

# Gangs

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Jackson said the crime commission works closely with the schools, the police department, the juvenile justice department and local judges. The school and religious committees of the crime commission work directly with the youth, while other committees work to bring the problem to the community's attention, brainstorm for solutions and raise funds, he said. The You & I Can Organization, which is mainly a drug prevention organization, also works on gang problem. "Our main concern is to go into the community where the gang

problems are," Polk said. "People should be concerned about gangs. They could be eliminated or minimized if people (youth) are given other alternatives."

"We want to make a plea to everyone in the community that it is time to come together. Get your hands dirty. They (gangs) will not come to us. We must do something to create jobs and hope so the gangs will cease."

Jackson said the crime commission has seen some favorable results because of its programs.

However, he said, the overall impact will be further down the line, he said.

"We have gotten feedback that kids are able to say 'I'm not interested in gangs' and also getting out of gangs," he said. "However, we can lose a lot of kids before the rest of the kids decide it's stupid."

# Schools

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Steve Carver, an eight-year veteran of the police department, will work as a part-time employee of BPD and BISD. Carver will specifically target Bryan High and Lamar, which have experienced gang problems in the past, and monitor the other Bryan schools to head-off any problems as they may develop.

Jackson describes Carver's role as a "liaison officer" to keep administrators up-to-date on gang activity in the community. The district has also taken other actions to prevent gang troubles, such as making handheld metal detectors available last spring to all middle schools. And officials have re-drafted the dress code to take

into consideration students with gang paraphernalia.

The district has also started using peer mediation programs, which are designed to teach conflict resolution skills, to prevent hostilities from escalating.

In addition, the faculty underwent extensive training during the summer to learn how to recognize potential problems, Jackson said.

"They were made more aware of cultural diversity issues; issues related to gang activity so they can know in the classroom (a problem) before it escalates," he said.

So far in the new school year, BISD has not seen any serious gang incidents, Jackson said. However, enough minor incidents - students wanting to show off gang colors and paraphernalia - have occurred that the administration has had to intervene, he said.

# NRA

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get away from its public image as a cabal of extremists who have even modest efforts to curb the proliferation of firearms. Traditionally among Washington's most powerful lobby groups, the NRA has suffered through hard times. Its membership had dropped in 1991 and it suffered uncharacteristic losses both in Washington and in states such as New Jersey and Virginia, where gun control measures were enacted despite

NRA campaigns.

Polls also show the public is becoming more worried about violence than gun rights.

Seeking to flex its political muscle, the NRA spent heavily on congressional races in 1992, but came away with little to show.

It turned its biggest gun on Rep. Mike Synar, spending \$224,000 on an independent campaign to defeat him, only to see the Oklahoma Democrat win re-election by a convincing margin. Other NRA targets - notably Reps. Dan Glickman, D-Kan., and Vic Fazio, D-Calif. - survived as well.

"NRA got a little bit away from its strength," LaPierre acknowledged in an interview.

# Grades

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The TEA has given Travis Heights its waiver. Officials at Galindo expects to get one as well. All students at Travis Heights would participate in the program. Galindo, one-third of the students are.

New reporting systems are used on nine-week, rather than one-week, periods. At the end of the third and sixth weeks, each student will receive a progress report - either detailed checklists or short written evaluations.

Students, at the end of every nine weeks, receive major evaluations under the system. These can include parent conferences, extensive written reports, the presentation of their portfolio or self-evaluations.

A teacher, instead of giving a student a bad grade for writing poorly, can send home a written evaluation, along with an explanation. A student, instead of receiving an "A" in math, might go to the chalkboard - during a conference with a parent and teacher - and demonstrate division of fractions.

Marilyn Butcher, the principal at Travis Heights, and Mills said alternative assessment is just part of overhaul of their schools.



## Campus News Briefs

### Engineering student council plan career fair

Plans for the 1993 Engineering Career Fair are underway. The fair will be held on the second floor of the MSC Sept. 7-9 and will focus on "Capitalizing on Engineering Opportunities."

The fair, which is sponsored by the Student Engineering Council, will consist of booths, a golf tournament, a fajita reception and a banquet.

Last year 3,500 students participated and 90 companies attended.

### Professor's book fights cowboy stereotypes

In September, Texas A&M Press will publish a book by sociology professor Elizabeth Maret aimed at ending the stereotype of the typical cowboy as a man.

Maret has researched the field of cattle ranching using surveys such as the U.S. census to show that many of the myths of the lone cattleman being a man are untrue.

She plans to show women as important members of the cattle industry.

### Vet. physiology head to return to teaching Oct. 1

Dr. John Hunter, head of the department of veterinary physiology and pharmacology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, recently received a heifer and cattle trailer as a gift after he resigned as head of the department to return to teaching.

Hunter will return to teaching full-time on Oct. 1, as soon as the new department head takes over.

Several candidates from within the department have been submitted for consideration.

### Hogg receives third chemistry Phoenix Award

Dr. John Hogg, chemistry professor at Texas A&M, has received the American Chemical Society's Phoenix Award for the third consecutive year.

The award was the result of two-day series of chemistry demonstrations at Post Oak Mall during National Chemistry Week.

The purpose of the demonstrations is to raise interest in the field of chemistry and heighten public awareness of the contributions of chemistry to everyday life.

### Presidential Studies creates rhetoric program

The Center for Presidential Studies at Texas A&M has created a new program in presidential rhetoric.

The new program will research all aspects of the presidency that involve the use of language and symbols to influence the public.

Dr. Martin J. Medhurst, professor and associate head of the department of speech communications, has been appointed coordinator of the new program.

### PETE student lounge honors \$50K pledger

The petroleum engineering student lounge on the third floor of the Joe C. Richardson, Jr. Petroleum Engineering Building, will be named the J.L. "Corky" Frank '58 Student Lounge in recognition of the \$50,000 Frank pledged to the department.

The gift will be added to the Petroleum Engineering Endowed Fund, which supports faculty, student and program development in the department.

The gift counts toward the "Capturing the Spirit" Campaign, the University-wide fund-raising effort with a goal of \$500 million.



### PANIC

VIP Research is conducting a research study on Panic Disorder. Individuals with symptoms of panic attacks are being recruited to participate in a 3 to 9 month study of an investigational medication for the treatment of panic disorder. If you would like more information, call VIP Research. Up to \$400.00 will be paid to individuals who qualify and complete this study.

### FEVER BLISTERS / COLD SORE STUDY

VIP Research is seeking individuals 18 years and older with a history of recurrent fever blisters or cold sores for a research study with an investigational topical medication. Individuals who qualify and complete the study will receive \$150.00 for their participation. An active fever blister is not required to qualify for this study.

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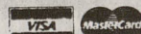
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