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RESOLUTIONS Student Conflict Resolution Center offer students mediation and legal counselin

By Amy Protas THE BATTALION

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hen students think of the Student Conflict Resolution Center, they usually remember negative experiences. Most people who have dealt with the center can reflect back on memories of visiting for violating a university regulation.

But Eugene L. Zdziarski II, assistant director of the Department of Student Life said he wants A&M students to know all of the center's functions.

I want the students to know we have three purposes at the center, not just one," Zdziarski said. "We do dispute resolution services, judicial services and legal services.

It is Bonfire time and roommates may not wash their clothes. A once happy couple may be driving each other crazy. A suitemates's music may drown out any chance of studying. Zdziarski says all of these problems could be solved if students would utilize mediation.

Scott Ward, a junior microbiology major, said he knows exactly what can happen when an issue is left to escalate. He went to the center when he was accused of harassing another student by phone. "Nothing is clear cut, and

there are always two sides," Ward said. "I really wish I would have known about mediation. The whole mess probably could have been avoided.

All of the mediators at the center are trained and certified to perform court-ordered mediation.

When students are having a dispute, they can go to the center and have an impartial third party help determine the best course of action to take.

With 700 overassignments, disputes are destined to happen," Zdziarski said. "October is the busiest time of the year. The honeymoon is over and the real problems have begun. We can

try to help solve them."

In addition to mediation, students can also go to the center for legal counseling. For six years, Rick D. Powell, coordinator of Student Legal Services, has been helping students get out of legal binds.

"We like to consider ourselves a general practice of law for

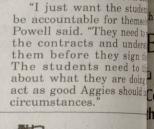
"If students need a will or they want a divorce, or they want to start a business, this is the place to come."

> Rick D. Powell they need coordinator of Student Legal Services responsible their own a

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the students," Powell said, "For less than \$2 on students' fees, they have a year-round attorney. It's such a good deal, because students need legal advice all the time.

Students shouldn't expect Powell to represent them in court, however. With over 40,000 poten-



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the time to prepare, but hest almost any other legal function

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