

# Travel agent: Caution necessary when choosing Spring Break trip

By Tracey Streater  
Reporter

Only 23 days. That's all that's left until many Texas A&M students will head for the beaches of South Padre Island or the slopes of Colorado. Or maybe the back yard in Dallas.

By now, everyone probably has made and reservations confirmed for Spring Break 1988. If the search is on!

There are many great trip opportunities, but when deciding on a spring break package, scrutiny is a must, said Karen Howry of ITS Tours. Howry suggests looking closely at the small print.

A lot of the quoted prices are very misleading," Howry said. "When you see them, remember you are getting the bottom-line prices. It's like comparing Motel 6 to the Hilton."

The prices that companies print in their advertisements are the lowest possible prices, usually including amenities, rooms filled to or near capacity and a distance from the beach or slopes, she explained.

J. Muzik, a junior exercise technology major from Pittsburgh, Penn., was drawn to a tour by the good-to-be-true prices last year and regretted not investigating it.

"We went because of the price," she said. "We thought it was good compared to the others. As it turned out, there was only one bed for four people — and with three guys and myself — it didn't work out well."

Howry said some companies offer accommodations closer to the area of interest, but at a price.

Dennis Haskin, a junior account-



Randy Corliss, Joe Ascolese, John Day and Chad Davis celebrate the approach of Spring Break.

ing major at the University of Houston, had hoped to get more for his money on his last spring break.

"The accommodations that we had on our trip to Acapulco were very nice, but I had to spend much more than I planned on," Haskin said. "The price that was advertised was a lot lower than what we actually had to pay to get the location and the condo we wanted."

Howry also warns that if students make their own hotel reservations, they should make sure the hotel allows college students.

"Some properties in places, like in Padre, either don't allow students or they require a security deposit," Howry said.

Exclusion of the students is a re-

sult of the high amount of damages caused by college students in past years, she said.

But not all tours try to swindle students and not all hotels prohibit them, Howry said; some of those low, low prices really could be legitimate.

Sally Watson, of The Travel Company, gives an explanation for the lower rates.

"When companies go in and buy out huge lots, they get cheap rates," Watson said. She said these lower rates keep the prices down for students and still allow the tour companies to make a sizable profit, which keeps everyone happy.

John Slaughter, a senior meteorology major from Temple, has been to Steamboat Springs, Colo., for the past three spring breaks and had no problems at all.

In fact, he was so pleased with the trips, he became a student representative for the company.

When investigating the tour company offers, students don't have to be negative, they should just be careful, Watson said.

There are many good offers for trips, but students should make sure what comes with the price before signing on the dotted line, she said.

The final option for some students is a vacation with their families. Tonya Bolton, a junior speech communications major from Jacksonville, went to Miami Beach last year with her family for spring break.

"It's a great place for college students, but my parents were — they said — 'appalled at the debauchery,'" Bolton said.

Only 23 more days.

# Hospital program exposes volunteers to medical field

By James Johnson  
Reporter

A College Station hospital is offering college students the opportunity to volunteer their services while gaining essential experience often needed in making a career choice in medical and other related fields.

Humana Hospital, which is located off of Highway 6 on Rock Prairie Road, has promoted an "Aggie Volunteer Program" for the past two years.

The program allows students to be exposed to a variety of hospital-related experiences, which include assistance in the emergency room and in the intensive care units. Students also are exposed to the activities on the nursing floor.

An organizational meeting set for Thursday in the hospital's classroom section will cover volunteer policies and procedures and determine work schedules. Students will request the number of hours that will be most convenient each week to avoid any problems with class schedules or other various priorities.

"Our main purpose for the program is to provide opportunities for those who are considering health-care careers to witness and practice what exactly goes on in various departments of a medical facility," Marsha Herring, director of the volunteer program and public relations, said.

Herring said there are no major requirements to become a volunteer, just a willingness to assist others. The more serious services are prac-

*"Our main purpose for the program is to provide opportunities for those who are considering health-care careers to witness and practice what exactly goes on in various departments of a medical facility."*

— Marsha Herring, program director

ticed through non-direct patient care, so during these situations, the volunteers don't actively participate in the relations between the patient and physician.

She said that the patients never object to the volunteers' help. In fact, they immediately become close and relate to each of them well, she said.

"It really impresses them (patients) to see how dedicated the students are," she said. "They'd much rather see them assisting those with needs than hearing about them being on the streets involved in something less rewarding."

The hospital's program has maintained good results in the past. Some student volunteers have worked between 400 and 500 total hours,

which proved impressive to both Herring and the 325-member hospital staff.

Many former volunteers have been accepted by highly-regarded medical schools based on the relevant experience they obtained through volunteer work. The students also find it a positive addition to their resumes.

Jody Bartee, a senior community health major at A&M, became employed at Humana after three months of volunteer work for the hospital.

"I really needed some type of job experience to go along with my degree and my starting here as a volunteer really improved my resume," she said. "And the experience is rewarding because the staff really knows how to utilize its services."

Duties of the volunteers range from assisting nurses to helping clerks or observing surgical procedures. Furthermore, those who discover that they may not be fit for a certain job may transfer their efforts into another field that may be better suited for them.

Herring recalled many volunteers deciding to change their college majors because of specific duties they never knew were part of the job.

"Even though the work is strictly volunteer, the adequate environmental experience allows students to determine what type of career they are realistically suited for."

"It's a great way to make friends, meet new people, and enjoy the feeling of self-accomplishment in helping those who need extensive assistance and care."

# Barker may help protest pageant prize

EL PASO (AP) — Bob Barker, who resigned as emcee of the Miss USA pageant because the winner receives a mink coat and fur, said he might join animal rights protesters who plan to picket the March 1 contest.

The Las Cruces, N.M., chapter of Sangre de Cristo Animal Protection invited Barker to join the protest after the El Paso City Council granted a picketing permit last week. Barker said Monday he will decide within 10 days.

"I'm totally supportive of Sangre de Cristo in this protest," Barker told the *El Paso Times* in a phone interview Monday from Los Angeles.

Barker, best-known as the host for the game show "The Price is Right," had been the Miss USA pageant's master of ceremonies for 21 years before resigning over the fur coat issue last month.

He said he worries that people might view his participation in the picketing as a vendetta against Miss USA officials instead of as a protest against the treatment of animals whose furs are used to make garments.

"The producers (of the Miss USA pageant) are friends of mine, and I admire their talents," Barker told the *El Paso Herald-Post*. "I simply disagree on the ethics and morality of awarding furs."

**Service Special**  
**17<sup>95</sup>** Free Road Test

# ATLAS

Standards and Automatics  
Foreign and Domestic  
V Joints • Catches • U-Joints

1507 Texas Bryan 779-0555

**INDOOR SPORTS CENTER**

3030 E. 29th Suite 11  
Emporium Center 776-2267

features:  
Astro Turf soccer field  
4 batting cages (softball & hardball)  
3x3 basketball court  
2 volleyball courts  
Shower facilities  
Concession stand  
Video games  
Pro shop  
Mini-tournaments

Mon.-Fri. 4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.  
Sat. 10:00 a.m.-Midnight

**Every Wednesday**  
**\$7<sup>00</sup> off**  
any 20" 3-item pizza

**Gumby Says**  
**"Have a Lunch Damnit"**  
A 12" 1-item pizza with a 16 oz. Pepsi or Diet Pepsi  
**\$4.65 plus tax**  
Valid weekdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Thursday Special**  
2 16" 1-item pizzas  
**\$13.99 plus tax**

**Call 76-GUMBY**  
764-8629  
Hours  
Sun-Wed: 11 a.m.-1:30 a.m.  
Thur-Sat: 11 a.m.-2:30 a.m.

**Study Abroad**  
**ITHACA COLLEGE**  
**LONDON CENTER**

- SEMESTER OR YEAR PROGRAM
- ITHACA COLLEGE CREDIT
- BRITISH FACULTY

COURSES — British and European studies are offered in literature, history, art history, drama, music, sociology, education, psychology, communications, and politics. Special program offered in theatre. Internships available to qualified students in international business, social services, communications, political science, economics and theatre.

Visits to the theatre, museums, galleries, schools, social and political institutions are an integral part of the curriculum.

For further information write or call:  
International Programs  
Ithaca College  
Ithaca, New York 14850  
607-274-3306

Please send information about the Ithaca College London Center to:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MAJOR \_\_\_\_\_  
Return to: Office of International Programs, Muller 218, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY 14850

# Shake and bake.



Chill out and heat up with everything from a French Vanilla® shake to a warm blueberry muffin.

**31 Treats Dessert Shoppe**  
Ice Cream • Frozen Yogurt • Bakery Northgate, 601 University Dr., 7am-midnight.