

In Advance

Student Y, KKYS sponsor 'Big Hug'

By Carol Martin
Reporter

The Texas A&M Student Y Association and radio station KKYS-FM are sponsoring the "Big Hug," an embracing event for Aggies and local residents from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday at Kyle Field.

The Big Hug is similar to the "Big Kiss," said Vu "Doc" Tran, a senior business analysis major from Houston and chairman of the "Big Hug."

But instead of having participants kiss, as the "Big Kiss" sponsors did, the "Big Hug" sponsors decided that everyone would hug each other instead, Tran said.

He said this decision was made because kissing someone who might be a stranger isn't always easy.

"You can hug anyone!" he said. Although the Big Hug will occur the day before Valentine's Day, the real purpose of the event is to promote fellowship between people who may or may not know

one another already, Tran said. "The main reason for the Big Hug is to show brotherly love," he said.

The Student Y will hold preregistration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today through Friday in the MSC and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Friday in the Commons, Tran said.

Tickets are \$2 per person (\$4 including a T-shirt) and \$3 per couple (\$7 including T-shirts).

Students can register with their dormitories today through Friday, Tran said. The hall with the most participation will be announced before hugging begins, he said.

Dave Mendoza, a senior computer science major from Beaumont and chairman of Youth Fun Day III, another Student Y program, said proceeds will go to Brazos County's Stepping Stones, a United Way agency dedicated to helping troubled teens.

In case of rain, he said, the event will be held in 351 G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M students bring together student, firms

By Jennifer E. Townsend
Reporter

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The Business Career Fair, an entirely student-run endeavor to bring job seekers and prospective employers together, offers many opportunities to those willing to participate.

Business Career Fair began in 1980 because students saw a need to bring companies and hopeful employees together in an informal and unthreatening setting, Daniel Williams, vice president of the Business Student Council, said.

Lynn Zimmerman, adviser for the Business Student Council, helped students start the Business Career Fair in 1980.

"We thought it would work only if the students ran it," he said. "After all, they are the ones looking for the careers."

Zimmerman said it was unusual to see a career fair run entirely by the students. Other universities contact Zimmerman and ask how they handle such a massive event, he added.

Rona Davis, president of the Business Student Council, said 11 committees work on career fair with about 250 student volunteers serving on the committees.

"We have been preparing for Business Career Fair since August," she said.

"We have all learned so much about how to put on something of this magnitude," she said.

The students are solely responsible for the planning, organizing, budgeting and managing of the career fair.

Zimmerman said, "Business Career Fair gives students a chance to practice the kinds of business techniques, skills, principles and concepts they have been learning about in the classrooms."

"Companies tell us how unique it is and how impressed they are with the quality of leadership among our students."

Zimmerman explained the main objective of the Business Career Fair.

"Business Career Fair gives students a chance to gain information about a variety of different career possibilities, so they can make a good career choice," he said.

Mark Armstrong, a senior management major, said he was taking advantage of career fair because he was getting more interested in his future career plans.

"I want to get as many ideas for career opportunities as I can," he said.

Williams added that he felt more students need to recognize the benefits that come from taking advantage of the career fair.

Davis agreed.

"Business Career Fair gives students a chance to gain information about a variety of different career possibilities, so they can make a good career choice."

—Lynn Zimmerman,
Business Student Council

"More students need to realize how much the career fair can help their future," she said.

Women in business is one symposium offered among the career fair activities. Retailing and international business are also symposium topics that may be of interest.

Receptions for students and speakers are held after individual symposiums.

A Business Career Fair Banquet is held to give students the opportunity to sit at company tables and talk with recruiters.

The career booths set up in the Blocker Building provide yet another opportunity to meet prospective employers. Students will be able to speak with recruiters from 80 different companies at the booths.

Williams said that students can gain a wealth of information by talking to the recruiters.

"Business Career Fair gives students the opportunity to ask specific questions about a company," he said.

"One of the major complaints most recruiters have is that students don't know enough about the company they are trying to get hired by."

All students are encouraged to speak with recruiters.

"Students don't have to go look up information about a company in the library or make phone calls," Williams said. "The information is right here. It's free and at the students disposal."

Williams added that freshmen, sophomores and juniors can benefit from the career fair as much as graduating seniors.

"Freshmen, sophomores and juniors make contacts at this time that will eventually lead them to getting a job when they graduate," he said.

Task force sponsors Awareness Week

By Ronnie Calhoun
Reporter

The Security Task Force, a committee that consists of Texas A&M personnel and the local police departments, in conjunction with Creating Attitude for a Rape-free Environment (CARE), are sponsoring Security and Personal Safety Awareness Week Monday through Thursday.

The week-long program focuses on personal safety, sexual assault prevention and home security.

Erika Gonzalez-Lima, a member of the committee, said the program is for the entire community with an emphasis on the A&M campus.

The theme for this year's program is "Lock It Up or Lose It: How can you prevent being the next victim of crime?"

Men and women issues start the program at 7 p.m. Monday in 201 MSC.

"Dating and the Hidden Threat" will be discussed at 7 p.m. Tuesday in 201 MSC.

The Safety and Security Exhibit Fair will be from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday in 212 MSC.

Gonzalez-Lima said the vendors will exhibit products related to safety, such as alarms and dead bolt locks. Door prizes will be given at the conclusion of the fair and you don't have to be present to win. Each vendor has donated a prize over \$25 that can be won by registering at the vendor's table.

On Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m. in front of the MSC, the College Station Police Department will be offering A&M students a reduced price for sandblasting identification numbers on automobile T-tops, wire-rim hubcaps and other vehicle parts to increase chances of recovering the items if they are stolen.

CSPD Officer Bernard Kapella said the service normally costs about \$60, but the police department will be providing it for \$20.

"We want to get the students to take advantage of this," Kapella said.

"Lock It Up or Lose It" is the topic at 7 p.m. Wednesday in 201 MSC. The program will have speakers from the Bryan, College Station and University police departments and the Brazos County Attorney's office.

"Stereotypes, Safe Sex and Spring Break planning" will be discussed at 7 p.m. Thursday in 701 Rudder.

Gonzalez-Lima said there will be celebrity guests throughout the week that will include McGruff, PC and Freddie. McGruff is the Crime Watch dog and PC is the remote control mini car from the Bryan Police Department. Freddie is the robot from the College Station Police Department.

The celebrities can be seen distributing balloons outside Rudder Tower and the MSC at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

Gonzalez-Lima said the goal of the committee is to start a Crime Watch program on campus.

Scholars to discuss race relations

Several prominent scholars will discuss "Race and Ethnic Relations in the 1990s" during a conference sponsored by Texas A&M's sociology department Thursday and Friday at the Aggeland Inn.

Dr. Gail Thomas and Dr. William Kuvlesky head the race and ethnic relations study group that organized the conference to address educational issues, employment and income needs, and law and politics.

The participants will present the papers they have written about these subjects on the first day of the conference. Friday will be devoted to roundtable discussions.

Speakers include anthropologist John Ogbu of the University of California at Berkeley, who studies minority education, and sociologist James Blackwell of the University of Massachusetts, who works with higher education research and policy.

Sheriff calls father of missing woman 'suspect' in case

EL PASO (AP) — El Paso County Sheriff Leo Samaniego, confronted at a political meeting by the father of a missing woman, told the father he might be considered a suspect in his daughter's case.

Samaniego made the statement Monday night at a meeting of Democratic primary candidates while answering questions from Ernesto Bustamante, whose 18-year-old daughter, Veronica, disappeared Dec. 11.

Bustamante criticized the sheriff's handling of the case at the meeting. Bustamante acknowledged that Samaniego's opponent in the March 8 primary, Jesus Reyes, recently visited the Bustamante home to offer his services as a private investigator. Reyes was not present at the meeting Monday.

"I think Mr. Samaniego is not fol-

lowing through on the investigation because he has hit a dead end," Bustamante said.

Samaniego called the criticism political, but Bustamante said he went to the meeting "to try and get some answers."

In a phone interview after the meeting, Samaniego said: "I'm not accusing (Bustamante) of anything, but there is suspicion until you prove exactly what's taken place."

"I should have probably made it more clear, but what I was trying to say is, I can't discuss (the case) in public."

Bustamante said, "I was a little shocked."

Samaniego said investigators are treating the disappearance as an abduction, though some aspects of the case seem at odds with the assumption.

UT engineering professor helps make 'dumb' robot

AUSTIN (AP) — The big blue robot bolted to the floor at the University of Texas cost \$60,000. But the blue tool has only one arm, two fingers on its hand and is too "dumb" for precision work.

"And, at 900 pounds, it's far too heavy to go into space or inside a nuclear reactor," mechanical engineering professor Delbert Tesar said. "It's an assembly-line robot. It's a good demonstrator and that's about it."

Unfortunately, Tesar said, such inept robots are the state of the art in the United States, a consequence of what he contends has been a national decline in mechanical engineering and an overemphasis on electronics.

"Robotics is the best example of a marriage of the mechanical and the electronic," he said. "If the mechanical is not equally strong, you're not going to accomplish much."

On the other hand, he said, real robots are a long way from their special-effects Hollywood cousins because they have only a trivial amount of computer power. So far, they are limited to such tasks as spot-welding, spray painting or moving things from one place to another.

"Only in the most elementary sense do we have software to drive them," Tesar said. "Going beyond that is such demanding work nobody wants to do it."

Nobody, that is, but a few people including Tesar, a robotics researcher for 25 years and UT-Austin's resident expert since 1985. Tesar and 25 graduate students are one of five teams in the country involved in one of the government's few robotics projects: developing light, supersmart robots to make repairs in the high-radiation environment of a nuclear reactor.

Thousands of civilians get Air Force furlough because of budget cuts

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Thousands of civilian employees at Kelly Air Force Base will be furloughed and 641 others will lose their jobs mainly because of federal budget cuts for the Air Logistics Center, officials said.

The furloughs and permanent layoffs at Kelly are expected to save the Pentagon \$13.7 million, officials said.

The Air Logistics Center at Kelly, the city's biggest employer with 15,090 civilian workers, is the Air Force's major repair base for the C-5A transport plane.

U.S. Rep. Albert Bustamante, D-San Antonio, and Kelly AFB officials said Monday that 404 "on call" workers and 237 temporary workers will be terminated March 20.

Those cuts will collectively save the Air Force \$5.25 million, said Col. Stan Frost, the logistics center's commander.

The 14,449 permanent civilian employees subject to the furloughs will receive notices later this month that the furloughs will begin on a staggered basis in April and will save the government \$1.41 million a day.

The civilian employees probably will receive six-day furloughs each

and the on-call workers may be recalled in September, officials said.

"We looked at all the cost options, but this budget will not bend," Bustamante said. "We hope to bring back the on-call workers by Sept. 20. That would be a six-month release."

At one time, furloughs were estimated at 10 days each for the logistics center employees, but that number has been reduced to six and may even be less than that, Frost said.

"This decision was not taken hastily or lightly," Frost said. "We have reduced funding dramatically to hold onto people. We have made 50 to 60 percent cuts in other areas to hold it to the bare minimum, areas like travel, supply and overtime."

Ken Christensen, Kelly deputy director of personnel and civilian personnel officer, said this was the first time that civilian employees at Kelly had been furloughed.

The center now has 16,107 military and civilian personnel, compared to an all-time high of 28,000 during the Vietnam War.

The logistics center is under the Air Logistics Command, which is responsible for transporting Air Force supplies as well as maintaining and repairing equipment.

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