

GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

Event encourages student smokers to 'lighten up rather than light up'

By Kim Horton
THE BATTALION

The American Cancer Society, in conjunction with Eta Sigma Gamma and the Texas A&M Cancer Awareness Society, is sponsoring the Great American Smokeout with a series of activities this week to educate and encourage smokers to quit.

The Great American Smokeout is a nationwide event that has occurred yearly for the past 17 years.

Jay Hays, a representative for the American Cancer Society, said the Smokeout provides students with an excuse to quit for at least one day.

"It gives students and citizens the opportunity to lighten up rather than light up," Hays said.

He said the organization targeted the night club crowd to let them experience a smoke-free night out.



Kevin Iug/THE BATTALION

"Students tend to smoke only when they drink. Alcohol inhibits the individual's reasoning and therefore, his or her ability to quit."

— Ron Webb, A.P. Beutel Health Center graduate assistant

"Many bars liked the idea," Hays said. "They had received many complaints from nonsmokers of secondhand smoke."

Initially, some of the bars were reluctant to participate because they felt it would interfere with their business, Hays said.

"We assured them we would only be providing information," he said. "Our purpose is not to hassle or give sermons."

Dr. Brian Colwell, faculty adviser to Eta Sigma Gamma, an honorary health education group, said he hopes to see businesses cater to non-smokers.

"We need to see businesses become more aware of the demands for smoke-free environments," Colwell said.

Ron Webb, a graduate assistant in the A.P. Beutel Health Center, said he hopes students will become more aware of the harmful effects of smoking.

"Smoking increases your blood pressure, heart rate and chances of suffering a heart attack, stroke, or numerous lung disorders," Webb said.

Webb said people experience immediate health benefits when they quit smoking.

"As soon as you stop smoking, the body starts repairing itself," Webb said. "Your blood pressure and heart rate returns to normal."

But, Webb said, quitting is not an easy task. It's hard for anyone to quit because of the nicotine addiction, he said.

"Students probably have an even harder time," Webb said. "Students tend to smoke only when they drink. Alcohol inhibits the individual's reasoning and therefore, his or her ability to quit."

Webb said in order to quit smoking successfully, students need to set a quitting date and stick to it.

The Smokeout will take place Thursday and encourages nonsmokers to adopt a smoker for the day. A booth in the MSC will offer information and survival kits.

Wednesday evening, the Hall of Fame will begin the activities with a Smokeout Dance. Charlie's, The Tap, Denim & Diamond's, and Hurricane Harry's will provide customers with a smokeless environment Thursday night.

Mugging victim fires three shots at teen attackers

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It seemed like a perfect night for a mugging. The street was dark, the hour late, the Brooklyn neighborhood rough.

The teen-age boys who stalked Arthur Boone as he left a corner market Sunday missed one thing: the .44-caliber Magnum tucked in his belt.

One of the muggers, nicknamed "B-Boy," put the barrel of a BB gun to Boone's head. The other, "Taz," reached for his wallet.

Then Boone fired three shots heard 'round the city.

In what investigators are calling a swift act of self-defense, Boone shot and killed his assailants with the unlicensed .44.

He waited for police to arrive, told them he was a victim of past muggings and quietly surrendered.

As news of the incident spread through the crime-weary city, some hailed the 41-year-old machine worker as a hero.

The muggers "used poor judgment and I'm delighted they did," said Jerry Preiser, president of a city gun club that sent Boone a \$500 "courageous victim" award. "I think they got what they deserved."

Boone was arraigned on charges of criminal possession of a weapon and freed Monday without bail.

In 1984, "subway vigilante," Bernhard Goetz, a white electrical engineer, shot four unarmed black youths he felt were menacing him when they asked him for \$5 on a subway train.

Goetz was acquitted of attempted murder and served eight months in jail for illegal possession of a weapon.

This time all parties involved were black.

Boone, a father of two daughters who has worked at a Domino Sugar factory for more than a decade, had one arrest: in 1989 for drunken driving, authorities said.

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Clinton gains NAFTA support as vote nears

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Seizing the momentum on the eve of a House showdown, President Clinton won a rush of converts Tuesday for the North American Free Trade Agreement. Opponents accused the White House of doling out billions to line up support.

An Associated Press survey showed more than 200 House members were supporting the pact or likely to do so. Opponents' numbers were dwindling, and stood at roughly 200.

"Tomorrow, the Congress has simply got to vote for hope over fear, for the future over the past. They've got to vote for confidence in the ability of the American people to compete and win," Clinton told the nation's governors, summoned to the White House to provide evidence of widespread support for the treaty.



Clinton

tion's trade representative, worked with Florida lawmakers over terms to shield the state's tomato growers from damage in the event Mexico violates export standards.

Clinton met at the White House with Rep. Floyd Flake, D-N.Y., who emerged to announce his support. Flake said the president had pledged to support new Small Business Administration pilot programs to provide funds for urban areas. "It's my hope my district would be one of those," said Flake.

Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, said the administration was serving up "pork" in the "basement of the White House."

Said Rep. David Bonior, the House Democratic whip, "I shudder to think what it will take to get votes to pass a decent health care bill next year."

Clinton pledged to send thank-you notes to any lawmaker who supports the agreement. He wrote GOP House leader Bob Michel it would be inappropriate to campaign against candidates in 1994 on the basis of their support for the agreement.

The House vote is set for Wednesday, and it will take a ma-

majority of 218 votes to win approval. Passage there would send the accord to the Senate, where Democratic and Republican leaders issued fresh predictions of passage.

"Let me make it clear and unmistakable: The Senate will pass the North American Free Trade Agreement," said Majority Leader George Mitchell.

The accord is designed to create a free trade zone for Mexico, Canada and the United States by

reducing tariffs over 15 years. Supporters say the pact would open a vast new Mexican market for American industries, and serve as a linchpin for broader agreements involving other countries in the hemisphere and Asia and Europe as well.

Opponents say thousands of jobs will be lost as American firms move factories south to take advantage of lower wages and laxer environmental standards in Mexico.

NAFTA

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could raise the state's income from goods and services by \$2 billion annually.

NAFTA would open the door to free trade with Mexico by reducing the tariffs on imports from Mexico.

Opponents of the proposal say NAFTA would cause a job loss because many big businesses would move to Mexico for cheaper labor.

However, supporters of NAFTA say it would create jobs and bring money into the United

States by way of American goods being sold in Mexico.

Both sides of the debate in Congress say they have enough votes to win, but as of Tuesday, the Associated Press said 42 members were undecided.

Hazleton said he is hopeful that NAFTA will pass today for the benefit of the Texas economy.

"While NAFTA preserves the constitutional restrictions preventing foreign energy companies from gaining access to Mexico's oil and gas reserves, many observers believe the agreement will hasten the day when these restrictions are lessened or removed altogether," he said.

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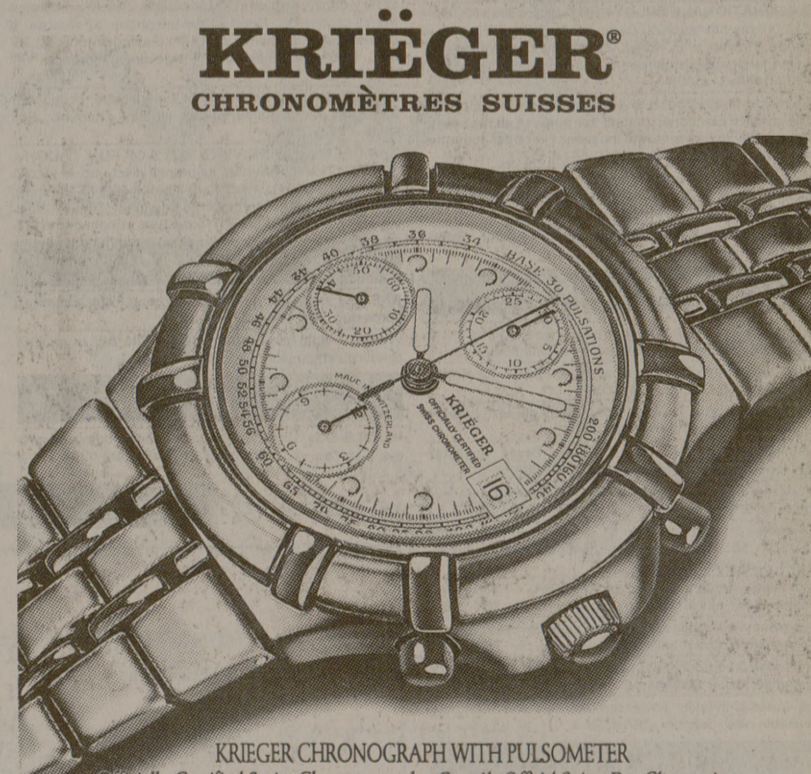
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