

## Around town

### 11th annual Warcon begins Friday

Texas' oldest wargaming convention, Warcon will be held Friday through Sunday. Sponsored by MSC Nova, over a dozen tournaments will be held including Dungeons and Dragons. Also there will be a dealer's room, movies, seminars, demonstrations and open gaming. Featured this year is Project Warrior, a closed Ogre/Coy tournament for several Air Force sponsored teams and four corps teams. Registration will be held on the 2nd floor of Rudder Tower 3 p.m.-9 p.m. Friday. For details and more information, call 845-1515.

### After Hours offers driving course

The TAMU After Hours Program will sponsor a Driver Safety Course on Friday and Saturday. This course may be used to have certain traffic violations dismissed and to receive a 10% discount on automobile insurance. Registration is held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday in 216 MSC. For more information, call 845-1515.

### Casino night applications due Friday

Sign ups for casino dealers and casino girls for RHA Casino Night '85 will close Friday. Drop off all applications in the RHA office in 215 Pavilion. You must live off campus to apply. For details and information, call Ig Valdes at 260-2187. Casino Night is April 12.

### English Department offers mini-courses

The Department of English is sponsoring a Writing Outreach program throughout the spring semester. The program consists of several one hour sessions designed to offer assistance to those wishing to improve their writing skills. Each session focuses on a particular topic and is open to all students, staff and faculty at no charge. The courses are not a tutoring service nor are credit hours offered. Information about each session will be printed in the What's Up column of the Battalion.

# Bryan police program uses dog to teach children about crime

By LEIGH FORREST  
Reporter

"Take a bite out of crime." When McGruff the Crime Dog barks, kids listen.

Or at least that's what the Bryan Police Department is hoping.

McGruff the Crime Dog is featured in a new crime awareness program starting in the Bryan elementary schools, Police Sgt. Choya Walling said.

The program, aimed at children in kindergarten through sixth grade, calls for a McGruff puppet and audio tapes of McGruff's message in every classroom to teach basic crime prevention during a 15-minute presentation. The presentations are given once a week.

Walling said the convenience of having McGruff in every class is important to the success of the program.

"If it's convenient, the teachers will use it," he said. "If it's not, it's so easy just not to do it that week. And if the teachers don't use it, then we've wasted our time."

One week after the start of the program, Walling said about 147 puppets are still needed for the estimated 315 classrooms in Bryan schools.

The puppets are paid for by local businesses, organizations and individuals who sponsor a McGruff package, Walling said.

The \$68 package includes a puppet, puppet stand, audio tapes and a teacher's training guide. Sponsors can request a specific school and/or

classroom for their puppet, Walling said.

He said the program provides constant contact between the children and crime prevention, teaching them what the police would teach if they could be in the classrooms that often.

"Each one of these rascals (the puppets) represents me or my partner in one of those classrooms 15 minutes a week for the whole school year," Walling said. "We still do programs for the schools, but now when we go in, we've got a foundation to build on."

Walling said it's harder to change adult views, but he hopes the program will affect the children as they become adults.

"You start working with the kids now so that when they grow up, you will have affected their thinking processes and hopefully molded their attitudes and habits so that they conform better to a crime prevention-type atmosphere," Walling said.

McGruff was chosen because of the national attention he received as spokesperson for the National Crime Prevention Coalition, Walling said, and that the television appearances and puppets reinforce each other.

"The kids recognize McGruff," he said. "He's a lovable character and they listen to him."



Photo by PETER ROO

Sgt. Choya Walling holds McGruff.

# Legislators back stiffer criminal laws

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Saying Texans want to get tough with criminals, a group of legislators Tuesday vowed to push bills to expand the death penalty, block early release of many prison inmates and improve the treatment of crime victims.

"The Legislature's chief obligation is to provide for the safety of the citizens of the state," said Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson. "That's what the people ... were saying over and over and over again."

Brown and other lawmakers joined the Associated Texans Against Crime in backing bills to stiffen criminal laws. He said the recommendations followed 14 public hearings ATAC held around the state.

A key bill, endorsed by House Speaker Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, would expand the death penalty to include killers who slay more than one person—either in sequence or at one time. Current law allows the death sentence for killing a law officer or killing while committing some other felonies.

"In Texas, the death penalty may be imposed under certain narrow circumstances," said Rep. Patricia Hill, R-Dallas. "Unfortunately, perhaps the most shocking circumstance—not killing one person but killing more than one person—is not one of those conditions."

"We've all seen many cases recently in which people embark on killing sprees," she said. "They cannot receive the maximum sentence,

the death penalty. They can receive only life imprisonment."

A second bill would allow judges to tell jurors—before they consider punishment—the effects of parole laws that allow convicts early release from prison.

"All too often, we've had juries who are surprised at the net result of when somebody comes out of prison," said Rep. Ray Keller, R-Duncanville.

Keller, chairman of the House Law Enforcement Committee, said the law should be changed "so we can ensure that the blinders are taken off juries and that the punishment is guaranteed to be equal to the crime committed."

Brown said another bill would

clamp down on the early release of prison inmates, but he said details of that plan aren't yet ready.

However, he insisted that ways can be found to curb early releases without overburdening an already crowded prison system and without raising taxes to build more jails.

The senator said other proposals would improve the treatment of victims.

The measures would "allow the victim prior to sentencing to make a statement to the judge or jury about the effect of that crime on their lives" and permit victims to remain in court throughout a trial to help prosecutors.

# Coors beer to lecture on marketing tactics

By Doug Hall  
Reporter

Representatives from the Adolph Coors Co. will give three separate lectures about marketing strategies and "Beer Wars" Thursday at 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in 165 Blocker.

Larry Lightfoot, division manager for the Gulf States division, and Don Marable, West Texas area manager, will address three Marketing classes to discuss Coors' approach to various marketing strategies. Both are former students.

Mark Jameson, campus representative for Coors and an officer in the Management Society, said the lectures are sponsored in conjunction with Business Week and are provided by Coors as a "friend to the community idea."

Promotion techniques and marketing ideas are among the scheduled topics for Lightfoot and Marable to discuss, Jameson said.

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