



STYLE SHOW

Tues., April 29
from
5:30 p.m.-7 p.m.
at the
Penthouse Club

"Ladies Night
Only"

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Soft Touch
707 Texas Ave. 696-1972

Youths need help

Volunteer adults sought to work with delinquents

By ANGELIQUE COPELAND
City Staff

Joey is a juvenile delinquent. His 10-year-old world consists of a father in another city drying out from a life-long alcoholic binge, and a mother trying to take care of Joey's four younger sisters.

Is it any wonder Joey is on probation?

The name isn't real, but the situation is one that is all too familiar to Maria Smailes, probation officer for the Brazos County Juvenile Probation Department in Bryan.

Her cases all share common elements.

"Most of these kids are involved in the same type thing," she said. "The

family situation is not the best — alcoholic father, the mother who maybe doesn't have too much respect for herself, and eight, nine, ten kids at home.

"They're low-income-to-poverty range with a big family and no structure."

This lack of structure is one of the major obstacles in trying to curb or correct delinquency. There is no one to provide stability and guidance for delinquent children.

In an effort to fill this void, Smailes has been trying to develop a program where Joey and kids like him can get that guidance through association with volunteer adults.

"The purpose of the program is to

give the kid someone to talk to and to be their friend — an older friend," Smailes said.

But despite the tremendous need, only five people are now helping by meeting regularly with a child. Smailes is looking for more people to work on a one-to-one basis to establish a warm, stable and supportive relationship with youths.

When Smailes first decided to start the program she advertised for volunteers in The Battalion.

"We had a meeting on campus and about 25 people showed up," Smailes explained.

"We had two training sessions where I talked about the juvenile justice system and some basic interaction skills. After the meetings there were about 15 people who were still interested and I conducted personal interviews.

"I then went through my files trying to match volunteers to children."

She also interviewed the children and their parents to see if they would be responsive to this type program.

"You're talking about a lot of time, but I couldn't see just picking a kid and shuffling the cards to match them up."

Smailes said she copied the idea from a program she was involved in before coming to Bryan nine months ago.

Smailes was also prompted to start the program because she had been contacted by the director of the Student Volunteer Services organization on the Texas A&M University campus about starting a local chapter of the national Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America.

"There were a couple of meetings and I was asked to be a member of the board, but for some reason nothing ever came of it," Smailes said.

"My whole idea was to start it and hand it over to someone else to pick up. I don't even have enough time to do what I need to do. And when you are doing eight things and you only have time to do four, none of them gets done very well.

"What you need is one person who has the time to sit down and organize and coordinate the program."

Another problem is that the children view Smailes as an authority figure or "the police," and are less likely to confide in her.

"They don't confide in their parents and most of their friends are losers," she said. "They need an unbiased audience."

Three of the volunteers currently working in the program are students at Texas A&M. Fictitious names have again been substituted to insure anonymity for the juveniles.

Doug Cowley, a senior in mechanical engineering, has been working with Kevin, 15, for the last two semesters. Cowley said the program has helped both of them.

"This has done me as much good as

it has him. It's taught me a lot of things, including what I might do to deal with some day with kids of my own."

"Kevin and I are close, but he has no phone so it's hard to plan things to do sometime. But we do things like ball fishing, and I've taken him to ball games."

"You don't have to spend money on these kids for them to have a good time and I know I have a good time too."

"He's a very normal kid for the most part, he just hasn't had the same opportunities most people have. If I had grown up in the same circumstances, no telling how I turned out."

Cowley is graduating in May, but that will leave Smailes with one more child in need of guidance and less volunteer.

She is currently looking for volunteers who can work during the summer.

The requirements for working as a volunteer are a Texas driver's license and at least two hours a week to vote the program.

"We just want people with common sense to be a friend to kids, not a probation officer, counsellor, not a psychotherapist. Just a friend."

New prison is opposed

United Press International
AUSTIN — Building a new prison in Starr County along the Texas-Mexico border will make it difficult to keep convicts from escaping, and will damage the already impoverished local economy, critics charged Tuesday.

Two South Texas legislators on the Starr County judge urged the State Board of Corrections and a special three-man Approval Board to veto prison officials' selection of Casita Farm as the new prison site. "This farm is on land that cuts right down to the river," Rep. Ernestine Glossbrenner, D-Alice, said, "and would be very difficult to protect from escapes across the river into Mexico or indeed north, through the area which surrounds this area."

Rep. Hector Uribe, D-Brownsville, expressed concern about the impact building a prison on the border would have on relations with Mexico. "We would be importing felons from the rest of the state and putting them on Mexico's doorstep," Uribe said.

Starr County Judge Blas Chapa said he collected more than 250 signatures in less than two hours from residents of the area opposed to the prison proposal.

Chapa said state purchase of Casita Farm for a new prison would cost the county government and the Grande City school district \$20 million in badly needed tax revenue. He said it would also put 150 to 200 workers out of work and damage an already impoverished local economy.

Evangelist stands firm on FCC fight

United Press International
DALLAS — Evangelist Robison has announced he will continue to press his case against the Federal Communications Commission and the Fairness Doctrine. After Robison preached homosexuality as a sin, a Dallas television station dropped his show, but also gave a gay rights advocate time to respond to Robison's charges.

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CINEMA II
6th Week!
COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER
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Al Pacino is Cruising for a killer.
AL PACINO CRUISING
2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40
See him before he sees you.
MCGUEN TOM HORN
R 7:30 9:45

John O'Neal Kelly McNichol
DON'T LET THE TITLE FOOL YOU
Little Darlings
2:50 5:10 7:30 9:45
CAMPUS
210 Un. Dr. 846-6512
CHAPTER TWO

SKYWAY TWIN
822-3300 2000 E. 29th
WEST
7:30
ROCKY AND AT 9:35
ROCKY II
EAST
7:30
EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE
ALSO AT 9:35
BOULEVARD KNIGHTS

MSC AGGIE CINEMA
GREEKS & NON-GREEKS — HERE'S YOUR CHANCE
TOGA CONTEST
in conjunction with the showing of
ANIMAL HOUSE
Preliminary Judging — Noon, Fri. April 25 at Rudder Fountain
Finals — Sat. April 26, before the 7:30 showing of
Animal House at the Grove
GRAND PRIZE:
2 tickets to hear **Rusty Weir** at TJ's April 29
Other prizes: T-shirts from Rother's, Loupot's and the T-Shirt shoppe
Movie passes
Sign up by noon April 24 at the secretary's desk in the MSC Student Program Office Rm 216

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\$1.25 WITH TAMU ID



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7:30 P.M. RUDDER
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MONDAY-FRIDAY 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
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MSC Cepheid Variable
The Golden Voyage of Sinbad
Thursday, April 24
7:30 & 9:45
601 Rudder
75¢ unrated