

Helping One Student To Succeed

Area volunteer program aims to help at-risk youth

By Nicole Cloutier
The Battalion

Aggies are among hundreds of area residents who volunteer with the H.O.S.T.S. program to help at-risk children.

For a second year, the Bryan Independent School District has sponsored H.O.S.T.S. (Helping One Student To Succeed), and its success has surpassed everyone's expectations.

The program utilizes close to 300 volunteers — from Texas A&M students to senior citizens — who devote a little of their time every week to help at-risk children in Bryan schools. The volunteers come in for a minimum of 30 minutes a week to tutor a child in reading and spelling.

"It's not all education majors that we get," said Trish Barkley, one of three directors for the program at Navarro Elementary School in Bryan. "We have business people, and just about the entire district attorney's office comes in to help."

But Barkley said the group would like to recruit more male volunteers.

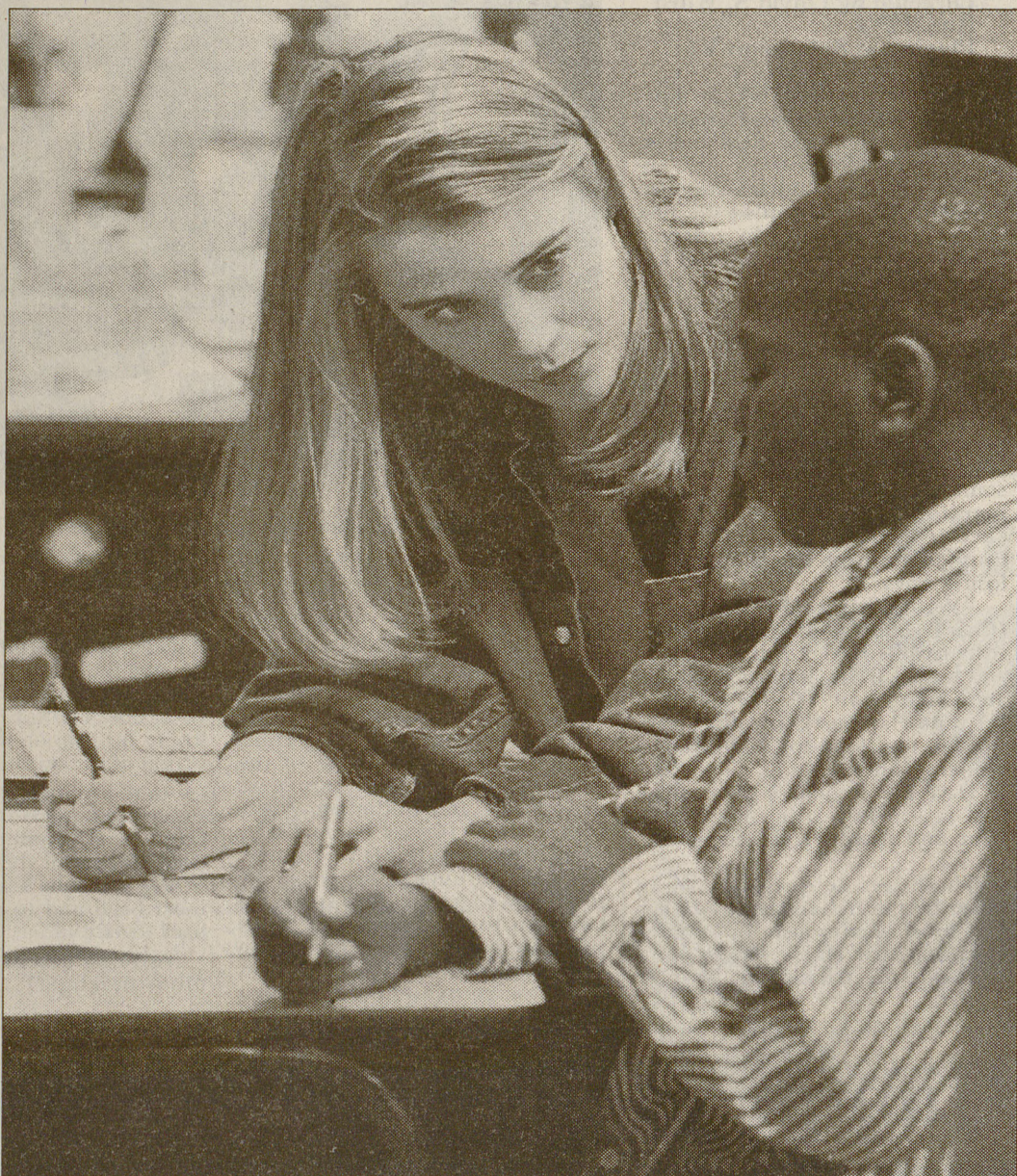
"We need a little help getting fellas in here," she said. "We have tons of girls, and they'll bring their boyfriends with them, and sometimes there will be a child whose tutor didn't make it. I will ask them if they would mind helping out and then they are hooked. It is incredible to see them so involved once they start."

In an effort to attract Aggies and make it as convenient as possible, the program is tailored to the college student's schedule, Barkley said. The program stops for spring break, and doesn't start after Christmas until A&M starts school again.

Many times these tutors, as well as the students, become very attached and committed to each other.

"The kids will be there with their eyes glued to the door, waiting for them to walk

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William Harrison/The Battalion

Amy Denton, a senior community health major from Houston, helps nine-year-old Chris Green with his drawing at Navarro Elementary School in Bryan. Denton is working at the school as part of the Helping One Student To Succeed program.



Free falling

Mormon Hughes/Special to The Battalion

Graduate student Maria Mouzes and senior Mark Woodings lock hands as they parachute with the Texas A&M Skydiving Club.

A&M skydiving club to give demonstration jump Sunday

By Paul Neale
The Battalion

Members of the Texas A&M Skydiving Club said their favorite pastime is a rush — about 120 miles per hour worth.

Senior biology major Mike Morris said skydiving is a combination of one's first true love, a first car and a roller coaster. Although Morris' first skydiving experience was in response to a dare, Morris didn't stop.

"I did it because somebody said I couldn't," Morris said. "But it's instantly addicting. There's nothing like bailing out of a plane and forgetting your troubles."

Morris said he enjoys the social atmosphere the skydiving club provides.

"We have all kinds in the club," he said. "And it brings a lot of people together."

Understandably, some people have qualms concerning the safety of the sport. However,

Morris emphasizes its safety. "We take every precaution possible," he said. "And the reserve (parachute) is guaranteed — for life."

Michael Inabinet, a senior civil engineering major, also cited the social rewards of the skydiving club. He said he's made many friends while jumping out of planes.

"Skydiving is a really social thing," Inabinet said. "We're just out here to have a good time."

When Inabinet saw an ad in The Battalion for bungee jumping, he promptly received his father's disapproval at the mention of it, he said. So he went skydiving instead.

"Once I made my first jump, I was hooked," Inabinet said. "Skydiving is a better rush than bungee jumping and the price isn't that much more."

Inabinet, last year's presi-
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Carnegie Park hosts free lunchtime concerts

By Traci Travis
The Battalion

Grab a sack lunch and cop a squat as the Bryan Main Street Project taunts your ears with a myriad of music.

Every Thursday at noon during April and May, Carnegie Concerts in the Park brings locals to downtown Bryan for brown-bag entertainment.

Shannon Lee, Main Street Project assistant, said the purpose of the weekly concerts is to bring people to downtown Bryan.

The free concerts are taking place in Carnegie Park located at 111 Main Street right next door to the former Carnegie Library.

"We want people to become more aware of the shops in downtown Bryan," Lee said. "It is a great alternative for lunch."

Carnegie Concerts in the Park is a semi-annual event which takes place every fall and spring bringing with it a variety of artists. The concerts are part of an ongoing effort to renovate the Bryan downtown area, Lee said. The city is sponsoring several promotional events including the remodeling of the old Palace Theater.

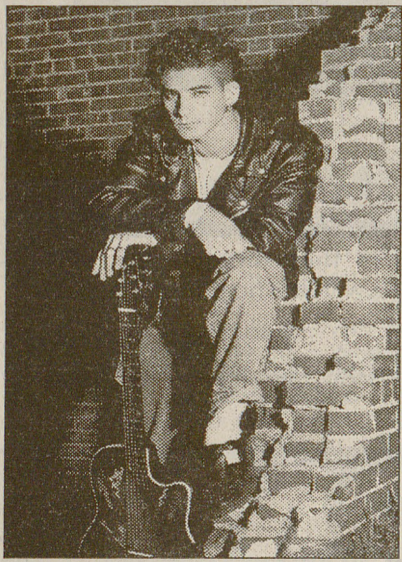
"There are more downtown businesses than ever before," Lee said. "We can see the growth by the worsening traffic on Main Street."

"There are more things happening in downtown Bryan. We just encourage people to come out and see what we have to offer."

**—Shannon Lee,
Main Street
Project assistant**

Lee said a wide variety of artists are scheduled to appear during the month of April. During the first week, the park played host to rock artist Eugene-Eugene.

Week two will feature country and rock performers such as Ty Southerland and Joe Orsak. And classic rock music from Bob French



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

Local musician Ty Southerland is scheduled to play a lunchtime concert today in Carnegie Park.

will close out the month of April.

The month of May begins with a special concert by a local Tejano band in honor of Cinco de Mayo, Lee said.

The Bryan High Jazz Band, a string quartet, and the Brazos Barber Shoppers are scheduled to entertain throughout the month of May, Lee said.

Students are encouraged to come out and take advantage of the alternative eating atmosphere.

"It's a good overview of the talent we have in the area," said Ty Southerland, who is scheduled to perform today.

The makeover of downtown includes more family-oriented businesses with later hours, Lee said.

With these changes, the Main Street Project is expecting the average turnout of approximately 100 people to grow each year, she said. And turnout is usually better in the spring because of the better weather.

Lee said the reaction of visitors to the Bryan downtown area is more positive as changes to the atmosphere produce a safer environment for everyone.

"There are more things happening in downtown Bryan," she said. "We just encourage people to come out and see what we have to offer."

Alternative Sexuality Group focuses on member bonding

By Nicole Cloutier
The Battalion

Due to the sensitive subject matter, some names have been changed.

Hmmm. Sporting goods, toy stores, the produce section, saddle shops and any various hardware store. According to the members of the local Alternative Sexuality Group, you can forget the "unique" shops on Sixth Street or Westheimer for your "bedroom" needs. With a little cash, creativity and a whole lot of guts, you can go into any of these stores to really enhance your intimate adventures.

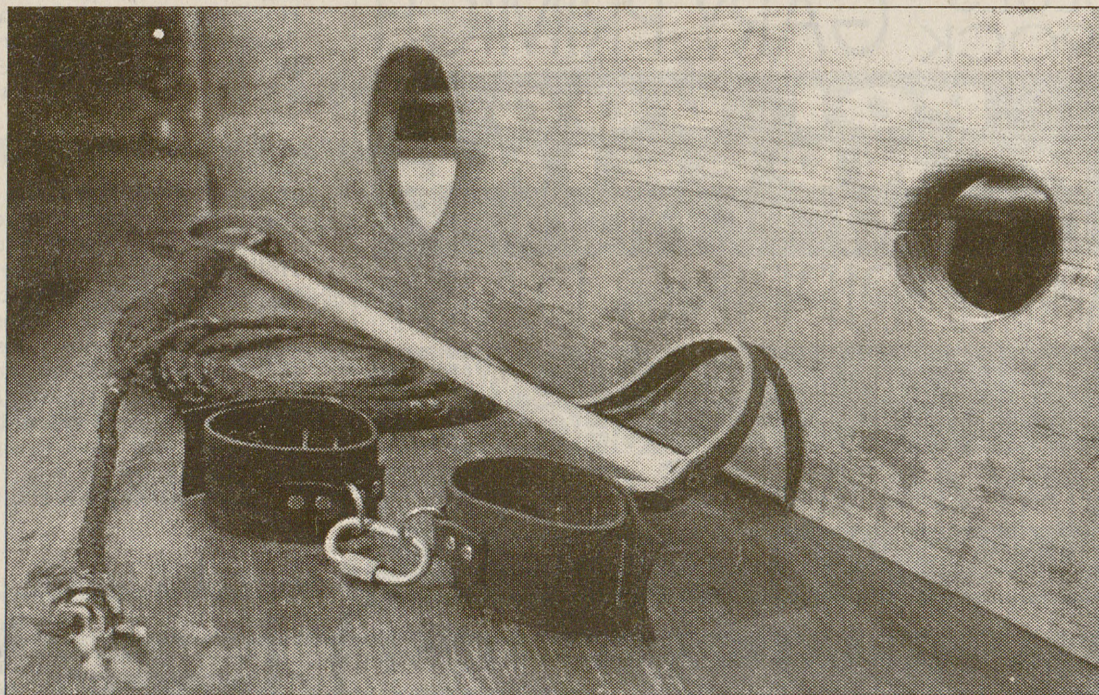
It's part of the educational goal of the newly-developed Alternative Sexuality Group, which meets on the first Saturday of each month. The group, formed last July, is an outlet for open and intellectual discussion on alternative sexuality for consenting adults. This can elaborate beyond the latest how-to's to delve into the deeper philosophies and reasoning of these relationships.

Among the topics the group discusses are the legalities of these alternative practices, how to influence legislation and the roots of some common fantasies and their parallels in society today.

Their April meeting originated at Java City in downtown Bryan and progressed to a private movie viewing at the home of one of the members. There, members enhanced their understanding of sado-masochistic practices by watching a documentary; and later, "The Story of O," a movie capturing the transgression of a dominance and submission relationship.

Although the peak attendance at this meeting was 17, reportedly the Austin chapter has up to 68 registered attendees. The informal leaders of the College Station group said they hope to increase attendance by moving the meetings to Java City.

Eric, the group's unofficial founder, said initially, the meetings began at Two Pesos with people who had met by



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

The local Alternative Sexuality Group discusses unorthodox sexual practices for consenting adults. Whips, hand-cuffs and a stockade are some of the tools of the trade.

computer. They were then moved to the back of Dudley's, but members said they felt a little intimidated and afraid to open up.

"We really want people to realize that just because people are thinking about doing these things, that does not mean that they are weird."

**—John,
Alternative
Sexuality Group
member**

Although the group's leaders were concerned about how the meetings would reflect on her business, Melanie Mack, the owner of Java City, said she believes Java City has the per-

fect atmosphere for such a group.

"It fills a niche," said Melanie Mack, the owner of Java City.

John, an Alternative Sexuality member, said, "We really want people to realize that just because people are thinking about doing these things, that does not mean that they are weird. They are not the only ones doing it, as much as everybody in this area would like to think."

Though the members agree that S&M (sado-masochism) is the most common of the alternative sexual practices, some of the lingo isn't so common. Just a few of the terms that float through their discussions include references to "breeders" (heterosexuals), "scenes" (the actual sex play), and "vanilla" sex (intercourse that we consider non-alternative.)

The members said although they don't consider themselves politically active, they are baffled by some of the laws that bind their private activities.

"If I don't have to tell my mommy what I do in the bedroom, then why should I have to tell the government?" Eric said.

Some of the lesser-known laws the group discusses involve the illegality of possessing six or more vibrators. Members said doing so would imply that you are selling them.

Safety of the practices is also emphasized among the members. They exchange ideas on techniques, new inventions, great books, (they strongly recommend "S&M 101" by Jay Weisemin, for the novice) and movies. At this meeting, they even passed around a suggested negotiation sheet for pre-sexual agreements.

Though members describe these forms as "an attorney's approach" to S&M, they do appreciate the precautions that partners should take when partaking in these activities. It ensures that both partners know

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