

SPRING BREAK '92

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The Battalion

Wednesday, March 11, 1992

Policeman stresses safety

Officer advises spring breakers to travel in large groups

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

Students planning on partying during spring break should remember the importance of personal safety and stick together, a College Station police officer says.

Crime Prevention Officer Byron Tilton says students should never be alone during their vacation.

"The biggest thing I would encourage is not to be by yourself, especially at night," Tilton says. "There should be at least three to four people in a group."

Tilton said if students must be alone, they should tell someone where they will be and when they will be back.

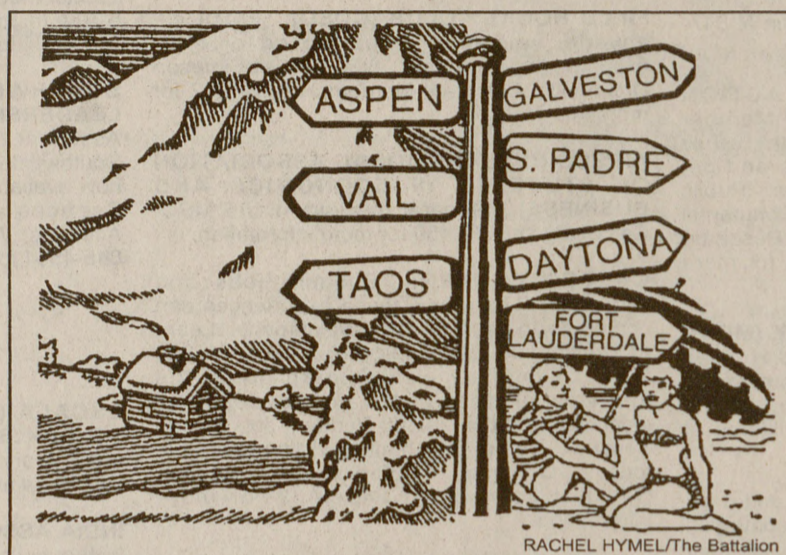
Women should avoid men who are intoxicated, especially large groups of men, Tilton says.

"A lot of times, men will allow themselves to get involved in situations like sexual assault when they're with a group," he says. "They probably wouldn't even think about it if they were sober."

Tilton says both male and female students should avoid strangers in general and make sure there is at least one person in their group they know personally.

Most students who visit South Padre Island during spring break end up crossing the Texas border into Mexico. Tilton says if students want to go across the border, they should make sure others go with them.

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Car thefts increase over break

Intoxication causes lack of precautions

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

To prevent auto theft and fender benders during spring break, students going to the beach and slopes will have to do more than just lock their doors.

Sgt. Choya Walling with the Bryan Police Department said students - especially those who choose to drink alcohol - can lose their car in a matter of seconds.

"When your mental faculties are impaired, car thieves find you an easy target," Walling said.

Auto theft is on the rise, Walling said, and the most popular cars to steal are Buick Regals, Camaros, Monte Carlos, Cutlasses and Chevrolet trucks. He said these models are popular because there are so many of them.

"For car thieves, the one you steal will need to blend in with the rest," Walling said.

Some stolen cars end up in "chop shops," he said, because there is presently a big market in stolen auto parts.

Walling said more older vehicles, especially trucks, are being stolen and taken across the Texas-Mexico border because Mexican mechanics are allowed to repair and alter older trucks, but not newer ones.

"There are some vehicles we never see again," he said.

To protect your car from getting stolen during spring break, Walling suggests various devices. He said, however, car alarms are not that effective.

"You hear them going off all the time, but who really pays attention to them?" he said.

Instead, a kill switch, club or

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Police tell A&M students to drink lightly, avoid jail

By Jayme Blaschke
The Battalion

As spring break approaches, state law enforcement agencies are urging Texas A&M students to go easy on the alcohol, or they could end up spending their vacation in jail instead of on the beach.

Cpl. Betty LeMay, crime prevention specialist with the University Police Department, said many of the traditional 'party spots' in Texas are cracking down on spring breakers this year.

Police departments will be giving out a lot of alcohol-related citations, some for offenses students aren't aware they are committing, she said.

Besides getting ticketed for DWI for driving drunk on the highway, a person can also get one while driving a boat or on the beach.

"In Padre, since you're from out-of-county, the bond is \$500," LeMay said, "and your

friends can't just go down to Kroger and cash a couple of checks to get you out.

"You could be in jail for a couple of days," she said. "That's a great way to spend spring break."

Ron Stone, assistant district supervisor with the Texas Alco-

"The designated driver is an excellent alternative,"
-Ron Stone, TABC

holic Beverage Commission in Bryan, said students can avoid problems during spring break if they just use a little common sense.

"If you're too young to drink, don't, and if you do drink, don't overdo it," Stone said.

"No one should drink and drive, and the designated driver is an excellent alternative."

The dangers of alcohol go beyond just drinking and driv-

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Sunburn poses hazard on ski slopes

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

Texas A&M students going to the beach for spring break this year will probably be in the market for a dark tan, but they should take precautions whether they are on snow or sand, says a health education expert.

Stacey Garner, a health education specialist at the A.P. Beutel Health Center, says most students

will be exposed to the sun's rays this spring break.

Garner says she has found that most students who go snow skiing do not realize they are being exposed to harmful rays. The sun reflects more often off the snow and water and most students do not realize that, she says.

"I see a lot of people with super-sunburned faces after spring break because they didn't think to put sunscreen on while skiing," Garner says.

Garner and the rest of the health center's health education department are currently speaking to classes and residence halls during their annual spring break health promotion.

"We're booked up until spring break and the skin cancer program is always requested each year," she says.

The following American Cancer Society guidelines to help pre-

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Secure valuables at home, UPD says

Burglars know time to strike

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

Before Texas A&M students hit the beaches and slopes for spring break, they should secure their valuables here at home, a University Police officer said.

Betty LeMay, with the UPD Crime Prevention Unit, said students should secure everything in their house, apartment or dorm room because local burglars know many students will be gone for spring break.

"Lock everything up and hide the valuables you

leave behind," LeMay said.

LeMay said students should take pictures of their jewelry so they can identify any valuables that might get taken. The pictures are also useful because police officers can take them to local pawn shops to see if the stolen jewelry was pawned.

Aside from hiding and securing valuables, students should leave a light, radio or television on in their home. LeMay said students living in apartments should tell the manager when they are leaving and when they will be back.

Students living in Bryan-College Station homes

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