

UPD hopes to educate bicyclists about state traffic laws

Editor's note: The following article is part two of a two part series on bicycle safety at Texas A&M. Part two addresses possible solutions to bicycle problems at A&M.

By Troy D. Hall
The Battalion

Educating bicyclists about state traffic laws and safety precautions is a primary goal of the University police.

"We want to make bicyclists aware of state laws and educate them about these laws," said University Police Lt. Bert Kretzschmar.

And educate is what the University Crime Prevention Unit intends to do. They have declared November "Bicycle Safety Month."

The operative word is voluntary compliance, Kretzschmar said.

"If bicyclists would use the bike lanes and obey state laws these complaints would decrease," he said.

He said that bicyclists should use the bike lanes and stay off the sidewalks when a bike lane is provided.

Tom Williams, director of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services, said the bike lanes are 98 percent complete on the central campus.

"I am pleased to see most of the bike lanes being used," Williams said. "For the first time bicyclists have a place of their own on campus streets."

Past studies have estimated that about 12,500 bicyclists commute to the University. Because of such a high estimate, Williams said these commuters need their own place also.

Kretzschmar said it is important that bicyclists not ride on pedestrian sidewalks when a bike lane is provided. Bicyclists should use the bike lanes, he said, "that is why they were put in."

When bike lanes are not provided, students must ride with the traffic flow and stay to the far right for their own safety, Cpl. Betty LeMay of the University Police Crime Prevention Unit.

"Unfortunately there are a couple of places where bicyclists do have to make unsafe maneuvers to get where they need to go," LeMay said.

She said it is especially important that bicyclists follow traffic laws when making these maneuvers.

Most citations are given for not stopping at stop signs, not yielding to traffic and not having a light and reflectors on their bicycles, LeMay said.

According to Texas traffic laws, all bicycles must be equipped with a lamp on the front of their bicycle visible from a distance of at least 500 feet and a red reflector on the back of the bicycle visible from distances between 50 and 300 feet.

"It is very important for all bicycles to have a light and reflector," she said. "It is hard

enough to see a bicyclist at night with a light, but if they don't have a light or reflector they are really risking getting hurt."

Kretzschmar and LeMay agree that the laws are made for everyone's safety, whether a person is the bicyclist, motorist or pedestrian.

"It is important for bicyclists to realize that we enforce these laws to keep people safe, not for revenue or because we enjoy it," LeMay said.

Bicycle safety should not be practiced by just the bicyclist, though. LeMay said pedestrians and motorists should also respect the rights of the bicyclist.

By following some of these tips, campus accidents could be substantially decreased and even become non-existent, she said.

- Pedestrians should use cross walks when crossing streets. Some of the accidents that occur on campus are the result of pedestrians not paying attention when crossing the streets.

- Pedestrians should yield to bicyclists as well.

- Motorists must be aware that A&M has a tremendous amount of pedestrians and bicyclists. They should anticipate a bicyclist's moves.

LeMay said that if everyone works together and obeys the laws the continuing complaints and accidents could be eliminated.

"We should work together and exercise common sense, courtesy and obey the law," LeMay said.

Department dedicates month to increasing safety awareness

By Troy D. Hall
The Battalion

Texas A&M's University Police has declared November "Bicycle Safety Month" to make faculty, staff and students aware that they too must abide by Texas traffic laws when cycling on public streets or they risk the same penalties as a motorist.

University police will dedicate November to educating A&M faculty, staff and students about bicycle laws, safety and security.

The department is sponsoring a bicycle seminar targeted toward adults. The seminar is part of the Texas Department of Public Safety bicycle safety program, said Cpl. Betty LeMay of the University Crime Prevention Unit.

Trooper Eddie Carmon, trainer of the DPS Crime Prevention Unit, will conduct the seminar from

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

She said this type of program educates not only the people who attend, but these adults also filter what they have learned to their children.

"If we educate the adults, they will in turn educate the children," LeMay added.

The seminar is part of a University police effort to end traffic accidents involving bicycles.

"Some of the worst accidents I have seen since I began working with the University police have involved bicycles," she said.

Up until now, University police have only been issuing warning citations to bicyclists not abiding by the law.

"Very soon, we will start issuing Justice of the Peace citations for persons breaking Texas traffic laws," said Lt. Bert Kretzschmar of the University police.

Office aids students with learning disabilities

By Susan Maguire
The Battalion

Dyslexic students at Texas A&M might not realize that services are available to them through the Texas A&M Support Services office that will help make their college career a little less stressful.

The office currently helps 76 students with learning disabilities, which include dyslexic students, by offering such things as extended time tests, a volunteer reading program and help in finding tutors.

Gail Walters, coordinator of Support Services, said her office has no way of knowing how many dyslexic students choose not to use the service.

"Students must voluntarily come in and register," she said.

To receive help, once admitted to the University, students must bring documentation of their disability to the office on the north side of Hart Hall, she said.

Walters said learning disabilities include developmental problems in reading, writing or math, or any combination of the three.

"The beauty of our program is that we

provide an individualized approach for each student," she said. "We will help students negotiate with professors, to find the best way for students to perform."

Walters said her office will help students find note takers or tutors if they are needed, and the Texas Rehabilitation Commission (TRC) will provide the funding if the students fall under TRC guidelines.

Walters stressed that all of the learning disabled students who visit her office must meet the same standards as other students when being admitted to A&M.

"The students here are qualified stu-

dents with a handicap, and we try to accommodate those students," Walters said.

Debbie Gerick, a dyslexic student, said she needs three or four hours to take tests that would take a normal student one hour, and said she must have someone rewrite her papers for her.

"If I didn't have someone do that for me, they would be unreadable," she said. "I drop letters and reverse letters all the time."

Gerick said she takes between 12 and 15 hours each semester, depending on how much time she wants to spend on her classes. She estimated that she studies

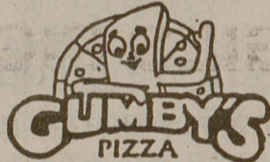
three hours for every hour that a non-disabled student would need.

She said Support Services has also served as a liaison between her and professors when she ran into trouble with them.

"Some professors don't understand, and that is very frustrating," she said. "Ninety-nine percent of them are excellent though."

Gerick said that she likes going to Support Services because of their reputation.

"Tests come in to the office sealed and tests go out sealed," Gerick said.



CHEESE BREADSTICKS

MED	\$4.85
LG	\$6.25

Call 76-GUMBY

Above Prices Do Not Include Tax. Offer May Expire w/out Notice

GET ADVICE FROM SUCCESSFUL FORMER AGGIES

AT

THE MSC MBA/LAW COMMITTEE SYMPOSIUM

WHERE: MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER
WHEN: NOVEMBER 9, 1991
TIME: 10:00A.M. TO 5:00P.M.

*****TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS, OR AT TABLES IN THE MSC, BLOCKER, AND ZACHRY

Coupon Expires 11-30-91

ROCKYANOS PIZZA

PIZZA • BAKED PASTA • SALAD • DESSERT

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT \$1.99 PLUS TAX

Low Prices Every Single Day

10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Now Serving Beer and Wine • Big Screen TV
Carry Out and Delivery • Come By or Call Us

"We Won't Stick You Up!"

1037 S. TEXAS • 693-4188 Across from Main Campus Entrance

The Texas A&M University Student Publications Board is accepting applications for

Editor, *The Battalion*

Spring 1992

The spring editor will serve from January 19, 1992, through May 8, 1992.

Qualifications for editor of *The Battalion* are:

- 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of taking office and during the term of office;
- At least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable student newspaper, OR
- At least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper, OR
- At least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II) or equivalent. The 12 hours must include completion of or enrollment in JOUR 301 (Mass Comm Law) or equivalent.

Application forms are available in the Journalism Department office, 230 Reed McDonald Building, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Completed forms must be submitted to Francia Eldridge, 230 Reed McDonald, by 5 p.m. Friday, November 8, 1991. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Publications Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 13.

JUNIORS

Have your picture taken for the 1992 Aggieland Right Now!

at AR Photography

707 Texas Ave.

Next to Taco Cabana M-F 9am-5pm

Buy your 1992 Aggieland in 230 RDMC!

AGGIE RING ORDERS

Orders will be taken on the 2nd Floor of the CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER until November 15, 1991 for March '92 delivery.

Undergraduate students may order a ring if they have:

1. 95 credit hours completed or will be completed at the end of this semester. (If you are including hours registered for Fall '91, they must be from A&M only.)
2. 30 credit hours must have been completed in residence at A&M prior to Fall '91, if you are a transfer student. (Hours registered cannot be considered completed.)
3. A 2.0 cumulative grade point average at A&M.
4. Your transcript does not have any registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, etc.

Graduate students may order a ring if:

1. You are a December '91 degree candidate. (Your order will be accepted contingent upon your December '91 degree being conferred.)
2. Your transcript must not have any registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, etc.

Come to the Ring Office in the Alumni Center **no later than November 14, 1991**, to fill out the form for an eligibility check to be made. However, we suggest you come in as soon as possible, in the event a problem exists. This may afford you an opportunity to resolve it by the November 15 deadline. When you come into the office and fill out the form, you will be given a date to return to check on your status and order your ring, if qualified.

The full amount is due when ordering, payable in cash or by check only.

<p>The Battalion (USPS 045 360)</p> <p>Member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associated Press Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Congress Texas Intercollegiate Press Association 	<p>The Battalion Editorial Board</p> <p>Editor-in-Chief Timm Doolen</p> <p>Associate Editors Holly Becka Todd Stone</p> <p>City Editor Sean Frerking</p> <p>Lifestyles Editor Yvonne Salce</p>	<p>Editorial Policy</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">The <i>Battalion</i> is published daily except Saturday, Sunday, holidays, exam periods, and when school is not in session during fall and spring semesters; publication is Tuesday through Friday during the summer session.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">The <i>Battalion</i> is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan-College Station.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">The <i>Battalion</i> news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. The newsroom phone number is 845-3316.</p>	<p>Advertising</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Advertising information can be obtained from the advertising department at 845-2698, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by visiting the office in room 015 Reed McDonald building.</p> <p>Advertising Manager Patricia Heck</p> <p>Adviser Robert Wegener</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------