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Toll-free phone lines cost state thousands

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — About 250 toll-free numbers operated by the state are taking a toll on Texas because many of them are rarely used, according to a newspaper report.

The Austin American-Statesman said Monday that of the state's 250 toll-free lines, almost 100 are operated by health and human service agencies with only a handful of calls coming in each day.

"This happened for the very best of reasons, but it's reached the point now where it doesn't make sense," said Saralee Tiede, deputy health and human services commissioner.

"We've got a system that's not very coherent and certainly not user-friendly," Ms. Tiede said. "It's not a service at this point because it's so confusing."

Officials are now questioning the usefulness of many of the lines and are devising ways to consolidate.

A toll-free number operated by the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission this month carried a recording announcing a July 16, 1993, deadline to submit community correction plans as well as a notice about a conference on sex offenders from last July.

The General Services Commission estimates that consolidation of the health and human service agency toll-free numbers into a single automatic call distribution center would save \$661,873 annually.

The annual cost for the lines, not including the personnel who answer them, is about \$1 million, the American-Statesman reported.

General Services Commission officials there was no estimate available on the cost of operating all the state government toll-free numbers because not all state agencies through the commission to set up a line.

The Health and Human Services Commission is reviewing how to consolidate toll-free numbers operated by the 12 agencies in its purview.

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Campus News Briefs

A&M chemistry professor wins award from Swiss chemical organization

Dr. F. Albert Cotton will receive the 1994 Paracelsus Prize April 15 in Neuchatel, Switzerland.

Cotton is the W. T. Doherty-Welch Foundation Distinguished Professor of chemistry and director of the Laboratory for Molecular Structure and Bonding at Texas A&M.

The Paracelsus Prize is the highest award of the New Swiss Chemical Society.

gress in 1975 as an official memorial to honor the president, awards college students who exemplify outstanding leadership potential, plan to pursue careers in government or wish to attend graduate school to help prepare for public service careers.

The scholarship provides up to \$30,000.

Lufkin teens start magazine for black community

The Associated Press

LUFKIN — Oliver Brown, 19, started a magazine to fill a void in Lufkin's black community, so he designed a newspaper magazine with a black focus.

Brown, 19, published the first issue of Prediction one year ago.

By the second issue he had enlisted the talents of his cousin Zanto Peabody and Craig Spencer and Marco who say they've created a tool for the community.

The men were high school students when they came up with the concept for the publication.

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Corps vs. fraternity hoops game scheduled for Wednesday night

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets-Fraternity Basketball Game will be held Wednesday at 5 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The A&M men's basketball team will play University of Houston after this game. Admission is free before 5:30 p.m.

Career Center presents workshops this month on job finding techniques

Texas A&M's Career Center will offer several seminars this month. "Interview Savvy" will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday in 201 MSC.

"Reality 101," which will inform students on what they need to know now to find a career after graduation, will be held at 5 p.m. in 301 Rudder Tower.

"What Color is Your Parachute?," which will inform students on career decision-making, planning and job hunting techniques, will be held Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater. For more information call 845-5139.

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Former engineering dean chosen as vice chancellor for strategic programs

Dr. K. L. Peddicord has been appointed associate vice chancellor for strategic programs for the Texas A&M University System effective Feb. 16.

Peddicord has served as deputy vice chancellor, executive associate dean of engineering and deputy director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

Informational meeting discusses Work Abroad options for students

Texas A&M students interested in working in a foreign country can attend informational meetings Thursday from 2 to 3 p.m. in 302 Rudder Tower and Friday from 1-2 p.m. in 401 Rudder Tower.

The Work Abroad program allows students to work for three to six months in any of seven countries including Britain, France, Ireland, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Germany and Canada.

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Junior named Truman Scholarship finalist, could receive up to \$30,000

Kellie N. Sims, a junior political science major, is a finalist for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship competition.

The Truman Scholarship, established by Con-

A&M College of Medicine adds two academic departments to University

Two new academic departments have been created within the Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine—the department of anesthesiology is headed by Charles H. McLeskey, M.D., and the department of emergency medicine is headed by Gregory D. Hobbs, M.D.

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