

Beutel reduces night, weekend operating hours

The cuts are the result of low demand and lack of funds for 24-hour campus medical service.

By Javier Hinojosa
 THE BATTALION

A. P. Beutel Health Center is reducing its previous 24-hour night and weekend urgent care services as a result of fiscal constraints and low demand for services, Dr. Kenneth R. Dirks said.

Beginning Aug. 5, the new hours of operation will be Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The urgent care center will

be closed on Sunday.

"We do not have the facilities, resources or staff to handle big medical emergencies, so most of those students would have had to be turned over to local facilities anyway," Dirks, health center director, said. "This isn't anything new."

"All we are asking is [during non-service hours] if the students develop medical conditions that do not require immediate care, that they hold off until the next morning."

The Emergency Medical Service and ambulance will continue operating 24 hours a day.

Chris Gideon, a senior wildlife ecology major and assistant chief of the EMS, said the change will most likely bring an increase in transports to Bryan-College Station hospitals handling emergencies during the health center's non-service hours.

Dr. Donald Freeman, a staff

physician at Beutel, said that only 2 percent of the students seen during the night and weekend hours would be classified as urgent cases.

"I don't think it is going to affect students significantly," he said.

Amy East, a junior English major, said the decrease in operational hours is not fair to students.

"That's why we pay fees," she said. "Now we are going to be responsible to pay for services at hospitals when we are paying for the same services at Beutel."

Freeman said Beutel was one of a few college health facilities open 24 hours.

"The [most similar university health center], that I know of, opens 24 hours from Monday to Friday only," Freeman said, "and their health center fee is three times more than ours."

Dirks said that if students with

no insurance are injured during the health center's non-operational hours, they will have to make arrangements at the hospital on their own. He said he does not anticipate that being a problem.

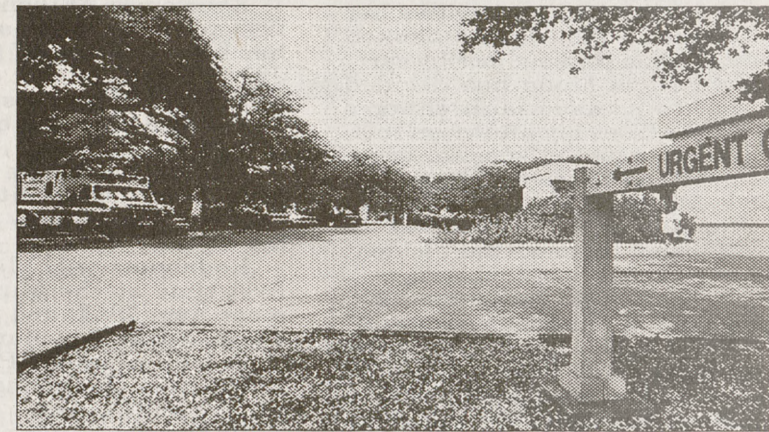
Freeman said 80 percent of A&M students are covered under their parents' insurance, and many others have their own insurance.

The new schedule will be effective through Aug. 12 and will resume Aug. 28-31.

Between Aug. 12 and Aug. 28, the clinic's hours will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the clinic will be closed on weekends.

Dirks said it is not known whether Beutel will continue offering 24-hour service after Sept. 1.

"There is a task force looking at that right now," he said. "They will be making their recommendations in the near future."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

An ambulance is parked at the emergency care entrance of A.P. Beutel Health Center. Although emergency hours will be cut back, the ambulance will continue to operate 24 hours a day.



Tommy Huynh, THE BATTALION

FINISHING TOUCHES

Tony Rogers and Ronald Greenlaw work to retile the exterior of Walton Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

Survey: A&M students more likely to drive after drinking

The survey compared the alcohol and drug habits of A&M students to those of other college students.

By Jill Saunders
 THE BATTALION

More than 87.6 percent of Texas A&M students surveyed said they drank alcohol, and many said they drove after drinking, according to the 1994 College Alcohol Study from the Harvard School of Public Health.

The study compared the alcohol and drug habits of A&M students to those of 17,592 students from 140 colleges nationwide.

Dr. Dennis Reardon, coordinator of A&M's Center for Drug Prevention and Education, said CDPE is concerned with statistics showing that A&M students drink more and have more alcohol-related problems.

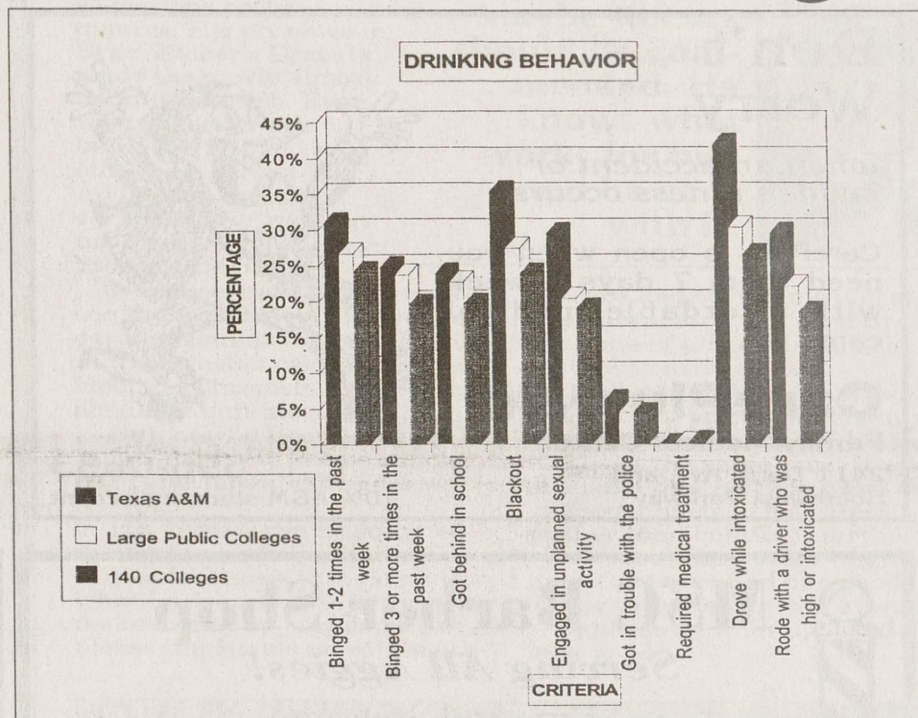
"A&M students have lower drug use than many universities," Reardon said, "but A&M students have at least as much alcohol abuse as other students from other universities."

The reason A&M has fewer instances of drug abuse than other universities because A&M has many conservative students, he said.

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The study showed that A&M students also had fewer encounters with some alcohol-related problems than students at other large public universities.

These included missing class (27.4 percent compared to 30.9 percent), doing something they regretted (31 percent compared to 35 percent), getting hurt or injured (4.4 percent compared to 10 percent) and requiring medical treat-



ment for alcohol overdose (0 percent compared to 0.2 percent).

However, other statistics showed that A&M students were more likely to drink and drive. Forty-one percent of A&M students had driven after drinking, compared to 30.3 percent of students at other large public universities.

In addition, A&M students were almost twice as likely (20.9 percent compared to 11 percent) to drive after having five or more drinks than students at other large public universities.

Lt. Bert Kretzschmar, head of the University Police Department crime prevention unit, said UPD reported 642 alcohol violations from September 1993 to August 1994.

Kretzschmar said UPD officers are not out to get students - but are there for the students' safety.

"Our patrol officers don't just go

out and say we're going to bust people tonight," he said.

The study showed that in a one-year period, 6.2 percent of A&M students and 4.5 percent of students at other large public universities were in trouble with the police as a result of drinking.

As a result of drinking alcohol, A&M students also had more problems with getting behind in school work (23.9 percent compared to 22.7 percent), forgetting where they were or what they did (35.4 percent compared to 27.4 percent) and engaging in unplanned sexual activity (29.5 percent compared to 20.4 percent).

Reardon advised A&M students who drink alcohol to be responsible when drinking.

"Students should not drink more than one drink per hour, three per setting, and they should not drink on consecutive days," he said.

A&M exhausts Fall '95 financial aid resources

Officials announced that all the grants and scholarships controlled by the University are awarded each year.

By Katherine Arnold
 THE BATTALION

Despite a National Academic Funding Administration announcement that \$6 billion in financial aid funds go uncollected each year, University officials said this is not the case for the Texas A&M.

The funding administration last week released information that grants often go unclaimed because people do not apply for them. However, all the grants and scholarships controlled by the University are awarded each year.

Jack Falks, assistant director of Student Financial Aid, said that about 70 percent of A&M students are financially assisted by the University.

This figure includes students re-

ceiving loans, grants, scholarships, those on work-study programs and student workers.

Robert Lawson, assistant director of Student Financial Aid, said all grants are need-based, and many are awarded on a first-come first-served basis.

"If a student applied right now for financial aid in the fall and had absolutely no family-contribution funds, we would not be able to give them anything," Lawson said. "All our funds for fall have already been distributed."

The total amount of the grants awarded at A&M is \$8 million for Pell Grants and \$10 million for all other grants, Lawson said. The maximum amount of a grant is \$2,500 a year.

Bobbie Meyer, student financial aid administrator, said that 5,400 Pell Grants are awarded each year.

The scholarships awarded by the Department of Student Financial Aid total \$2-3 million. This amount does not include scholarships re-

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Artwork diversity plans face funding shortage

MSC Council executives suggested a \$1 increase in the student services fee to fund the University Center recommendations.

By Michael Simmons
 THE BATTALION

Efforts by the MSC Council to modernize and diversify the artwork in the University Center have been stifled by a lack of funds.

Jimmy Charney, MSC Council executive vice president of finance and administration, said finding the funds to update the artwork would modernize the MSC. Rudder Tower and Rudder Theater Complex.

"The center offers an excellent opportunity to show the diversity, traditions and history of Texas A&M by expanding and updating the current holdings," Charney said. "The only

obstacle slowing the implementation of the recommendations is finding the money to fund the Council's recommendations."

Patrick Conway, MSC Council president, said the recommendations were well-researched and represent a cross section of the student body.

The Council, concerned about the physical environment of the center, created an Appropriate Representations Facilities task force to review the current artwork and make recommendations.

Conway said A&M has many international students, and the center should be an all-inclusive reflection of the entire student body.

Charney said that since the MSC is a student center, it should emphasize student life at A&M.

"The MSC should represent the diversity, student activities and traditions, like Bonfire and Silver Taps, that we

have at Texas A&M," he said.

The recommendations of the Council and the task force suggested included murals depicting student activities and traditions, artwork representing campus diversity and information in the east entrance of the center that would tell the history of the MSC.

"We have come up with a lot of good proposals," Conway said,

"The MSC should represent the diversity, student activities and traditions ..."

- Jimmy Charney
 MSC Council executive vice president of finance and administration

"but the center has to find the funds to make them a reality."

Raising the student services fee by \$1 per student would provide the funds to carry out the recommendations, Council executives said.

"An increase in the student services fee is different than an increase in the general use

fee, because the students would have a voice in the increase," Charney said.

Juanita Walker, University Center assistant director, said the center is responsible for allocating space in the center for artwork, but not for the funding of new pieces of art.

"We don't have a budget for artwork in the center," she said. "Other groups can give us artwork, which is then placed somewhere in the center."

Tim Novak, a member of the President's Advisory Committee on Art Policy, said the introduction of new art on campus is dependent upon fundraising efforts.

"The development stage of an art project includes discussions about funding and the historical significance of the artwork," he said.

Included in the recommendations is a statue of Matthew Gaines, an African-American who helped found A&M and a former U.S. senator from Brenham.