

"Asian Connection through Children's Literature"

2003 Children's Literature Conference
Saturday, October 18 • 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Presidential Conference Center,
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Featuring Russell Freedman,
Newbery Award winner and storyteller Susan Klein

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Early registration (by Sept. 30) - \$30.00 for professionals,
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Contact Jane Smith at janeasmith@tamu.edu or 862-3070

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ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

JUNIOR STATUS

(As fall 2003, two years, full-time study planned.)

HIGH GPR

(Historically, strong candidates have minimum 3.6 GPR.)

LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

(Significant criteria for selection.)

DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC SERVICE

(Activities should support this assertion.)

INTENT TO ENROLL IN GRADUATE STUDY

(Degree plan should be relevant to stated public service interest.)

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NATION

THE BATTALION

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Total recall



GREGORY URQUIAGA • KRT CAMPUS

California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley talks to the media in San Francisco on Tuesday after the decision by an 11-member panel of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to allow the governor recall election to proceed on October 7.

Senate tentatively approves redistricting map

By April Castro
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — A congressional redistricting bill has emerged from the Texas Senate for the first time since the battle over redrawing political lines began four months ago.

The bill was approved 18-13 late Tuesday night, largely along party lines and is expected to get final approval Wednesday. Sen. Teel Bivins of Amarillo was the lone Republican to vote against the bill.

The House adopted a different map last week. Once the Senate map is given final approval, the two chambers will come together in a conference committee to try to work out differences between the two maps.

The Senate map marks the first time this year redistricting has been debated on the Senate floor, after a monthlong warfare that included two Democratic walkouts and two fruitless special sessions.

Republicans say the map could give the GOP an additional three to five seats in the state's congressional delegation that is

now ruled 17-15 by Democrats.

During nine hours of floor debate, Democrats ardently fought the plan, proposing amendments, giving lengthy speeches, peppering the map's author, Sen. Todd Staples, R-Palestine, with questions and trying parliamentary maneuvers to postpone debate.

One of two adopted amendments, would split Webb County into two congressional districts. The change angered Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo.

"It dilutes the voting strength of Webb County by dividing it," Zaffirini said. "What I hope is that will be changed in conference committee."

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, also opposed the amendment by Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, because the change to Webb County also would be reflected in Bexar County.

The other amendment would change northeast Texas so that the rural district would not be represented by a suburban Dallas congressman.

After a 45-day boycott of the Texas Legislature by Senate Democrats, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst commended both

sides for "working together in a respectful way."

"Today was the Senate doing its respectful deliberations on a very tough subject," Dewhurst said.

Democrats vowed not to let Republicans pass a map without a fight, but they acknowledged that they do not have the numbers to block the bill.

Republicans, who rule the Texas House and Senate and occupy each statewide-elected office, say the state should have more Republicans representing it in Washington. Democrats hold a 17-15 advantage in the Texas congressional delegation.

The map was approved by the Senate Jurisprudence Committee last week.

Staples presented the GOP plan to the full Senate as a "fair and balanced" proposal that protects minority rights under the federal Voting Rights Act.

Democrats were quick to criticize.

Zaffirini told Staples that the nine minority senators, who are Democrats, believe the map discriminates against minorities.

Staples said the plan preserves all nine minority districts in the state — seven Hispanic

districts and two black districts — and that it will withstand challenge in court.

Democrats have been fighting Republican redistricting efforts since this spring.

House Democrats blocked a bill during the regular legislative session when 51 of them fled to Oklahoma to break a quorum in their chamber.

During the second special legislative session, Senate Democrats blocked a quorum by fleeing to New Mexico. They reluctantly returned last week at the start of the third special legislative session after one Democrat broke away and decided to give Republicans a quorum.

More sparks could fly in the conference committee, however, as Duncan and House Speaker Tom Craddick of Lubbock disagree on how West Texas should be designed.

The House bill puts Midland and Lubbock in two different districts. The Senate plan, meanwhile, keeps the cities in the same district represented by U.S. Rep. Randy Neugebauer.

The conference committee will have to devise a final bill before it goes back to each chamber for final approval.

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Volume 11

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