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UPD offers safety tips on the Internet

The UPD homepage allows students to read about real-life crime dramas

By Tauma Wiggins
THE BATTALION

The University Police Department has taken steps to bring UPD information closer to A&M students with the creation of a UPD web homepage.

The web page contains helpful information for students.

Students can use "Look Into Our Director, 'Mr. FBI,'" to read about the real-life crime dramas experienced by Robert E. Wiatt, director of UPD.

Wiatt earned the nickname "Mr. FBI" as a result of his 30 years with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Students can access "Annual Crime Statistics," including the number of murders, sex offenses, burglaries and drug charges on campus and "Crime Prevention

Information," listing prevention tips, programs and services provided by the University.

Det. Will Scott and Maj. Mike Ragan created the web page after observing similar sites of other university police departments around the country.

Ragan said there will be many additions to the UPD web page.

"We're just getting this off the ground," he said. "We have a lot more planned and will expand it quite a bit."

Some planned additions that students can look for are the "Crime of the Week," where a serious crime on campus will be revealed to the public.

Ragan said it will be for the benefit of Aggie parents as well as students.

"We're hoping that this

("Crime of the Week") will also help parents," Ragan said. "For example, a parent in Houston could see what's going on at A&M if they had access to the Internet."

The crime prevention section will eventually display a map of the different sections on campus where "blue light" phones are located, so students can become

more familiar with their locations.

The UPD web site will also contain links to other related Internet sites such as Crime Stoppers, police departments in major Texas cities and possibly other university police departments in the Big 12.

Students can access the UPD home page at <http://www.tamu.edu/upd>.

UPD on the Net

Students can access the UPD homepage on the Internet at <http://www.tamu.edu/upd>

Campus crime not increased by handgun law

By Melissa Nunnery
THE BATTALION

Since the concealed handgun law went into effect Jan. 1, University Police Department reports there have been no problems with students carrying guns on campus.

"Most crimes committed on campus are property crimes," Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said. "We're not going to be vigilantes.

People don't have to carry guns on campus to protect themselves from crime."

It is a third-degree felony to carry a gun on campus, even with a permit. Wiatt said since the law went into effect, there has not been a significant change in the number of violent crimes at A&M.

Wiatt said he has no reservations about people's obtaining permits because of the training required provides people with awareness of proper gun usage.

Concealed handgun training has been available in Bryan College Station since the law went into effect.

Dave Burdett, owner of Burdett & Son Outdoor Adventure Shop in Bryan, offers handgun training at his shop.

"Not many Aggies have taken the class," Burdett said. "The response has been from an older crowd, mostly males."

Burdett said people want to carry guns for protection.

"When the law went into ef-

fect, it was the first time honest people could legally carry a concealed handgun to protect themselves," he said.

The training class teaches the legal aspects of carrying a gun safe gun handling, marksmanship, methods to avoid violent confrontations and verbal alternatives to shooting.

Both Wiatt and Burdett said there have been no complaints from the community about people carrying guns.

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BAH! by Chuck Johnson



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Sketch By Quatro



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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

M.C. Hammer's soon-to-be song: Can't pay this

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Rapper M.C. Hammer says he can't pay his bills, including a \$500,000 loan from Dallas Cowboys' star Deion Sanders.

Hammer told a bankruptcy court this week he has \$9.6 million in assets and \$13.7 million in debts, but has no idea how much money he'll get from royalties for past blockbuster recordings.

The 34-year-old singer, whose real name is Stanley Kirk Burrell, said his records "could be selling anywhere out there. (But) as far as being in, like, a regular job, it doesn't work like that."

Hammer filed for bankruptcy two



HAMMER

months ago and listed among his debts \$110,000 to an interior decorator who went out of business when Hammer didn't pay; \$100,000 to the IRS; \$500,000 to a lawyer; and the Sanders loan.

Grant — for once wins victory in court case

LONDON (AP) — Hugh Grant got some good publicity for a change.

The boyish British actor arrested last year with a Los Angeles prostitute has won an apology, legal costs and an undisclosed amount of damages from the owners of Today, a defunct newspaper that accused him of verbally abusing a film extra.

The London daily reported in January 1995 that Grant harassed an 11-



GRANT

year-old boy while filming "The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill and Came Down a Mountain."

The London daily went out of business in November; the movie fared not much better.

Elton John cleans closet, benefits AIDS charity

ATLANTA (AP) — When Elton John cleans out his closet, there's enough to fill a department store.

The British pop star packed off

4,000 castoffs to Neiman Marcus where hundreds of shoppers lined up Tuesday to buy the diamond-studded duds and designer clothing.

Proceeds from the sale were to benefit his AIDS charity.

High-heeled platform shoes, fur-trimmed glasses and sherbet-colored tuxedos have been a mainstay of Elton John's video and concert wardrobe for 20 years.

Corrections

A Page 1 story should have said the Health Center fee will increase to \$44 per semester and the Student Services fee will increase to \$99 per semester.

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NEWS: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism.

News offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building, Newsroom phone: 845-3313; Fax: 845-2647

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The Battalion (ISSN #1055-4726) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer sessions (except on University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.