

# Campus DWIs nearly doubled from '93

By Tracy Smith  
THE BATTALION

With college drinking on the rise, many Texas A&M officials say they are worried the increase in consumption may mean more alcohol-related accidents on the road.

According to University Police Department statistics, the number of students receiving DWIs on campus has increased from 63 in all of 1993 to 111 so far this year.

Because numbers continue to increase, University officials said students need to be even more responsible for their actions involving drinking.

Lt. Bert Kretschmar, of UPD's crime prevention unit, said the police department has started cracking down on many alcohol offenses. He said he encourages students to think before driving

while intoxicated.

"Many students don't stop to consider each time they decide to drink and drive that they risk not only their own lives, but the lives of innocent people," he said. "I doubt many students really stop to consider how they would feel knowing they took the life of another person."

"Our goal is to stop any accidents before they occur," he said.

Rick Powell, assistant coordinator for the Student Conflict Resolution Center, said with over 40,000 students, the pressure to drink is coming from all sides.

"Between influential peers and promotional

**"After being hit only a mile from my house, I learned quickly that innocent people do get hurt."**

— Nancy White, senior wildlife and fisheries major

drink specials offered at local bars, students are finding 'intoxication' to be a common word," he said. "As drinking among college students continues to increase, the chances for DWIs also goes up."

Kretschmar said that by educating students to learn their limits and to always have a designated driver when going out, many unnecessary accidents could be avoided.

"Until a DWI incident actually hits home, many students don't look at it as something that can happen to them," he said.

Nancy White, a senior wildlife and fisheries major, said after taking two years off from school to recover from a drunk driving accident, she has become aware that it can happen to anyone.

"After being hit only a mile from my house, I learned quickly that innocent people do get hurt," she said.

Eugene Zdziarski, coordinator for the Student Conflict Resolution Center, said if students decide to drink, they need to have an underlying rule to not drive while intoxicated.

"If enough students would just plan ahead before going out, drinking and driving wouldn't be a problem," he said.

## Koriyama campus to close its doors

A&M program terminated for lack of funding

By Amanda Fowle  
THE BATTALION

After four years of operation, the Texas A&M University Koriyama campus, located in Koriyama, Japan, will close at the end of this summer.

A program featured at the Koriyama campus allowed Japanese students to pursue their individual studies for two years and then complete their last two years of studies at A&M's main campus in College Station.

Dr. John Norris, director of the Koriyama support office, said the program has sent 155 students from Koriyama to College Station. The 105 students now in Koriyama will return to College Station in August when the Koriyama campus closes.

Norris said the Koriyama campus must close because of political and economic reasons.

"The program got caught between two political parties," he said.

The former mayor of Koriyama supported the program and agreed that the city would help the program financially, Norris said.

He did not run for reelection in 1993.

The new mayor will not allow the city to financially assist the program, Norris said. Unfortunately, the Koriyama program does not have a high enough en-

rollment for student tuition and fees to cover expenses.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, interim vice president for finance and administration, said one reason for the low enrollment is low is because of the lack of housing on the temporary campus.

Many Japanese parents, he said, were uncomfortable sending their children off to live on their own in unsupervised housing.

A permanent campus with housing facilities was being planned, but the campus was determined to be closed before housing construction began, he said.

The political objections to the city's supporting the campus caused many Japanese to fear that the campus would close, so fewer students enrolled, he said.

"Many students that would have come had doubts because of the political objections," he said.

Terry Anderson, an associate professor of history who taught American history and culture in Koriyama, said another reason many people did not enroll was because the program was still new.

"Most Japanese people, just like Americans, want to send their children to a school with a good history and tradition," he said. "This campus did not have a chance to get a reputation."

Tomoe Ono, a business major completing her degree here after attending the Koriyama campus, said she chose to go to school at Texas A&M Koriyama because she wanted to come to America to learn English.

"I am very sorry the campus is closing," she said.



Bart Mitchell/THE BATTALION

## Up, up, and away!

Ron Bower, Class of '63, introduces College Station to his Bell 206B JetRanger he-

licopter as he prepares for his flight around the world, which began at Easterwood Air-

port on Tuesday. He plans to cover the world in a record time of 200 flight hours.

## Sticky fingers grab a little bit of heaven

### Waco woman forges \$50,000 in checks on minister's account

WACO, Texas (AP) — A former Waco woman faces up to 30 years in federal prison and up to \$1 million in fines for forging more than \$50,000 in checks left in her house by a retired church music minister who lived in her residence for a short while.

Darlyne Laurel Lopez, now 50, got out of prison in early 1992 after serving 18 months of a 15-year prison term for embezzling more than \$500,000 from a brokerage firm.

She rented a house in Waco, and about the same time, says David Bardwell Green, now 74, he became friends with her and moved into a room in the residence.

But when he moved out about two months later, he unknowingly left behind a book of blank checks, he said.

It wasn't many months later, when Green tried to open trust accounts for his grandchildren, he said, he noticed he didn't have as much in the account as he thought he did.

It wasn't even close. Instead of \$71,000, as his records indicated, he had only \$17,000 in the account, officials at Bank One of Fort Worth said.

Ms. Lopez pleaded guilty on June 20 in federal court in Fort Worth to one count of federal bank fraud, acknowledging that she wrote at least 31 checks on Green's account totaling \$51,700.

Ms. Lopez said no money is left from the checks she wrote on Green's account. Records introduced by prosecutors revealed lavish spending sprees at clothing and furniture stores. She also bought new cars, jewelry and other goods.

Bank officials said it was obvious from an inspection of Green's records that someone had altered them.

Steven Camp, a Bank One attorney from Dallas, said the bank's investigation revealed that Ms. Lopez was altering Green's monthly bank statements, which were still being mailed to her address.

Camp said she was making photocopies of the statements, whitening out the checks she forged, typing up new statements and then giving them to Green.

Most of the checks were made payable to

her and deposited into Ms. Lopez's bank account in Waco, Camp said.

Ms. Lopez currently is on state parole for stealing \$565,069 from Merrill Lynch Pierce, Fenner and Smith, where she was a cashier for nine years.

She served about a year and a half of a 15-year prison term and was released on parole in March 1992.

Parole officials in Waco said her parole was transferred in April to Dallas, where she is living with a niece.

State parole officer Jennifer Jenson says Ms. Lopez frequently cries and tells her what a mess she has made of her life.

"She cries and says she is sorry, but I don't really think that she is really sincere," Jenson said.

"I think she is just sorry she got caught. When you talk to her, she seems like everybody's mom or grandmother, but she just has sticky fingers."

U.S. District Judge Terry Means, a former justice on Waco's 10th Court of Appeals set sentencing for Sept. 12.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Teakell said he suspects Ms. Lopez will be sentenced to from a year to 18 months in federal prison.

## El Paso hosts national LULAC convention

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — The LULAC delegates who have converged on El Paso are expected to be keeping an eye toward the future, both their own and that of the nation's Hispanics, as they meet for their national convention.

The League of United Latin American Citizens' representatives will be discussing issues ranging from free trade, which many expect to have a large impact on the border and consequently on Hispanics, youth violence, immigration and education during the convention, which runs from Wednesday through Saturday.

"The convention, I think, is basically a springboard for planning where we need to be in order to function in the 21st century," said Roberto Perez, immediate past director of LULAC's El Paso district.

Up to 6,000 people, including delegates and other conventioners, are expected to attend the convention for the nation's oldest Hispanic organization, which claims some 100,000 members.

The organization is one of the most visible advocates for Hispanic issues in the nation, although some critics dispute whether the LULAC's agenda really focuses on the issues important to an ever fragmenting Hispanic population.

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