

DPS, AAA work to make this Labor Day safer

55 traffic fatalities expected

By **MARCUS MILES**
Reporter

Last year 55 people were killed in traffic accidents over the Labor Day weekend in Texas and two-thirds of the fatalities involved drunken driving or speeding, says David Wells, public information officer for the Department of Public Safety.

"This Labor Day weekend the DPS expects as many as 54 fatalities as a result of traffic accidents," Wells says. The DPS and other law enforcement officials hope to reduce the number of fatalities by enforcing two operations: Operation Holiday and Operation Motorcade.

"Operation Holiday places DPS troopers on special alert in areas that have a high number of traffic viola-

tions," Wells says. "Troopers are stationed at locations where high volumes of traffic are anticipated and where violations are expected."

"Operation Motorcade is an ongoing tally of the traffic fatalities that occur throughout the Labor Day weekend."

Law enforcement officers around the state will help maintain a statewide fatality count that will begin at 6 p.m. today and end at midnight Monday. These fatalities will be updated throughout the weekend, Wells says.

"The reports will be given to the wire services and other interested news sources," he says. "If motorists are aware of the number of fatalities that have occurred, they may tend to drive safer."

Another group that is concerned with traffic safety during the Labor Day weekend, which is also the first week of school for elementary and high school students across the state, is the American Automobile Association.

The AAA encourages all motorists to exercise extreme caution when traveling in and around school zones, especially during the first week of school, says Paul Curtis, staff director of public affairs and safety for the AAA of Texas.

"We should motivate and alert motorists to the problems involved in traffic safety during the back-to-school week," he says.

"For many preschoolers the start of the school year means they are left without an older sibling's guidance."

Curtis says that preschoolers may hear a car but may not see the car, or they may not be able to tell what direction the vehicle is coming from.

The AAA offers booklets that help preschoolers understand the importance of traffic safety. These books can be obtained by writing the AAA of Texas at 3000 Southwest Freeway Houston, Texas 77098. The booklets cost \$2.50.

Open House acquaints Ags with clubs

MSC Open House, an event for students to get familiar with the more than 150 major student organizations at Texas A&M, will be Sunday, September 2.

Many of the student organizations at Texas A&M will set up booths in the Memorial Student Center between 4 and 8 p.m.

Among the organizations participating are academic clubs, Student Activities, Corps of Cadets, MSC Committees, service and honor groups, religious groups, sports and recreation clubs.

The chairman of MSC Open House, Victoria Holcomb, says this year's Open House will feature several first-time events.

Kim Walters, Miss Texas A&M, will sing and Reveille IV, the Aggie mascot, will make an appearance. Prizes, ranging from concert tickets to bags of peanuts, will be given away.

There will also be an auction of paintings created by Texas A&M student leaders on their view of leadership.

Other activities include a yell practice, and a free movie, "Por-ky's," at 8:30 p.m. in The Grove.

Insurance advisory prompts students to shop for policies

By **ANN PARKER**
Reporter

Insurance is something that many college students don't know much about. Yet insurance may be something to consider if you have valuables in your dorm or apartment that you can't afford to replace.

Along with the all-important books and clothing, many students feel that stereos, television sets, and other luxury items are necessary for their survival at college.

What is often overlooked is the possibility that any of these personal belongings could be stolen or destroyed and, without proper insurance coverage, the student's comfortable life at school could become quite unpleasant.

The Texas Insurance Advisory Association suggests that students in dorms and apartments make certain they have adequate insurance to protect their personal belongings. Dependents should check with their parents' homeowners policy since they may be covered. The standard coverage rate is 10 percent.

Some items such as mopeds and bicycles are not covered in a homeowners policy, and others, including jewelry and money, are only covered for a limited amount. This is important to remember when determining

how much insurance you will need. If you are a dependent and your belongings exceed the coverage under your parents' homeowners policy, there are two alternatives you may want to consider before buying your own insurance policy.

A personal articles floater can be added to your parents' policy in which you insure certain items at their full value. Also, if you greatly exceed your parents' coverage, you may want to add a short endorsement to the homeowners policy, allowing you to go beyond their coverage.

Various Bryan and College Station insurance agencies offer coverage that caters especially to the dorm student and the apartment resident if they choose to buy their own policies.

Dorm insurance will cover most personal belongings with the exception of items such as tickets, billfolds and checks. The items must be in your room if they are to be covered. The cost at one local company is \$33 per year, and the policy covers \$2500 worth of items with a \$25 deductible.


Since the University is not responsible for covering personal items, it might be in the dorm student's best interest to consider this policy. Thefts are common and an accident

can occur, as it did last December in five campus dorms. The water pipes broke and flooded the rooms of several residents, damaging their stereos, clothing, books, and other personal items that they had left in their rooms during the Christmas holidays.

According to Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs, many of the students involved were not covered by insurance. Fortunately for the students, Operation Mop Up was formed to reimburse them through money raised from donations and a bicycle auction. Over \$3,000 was raised.

Apartment residents also are strongly urged to consider insuring their belongings. Renters insurance protects personal property against all perils, including theft. Off-Campus Housing Coordinator Stephanie Palubicki said she definitely encourages all students to get renters insurance. "It can be worth the investment," she said.

The prices for this policy range from \$120 to \$300, depending on the coverage and the structure of your apartment. Policies for those living in frame apartments are more expensive than for brick apartments due to the higher risk of fire damage in a frame apartment.



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