

Tuesday, June 19, 1990

## Crime Line message identifies felonies, gives prevention tips

By MIKE LUMAN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M students wanting an up-to-date report of crimes committed on campus can call Crime Line, a 24-hour service of the University Police Department.

The recorded message identifies felony crimes under investigation, points out crime trends, and gives crime prevention tips.

Crime prevention specialist Betty LeMay, with the UPD Crime Prevention Unit, said the service began a year ago but student response has been sporadic.

She said the line, which is updated weekly, received the most calls when fliers advertising it were still up.

"The line lets students know what crimes are committed and encourages them to report suspicious activity," LeMay said.

The Crime Line number is 845-6500. Phone numbers for UPD and Crime Stoppers are included in the recording.

She said a knowledge of items presently sought by thieves enables students to better protect their property.

"It's been so easy for the criminal element to pick the campus clean that we want to make things harder on them by locking things up," she said.

LeMay said nine truck tailgates recently were stolen in one night. The Crime Line message after the thefts included information on how to secure tailgates.

She said past recordings have included information about vehicle theft, arson, computer theft, and bicycle theft.

"We lost \$60,000 in bicycles last year and encourage students to register their bikes," LeMay said.

She said major crimes usually come from outside, and many are committed by non-student gangs working the campus.

"We need to make students aware of what type of crimes to look out for," she said. "Crime Line gets the message out."

Tips for students leaving town are added to the recording before breaks, LeMay said.

Students returning from break also present an opportunity to thieves, she said.

"It's like a smorgasbord to them when the students come back and all those cars are in the parking lots," she said.

"We need to let students know that crime does happen on campus."

She said the line contributes to the UPD goal of making students more aware and watchful for crimes.

## Test craft lands after failure of left engine

ARLINGTON (AP) — An experimental tilt-rotor aircraft that can fly like an airplane and land like a helicopter passed an unexpected test Monday when it made its first emergency landing, officials said.

The V-22 Osprey, one of four prototypes, lost power in its left engine near Alvarado, about 40 miles southwest of downtown Dallas, and returned safely to the flight test center at Arlington Municipal Airport Monday morning, said Terry Arnold, V-22 spokesman for Bell Helicopter Textron Inc.

Bob Leder, a spokesman for Bell Helicopter, called the emergency landing proof that the V-22 Osprey was safer than conventional aircraft when disabled by engine failure.

Two crew members escaped injury, and the aircraft wasn't damaged in the emergency landing, Arnold said.

## Dog days of summer



Photo by Richard Brown

A&M student Kimon Lymberry and Molly, his Labrador retriever, enjoy a hot day at the lake. Molly, who has just started her training, already responds to hand signals and retrieves in the water.

## MSC service offers summer fun University Plus provides programs

By SEAN FRERKING  
Of The Battalion Staff

MSC University Plus organizers are trying to dispel the misconception that summers are boring at Texas A&M.

"There's plenty to do during summers at A&M," Wayne Helton, program manager of the MSC, said. "The University Plus program offers a wide variety of instruction to students looking to learn something without the pressure of a grade."

Helton said the purpose of University Plus is to provide non-credit education for Bryan-College Station residents at any time during the year.

He said courses listed in the summer University Plus program are similar to those offered during the spring and fall semesters.

"You can learn a different language or learn to work on cars," Helton said. "Most of all, it's a good way to have fun and learn something with-

out the stress of school."

According to pink University Plus brochures located at several places around campus, classes from aerobics to woodworking are offered to university students.

The MSC University Plus program is part of the MSC Student Programs Office. The organization is the result of the 1985 merger between Arts & Crafts and the student organization, MSC Afterhours.

Helton said the program receives partial funding from the University. He said University funding explains the slightly higher cost for non-students taking Plus courses.

He said the fees for various classes pay instructors and the rent for any facilities the University Plus program might use.

He said University Plus is popular, with an average enrollment of 85 to 90 percent of the classes offered.

He said 1,500 students per semester participate in activities like learning how to Country &

Western dance or play the guitar.

Helton said the Plus program looks to the nation's campuses and gets suggestions from instructors and students for its ideas about which classes to offer.

Registration for the Plus classes began June 11. Students can register over the phone and pay fees with cash, check or credit card. There is a \$1 charge for paying with a credit card.

University Plus' number is 845-1631. Registration is open until the day a class begins or after that if space is available.

Helton said he is optimistic about this summer and hopes to get the word out that the University Plus program can give students at A&M fun things to do.

"I think we have a little of everything," Helton said. "If you don't see something in our brochure, tell us and we'll see that we'll try to offer it."

## Lawyers challenge school finance system Judge shows reluctance to grant injunction against new package

AUSTIN (AP) — Attorneys challenging the state's new education reform package say it will probably go into effect this year despite a legal challenge to it.

State District Judge Scott McCown indicated he was "very much inclined not to grant" any injunction that might be filed that would keep the education reform package from going into effect this school year, attorneys in the case said Monday.

McCown will hear a challenge to the recently enacted law July 9.

The Legislature passed the \$528 million court-ordered education package after four special sessions this year. It increases by a quarter-cent the state's 6-cent sales tax, raises some state fees and takes money from other state programs.

The bill is designed to even out the financial differences between

poor and rich school districts. But attorneys who filed the original suit called it more of the same.

"I really don't think they changed the system at all," said Rick Gray, who represented 55 poor school districts in the Texas Supreme Court case.

"They added new money into the old system and basically did exactly what the Supreme Court said not to do, which is place a Band-Aid on the old system," he said.

Gray said, however, that attorneys who met with the judge Friday "were fearful of a disruptive impact" if the judge issued an injunction. Assistant Attorney General Kevin O'Hanlon agreed.

"Districts have got to have some kind of idea how much money is going to be available to them," O'Hanlon said. "I don't see where it

makes much sense to challenge the first year. By the time we get through the courts, the first year's over."

An appeal to the Supreme Court is likely by whichever side loses before McCown, said the lawyers, who met Friday with the judge.

They said McCown hopes to conclude the trial in two weeks.

The \$13.5 billion-a-year school finance system — which relies on state aid, local property taxes and some federal money — was found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in October 1989.

Gov. Bill Clements called lawmakers into special session to address the ruling on Feb. 27.

But the Republican governor and leaders in the Democrat-controlled Legislature didn't work out a school finance reform bill until three

months later.

The law also makes changes backers say will improve educational performance and accountability. For example, it allows the governor to appoint the state education commissioner, currently named by the State Board of Education, and it increases student testing.

Clements, House Speaker Gib Lewis and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby have said they think the law is constitutional.

But Gray and attorney Al Kaufman of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund think it is not.

Craig Foster, executive director of the Equity Center, which represents poor school districts, said the summer trial has its benefits.

## Volunteers start search for tar balls from spill

HIGH ISLAND (AP) — Volunteers gathered on a beach Monday to begin searching for a wave of tar balls expected to come ashore this week from the wrecked super tanker Mega Borg. A Mexican vessel continued to skim oil off the Gulf of Mexico.

Although hundreds of volunteers were expected, only about 60 showed up Monday morning at Sea Rim State Park between High Island and Sabine Pass for the first beach sweep.

They walked the sandy shoreline picking up seaweed, trash and tar

amounts of tar frequently wash up on the beach here.

"They said they needed volunteers, and I said, 'Does that mean me?'" said Jo Krose, who drove two hours from Kirbyville to participate in the beach cleanup. "And I said, 'Why not me? They need some help and nobody's depending on me today.' So I came down."

State officials expect several hundred more volunteers to help in the cleanup this week, said Andy Mangano, deputy Texas land commissioner.

Tar balls are predicted to begin washing ashore on Tuesday somewhere along a 45-mile stretch northeast of Galveston. The area predicted to be hit is between High Island and Sabine Pass, a town near the Texas-Louisiana line.

The 30-mile oil slick was about seven miles offshore Monday and had been moving about two miles a day, the Coast Guard said.

"They said they needed volunteers, and I said, 'Does that mean me? Why not me? ... Nobody's depending on me today.' So I came down."

—Jo Krose, cleanup volunteer

balls from smaller oil spills to make it easier to clean up any oil from the Norwegian-owned tanker. Small

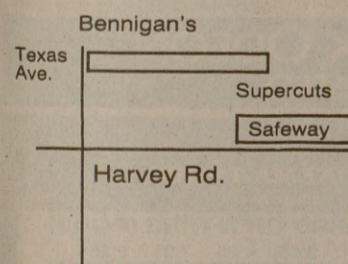
Officials hoped the oil would hit the sandy beaches rather than the marshes, where wildlife refuges are located. Sandy beaches are easier to clean.

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## MSC Dinner Theatre and Aggie Players present

### 6 Rms Riv Vu

June 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30

A buffet dinner will be served at 6 pm in the Rudder Exhibit Hall

Buffets offered include:

June 21 and June 29--Texas Barbeque

June 22 and June 30--Cajun

June 23--International

June 28--Italian

The theatre will begin at 8 pm in Rudder Forum

6 Rms Riv Vu is a newspaper advertisement which catches the eye of prospective tenants for this vacant apartment with a river view; among them a man and a woman who have never met before.

As they are the last to leave, they find themselves locked in the apartment and commence to get to know one another in a very humorous fashion.

Tickets may be purchased at the Rudder Box Office

Students: \$15 includes dinner and theatre

\$5 theatre only

Nonstudents: \$20 includes dinner and theatre