

# Schools: Drug-sniffing dogs to return to CS

by Rusty Roberts

Battalion Reporter

Telly, the drug-sniffing black labrador, will be going back to school in College Station this fall, but some changes will be made in the district's approach to the drug and alcohol problem.

Just what the changes will be have not been decided yet. There seems to be general agreement that the anti-drug program should do more than just drive drugs off campus, and that appears to be what Telly did last year.

For example, a student at College Hills Elementary School last year served two weeks in-school suspension for possession of marijuana.

At Oakwood Middle School, two cases involving the possession of alcohol were reported, while only one incident was reported at A&M Consolidated Junior High. On each occasion, the students involved served 10 days off-campus suspension and 10 days in-school suspension.

At A&M Consolidated High School, however, no suspensions for drug or alcohol use

were reported although there were nine referrals to the nurse during the fall semester and one during the spring semester.

Through the referral system, teachers send disruptive students to the nurse who determines whether they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. However, board members said, referring students directly to the nurse makes teachers appear to be accusing them of drug or alcohol use.

Bruce Robeck, president of the board, said he is proposing a new referral system in which teachers make referrals directly to counselors. He said he hopes the system would take the teacher out of a police role.

Joe Templeton, secretary of the board, said he will go a step further with the new referral system by proposing the counselor be a psychologist. Students' behavior patterns would be understood better by a psychologist rather than a vocational counselor, he said.

"We're treating the symptoms and not the cause," Templeton said. "We need to begin understanding why the kids mess with drugs in the first place."

The entire board seems to support a program that would treat symptoms as well as keep drugs and alcohol off the campus. But, the board said, it is difficult to choose a specific program that can do both.

Trustee Chuck Giammona said the sniffer-dog not only moves drugs off campus, but also teaches students about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.

*"Kids don't even carry the stuff on them anymore. They know how well the dogs can sniff out the stuff."*

"It's amazing," he said. "The dog actually tells the kids not to use drugs. His trainer will write on the board, 'Kids who use drugs are stupid.' Telly reads it to the students by barking out the syllables. The kids get the message and enjoy Telly at the same time."

The sniffer-dog service is provided by Securities Associates International located in Waco. Telly is one of two dogs used in the College Station schools. Both dogs are authorized to search the hallways, the gymnasium and any car in the school parking lot. But, the dogs are not allowed to sniff for drugs or alcohol on individual students.

"Kids don't even carry the stuff on them anymore," Giammona said. "They know how well the dogs can sniff out the stuff. The kids just don't want to get caught."

But Trustee Deanna Wormuth said she doesn't like the idea of scare tactics. She said she would rather see the students respond to professional counselors instead of drug-sniffing dogs.

Wormuth was the only board member who voted against using the dogs next year. They are a short-term solution to a long-term problem, she said.

"Right now we're using a Band-Aid approach," she said. "We'll continue to spend the same amount of money each year on a dog that simply keeps

the drugs off campus rather than spending it for programs to teach students the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse."

The school spent a total of \$6,000 of the earmarked \$10,000 last year on drug prevention. The dog worked a total of 235 hours at \$26 per hour.

Wormuth said she knows the dog produces immediate results, but said the cause of the problem still hasn't been solved. In order to educate students about drug and alcohol abuse, Wormuth said, an organized long-term counseling program needs to be established.

Such a program would provide more drug and alcohol education in health classes and more personal counseling for students, she said. The program should be developed first in grades six through eight, she said, because students are most receptive at that age. She said the program would take the place of the dogs.

However, Templeton said it is not good judgment to stop using the dogs simply because they haven't eliminated the cause of the problem. Some results are better than none at all, he said.

Other board members also said they plan to support continued use of the dog because of the immediate results it offers.

Giammona said a new program using the county's dog will make the results next year even more impressive than those last

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The dog will be used to handle student drug problems that occur on streets bordering the school.

The new off-campus drug prevention system was approved at a board meeting last month. If all things go well, the board said the program could take effect this school year. However, no action was taken to use the county dog's services on campus.

Student reaction to the first-

year sniffer-dog program is generally favorable. Elementary school children are more of the dog than the junior students are. One elementary student said he liked Telly much that he wanted him everyday. Another student said that twice a week would be plenty.

However, not even Telly knows when he will visit schools. He and his trainer usually arrive and begin searching for drugs. Telly alerts principals, faculty and administrators always alert. Even Superintendent H.R. Burnett does know when the visits are scheduled.

The dogs return periodically to each school based on the intensity of the problem at the school. For example, the dogs make more visits to schools where drug and alcohol problems are more frequent. Visits may occur on two consecutive days or up to five days apart.

Even with the unpredictable schedule, students in the College Station schools can expect to be seeing Telly again this year.

## CSISD builds new elementary, renovates A&M High School

by Rose Delano

Battalion Reporter

The College Station Independent School District has added a new elementary school and is completing renovations on A&M Consolidated High School.

Mike Owens, director of curriculum and instruction, said Southwood Elementary will open on schedule for the 1983-84 school year and enroll students through fifth grades. The new building, located at Brothers Boulevard and Deacon Street in Southwood Valley, is estimated to cost \$4.4 million. Billy Eitel will be the school's principal.

Students who live in the general area south of Holleman Drive, east of Wellborn Road, west of Welsh Street, south of FM 2818 and west of Texas 6 will attend Southwood Elementary.

South Knoll and College Hills elementary schools now will have kindergarten through fifth grades, so fifth graders will remain at the elementary school they attended last year unless they are in the new Southwood district.

Oakwood Middle School,

previously only the fifth and sixth grades, will now have only sixth grade students.

Owens said that a new gymnasium, cafeteria, science wing, fine arts center and additional classrooms are being added to A&M Consolidated High School.

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31, construction will be complete on all facilities except the fine arts center and cafeteria, which will be finished in late September or early October, he said.

In addition to improving facilities, Owens said, the district is also expanding programs. He said that a computer literacy section will be open in the fall and that if money is available to buy more computers, more sections will be added.

There have been some personnel changes in the district over the summer. Ned Burns, director of personnel for CISD, resigned Aug. 12. Burns accepted a position as assistant superintendent of the Joshua Independent School District, which is located south of Fort Worth.

George Losack has been named interim head football coach. He will take the place of A&M Consolidated High School Football Coach Howell Ferguson.

Ferguson was suspended by trustees in July for depositing district funds into an unauthorized bank account. After the suspension, however, it was discovered the irregularity was not in violation of state laws.

The drug-sniffing dog program is working well, Superintendent H. R. Burnett said. The dogs, provided by Security Association International, have been in the College Station schools since the beginning of the 1982-83 school year. The dogs sniff lockers and cars for drugs.

"The administration believes that due to incident reports and input from campus personnel, these services have proven beneficial to the district in reduc-

ing the flow of illicit drugs," Burnett said in a recommendation to the school board.

Owens said he predicts a minimal increase in enrollment of about 2 percent over last year's 4,500 students.

"Like all schools, we don't know until they show up," he said.

## Bryan High to get pool

by Brigette Crossland

Battalion Reporter

The Bryan Independent School District will have additions this year. Work is progressing on a new swimming pool at Bryan High School, an addition to the Anson School is being planned.

BISD and the city of Bryan have pooled their funds for the new swimming pool. The city and school district pledged \$250,000 with a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Outdoor Recreation in Austin.

The new swimming pool will be located behind the stadium.

A \$1.2 million addition to the planning stage for the Anson Jones seventh grade school. Architects are working on the plans, and bidding for construction was scheduled to begin in August.

Changes in curriculum requirements made recently by the state of Texas will not have much of an effect on Bryan High School. Currently, the state requires a student to earn 18 credits to graduate. The growth of the program is increasing to 20 credits, said Superintendent H. R. Burnett.

Bryan High School requires 20 but is considering increasing that number.

The state now requires four years of English to graduate. Not only is increasing the requirement, but Bryan High School already requires four.

One curriculum requirement increase that will affect students is an increase in math requirement from three years of math to three.

BISD Superintendent Wesley K. Summers said college-bound students take three years of math, but the three-year requirement causes problems for vocational students.

The new requirements are effective only for students already in high school and are not accountable for the old requirements.

Another change expected by BISD is a reduction in enrollment. During the past two years, enrollment has averaged 500 students a year.

"We feel we've been fortunate in Bryan because of growth," Summers said. "There are many school districts throughout the state declining enrollment. We welcome a reduction in enrollment growth."

"We would be less than pleased if we said we would come a leveling off so we wouldn't be faced with additional building all the time," Summers said.

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