

Health Center nights

No cure for late-night blues

This is the fourth of a five-part series on campus night owls and how they cope.

by Laura Williams
Battalion Staff

At midnight, when most of the buildings on campus are closing down, two nurses at the A.P. Beutel Health Center are just starting their day's work.

Registered Nurses Malinda McGowan and Sonya Richards work at the health center from 12 midnight until 8 a.m. four days a week and on alternating weekends.

Despite the unusual hours, both nurses agree that there is always enough activity to keep them awake.

"I've had as many as 11 come

in in one night," Richards said. "But we usually average five to eight patients."

Richards, 34, handles all out-patient and emergency-type cases at the center. She has been a registered nurse for 18 years.

"Weekend nights are usually a lot more busy," she said. "With all the students out partying, we usually have a car accident or a motorcycle wreck. If its really bad, we get the ambulance crew up and send them over to St. Joseph."

Richards said the center is equipped to handle most emergency cases, but a doctor is on call in case of questions. Richards came to work for the health center from St. Joseph Hospital in September.

Four emergency medical technicians live on the second floor of the health center and respond to calls from police and witnesses of accidents.

One of the eight Health Center doctors is on call on



weekends, but during the week a doctor from Bryan or College Station answers Richard's questions and offers advice.

McGowan, the in-patient nurse, received her RN one year ago and came to work for the

Health Center in September.

Beutel provides forty-four rooms on the second floor for in-patient care, and an emergency examination room is furnished with most necessary equipment for emergency treatment.

"We're always plenty busy," McGowan said. "I had as many as 28 patients at one time, and with people coming in too, we stay pretty busy."

The nurses said mono, flu and gastritis are the most common illnesses.

"We stay busy because a student who comes in in the middle of the night is going to be feeling really bad," McGowan said.



photo by Todd Wood

Easter's on its way

Dressed in a pink bunny suit, elementary education major Barbie Johnson tells children of faculty members that musical chairs will be the next activity in the MSC Hospitality Easter party Wednesday

night. Johnson and other members of the committee distributed paper ears, served punch and cookies, oversaw the musical chairs game and finished with the Bunny Hop during the 1 1/2 hours of entertainment.

Simon song plays in Rudder tonight

Neil Simon's musical comedy "They're Playing Our Song" will be presented in Rudder Auditorium tonight.

The story of a composer and a lyricist who collaborate in music and romance, sponsored by MSC Town Hall, begins at 8 p.m.

Vernon, an Academy Award winning composer, and Sonia,

an off-beat lyricist, have a difficult time making their lives as melodious as their music.

Music for the play was written by Marvin Hamlisch, who did most of the music for "The Sting."

Tickets for the performance are available for \$15.50, \$14.50 and \$13.50 at the MSC Box Office.

OFFICIAL NOTICE General Studies Program

Students who plan to Pre-Register for the Fall Semester in the General Studies Program are URGED to pick up a Pre-registration Form in Room 100 of Harrington Tower from Mar. 29 thru Apr. 16.

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Applications are available from April 2-12 in all deans' offices, Student Services office (YMCA Bldg.), Student Activities Office (221 MSC) and the Student Programs Office are due in the Forsyth Alumni Center, 131 MSC, by 5 p.m. April 12.

Grade requirement: Must be a student in good standing.

A&M profs working to make shuttle safer

by Lisa Thompson
Battalion Reporter

Future space shuttle launches may be safer due to the research by three Texas A&M University professors.

Pre-launch ice build-up — which can form on the shuttle's main external tank from cold liquid oxygen and liquid nitrogen under certain temperature and humidity conditions — could cause damage to the shuttle. The professors are researching the National Aeronautic and Space Administration's plan to halt the build-up.

The ice can fall off during launch and cause damage to the shuttle. To combat the ice, NASA is planning to use an arrangement of jet engine exhaust nozzles shooting air onto the tank to prevent build-up.

"What we are trying to do is

verify if that arrangement they came up with is going to do the job," said Dr. Jose Porteiro, professor of aerospace engineering.

The plan calls for six pairs of nozzles, three pairs on each side of the tank. Three pairs are attached to the gantry, the shuttle-supporting tower from which supplies and equipment are loaded in the shuttle. The other three pairs are attached on the other side of the tank to a tower designed for that purpose.

The professors are taking measurements of velocities, air pressure and positioning of the nozzles.

"We're going to study the flow around the tank and the temperature of air around the tank and we will deduce whether that amount of temperature and

velocity would keep ice from forming," Dr. David Norton, professor of aerospace engineering, said.

This is done with a wind tunnel and models of the shuttle's support base, the nozzles and nozzle towers.

Wind tunnel breezes blow the nozzle exhaust around. Wind strength and nozzle angles will be measured and correlated to actual wind conditions to make nozzle adjustments, Norton said.

Another member of the research team is Dr. Thomas Pollock, professor of engineering design graphics. Pollock is assistant director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

Research ends in July, Porteiro said, and the results will be sent to NASA.

Applications for 180 Student Positions on 32 University Committees available in #216C MSC April 5-16

deadline: April 16 at 5 p.m.

Get involved in decision-making at Texas A&M. Committees include: Academic and Disciplinary Appeals, Student Organizations Board, Head Yell Leader Selection, and Who's Who Selection.

