

## B-CS police plan no policy changes after sobriety-checkpoints ruling

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Repercussions of a Supreme Court decision on sobriety checkpoints probably won't be felt much in Bryan or College Station, local police officials said.

The Supreme Court, with a 6-3 vote, upheld a Michigan sobriety-checkpoint program Thursday by ruling that stopping cars at checkpoints does not violate motorists' privacy rights.

"The balance of the state's interest in preventing drunken driving ... and the degree of intrusion upon individual motorists who are briefly stopped weighs in favor of the state program," Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote for the majority.

Bryan and College Station police, however, have never relied on sobriety checkpoints to catch drunken drivers, so police expect no real changes in their policing policies.

"The idea of a checkpoint is to have a lot of success," Lt. Mike Pat-

**"It's another tool police can use to keep drunken drivers off the road."**

—Choya Walling, police sergeant

erson of the College Station police said. "It needs to be productive, and we don't think it would be very productive for us."

"I doubt you'll see a lot of checkpoints now," Sgt. Choya Walling of the Bryan police said. "But that doesn't mean we're not enforcing the laws."

Patterson said College Station police still rely on officers observing drunken drivers because it gives the department and officers more flexibility.

Bryan police have had great suc-

cess with videotaping suspected drunken drivers and are not likely to drop that method for checkpoints, Walling said.

"The most effective method is the videocamera, as opposed to stopping every vehicle and checking the driver," Walling said.

Some police departments, including College Station's, shied away from sobriety checkpoints before the Supreme Court decision, because too many courts had ruled too many ways.

"We didn't address the DWI issue and checkpoints, mainly because the courts have had mixed reviews," Patterson said.

Police and organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving laud the decision by the Supreme Court for finally clearing up the issue.

"It's another tool police can use to keep drunken drivers off the road," Walling said. "Of course, the decision makes it that much easier for us. I'm sure the agencies that use them

more often are even more pleased." Anita Friedman, administrator of the Brazos County MADD Chapter also said she believes sobriety checkpoints will help take drunken drivers off the road.

"We're delighted the Supreme Court has come up with this decision," Friedman said.

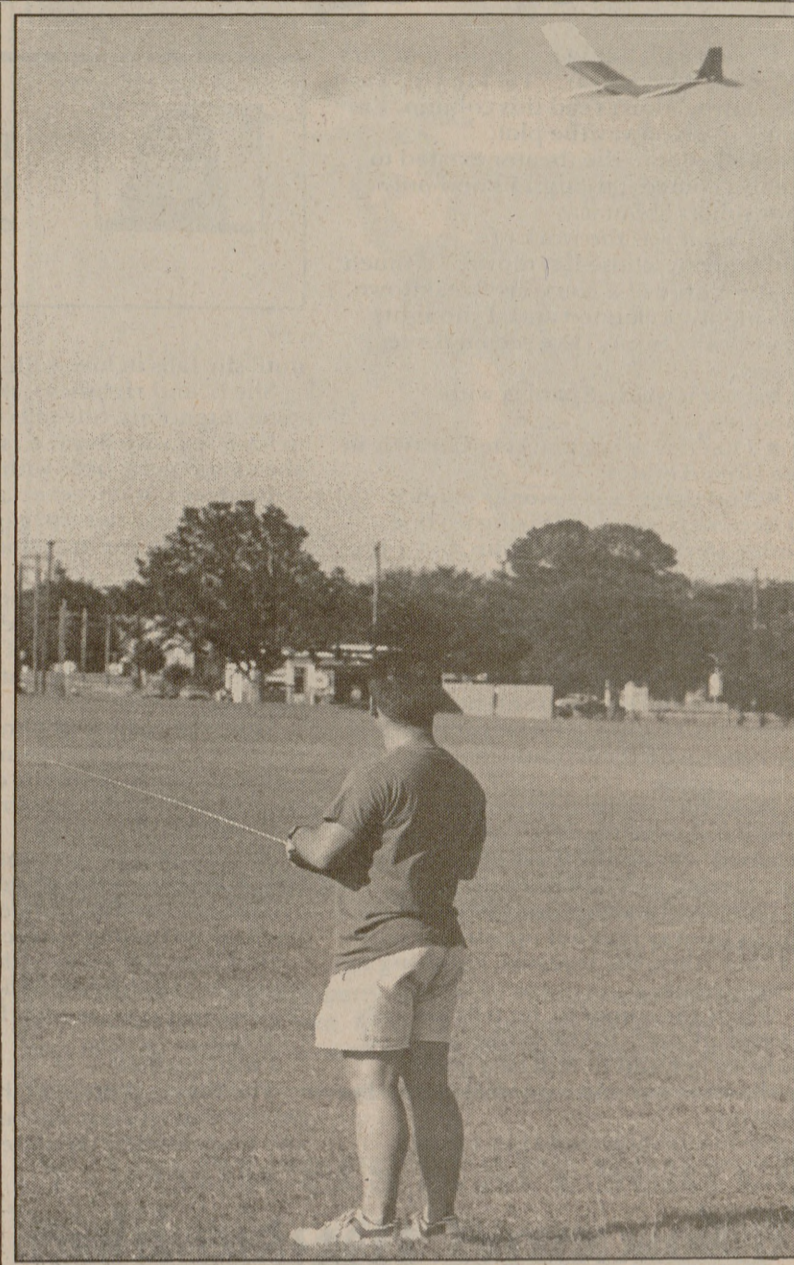
Dr. Kirk Brown, state chairman of MADD, also was pleased with the ruling.

"This is just one more weapon in the arsenal we can use to end drunken driving," Brown, a Texas A&M professor of soil and crop sciences, said.

Patterson and Walling, however, said neither police chief has issued any formal orders on the ruling yet. Both said the ruling probably will be read closely before any formal decisions are made.

"I don't know if the ruling is going to open the door to use more checkpoints, but we'll use whatever means possible to keep drunken drivers off the road," Walling said.

### Flying high



Mark Delashaw, a senior engineering technology major from Argyle, Texas, flies a power-controlled sailplane last Sunday evening on the Polo field across from the Systems Building.

Photo by Sondra N. Robbins

## A&M professor gives Juneteenth speech

### Dr. Larke believes extended African-American family is strong

By KATHY COX  
Of The Battalion Staff

The family is the most important element to African-Americans answering the question, "Where do we go from here?" a Texas A&M professor said during local Juneteenth celebrations Saturday.

"We have a very beautiful and unique family — the extended family — that we should be very proud of," Dr. Patricia Larke, an A&M professor in the College of Education, said to a crowd of about 40 during Juneteenth festivities at the Lincoln Center.

Juneteenth, officially honored today, celebrates the day news of the Emancipation Proclamation reached slaves in Texas.

Abraham Lincoln issued the proclamation January 1, 1863, but slaves in Texas did not find out until June two years later.

Larke, head of A&M's Minority Mentorship program, said the extended African-American family is strong.

"Historically, it has been the strong African-American family, reinforced by the church, that has



Photo by Sondra N. Robbins

Dr. Patricia Larke speaks in Lincoln Center on Saturday.

been a shield against external prejudice and kept the family going," she said.

But Larke said this shield is being weakened by today's society.

She said African-Americans should work to stop children from having children because the percentage of teen mothers is increasing, along with the poverty rate.

The divorce rate also is increasing for everyone, Larke said, as is the number of young African-American men who can't get married and support a family in the midst of high unemployment.

"However, I must focus on the large number of black couples who have kept their families together, through good and trying times," Larke said.

"Hard working, and many times deeply religious families have given their children plenty of love, affection and whenever necessary, discipline.

"They have often scraped and saved to feed, clothe and educate their children, and efforts have paid off," she said. "Many of you are products of those families."

Larke said African-Americans also should march forward educationally, politically and economically.

Larke urged African-Americans to lower the high school dropout

rate and get involved with their children's educations by contacting teachers, praising children for academic intelligence and making sure educators stress academics as well as athletics.

Larke also said parents should ask school board members to hire more African-American teachers.

Only 3 percent of the teachers in this area are African-American, Larke said.

"Why are you letting the present educational system promote failure for your children?" Larke asked. "Get involved ... don't be intimidated by the system."

Larke said African-Americans also should become more politically active.

"The culturally diverse group of people makes the best decisions," Larke said.

"People can make a difference, she said, by running for office and voting in elections.

"Everyone who has some political experience at one time started with zero," she said. "Where are we going politically? I hope on the boards as

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## Senior Aggies return to class AggieHostel welcomes alumni

By JAMES M. LOVE  
Of The Battalion Staff

It's back to school for almost 70 former Texas A&M University students. For a full week, the senior alumni and their spouses will live in Lechner Hall, eat in Sbis and attend classes ranging from

Mark Twain humor to ocean drilling and agriculture.

AggieHostel will be hosting their visit this week. It's a program for senior Aggies that combines the excitement of campus life with the opportunity to attend intellectually stimulating courses. Sponsored annually by

the Association of Former Students, AggieHostel is in its third year and is now an Aggie tradition.

Beginning with a campus tour and reception on Sunday, the week includes an informal social at President William H. Mobley's home, a square dance/western night, dinner in the Kyle Field press box and graduation ceremonies on Friday. There's even a visit to the Dixie Chicken scheduled for Wednesday.

H.C. Heldenfels, class of '35, is on his second AggieHostel visit. He said it's a real joy to be back in the classroom again. "We have had outstanding instructors in our classes," he said. "They've seemed to enjoy it better than we have."

For many of the alumni, this was not the first visit with AggieHostel. John Yartz, class of '43, said he has been to all three and plans on returning again. "It keeps getting better," he said. "I'm looking forward to next year."

Also among the group is one of the men responsible for adopting the first Reveille.

J.U. "Two-gun" Parker, class of '32 and a former head yell leader, recalled the night they brought her to A&M. "During the summer of 1931, six of us snuck out in my Model-T Ford to go drinking near Wellborn," he said. "On the way home, we found her in a ditch, and she was sick from lack of food."

"She had not been hit by a car as some legends will have it," he laughed. "But we brought her back, and she mostly stayed with Rip Collins, who should be credited for taming her," he said. "By the fall, Reveille was leading the

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## Office gunman kills eight, shoots self

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A gunman "loaded for war" stalked through an auto loan company Monday, firing at customers, shooting under desks at hiding employees and leaving eight dead before killing himself.

Five others were listed in critical but stable condition after the late-morning shootings by semiautomatic gunfire at the General Motors Acceptance Corp. office south of downtown.

Richard Langille, an employee, said office workers dived under desks when the first of about 50 shots rang out.

"And then we realized the guy was pointing his gun underneath people's desks and killing them one by one," said Langille. "I just saw the bottom of the carpet and just prayed."

Some of the wounded were shot seven and eight times each, hospital spokesmen said.

"The suspect apparently went in the front door and shot a couple of customers," said Jacksonville Sheriff James McMillan. "Then he went right through the office indiscriminately shooting employees, then turned the weapon on himself."

The gunman, James Edward Pough, 42, of Jacksonville, had recently had a vehicle repossessed by GMAC, the sheriff said. McMillan said it was not known if that was the sole motive. The company said the car was a 1988 Pontiac Grand Am repossessed in January.

Pough began firing almost as soon as he walked through the door, McMillan said.

After shooting two customers, one fatally, he methodically went from desk to desk firing his rifle, witnesses said.

McMillan said the rifle may link the suspect to two other fatal weekend shootings in Jacksonville.

## A&M scientists return after studying oil spill

By KATHY COX  
Of The Battalion Staff

A team of Texas A&M scientists returned to College Station after a week of collecting samples and studying dispersal of oil in the Gulf where the Mega Borg tanker spilled millions of gallons of crude oil.

Explosions caused the Mega Borg to catch fire Saturday, June 9, leaving two crewmen dead and two others missing.

The tanker has spilled an estimated 4.5 million gallons of light crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

Scientists and technicians from A&M's Geochemical and Environmental Research Group arrived at the scene as early as Sunday, June 10, Dr. Mahlon C. Kennicutt II, head of the research team, said.

"That was a decision on our part to go ahead and get in the field even before we had any direct authorization from any of the agencies," Kennicutt said.

"We made a decision that this needed to be done and that we should go ahead and mobilize ourselves and not wait for someone to ask us to do it — to be there when they needed it."

Kennicutt said he thought this action helped accomplish various tasks in a more timely and comprehensive fashion.

An A&M vessel, the HOS Citation, happened to be returning the Sunday after the spill, and it already had much of the needed equipment on board.

The ship was restocked and the group was on its way to the spill by Monday morning, he said.

GERG members are using samples to study:

- the fate of the spilled oil
- the effects of the oil on the ecosystem
- the level of contamination in the area before the spill.

When oil spills from a burning tanker, many things can happen, Kennicutt said.

Oil can burn up at the source, evaporate as it spreads, be consumed later by organisms (known as microbial degradation), filter into sediments on the floor, or invade the tissues of organisms, he said.

Kennicutt said by tracking the fate of the oil, his team hopes to discover which process is fastest and which portions of the ecosystem are exposed.

Researchers also hope to determine the harmful effects of the spill

on the ecosystem. "Ideally in a situation like this, you would know what the present structure of the ecosystem was previous to any contamination," Kennicutt said. "And then you could look or monitor with time the changes you might see."

The team is looking for specific effects of the oil, including the death of organisms and changes in the structure of the ecosystem, he said.

In order to determine the effects, researchers also must know what portions of the ecosystem were exposed to the oil, how long they were exposed and the amount of oil to which they were exposed.

Insights into the level of contamination

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### Gulf spill spares Galveston campus

Light crude oil leaking from the Mega Borg tanker, which caught fire June 9 in the Gulf of Mexico, is not presenting any direct problems to operations at Texas A&M University at Galveston.

Dr. William J. Merrell, president of A&M-Galveston, said he doesn't expect the oil to wash up in the area near the university.

"This was a medium-sized spill in the central Gulf," Merrell said. "The problems we might see now are tar balls and maybe some sludge which will probably wash up south and west of here."

Merrell said some faculty and graduate students from the university have been in the Gulf to collect data and observe the spill.

"Of course we'll want to study the effects of the spill," he said.

A&M-Galveston, founded in 1959 as the Texas Maritime Academy as part of the Texas A&M University System, has a training facility capable of handling small spills.

The Oil Spill School of the Texas Engineering Extension Service is on the campus at Galveston, and officials at the school can enact emergency procedures when necessary.

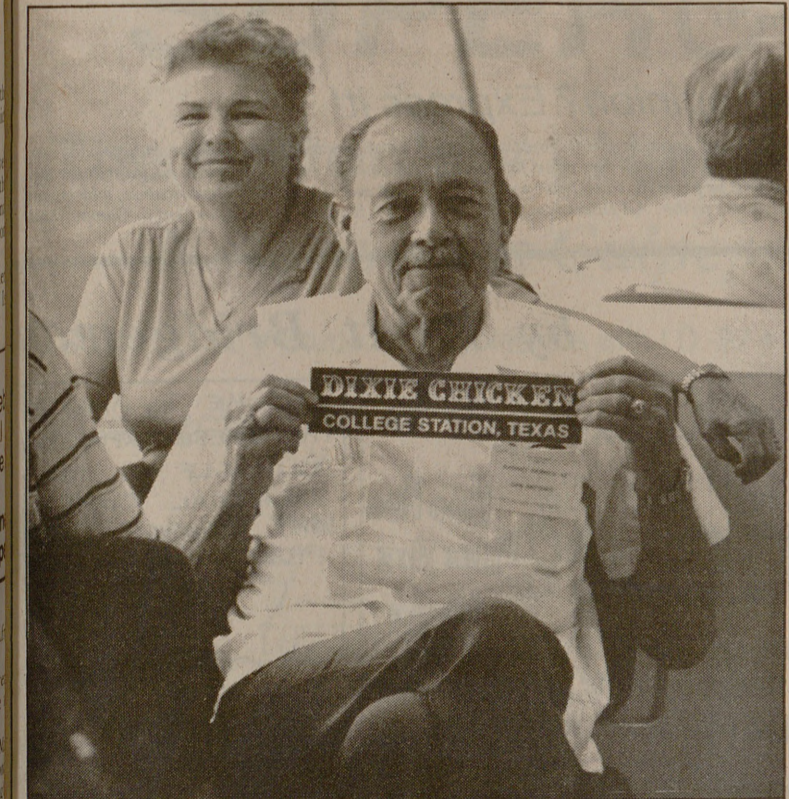


Photo by Sondra N. Robbins

Barney Barnes, class of '42, from San Antonio participates in AggieHostel hosted by the Association of Former Students