

SGA split over response to letter

Student finds Sun/Fun Celebration offensive.

By Jaclyn A. Talarico
Capital Times Staff Writer

The Student Government Association met Jan. 30. They discussed upcoming events, such as the leadership conferences scheduled at both University Park and Capital College on February 10.

SGA President Carissa Herwig reported receiving a letter from a student expressing concern for the (then) upcoming Winter Sun/Fun Celebration.

The author of the letter [name being withheld] stated she was offended that SGA was sponsoring the tarot card and

palm reading activities. She urged SGA to be more sensitive to those who might be offended, such as students affiliated with the Capital Christian Fellowship.

The SGA was divided as to whether or not the student's letter deserved an apologetic response, and the members discussed the issue at some length. Ben Yoffee, senior senator at large, voted for writing a letter of apology.

Yoffee argued, "It is important as the Student Government Association that we represent a large multitude of students on campus, and we need to be respectful of their religious beliefs." Yoffee felt tarot cards and palm reading may have been an encroachment of this policy.

Joe Werner, vice president of SGA, argued against writing such a letter, stat-

ing, "If we wrote a letter of apology to everyone on campus who is offended, we wouldn't get anything done."

The SGA decided by a 6-5-0 vote to respond to the student's letter. The letter will state that the SGA understands why some students might be offended by the activities, but explain there was no intent to offend anyone; instead, the SGA's intention was to offer activities many students might enjoy.

Other matters discussed at Tuesday's meeting were related to PSH clubs. The SGA agreed by an 11-0-0 vote to grant the structural design and construction engineering technology program \$150-\$300 toward its open forum. SGA also agreed to initiate the approval of the Graduate Student Association's constitution.

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- Steve Bhaerman



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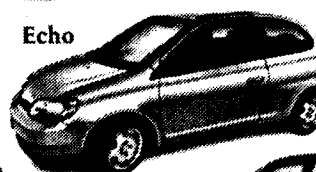
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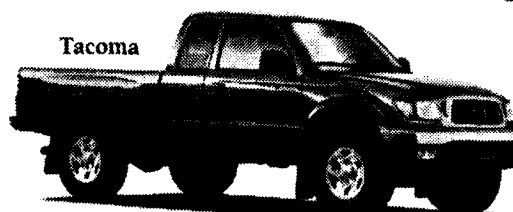
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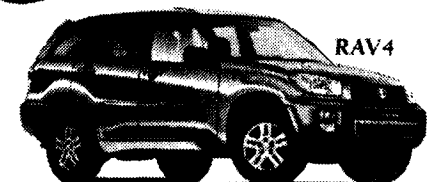
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