' Weekend

High school students get taste of Aggieland this weekend

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

High school students arrived at Texas A&M University yesterday to catch a glimpse of campus life in the second annual Whoopin' Weekend, an event sponsored by the Student Senate Aggie Recruitment Committee (ARC).

About 250 sophomores, juniors and seniors from high schools across Texas will stay with on-campus residents through Saturday morning, go to class and attend events to learn more about Aggieland.

Melissa Batig, an ARC co-chair and a senior chemical engineering major, said students can experience a part of the campus life in a single weekend.

"We want these students to spend as much time on campus as they can," Batig said. "For some students, this may be their only trip to Aggieland. We are trying to encourage students to come to Texas A&M."

Students will attend 9:10 classes today. Batig said students will attend freshman-level classes, including Chemistry 101 and Math 166.

ARC sent out applications to students from Texas and across the U.S. recruited during the Christmas holidays, Batig said.

About 100 A&M students living on-campus will host Whoopin' Weekend participants, 40 of which will stay in Corps dorms for the weekend.

Beth Abelson, a Whoopin' Weekend registration director and a sophomore education major, said the weekend could encourage high school students to



Libby Edwards, a senior elementary education major, leads high school students on a tour of campus Thursday afternoon.

attend A&M.

"They can see the size of the dorms and what it is like to live there," Abelson said. "A big payoff for me is to see the students come to Texas A&M."

Whoopin' Weekend participants will break up into 25 discussion groups of 10 students each. Students will gain information on financial aid and campus life, in addition to experiencing the campus.

Participants will tour the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, watch Freudian Slip perform and attend a yell practice at the Grove.

Weekend recruiting was initiated in 1995 by the Student Senate committee, which gained the

name ARC in 1997. Batig said only 21 students attended in 1995 and were accompanied by parents and sponsors.

The following year, Howdy Weekend '96 brought in 150 high school students to see the A&M campus. Batig said ARC sponsored the first Whoopin' Weekend last year with 225 participants.

ARC selects applicants on a first-received basis, Batig said. She said ARC sent out 500 applications this year and accepted the first 250 applicants to attend Whoopin' Weekend.

"It was a small program initially and now we are growing," Batig said.

Moon holds water

NASA scientists find moisture in soil

WASHINGTON (AP) — Enough water is frozen in the loose soil of the moon to support a lunar base and perhaps to one day build a human colony there, NASA scientists said Thursday.

"We are certain there is water there," said Alan Binder, a lead scientist for the Lunar Prospector spacecraft, which made the discovery. "We think we are seeing between 10 million and 100 million tons of water."

Although the water is frozen and mixed with shaded soil deep in scattered craters near the north and south lunar poles, Binder said that it would be easy to convert to liquid water that could be used to make rocket propellant and breathing oxygen.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the moon holds enough water, in widely separated deposits, to fill a lake 2 miles square and 35 feet deep, Binder said.

The discovery of water, he said, means that it would be easier to establish a base where people could live for extended periods and to use extraterrestrial resources — moon water converted to rocket fuel — to explore deeper into the solar system.

"For the first time, we may be able to go to another space body and fuel up," said Binder.

The Lunar Prospector, a \$65 million robot craft, was launched in January and has spent the last seven weeks orbiting the moon and taking readings of the moon's surface with radar and other instruments.

Water was discovered by an instrument that measures the speed at which neutrons, a type of subatomic particle, bounce off materials on and near the lunar surface. The neutrons come from natural cosmic rays that constantly bathe

the moon and are slowed when they strike atoms of hydrogen, the chemical that combines with oxygen to make water.

Slowing of the neutrons leaves a "water signature" in the neutron-measuring instrument.

William Feldman, an Energy Department scientist who analyzed the neutron data, said conclusions about water are based on a month's worth of data and should be called "preliminary."

But he said it is quite clear there are dense deposits of hydrogen atoms at the lunar poles. From this, he believes "the evidence of water ice is quite strong."

"There are a bunch of craters filled up with water ice," said Feldman. "This is a significant resource that will allow a modest amount of colonization" for many years.

Scientists will get a better idea of how much water is on the moon and where it is deposited as the Lunar Prospector continues its orbital exploration. The spacecraft will collect data for at least another year. Toward the end of its mission, it will be lowered from its current 60-mile orbit to about six miles, giving scientists a close-up of possible water deposits.

But scientists will not be able to confirm that the hydrogen atoms detected by the spacecraft are actually locked in water, and not in some exotic ice or rock deposit, until a sample of the material is scooped up and analyzed.

"The presence of water is a logical conclusion, but it is a leap of faith," Binder said. "We will have to sample it before we really know for sure."

Feldman said "water is the most stable form of hydrogen" and the most likely form to be on the moon.