



SCOTT D. WEAVER/THE BATTALION

David Smith, a senior history major from Leveland (left) and Allen Rush, a senior psychology major from Lufkin, eat at Hullabaloo, a Texas A&M Food Service restaurant in the MSC.

Safety continued from page 1

phones can also be used to call an escort service or friend free of charge when assistance is needed, Kretzshmar says. Students dial 9-911 for emergencies on campus and 911 for off campus emergencies.

Escort services provide escorts for students walking across campus. The Corps of Cadets will escort students seven days a week. Corps escorts can be contacted by calling the Corps Guard Room at 845-6789.

University Police will escort students when personnel are available by calling 845-2345. Students can use Bus Operation's shuttle bus service, Dial-A-Ride, to get across campus by calling 847-RIDE.

"Avoid shortcuts through dark or deserted areas, notice where other people are walking and park in well-lit areas and carry your keys," says a Department of Student Affairs pamphlet, "Your Safety at Texas A&M University."

"Be aware of your surroundings and walk with a purpose," Oliver says. Students should call the Light Line at "84-LIGHT"

and leave a message on a malfunctioning light's location. The University Police has a 30-member security force that walks campus at night, providing extra eyes and ears in sensitive areas, Kretzshmar says.

The security force checks the exterior doors of each residence hall. Doors are locked 24 hours a day and students must use their keys to get in.

Criminals gain entry into residence halls usually because doors are propped open, according to the pamphlet, "Your Safety at Texas A&M University."

University Police offer a Crime Line service at 845-6500 that students can call to hear crime reports. Kretzshmar says the service is like a police beat on telephone. Security programs are presented each semester to teach students campus safety.

Student Affairs presents videos and speakers to students on topics such as rape and alcohol abuse. A student organization formed last spring called RAPE (Raising Awareness Through Peer Education) is sup-

ported by Student Affairs and presents programs to residence halls to educate students on important issues, Oliver says.

Programs on personal safety and security are presented by the University Police each semester. Kretzshmar says the Crime Prevention Unit's Security Awareness Committee holds seminars on topics like alcohol, theft and rape each semester and speaks to several student and community organizations.

"Acquaintance and Date Rape," "Street Smart," "Your Safety at Texas A&M University," and "Rape, and Act of Violence" are pamphlets that are available in the Department of Student Affairs in the YMCA building and throughout campus.

"Don't live your life in fear," Oliver says. "but don't think there's a protective shield here."

"Your Safety at Texas A&M University" says that the security measures won't work without each student's support. Call Student Affairs at 845-5826 and the University Police at 845-2345 to learn more about campus safety.

Orientation leaders ease transition for incoming freshmen, transfers

By Elizabeth P. Sanford  
Special to The Battalion

College can be a daunting experience for new students, but Texas A&M freshmen have help from a knowledgeable source — other students.

The Orientation Leader Program uses upperclassmen to help freshmen ease into college life, says Dub Oliver, Student Life program specialist and staff advisor to the program.

"We want them to be glad and sure of their decision to come to A&M," Oliver says.

The Orientation Leader Program officially adopted a mission statement for this year: "To connect new students to Texas A&M by personally supporting, serving, and using all available resources to help ease the transition for them and their families."

The program began in 1979 as the Peer Advisor Program offered during freshman orientation.

The Orientation Leader Program is funded by Student Affairs, Aggie Mothers' clubs, the entry fee for freshman orientation and a \$1 charge for the mixer.

The summer program runs from the first of June until the middle of July. This year, there were 11 sessions with 8,400 new students in attendance.

Scott Votaw, executive committee member of the program, says the program was established to give freshmen the chance to ask upperclassmen questions about college life.

"The freshmen are given a more casual, comfortable feeling when they have students rather than men in suits talking to them about college," Votaw says. "The Orientation Leader Program is student-run, basically, except for our staff advisor."

Orientation leaders are A&M students who have been through training sessions to help them prepare for the program.

The program has grown in 12 years by the addition of eight activities. The events were added to allow freshmen to socialize and learn about the University during Freshman Orientation.

One activity is the ice cream social held the first night of freshman orientation. The Orientation Leaders meet the new students in the Commons lobby and welcome them to the University.

"We stress friendliness in our program," Votaw says. "We want to give them the personal side of Texas A&M."

The leaders then walk the freshmen to Harrington Media Center, where they will take placement

tests the next morning.

The freshmen view a slide show about the activities planned for them by the orientation leaders.

The Aggie Energizer is the first item on the agenda for the second day. During this event, freshmen play games in order to meet their fellow students.

Orientation leader Peter Kuo says one of the most popular games is Aggie Rock, Paper and Scissors. The object of the game, like its traditional version, is to beat your opponent by holding out your hand in the form of an object.

In this game, however, rock is referred to as Freshmen Wild Cat, paper is called Gig 'Em and scissors are known as Reveille. In traditional Rock, Paper, Scissors, rock beats scissors, scissors beats paper, and paper beats rock.

In the Aggie version the Wild Cat sign beats the Reveille sign because the freshmen Wild Cat drown out Reveille at the football games, Kuo says. The Reveille sign beats the Gig 'Em sign because she is the highest ranking member of the Corps of Cadets and the Gig 'Em sign beats the Wild Cat sign because freshmen are giggled by upperclassmen when they give the freshmen demerits — they "Gig 'Em" demerits.

The next item on the agenda is the Peer Advisor Session. Freshmen ask questions about topics such as parking, registration and dorm life.

At the end of the session, orientation leaders give the new students cards with their phone numbers so the freshmen know they have someone to talk to if they have more questions in the fall semester.

"It's a rare case when someone actually takes advantage of that number," Votaw says. "It's really just a comfort factor more than anything else for them to know they have a friend."

Orientation Leaders remember that parents have questions of their own. Parents are invited to attend the Parent Social while their kids are at the Peer Advisor Session. The leaders answer questions parents have about college life.

Parents also have the chance to meet the Aggie Parents of the year. The Parents of the Year make a speech and discuss what parents might expect while their kids are at college.

Next is the Traditions program. Yell leaders explain to freshmen and their parents Aggie traditions such as yells for the football games, Silver Taps and Muster.

That night, there is a mixer. The orientation leaders also hold a counseling session to help freshmen plan their course schedules.

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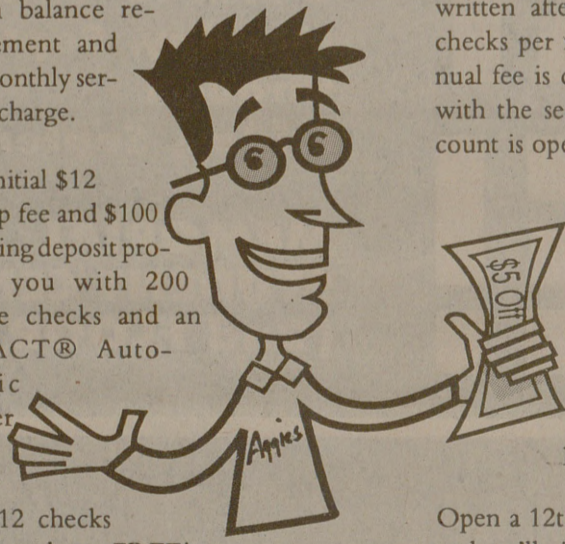
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