

State and Local

Tipsy patrons get free ride home

Local bars offer cab service

By Daniel A. La Bry
Staff Writer

Patrons who find themselves a little too tipsy to drive after an evening at some local watering holes can use a "free-ride home program" to avoid driving drunk.

The program is co-sponsored by Aggies Against Drunk Driving and the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Diana Blessman, president of Aggies Against Drunk Driving, says MADD is attempting to make local patrons aware that the "free-ride home program" exists.

"Right now the program has seven bars participating," Blessman says. "If the program gets going really well, we hope to sign up the rest of the bars in Bryan-College Station."

She says Graham Central Station, Bennigan's, Sundance Club, Sunset Grill, Duddley's Draw, J. T. McGord's and The Zephyr Club now are participating in the program.

Blessman says in order to get a free ride home when too intoxicated to drive, all a patron has to do is tell either the bartender or the manager they need a ride home.

An employee at the bar then will fill out the cab company, fill out a voucher and give the voucher to the driver.

"The cab driver takes you home, fills out the rest of the voucher and mails it to MADD," she says. "MADD pays for the cab ride home."

She says Twin City Yellow Cab has agreed to honor the vouchers and work with the program.

MADD is providing the financial support to get the free-ride program off the ground, Blessman says, and

month," Brown says. "At about \$6 per taxi ride and with about 40 establishments using the vouchers, that's only \$240 a month."

"If we can save one life a year by spending \$240 a month, I'm all for it."

Brown says the cab company paid for printing the vouchers and posters announcing the program. AADD

"We don't want people riding around from bar to bar on this program and we don't want establishments sending their employees home on this program. It's just for patrons who drove in."

— Kirk Brown, A&M agronomy professor

AADD is handling the organization and implementation of the program.

Dr. Kirk Brown, president of the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, says only about 45 establishments in the community serve liquor, so MADD would like all of them to participate.

Brown, an agronomy professor at Texas A&M, says MADD is more concerned with getting people home safely and saving lives than with how much money they'll spend.

"We've done a trial run and it looks like the average establishment uses these vouchers about once a

worked with the cab company and contacted as many establishments as possible about signing a contract.

The contract states that the participating establishment will fill out the voucher completely and give it to the cab driver, Brown says. The participants are supposed to use the voucher only for a patron who has driven to their establishments and who are heading home.

"We don't want people riding around from bar to bar on this program and we don't want establishments sending their employees home on this program," he says. "It's

just for patrons who drove in."

Brown says the vouchers are for the ride only, and not the tip.

"The cab company collects the vouchers and sends them to the local MADD office," he says. "We foot the bill for it."

A secondary goal also is accomplished by the program, Brown says. "Many patrons will call the taxi and pay for their own ride home," he says. "Just having that sign in the establishment reminds them of that possibility instead of driving drunk."

MADD sponsors similar programs in other cities, but it has asked the bars for donations, Brown says. One example is Houston, where MADD asks each participating bar for a donation of \$500 per year.

Blessman says most of the establishments contacted were excited about the program, although there were some negative responses. She says some establishments told her they could take care of their own customers and didn't want to participate.

Brown says, "Here's a program that can get drunks off the road, save lives and cut the liability of these establishments. I'm not quite sure why they don't want to participate, but maybe in the future they will change their minds."

"We're not a prohibitive group. We're not telling people not to drink — just don't drink and drive."

Brazos symphony brings Beethoven to life at Rudder

By Karl Pallmeyer
Staff Writer

The music of Ludwig van Beethoven lived and breathed Thursday night in Rudder Auditorium. Beethoven's beautiful music was performed exquisitely by the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra and guest violinist Zina Schiff.

Over 600 people attended the performance that consisted solely of two pieces by Beethoven.

The first half of the program was dedicated to Beethoven's only concerto for violin, the Violin Concerto in D Major. Originally written for violin virtuoso Franz Clement, the Violin Concerto is one of the most influential pieces of its type.

Soloist Schiff performed the piece with marvelous skill. Her love for the music was evident as she stood at BVSO conductor Franz Anton Krager's left, swaying back and forth in time to the music. Her eyes were closed as she waited to play her first solo — a simple set of descending and ascending scales. The beauty of her playing lay in its simplicity.

Schiff's performance was brilliantly understated. Her playing was technically precise, never flashy. She played fast passages with confidence

that made them look easy. The way she played off the orchestra was a quality that marks a true professional.

Schiff performed on a violin specially made by Texas A&M biophysics and biochemistry professor Dr. Joseph Nagyvary. Nagyvary's violins are designed to reproduce the sound of the violins made by Antonio Stradivari in the 18th century.

After the intermission, the orchestra performed Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A Major. The symphony, which Beethoven believed to be his best, was written at a time when the composer was almost completely deaf.

The first movement of the symphony is built around a simple three-note rhythm. The entire movement builds and builds on that rhythm with a majestic sense of urgency. The strings and brass would take the rhythm, experiment with it, and pass it back in forth until every option had been exhausted.

The second movement was much slower, darker and ominous. Krager says the second movement has been extremely popular since it was written and that conductors often would substitute it in place of the second movement of whatever symphony was being performed. The second movement contained the urgency of the first but there was a sad, flowing beauty that was deeply moving.

Traditionally the third movement of a symphony is performed in a stately waltz tempo. Beethoven went against this tradition and quickened the tempo significantly. The third movement made greater use of brass and flute, giving the piece a lighter tone. The fourth movement gave a majestic end to the symphony.

The BVSO was marvelous in its performance. Krager was at his best, as he leaped and danced to coax the music from the orchestra. Krager and the BVSO received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Administration approves Spring '87 Battalion editor

The Texas A&M administration officially granted approval of Loren Steffy, a senior journalism major, as editor of *The Battalion* for spring semester 1987.

In a letter to Dr. Douglas P. Starr, head of the journalism department, Dr. Donald McDonald, provost and vice president for academic affairs, formally approved Steffy's appointment. The letter also was sent to President Frank E. Vandiver and As-

sociate Provost Jerry Gaston.

Steffy was named editor of *The Battalion* on Nov. 21 by the Student Publications Board, which is composed of three students, three faculty members, and an administrator.

First hired as a columnist in December 1984, Steffy has been opinion page editor for *The Battalion* for the last one-and-a-half years and is the first male to attain the position since 1984.

14-month-old shot by playmate in fatal 'cops and robbers' game

DALLAS (AP) — A 2-year-old boy, playing a game of "cops and robbers" with toy guns, found a rifle and accidentally shot a 14-month-old girl, police said.

Maria Lisette Villareal died about three hours after being shot in the back of the head with a .22-caliber rifle by her cousin, officers said.

Police youth investigator Paul Ronyak said Maria and her 3-year-old sister had plastic guns and were

playing with the boy, Pedro Muniz. Pedro did not have a toy gun, Ronyak said. Maria Muniz, 55, the boy's grandmother and the girl's aunt, was babysitting the children at her home.

The boy "went to a bedroom closet, took a .22-caliber rifle and went back into the living room with it," Ronyak said.

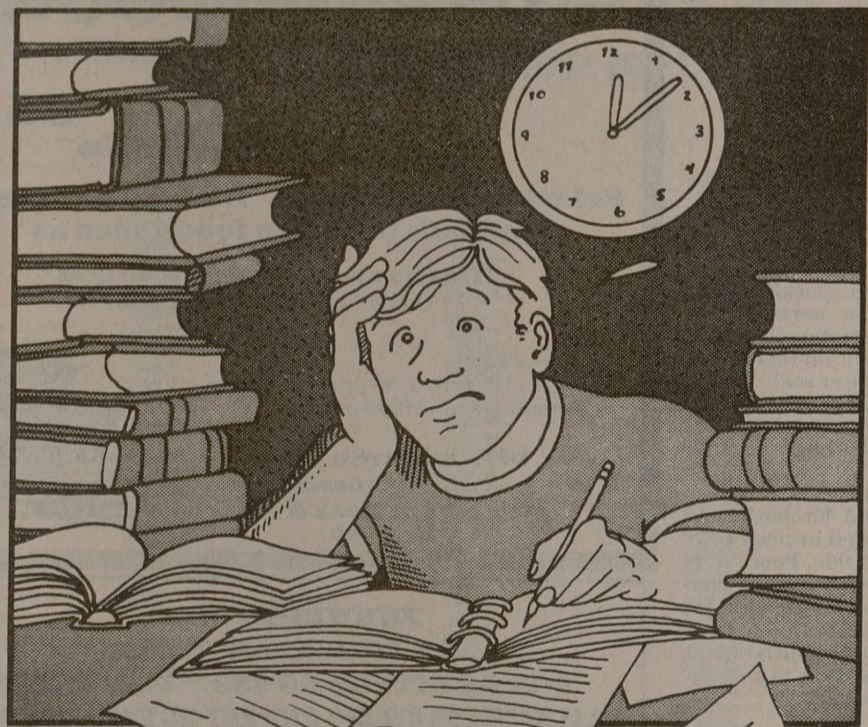
"He was pointing it at (Maria) when Muniz saw him," Ronyak said. "She yelled at him not to pull the

trigger when, about that time, the gun went off."

The shooting has been listed as accidental, and police said they have no plans to seek charges against Muniz, who did not call police or emergency medical services.

The girl died early Wednesday afternoon at Southeastern Medical Center Hospital.

BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL?



\$4.95
Study Special

Domino's Pizza has a special for you! Anytime, day or night, during dead week and finals week you can get a small one-item pizza for only **\$4.95!!**

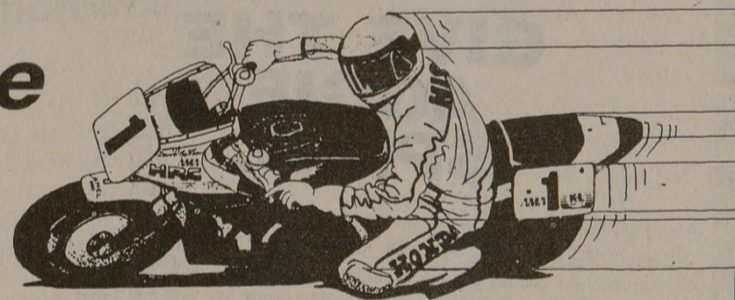
Our stores will be open from 11am - 1am Sunday-Thursday and 11am - 2am Friday & Saturday for your studying convenience. Remember—Domino's Pizza Deliver's® Free!

No coupon necessary.
Not good with any other offer.

DOMINO'S PIZZA
693-2335 260-9020 822-7373
1504 Holleman 4407 Texas Ave. S. Townshire Center
South Campus North Campus Bryan

Leave it With the Pros...

Pro-Cycle Service
Tune N Store

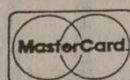


Have your motorcycle professionally serviced during the Christmas Holidays

- * Battery Charged
- * Gas Stabilized
- * Carburetor Drained
- * Tune-up

Storage is FREE!

We service mopeds and scooters, too!



Pro-Cycle Service
3900 S. Texas Ave.
Suite, 109A
693-0626