

Intoxication: Arrests for public drunkenness are rising in B-CS area

Continued from Page 1

intoxication, police have to prove that the people were intoxicated and were endangering themselves.

"We are careful to prove these two elements," he said. "We don't want to arrest someone that shouldn't be arrested."

"I was in college a few years ago and understand how college life works, but we don't want to leave someone alone that could pose a threat to themselves."

Sechelski said people could harm themselves walking home from a bar because they could fall off a curb and get struck by a car.

"This is why people get arrested for walking home," he said. "Even though they are trying to avoid a DWI charge by

doing so, they may be facing other harm to themselves."

He suggested that if people are drinking, they should have a friend they can call to come get them. If they are unable to do this, then they should call a cab, he said.

Sechelski said that if people call the police department for a ride, they will probably be arrested.

"If you call us and we can prove you're intoxicated then we will probably arrest you for public intoxication," he said.

"While this may be a worst-case scenario, it's better for us to arrest the person than for the person to be hit by a car."

However, not all students agree that this is the best way to help the community.

Traci Ferri, a senior history major, said she had a friend who was arrested for sitting on a curb waiting for his ride.

"He was arrested even after his desig-

nated driver said he would be responsible for him," Ferri said. "The person who was arrested was not causing harm to himself or anyone else and yet he was arrested."

Lt. Scott McCollum, administrative lieutenant for the College Station Police Department, said that since it is his job to prevent possible crimes from occurring, he may arrest an intoxicated person who is sitting on the curb.

"If the person is extremely intoxicated, they could be the victim of robbery or even assault," he said. "It is our job to avoid these situations and this sometimes results in arresting people for public intoxication."

McCollum suggested always going out in a group so someone can take care of those whose alcohol consumption may get out of hand.

"As long as someone is there to take

care of them, most of the time we will leave the person in the other's care," he said. "But circumstances do arise where we won't think the other person can be responsible, such as if the intoxicated person is fighting and unmanageable."

While students understand the need for keeping people safe, some think the arrests are being taken too far.

Ferri said she doesn't want to have to worry that she could very easily be arrested if she decides to drink when she goes out.

"I do go out and drink sometimes and shouldn't have to worry that I could be arrested for something as innocent as waiting for my ride," Ferri said. "I am over 21 years old and responsible when I drink and I shouldn't have to look over my shoulder every time I see a police officer outside a bar."

Panel: Experts discuss environmental issues

Continued from Page 1

and more intertwined than we could ever have suspected."

Each panelist pointed to a different way to strengthen the movement.

Betty Rogers from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission stressed the need for involving others in the movement.

"The problem is that people don't understand that it's all of us," Rogers said.

Rogers said the movement should return to a local level, in contrast to its strict federal regulations of the past.

"I think that now the movement needs to go back to the grass roots level," Rogers said. "I don't think that federal, Draconian measures are the way to go."

Nikki Reidt, campaign director for U.S. Public In-

terest Group, said local environmental movements need to expand.

"We must learn to think globally and act globally," Reidt said. "The fight is far from over."

She said that places like "Cancer Alley" in Baytown, where every family on the street has a family member with cancer from various pollutants, is a sign that the movement still needs to make progress.

Jean Bowman, co-chair of the Friends Just Peace Institute in College Station, said the movement should stress its link with spirituality.

"I think the future of the environmental movement rests in its link with spirituality," Bowman said.

She explained that environmental activism is linked to peace and the movement should exploit that link.

"When the movement started, it focused on doing what was right," Bowman said. "Now we need to do this, not because it's right, but because it is part of a sustainable peace. You can't work for environmental protection without working toward peace. That's where the future lies."

Bowman said the environmental movement should keep increasing and focus on keeping environmental protection consistent.

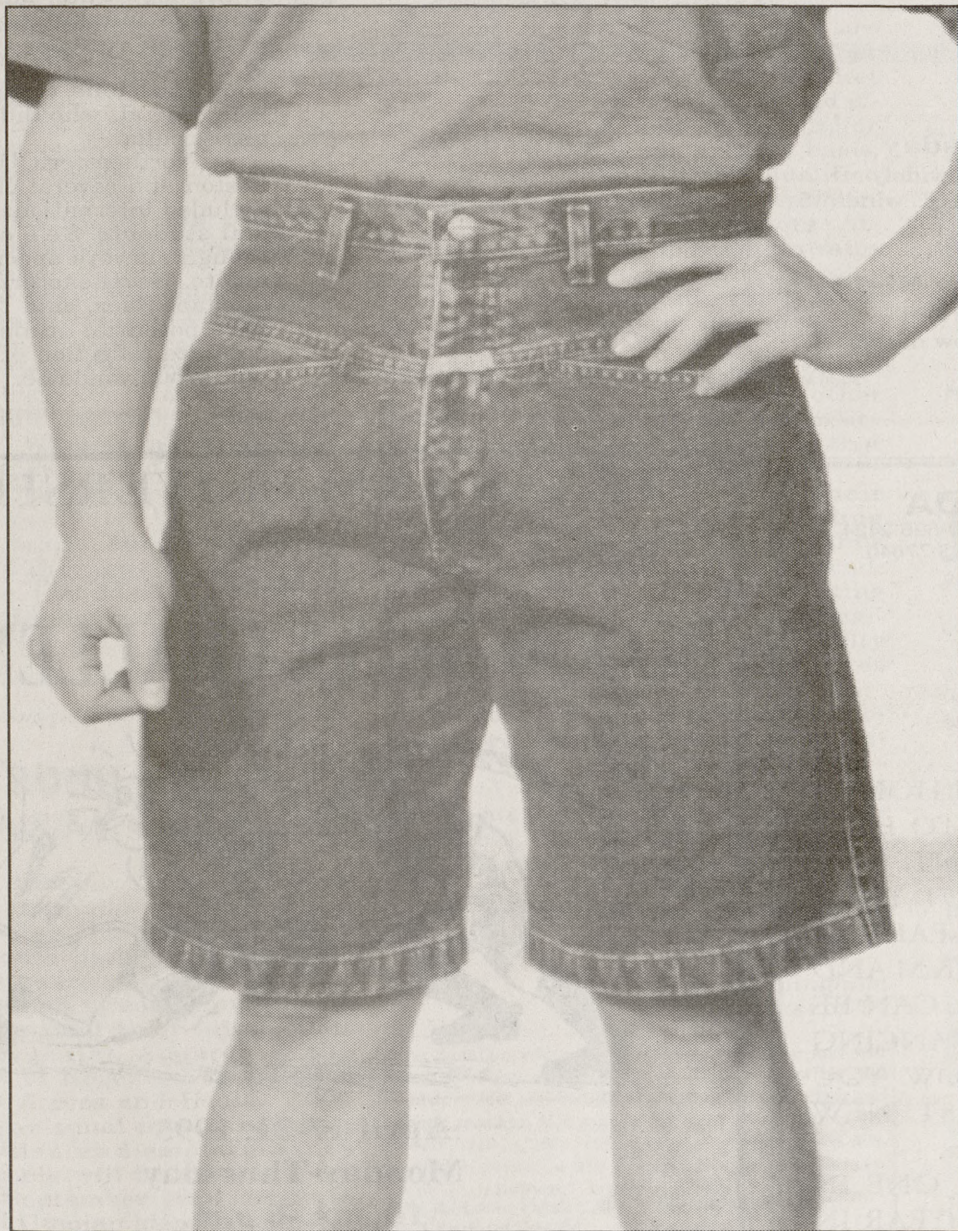
She said the environmental movement will not face an easier path now that it is 25 years old.

"The environmental movement has always been an uphill struggle," Bowman said.



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