

Survey shows rising drug use in elementary school children

AUSTIN (AP) — The first survey of elementary school drug use in Texas shows that more than half of the state's sixth graders have consumed alcohol, emphasizing the need to educate the youngest students, drug officials said Tuesday.

The survey, commissioned by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, showed that 57 percent of sixth graders have consumed alcohol, compared to only 39 percent of fifth graders. A similar increase also was found in the use of other drugs.

services beginning at the earliest grades in our schools."

Reasons for the jump may include the move of sixth graders into secondary school campuses in many districts and the increasing independence of sixth-grade aged students, TCADA said.

Information on drug abuse already is offered to most elementary school students. But it should be reinforced by schools, communities and homes for students at the crucial age of 11 or 12, said TCADA spokesman Bill Britcher.

"If we're not dealing with the issues in our homes before junior or senior high school, we're probably waiting too late," he said.

The rise in substance use between fifth and sixth grade levels is greater than at any other level and marks the beginning of drug experimentation for many Texas children, TCADA officials said.

"Prevention is the ultimate, long-term answer to the drug problem," said Bob Dickson, drug official.

"These results from fourth through sixth graders in Texas clearly show the need for prevention

No trend information is available on the fourth through sixth grade results because it is the first such survey in Texas and no national studies have surveyed this age group, TCADA said.

Other study findings include:

- 31 percent of fourth graders, 39 percent of fifth graders and 57 percent of sixth graders have consumed alcohol.
- 13 percent of fourth graders, 20 percent of fifth graders and 31 percent of sixth graders have used tobacco.

- Girls in sixth grade, unlike those in fourth or fifth grade, have a past substance use rate as high as boys, indicating that girls are particularly prone to try substances in the sixth grade.

- Like secondary students, those in elementary school who make A's and B's are less likely to use alcohol and other drugs than those students who make lower grades.

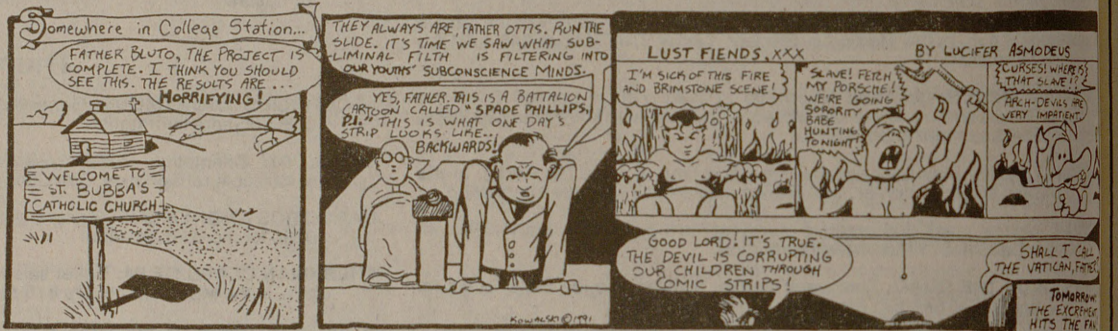
WaRPd

by Scott McCullar



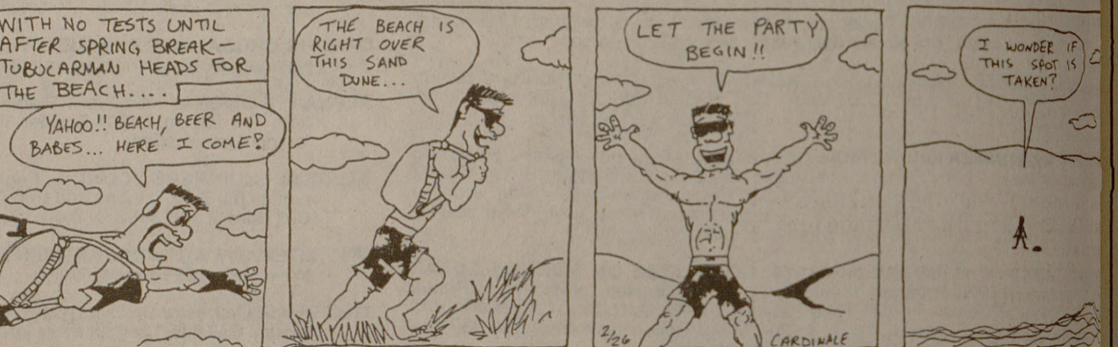
Spade Phillips, P.I.

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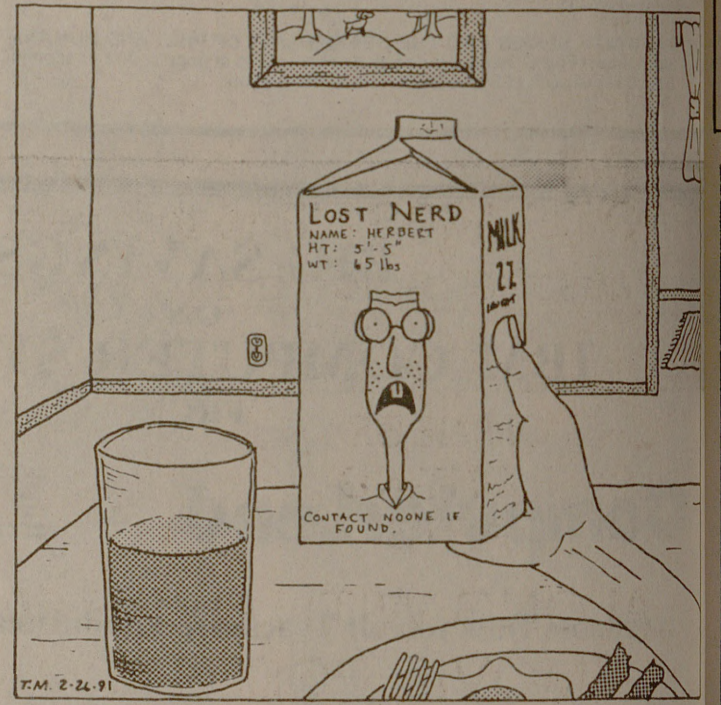
Band proceeds benefit boy with ponytail

Nerd House

by Tom A. Madison

AUSTIN (AP) — Grammy-winning country band Asleep at the Wheel will perform at a concert benefit for Zachariah Toungate, the Bastrop 8-year-old kept in school isolation because his 9-inch ponytail violated the school dress code.

The benefit, scheduled for March 5 at the Austin Opera House, was planned by two Austin businessmen. They say proceeds from the \$10 show will go to the Zachariah Toungate Legal Defense Fund.



Correction

The Battalion incorrectly reported in Monday's issue that Indonesia won the overall award last year during International Week. Five "gold" awards were given out and no rank was given. The Battalion regrets the error.

Police Beat

The following events were reported to the University Police Department between Feb. 6 and 15:

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

- A wallet containing \$300 and several credit cards was stolen from a student's backpack in a room in Eller Oceanography and Meteorology Building.
- Six 20-amp fuses were taken from a Daihatsu Hi-jet vehicle parked near the Adams Band Hall.
- A woman reported her purse and its contents, which she left unattended, were stolen from a room in Heldenfels Hall. Several checks were among the items taken.
- A man reported a beige car cover was stolen from his 1984 Mercury Cougar while in a parking lot.
- Four bicycles were reported stolen.
- A woman reported the right rear hubcap was stolen from her sister's 1989 Ford Probe.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT:

- A security officer reported hearing someone broadcast an offensive remark over the public address system at the Adams Drill Field.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED:

- An officer reported seeing a vehicle driving recklessly. After stopping the vehicle, he determined the driver was intoxicated. The passenger also was intoxicated and was arrested.
- A police officer reported arresting a College Station man for driving in an intoxicated condition. While assisting with the ar-

rest, another officer saw a woman lying on the floorboard of the car. She had numerous cuts on her left arm and stomach.

- The man said he broke up with her earlier in the day and returned to her residence where he discovered she had tried to commit suicide.

HARASSMENT:

- Five people reported receiving harassing telephone calls.

BURGLARY OF HABITATION:

- A woman in Neeley Hall reported someone stole a Hewlett Packard calculator from her dorm room.
- A student reported \$25 was stolen from a dorm room in Mosher Hall.

BURGLARY OF A BUILDING:

- A Casio digital watch was taken from a room in the Food Protein Center.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

- Someone activated a fire alarm and fire extinguisher in Blocker Building.
- Two students reported someone entered their dorm room in McInnis Hall and spilled three pounds of styrofoam beads.
- A woman reported someone deflated a tire on her 1990 Mitsubishi. A puncture mark was discovered on the side of the tire.
- A security officer reported someone poured a salt solution on the vending machines in the Richardson Petroleum Engineering Building.
- A student reported someone set fire to the publications posted

- on a bulletin board in Legett Hall.
- The fire was extinguished and damage was confined to the posted material.
- A woman reported someone cut the right rear tire on her Ford pickup.
- A parking officer reported someone damaged the locking device placed on an illegally parked vehicle.

MINOR IN POSSESSION:

- Four students were issued citations for minor in possession of alcohol.

FIRE:

- The College Station Fire Department was summoned to extinguish a fire in a room in Haas Hall. A lamp with the switch in the off position had fallen into a closet causing the contents to burn.
- A 1985 Jeep CK7 was discovered on fire in a parking lot. A witness said the jeep had rolled over the curb. He said he reached in to shift the vehicle out of gear and discovered a fire in the engine compartment.
- College Station Fire Department personnel extinguished the fire and the owner was notified.

RECKLESS DRIVING:

- Two students were identified as the people responsible for driving a 1990 GEO Tracker on the sidewalk and lawn around McInnis Hall.

FELONY THEFT:

- A Toploader digital balance was stolen from a room in the Wisenbaker Engineering Research Center.

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