

An Aggie in Boston

Marathoner wants to pass policeman, pack

By ANDY WILLIAMS

Staff Writer Charles Blumentritt is looking forward to passing a policeman on the road today — and the faster he's going when he does, the better.

Blumentritt, a 43-year-old associate research specialist with the Texas A&M University-based Texas Transportation Institute, is out of town to run the Boston Marathon.

The "friendly policeman," as Blumentritt calls him, will be sta-tioned at the top of Heartbreak Hill, 20 miles from the starting line. The hill is the last of four consecutive inclines toward the end of the race. The policeman will be there to

urge the tired runners on. "He sits there in his car and talks through a loudspeaker," Blumentritt said. "And what he says are things like: 'Congratulations.' You've just made it up Heartbreak Hill.

"It's just six miles now and it's downhill all the way.

A marathon is 26 miles, 385 yards long, and runners dread the final six miles more than any others. Running them often makes an athlete "hit the A runner who has done this has exhausted his energy reserves, which are stored in the body as gly-

cogen. "You can be pretty well numb

miles," Blumentritt said. Blumentritt will have plenty of

company. He will be joined by about 7,500 other official entrants, including Tinker Murray, a graduate stu-dent at Texas A&M.

There will also be an enormous number of "bandit" runners, who aren't registered with race author-

Murray has been running marathons since 1977. He won the first one he trained for seriously, which was the Texas Relays race that year. His best time, 2 hours 28 minutes, is faster than any other local runner's.

The course record is held by Bill Rodgers of Boston, who has run just over 2:09. Rodgers is the defending champion and will run again this

Blumentritt started running in August of 1977 after going to watch a friend work out on the Kyle Field track. He decided to get some exercise himself, but found that one lap around the 440-yard oval was all he could do. Embarrassed, he began running regularly. Nearly three years later and about

20 less pounds, Blumentritt runs

from the waist down for the last six except on Saturdays, when he runs runs alone. But occasionally

After running in circles for 16 miles one day, he abandoned Kyle Field's track and now runs along the east by-pass. He says his morning runs are part of his routine now and help him plan his day.

Unlike many serious runners, Blumentritt ordinarily sets out on his

company. "It's difficult to imagine t could go out to the east by-pa meet people, but I have, times," he said. "If I happe

running near someone, Ill and run with him. Today, Blumentritt hopes

fairly near a friendly policen

vehicle was a "total loss."

The Bryan Fire Departme

reported a minor fire in a vz building at 1219 N. Texas Ave Friday afternoon.

The spokesman said five

were sent to the scene, but on

remained because the fire was

control within three minute

The building suffered only m damage, and there were no injur

firefighters' arrival.

the spokesman said.

No injuries in car fire caused by faulty lighte

By BECKY SWANSON City Staff A car burst into flames Thursday

afternoon in the parking lot of Manor East Mall in Bryan.

The driver of the car, Joseph Dove, of 1806 Newton, Bryan, said he put the cigarette lighter back in its socket and smoke began coming from the dash then the car burst into lames

A spokesman for the Bryan Fire Department said a fire truck was sent to the scene and no one was hurt in the incident.

The cause of the fire is still un



