

State and Local

MADD to hold local Candlelight Vigil

By TAMMY KIRK
Staff Writer

The Brazos County Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving will hold its fourth annual Candlelight Vigil tonight at 7:30 on the steps of the College Station Community Center.

Kirk Brown, president of Brazos MADD, said, "We hope everyone will join us as we remember those who have been killed or injured by an intoxicated driver."

Florence Wagner, secretary of MADD and chairman of the vigil service, said by holding the service on the steps of the community center on Jersey Street, more people may attend the service as they will be able to see the candle flames from the street.

As each victim's name is read, a flame will be passed from one candle to the next, symbolizing love for those no longer with us and courage and strength for those who live with the pain. Wagner said.

"At our first vigil service (held in 1982), we had more media than participants," Wagner said. "We only had about eight people holding candles, but now we have enough people to hold special programs too."

The speaker for this year will be State Rep. Richard Smith, Wagner said.

The Rev. David Rowland of the First Baptist Church of College Station will give the invocation and benediction for the service, and the A&M Consolidated Junior High School choir will sing "Silent Night." Also, Alan Bass, from A&M Consolidated, will play "Taps."

"It's a time for much hugging and crying," Wagner said. "But like funerals, it's a good outlet for people to express their grief."

The Brazos vigil is usually held during National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week which is Dec. 16-22, Wagner said.

But with finals coming up for Texas A&M students, the chapter

thought it would be a good idea to move everything up a week so the Students Against Drunk Driving, SADD, could participate also, Wagner said.

Similar vigils will be held by over 300 MADD chapters throughout the United States.

These vigils also serve to remind all citizens of the dangers of drinking and driving, especially during the holiday season. This is really the overall purpose of Brazos MADD, too, Wagner said.

Ever since Brown started Brazos MADD about five years ago, Wagner said, the chapter has been active in trying to implement new programs in the community to fight against drinking and driving.

"About half of our members have lost loved ones to drunk drivers," Wagner said.

But members don't have to have lost someone to be involved, Wagner said, and the members don't have to be mothers as the organization title implies.

"In fact, we only have about four women in the group," Wagner said. "And of the rest who're men, we have a lot of doctors."

Brazos MADD is active in distributing literature and movies to the high schools as part of the schools' health and defensive driving classes.

The chapter aims many of its programs to the younger audience, Wagner said.

A "designated driver" program is something the chapter is involved in trying to implement, Wagner said.

A person would wear a designated driver tag and be responsible for staying sober during an evening to take home friends or any others who need help driving after a night of partying.

The chapter is also pushing for stricter laws pertaining to bartenders who know someone is too drunk to serve and also for a stronger open container ordinance, Wagner said.

"But, the wheels move slowly," Wagner said.

Female cadet quits band

By JENS B. KOEPKE
Senior Staff Writer

Carol Rockwell, one of the first three women in the Aggie Band, quit Friday for personal reasons, Band Commander Tom Hale confirmed Sunday.

The Battalion attempted to contact Rockwell on Friday, but Andrea Abat, her roommate, said she did not want to comment.

After talking it over with her family, Rockwell decided to quit and join Company W-1, one of the two female Corps units, Hale said.

The Company W-1 commander refused to allow The Battalion to talk to Rockwell on Sunday, but confirmed that she had transferred to the unit.

Hale said, "We still have two (women) in the band who are motivated and really want to be here."

"I'm happy that we've made this (women in band) work and it's still working. I wish we could keep every fish (freshman), but it's not always the case — some take to it (the band), other's don't; some try it out and leave."

Rockwell, a freshman from Corpus Christi, Abat, a freshman from Houston, and Jennifer Peeler, a freshman from Ennis, became the first women allowed in the band this fall. Abat and Peeler will continue in the band, Hale said.



Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

Muppets On Parade

Sarah Stasny, 7, and Stacy Larkin, 12, play with Cookie Monster and Oscar the Grouch on the KAMU-TV float at the College Station Christmas Parade Sunday afternoon.

KAMU-TV float at the College Station Christmas Parade Sunday afternoon.

'Split personality'

Friends, FBI paint different pictures of man accused of planting bomb on jet

Associated Press

SAN MARCOS — The FBI and friends of Albert Lee Thielman paint two entirely different pictures of the man accused of planting a bomb aboard an American Airlines jet.

The one known to his family and friends describes him as an energetic homebuilder, a considerate father and an active church-goer who was involved in bringing a big Christian crusade to San Marcos last September.

The one described in affidavits by the FBI is a cocaine-dealing gambler who ran up big debts, spent \$500 a month on a nude model and allegedly planted a bomb last October on a Dallas-bound jetliner carrying his wife and three small children.

"It was like a split personality," Bill Barber, a homebuilder in San Marcos, told The Dallas Morning News.

Thielman, 34, was arrested Saturday in Las Vegas as he approached the Muse Air ticket counter at McCarran International Airport about 6:45 a.m. PST, said John Dalseg, the FBI agent in charge of the San Antonio office.

According to FBI officials in Las Vegas, Thielman was arrested without incident and was taken to the Clark County Jail to await an initial appearance before a federal magistrate.

A homemade black powder bomb destroyed a piece of baggage belonging to Thielman's wife as an Oct. 30 American Airlines flight landed in Dallas.

A federal arrest warrant was issued Friday in Austin for Thielman, whom authorities say is suspected of trying to kill his family to collect life insurance benefits to pay off debts from gambling, drugs and infidelity.

The warrant charges Thielman with placing a destructive device on an aircraft, a crime punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The bomb exploded at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport as baggage handlers prepared to unload the plane after a flight from Austin. None of the 147 passengers and seven crew members on board were injured.

In San Marcos, friends and acquaintances said Saturday they were mystified by the accusations.

"I was floored out of my chair when I watched the news last night and saw that somebody I know personally was a dangerous man wanted by the FBI," said Dave Glover, a real estate broker and a longtime friend.

Dalseg said Thielman told investigators he had had a "lousy year," acknowledging \$12,000 in credit card

debts in addition to mortgage payments, bank loans and car notes.

An FBI source said Thielman had gambled heavily on sports during 1984, betting up to \$2,000 a week.

Dalseg said each family member was covered by \$250,000 in flight insurance on a policy written through American Express. Thielman was listed as the beneficiary. State Farm Insurance has \$150,000 life insurance policies on Thielman and his wife, according to the FBI.

Thielman told the FBI that he needed about \$6,000 a month to "stay afloat," and he was considering filing for bankruptcy, the affidavit said.

The investigation showed the bomb was found in an ammunition can in a vinyl tote bag belonging to Mrs. Thielman, agents said.

Mrs. Thielman has been co-operating in the investigation, Dalseg said.

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