

Around town

Spirit award applications available

Applications for the Spirit Award are available in five locations: the Former Students lobby, 110 YMCA, the Student Activities Office, the Student Government Office and the MSC. Applications will be accepted through Feb. 28 until 5 p.m.

Mediation service accepting cases

The Texas A&M Mediation Service is now accepting cases for student-to-student conflict mediation. Conflicts can include roommate problems, lease conflicts involving another student, automobile accidents, and others. All parties involved in a dispute agree to resolve their conflict with the aid of impartial mediators. For more information, call 845-1228.

Spring election filing begins today

Filing for Spring elections will be held Monday till Friday in room 214 of the Pavilion. Hours to file are: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

Seat belt program launched to raise local awareness

By THEADUS ANN MCCLAIN
Reporter

The Community Occupant Protection Program, a community-wide educational and incentive campaign to increase awareness of seat belts and child-safety seats, begins today.

Texas law now requires children under the age of 2 to be secured in safety seats, while children between the ages of 2 and 3 are required to wear a seat belt.

The law went into effect Oct. 31, 1984.

"We felt with the new law, it would be important to make the public aware why we have the law, not just that we have the law," said Anita Pitt, coordinator for COPP.

The U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that in 1985, 30,000 passengers will be killed in automobile accidents.

For this reason, the program is aimed at getting adults to use seat belts, Pitt said.

"This is like preventative health — after you already have the accident it is too late," Pitt said.

The program stresses the advantages of using seat belts and dispels myths involving seat belts. One myth is that being thrown from the car is better than being trapped in the car while wearing a seat belt.

"If you are thrown from a car you could hit another object or get in front of another car," Pitt said.

"It has been proven that seat belts can reduce injuries by 50 percent to 55 percent.

"We can't say that every one (fatality) could be eliminated because it depends on the degree of the accident."

She said that most people only use

seat belts when driving long distances.

"It has been shown that most accidents occur within a 25 mile radius of the home and at less than 40 mph," Pitt said. "Our concern is to get people to wear safety seat belts around town also."

The campaign involves local businesses donating coupons and printing promotional items.

Businesses such as McDonald's, Arby's and Domino's Pizza are participating in the community program.

Pitt said volunteers will look for seat belt users at parking lots, shopping malls and various locations.

When seat belt users are spotted, they will receive an award for buckling up. The awards will be key chains, coupons or other items.

"If people who normally don't buckle up think they can win something by buckling up, then they'll buckle up," Pitt said. "This is a way to get people into the habit of using a safety seat belt. It takes just a few times to create a habit."

The awareness program also will involve educational programs for schools, community organizations and other concerned groups.

Pitt said she is interested in getting student organizations to volunteer for traffic surveys and to hand out incentives.

The program also may include challenges between schools or different businesses to see who wears seat belts more.

"That way can make this fun but still get the information across and create a new generation that buckles up," Pitt said.

"I'm hoping that this well-educated community will see a need for the information going out."

Employers

(continued from page 1)

job listings and applies for jobs. Each student is limited to applying for three jobs at one time.

Applications are sent to the prospective employers who then decide which students get the jobs. Some employers interview applicants while others do not. Most companies have a grade-point ratio requirement.

After graduation, several employers do hire the students who co-op with the company.

Reid, who co-ops for NASA, says

that approximately 93 percent of the students who finish their co-op program at NASA are offered jobs.

"It's not automatic by any means," he says.

Although it takes longer to graduate and is sometimes hard to adjust to returning to school after co-oping, there are several advantages, Reid said. Students gain experience, can earn enough to pay many of their college expenses and get a break from the routine of school, he said.

"Some schools require that you co-op," Reid says. "I think it would be a good idea."

Scientists seeking drugs to prevent cancer

Associated Press

TYLER — Scientists are recruiting volunteers from 1,200 former insulation plant workers in this East Texas city for a five-year study of two drugs that may hold the promise of preventing cancer.

The volunteers, who worked with asbestos at a Tyler plant between 1954 and 1972, are considered to have a high risk of developing lung cancer. More than 350 will be chosen for the study, the Dallas Times Herald reported Sunday.

"The large majority feel they have

everything to gain and nothing to lose," said nurse Linda Riley, one of the recruiters.

The \$1.7 million study is financed by the National Cancer Institute and headed by Dr. Jerry W. McLarty of the University of Texas Health Center at Tyler.

"It's a unique approach because we're trying to prevent cancer, not cure it," he said.

The federal government in 1982 began looking for chemicals, foods and vitamins that might prevent lung cancer or halt its growth. NCI is

funding 26 clinical trials of the most promising substances.

The Tyler cancer study involves beta-carotene — a source of vitamin A found in carrots, broccoli, spinach and winter squash — and retinol, a form of vitamin A found in liver, eggs and milk.

McLarty warned against "raiding the health food store" in search of miracle drugs.

"It would be dangerous for anyone to self-prescribe these drugs," he said. "They may hurt themselves

and it could cost them a lot of money."

While scientists don't know exactly how the two chemicals fight cancer, experts believe the drugs prevent the disease from taking root and becoming malignant.

In the study, half of the volunteers will take pills containing beta-carotene and retinol. Others will be given look-alike placebos containing no active drugs.

Asbestos workers who already suffer from lung cancer will not take part in the study.



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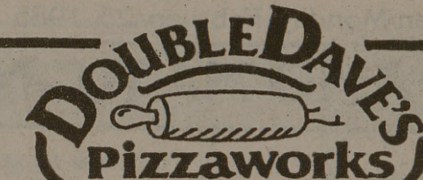
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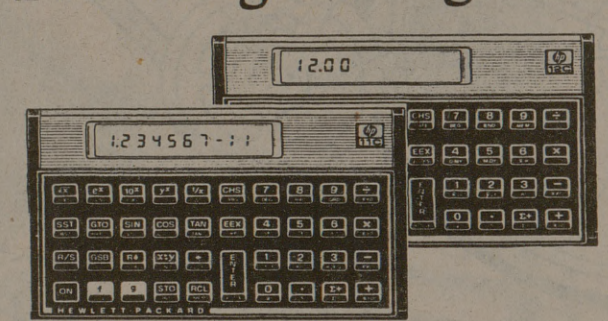
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Sterling C. Evans Library and Student Government Announce

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

(Effective February 25)

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Monday-Thursday	7:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m.
Friday	7:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.

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Tom Urban

Vice President Academic Affairs
Texas A&M Student Government

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