

Thursday, February 28, 1991

The Battalion

Safety week stresses Spring Break smarts

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

Encouraging safety during spring break is the goal of "Safe Break: Sun and Fun in '91," a program sponsored by Texas A&M's Department of Student Services.

Safe Break Week at A&M begins Friday and lasts through March 7. Throughout the week, activities on and off campus will promote travel safety, responsible behavior and personal safety during the spring vacation.

Jane A. Purry, chairwoman of the Safe Break planning committee, said she also acts as an adviser to the 16-member student planning committee.

"None of this could have been done without the dedication and hard work of the planning committee members," says Purry, also assistant coordinator at the Center for Drug Prevention and Education.

"The students took the ball and carried it, and it's been easy for me to advise a group like that," Purry says.

Members of the planning committee say they want students to use good judgment during spring break.

Members emphasize they are not trying to keep anyone from having fun. They say, however, spring break is a risky time because people

travel, and alcohol often becomes a big part of spring break.

The committee wants everyone to return from spring break and have a "good Monday" — not a Monday remembering a spring break tragedy.

Two activities planned for Safe Break Week are designed to encourage fun without alcohol, Purry says.

The Keathley Beach Party-Frisbee Olympics, sponsored by MSC Hospitality and Students Making Awareness a Real Topic, is Saturday.

Volleyball and frisbee competitions highlight the party. The A&M Ultimate Frisbee Club also will give exhibitions with their "canine friends." "Mocktails" will be served and frisbees given away.

The "Tans are Optional" Pool Party, sponsored by Off Campus Aggies, is Sunday at University Tower.

Limbo, air mattress races, penny dives and water volleyball are a few of the events planned.

"Safe Break Packets" also will be given away at these events and in the MSC Monday through Wednesday. Buttons, bumper stickers, keychains, condoms and information about AIDS, alcohol and personal safety are contained in the free packets.

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HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion

Man of steel

Jennifer Glunz, a sophomore speech communications major, examines a new statue in front of the Joe C. Richardson Building. The statue of an oil rig worker will be dedicated in April.

Patrons 'spill guts' 7-Eleven stores conduct weekly polls

By Twila Waddy
The Battalion

While picking up a Big Gulp or morning coffee, some 7-Eleven patrons have made another choice to say "men have it easier than women."

More than 50 percent of those participating in the 7-Eleven Sound Off poll voted "yes" in Bryan-College Station and nationwide last week when asked, "Do men have it easier than women?"

The poll, which began Feb. 18, will ask the public its opinion on other issues in coming weeks.

The question for this week is, "If an automatic teller machine gave you \$200 too much, would you tell the bank?"

The poll, sponsored by 7-Eleven, is being conducted in stores in the United States and Canada.

"It is just for fun, to let people have fun in the store, mingle with our employees and have a good time," says Mitch Galdwin, 7-Eleven field manager for the Bryan-College Station area.

The poll will be going on for six weeks with a new question posted in 7-Eleven stores at the beginning of each week.

Galdwin says people can vote at any 7-Eleven store by choosing a "Yes" or "No" cup when buying coffee or soft drink, but a purchase is not required to vote.

People also can vote at the counter on a written ballot.

Several radio stations in the local area also are promoting the poll and getting people involved.

"Sometimes they get some of the listeners to phone in and have some fun with it also," he says.

Possibly the most interesting part of the survey is the comments which accompany the votes, says Steve Lee, vice president of Halcyon Associates, Inc.

"The 'thinking' part of society is the woman!" one local person wrote. "Because she can master everything and anything. What do men do? Sit on their you-know-whats and complain and try to give orders. They are terrible, though, about taking orders, from women especially."

Galdwin says the results of the questions reflect more than six million votes. "We have approximately 6,600 stores involved in this promotion," he says.

People also are encouraged to call Dr. George Gulp of the Gulp Institute toll-free to get information about the poll. Taped messages include the question of the week, results of previous questions and comments made by people.

Dr. Gulp is the spokesman for the Sound Off poll and can be reached at 1-800-255-0711.

"Dr. Gulp is a character we created, and it is purely all for fun," Lee says. "Gulp stands for the institute for Greater Understanding of Life's Problems."

Lee says the results from the poll should not be considered valid because a person can vote more than once.

Counselor stresses AIDS education for Hispanics

By Twila Waddy
The Battalion

Hispanic graduates of Texas A&M have a responsibility to return and educate their community about AIDS and become role models, a counselor said Wednesday.

Dr. Gwen Elissalde, intake coordinator of the Brazos County AIDS Foundation, spoke to members of the Committee for the Awareness of Mexican American Culture (CAMAC) on the "Impact of AIDS on the Hispanic Community."

AIDS is having a huge impact in the Hispanic community, Elissalde said. Fifteen percent of the people who have AIDS are Hispanic.

"I pointed out to these students that there are

a disproportionate number of Hispanics that have AIDS, and it does not have to be that way," Elissalde said.

Elissalde said it is difficult to contract Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome since the only known causes are intravenous drug use and unprotected sex.

Intravenous drug use and unprotected sex are high risk behaviors that in time can be changed, she said.

"We can stop AIDS by stopping high risk behaviors and stop high risk behaviors by educating people," she said.

AIDS is not transmitted by kissing, drinking from a water fountain, saliva or tears. The virus can stay alive only a few minutes on hard sur-

faces, she said.

Elissalde also gave out booklets and pamphlets on AIDS and other HIV diseases. The guide, "AIDS: A Guide For Survival," was handed out in English and Spanish.

The information was provided by the Center for Disease Control, National Institute for Health and Department of Health and Human Services.

People contracting HIV-related diseases have limited choices for hospitalization, causing families to provide more in-home support and care, she said.

Many families still exclude family members

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In Advance

Free poetry reading to be held in Blocker

Award-winning poet Diane Wakoski will read from some of her published works at 7:30 tonight in 165 Blocker.

A question-and-answer period will follow the readings. Admission is free and open to the public.

The lecture is sponsored by MSC Literary Arts and the Texas A&M Department of English.

Council sponsors fundraiser for Class of '93

A fundraiser for the Class of '93 will be from 8 to midnight tonight at the Zephyr Club, 913 Harvey Road.

The band Choice of Diction will play at 10 p.m.

The '93 Class Council is sponsoring the event.

"TWO THUMBS UP to this year's fair! The free entertainment, great food, awesome dance floor, massage parlor, giant twister, and other fun games are GOOD BULL! A definite must see!"
Rock and Raquel, Good Ags

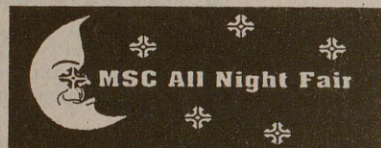
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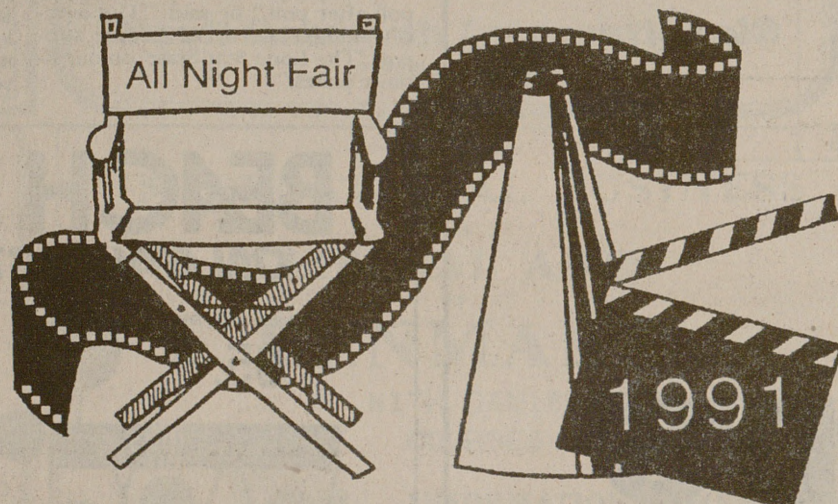


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