

TRANSITIONS '93 A&M orientation program designed for older students

By STEPHANIE MARTIN
The Battalion

An orientation program educating older incoming students about A&M's services and addressing age-related issues will be held Aug. 27 for both graduate and undergraduate students.

"Transitions '93: An Orientation for Graduate Students and Aggies Over 24" is designed to provide older students with an overall orientation to the University about student life, cultural events, and University services, said Ann Goodman, a coordinator at the Off-Campus Center.

"Agiess over 24 have different needs," she said. "For example, they may have been out of school for several years. We have one student as old as 57. Their needs are different from the average 18 to 19-year-old."

Since 1989, Transitions was only for the undergraduates over 24, and the Graduate Student Council and Department of Student Affairs had a separate orientation. "This year's Transitions will be a more cost-effective way to provide a quality orientation to both groups," Goodman said, adding that graduate students and students over 24 are likely to socialize with one another anyway.

"Graduate students traditionally have had no formal orientation to the University," she said. "They are primarily orientated to specific departments and organizations concerning their majors."

Some of the activities will be held for both student populations, while other sessions will split participants into groups. Family members of the students are encouraged to participate, and there will be a special Aggie family member sessions during the program.

Goodman said family members who live with a student are often affected by his or her academic

stress periods, and need to know what to expect. The orientation also includes a session on financial budgeting since many older students must live on a reduced income while they attend school.

Transitions '93 will be held in Rudder Tower and Rudder Theater, with on-site registration beginning at 11:30 a.m. the day of the conference. The program concludes with a barbecue in the Commons Dining Room, where one undergraduate and one graduate student will each receive a book scholarship from the A&M's bookstore, and other door prizes will be given away.

National Night Out provides chance to meet neighbors

By MICHELE BRINKMANN
The Battalion

Bryan-College Station residents are encouraged to meet their neighbors Tuesday during the 10th annual National Night Out (NNO).

NNO is a nation-wide effort to bring crime and drug prevention to the spotlight through a yearly celebration.

"This is the closest thing to a neighborhood watch," Cpl. Betty Lemay of the University Police Crime Prevention Unit said.

This year Bryan and College Station will have separate programs in celebration of NNO after three years of working together on the event.

The College Station events will be held

Tuesday at the Texas A&M Married Student Housing complex.

"The events will be geared toward kids, in part to get the parents out too," Lemay said.

Events include a bicycle parade, personal safety talks, a coloring contest, hayride and making homemade ice cream.

The University Apartment Council of Texas Aggies is sponsoring the event.

"The events get people together in a community environment to meet the neighbors," Lemay said.

Bryan residents are asked to go out at 8 p.m. to meet the neighbors or organize a block party. They are also asked to leave their outside lights on all night.

A Good Guy vs. Bad Guy softball game will

also be held today at Travis Field at 6 p.m. in Bryan. Police officers, firefighters and other public servants will participate in the event.

Crime prevention messages will be built into the game, and at the end of the game the community residents are invited to form the letters NNO for an aerial photograph. Local businesses have donated security related door prizes such as car alarms.

Bryan Police Crime Prevention Officer Joe Bostick said in a department news release that spectators can expect a few surprises at the game.

"It's going to be a lot of fun for young and old alike, and you might learn something new about how to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime," Bostick said.

Dallas sibling deaths baffle investigators

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — An East Texas couple buried their teen-age children Sunday still struggling to cope with the brutal, yet unexplainable way the youths died.

James Brian King, 14, and his 13-year-old stepsister, Christina Ann Benjamin, were found last week by a road worker in rural Tellico, 30 miles south of Dallas and 15 miles from the teens' home in Garrett.

Lt. Royce Gothard of the Ellis County Sheriff's Department said the girl's naked body was in the brush beside a gravel road. Her head and hands severed and the body was covered with cuts.

Clues are scarce and Gothard said the Texas Rangers and FBI may be called in to help.

He said the Sheriff's Department has contacted the Texas Rangers for help and is prepared to call the FBI on Monday if the case is not resolved.

King's fully-clothed body was found nearby in a creek with no visible wounds, Gothard said.

A memorial service was scheduled for Sunday afternoon at a church in Palmer, about four miles from Garrett. Autopsy results from the Dallas County Medical Examiner's office were pending, Gothard said Saturday.

Methods of protest divide pro-life movement

Operation Rescue tactics draw fire

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — The street outside the Fairmount Abortion Clinic is quiet. Patients come and go through the front door, instead of sneaking through an entry in the back of the building.

The scene is a drastic change from two weeks ago, when sign-toting anti-abortion protesters swarmed around the clinic — praying, singing, and pledging to stop the "baby-killing."

It was all part of Operation Rescue's 10-day "Cities of Refuge" campaign, which consist-

ed of abortion protests nationwide.

Now the protesters have vanished, the signs have been packed up, the echoes of prayers have faded and anti-abortionists are looking to the future.

While such protests have become an icon for the anti-abortion movement, some insiders say those tactics no longer work. They say it's time for the movement to change — or die.

"This is a crossroads for the pro-life movement," says Bill Price, president of Texans United for Life. "Its credibility and its future are at stake."

Price has been an ardent critic of Operation Rescue, calling the group and its tactics "radical." Prior to the 10-day campaign, Price urged Operation Rescue to cancel its protests.

"There are some very deep philosophical differences (between our groups) regarding tactics and strategy. We still have the same objective ... but we have some very deep differences regarding how to reach the end," he says.

Price says Operation Rescue's explosive tactics have caused a rift between the two groups and in the movement.

Summer heat causes hostilities to flare

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — It's easy to lose control when you get hot under the collar, but getting hot above the collar may be the main concern in a heat wave.

High temps and hot tempers go hand in hand, and the culprit is the effects of heat on the brain, according to researchers who study human behavior.

As the mercury rises, so do violent crimes, aggression and a general tendency of just feeling negative. Many people experienced that during July, with temperatures in the upper 90s and above in most of the Southeast.

Research shows that "heat increases the chemicals in the brain that cause the negative feelings," said Leonard L. Martin, a University of Georgia psychology professor who specializes in moods.

"Heat puts people in a bad mood. It makes them irritable. Most of the ill effects you see are a result of the mood, and not the heat directly," Martin said.

Craig Anderson, who teaches psychology at the University of Missouri, said there are numerous

studies on heat and aggression, some going back to the 1700s.

"It is clear from our more recent studies that hot temperatures and cold temperatures increase feelings of hostility," he said. "When you're very, very uncomfortable, one of the feelings produced is an increase in hostility."

Aggressive behavior, including violent crime, tends to increase in hot weather. The murder rate, spouse battering and other forms of assault also go up in hot weather, he said.

Anderson said some factors are difficult to gauge, such as the role increased consumption of alcohol in summer might play on the crime rate.

Also, more research is needed to determine exact links between temperature and secretion of hormones that affect mood, Anderson said.

The hypothalamus of the brain, which controls body temperature, has been closely linked with emotions such as anger, he said.

There are clearer links between heat and physical illnesses, including those affecting the brain.



Campus News Briefs

Research Park officials, director report to Mobley

Officials with Texas A&M University's Research Park and Dr. John Millhollen will report directly to President William Mobley in September instead of the Texas A&M University System.

This will strengthen the connection of Research Park to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

Dr. Best named director of space grant consortium

Dr. Frederick R. Best is the new Texas A&M University associate director of the Texas Space Grant Consortium.

Best will focus on education issues including coordinating the scholarship and fellowship programs that annually award \$1,000 and \$5,000 grants to undergraduate and graduate students in space-related research.

A&M licenses computer-based conference system

The Texas A&M University Board of Regents licensed a computer-based conference system developed within the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine to a Bryan company called Forum Inc.

The new system enables small-group conferences on personal computers and runs on inexpensive local networks.

The software uses Microsoft Windows to provide an easy-to-use graphic format. Future development plans include multi-media and Internet communication capabilities.

A&M to present beef conference August 16-20

The office of Mexican and Latin American Programs at Texas A&M will present a conference entitled "Technology for Latin America: Beef Industry Program II" August 16-20 on the A&M campus.

Topics to be covered during the conference are the beef industry, cross breeding, embryo related technology and computer programs for beef cattle.

For more information about the conference, contact Dr. Gabriel Carranza, director of the Office of Mexican and Latin American Programs, at 845-3367 or 845-3673.

Merrel appointed vice chancellor for strategic programs

Dr. William J. Merrel, vice president for research policy at Texas A&M University, has been appointed vice chancellor for strategic programs with The Texas A&M University System.

Merrel will serve in the new position while continuing to serve as professor in oceanography and marine sciences at A&M.

His job will consist of formulating and initiating high priority system-wide programs in areas including expanding marine programs and creating an A&M System urban development strategy and developing an overall System research management policy.

Dr. Kuo named head of industrial engineering dept.

Dr. Way Kuo, an Iowa State University professor, will become the new head of the A&M's University department of industrial engineering.

Kuo specializes in quality engineering system design and has received numerous honors from the Institute of Industrial Engineers and other professional organizations.

Until Kuo's arrival in August, the acting department head of industrial engineering is Dr. Newton Ellis.

Dr. Yennello receives Junior Faculty Award

Dr. Sherry J. Yennello assistant professor of chemistry at Texas A&M University, has received a Junior Faculty Enhancement Award from Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

Yennello, one of 10 winners chosen from 171 applicants to receive \$5,000, will use the award along with \$5,000 from the University, for nuclear research at A&M's Cyclotron Institute and at Michigan State University's cyclotron.

Healthy dog drug requires more research

Pharmacologists at the Texas Veterinary Medical Center in College Station caution pet owners that it is too early to tell if a new veterinary drug called deprenyl will live up to claims made for it earlier this spring in tabloids.

The drug has been rumored to make dogs live longer and act young again. Researchers have been swamped with inquiries from pet owners as to the truth to the tabloid articles.

Researchers say the new drug may be helpful to veterinarians treating a couple of specific conditions in very old dogs that are otherwise healthy.

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