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RHA plans campus hotline Council debates safety resolution

By Wesley Poston and Joanne Whittemore
The Battalion

Brazos Valley Crimestoppers seeking a joint venture with Texas A&M Residence Hall Association (RHA) and Texas Making Changes (TAMC) to increase campus safety through an on-campus hotline. Brazos Valley Crimestoppers set up its first school-based hotline at a College Station junior high in 1991. Chris Kirk, Crimestoppers coordinator, said the program was so successful that the organization wanted to target all campuses within the area. "Texas A&M is like a community within the community, so I figured it was about time we set up a hotline there," said Kirk.

Kirk said the non-profit civilian organization assists law enforcement officials in fighting crime. "It's strictly anonymous," he said. "If information is used, they (informant) can receive a reward up to \$1,000."

Gene Zdziarski, assistant director of student life and a member of the board of directors for Brazos Valley Crimestoppers, said an attempt to start a hotline on campus was made before, but failed because of a lack of manpower. "It really comes down to an interest and dedication on the

part of the students involved," Zdziarski said. "It seems RHA is ready and able to carry the ball."

Jesse Czelusta, RHA president and a senior agricultural economics major, said the program can work if there is enough student interest. "I believe we can be successful, because we're not taking on too big of a job," he said. "We're starting out small, and we are also getting great support."

Carl Baggett, student body president and a senior accounting major, said RHA will receive help from TAMC to promote the program if it materializes. Czelusta said RHA would set up a board of directors to promote the hotline and raise money for operation costs and reward money. Crimestoppers has pledged \$1,000 to help start the program, but the committee would need to seek donations from the community to continue service.

Zdziarski said the on-campus program is still in the planning stage, but he hopes it will be in service by December. The community service already available to students at A&M focuses on felony offenses, he said. The campus hotline would look into lesser crimes. "The biggest problems on campus are bicycle and backpack theft," Zdziarski said.

The Graduate Student Council referred a resolution on Wellborn Road safety to its Graduate Life Committee Tuesday night.

The resolution would ask that Texas A&M take immediate action to prevent potential injuries and deaths presented by Wellborn Road and the adjacent railroad tracks.

Amy Kardell, a GSC member and sociology graduate student, said the Wellborn Road safety issue is premature. "We don't have facts to support our claims," Kardell said. "We have no reason to say it's a public safety issue if we have no proof."

The council debated the issue and later agreed that it should be addressed by the Graduate Life Committee. The committee, which consists of four GSC members, objected to the motion being passed to them. Markus Wawzyniak, Academic Affairs officer and a mechanical engineering graduate student, opposed the motion to pass the resolution to the Graduate Life Committee.

Council debates safety resolution

By Carla Renea Marsh
The Battalion

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The proposal would call for a drastic reduction of the speed limit on Wellborn Road, the installation of speed bumps and the placement of well-marked and well-lit pedestrian crosswalks.

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Water analysis seeks solution

Officials re-examine lead levels in campus water supply

By Marika Cook
The Battalion

An on-going water contamination study has been taking place at Texas A&M since February.

The Texas Natural Resources Conservation Committee notified University of large amounts of lead in the campus water supply. The committee required A&M to hire students and faculty of the Physical Plant to analyze the water for contaminants.

Charles A. Sippial Sr., assistant

We are now analyzing the chemical form of the lead. It's hard to tell, at this point, where the problem is originating."

Chris Meyer
Interim director, Environmental Health and Safety

president for the Physical Plant said the levels were not high enough to be a health risk.

The levels were only cited to warrant a study, not to be of any concern," Sippial said. "But, of course, we're taking this study seriously."

Student injured in fall from balcony

By Erica Roy
The Battalion

Muhammad Zabihi, a freshman computer engineering major from Cyprus, fell from the seventh floor balcony of the University Tower at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Scott McCollum of the College Station Police Department said Zabihi fell off the balcony through a Plexiglas roof into the inside area.

the campus water exceeded in the initial test. A re-test showed the water's lead content was below the action level established by TNRCC and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chris Meyer, interim director of Environmental Health and Safety, said another follow-up test was recently conducted. The earlier test indicated lead levels were sporadically high. An additional examination was needed, he said, to determine why the selected samples contained lead.

"The follow-up testing is a rigorous process in order to receive representative lead levels," Meyer said.

"We are now analyzing the chemical form of the lead," Meyer said. "It's hard to tell, at this point, where the problem is originating."

Bryan, College Station and A&M have similar water supplies. All three systems get water from the Carrizo-Wilcox Simsboro Sands. The water in this area is naturally soft, which is more corrosive.

Greg Wall, College Station senior laboratory technician, said the lead is not from contamination of the water supply, but from corroded plumbing, especially in older pipes.

A&M's Physical Plant is conducting a co-sampling analysis with the Texas State Chemists. The split water samples should be able to identify the culprit of the lead infiltration.

"This desktop corrosion control

study, which the Physical Plant is currently working on, should give us some good information," Sippial said.

TNRCC has required the University to initiate a public awareness program to educate students and faculty on the effects of lead.

The Physical Plant has issued a pamphlet and paid advertisements to satisfy these requirements. The possible effects of lead are mostly a concern to pregnant women and young children.

"Right now, our main focus is on the married student housing where children are living," Meyer said.

Dr. Donald E. Clark, a chemical and biological safety officer, said the Physical Plant will hopefully find a way to decrease the lead absorbency of the water.

In addition to high lead-absorbency levels, the soft water also causes some students to doubt the water quality. Soft water can make it more difficult to rinse off soap, leaving a residue. Because many students are not accustomed to this, they complain of being left with "greasy feeling" skin.

Despite complaints about the area's water, Charlie O'Riley of the College Station Wastewater Treatment Plant said College Station recently won an award for the quality of its water.

"The award is equivalent to winning the Super Bowl of water quality," O'Riley said.

his balance and fell off.

McCollum said there was no foul play involved in the accident.

Police said Zabihi was drinking before the accident but they did not know if he was intoxicated.

Fred Bayliss, a University Tower employee, said the Plexiglas roof and a banana tree broke Zabihi's fall.

Bayliss also said Zabihi is not a resident of the University Tower and the cement wall of the balcony he fell from is chest high.



Ride On | John Fisher, an eight-year veteran of the University Police Department, is one of four full-time bicycle officers. He responds to calls and cites minor offenses, such as bicycle violations.

THE BATTALION TODAY

Abstract Love

Texas A&M professor presents self-directed written *Fragments of a Pirate Trilogy*. AggieLife, Page 3

Aggie Tuneup

Following a mediocre showing at Iowa State, Texas A&M offense is looking for an outburst. Sports, Page 7

Football Play

Quarterback: In the field of coaching, foul language can spice up press lectures. Opinion, Page 11

Debate anticipation

Citizens question election issues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Give Americans the chance and they'd ask Bill Clinton about his ethics. They'd ask Bob Dole about how the country can afford his proposed tax cut.

They'd ask where the jobs are going to come from for people taken off welfare.

And how about a tax break for parents whose adult kids come home to roost?

And will the candidates ever stop bickering and start working together for the common good?

Riley Rahodes, leaning over an old pickup truck at his Oklahoma City service station, said he knew exactly what he'd ask: "What has gone wrong with America?"

Across America on Tuesday, people were asked by Associated Press reporters what questions they would pose if they had seats at Wednesday's town hall-style presidential debate in San Diego. The actual questions will come from 120 Californians, picked by the Gallup Organization.

Welfare, tax relief and the president's ethics were recurring themes in the street corner interviews.



Sandi Otoshi, a tourist visiting Boston, would ask about foreign policy: "How far does the United States have to go to protect other nations? I know we're the world leader, but how

responsible are we?"

Out-of-work truck driver Reggie Harrell said he'd ask Clinton: "Why are taxes the highest they've been in the whole history of the world?" He said he'd vote for Ross Perot.

"Why do so many people think you're a sleaze ball and accuse your administration of being unethical?" Davis Morin, a Concord, N.H., psychologist said he'd ask Clinton. He was one of a number of people expressing discomfort with Clinton's personal standards.

From Rando Karvo, a trash collector in Bismarck, N.D.: "Why can't Clinton tell the truth? He's always backtracking."

"I'd like to know if we're ever going to know the full story behind Whitewater," said Todd Corey, 32, a loan officer from Higganum, Conn., who still said he plans to vote for Clinton.



Dole



Clinton

CRs recruit new voters

By Meredith Stewart
The Battalion

More than 1,500 new voters registered at the two-week-long registration drive sponsored by the College Republicans.

Jeff Livingston, president of College Republicans and a senior electrical engineering major, said the drive was held to get more students involved in the election process.

"We wanted to encourage students to get registered," he said.

Livingston said they are trying to increase the number of students that are registered to vote so students will have an opportunity to make themselves heard.

"The politicians won't listen to us if we're not registered," Livingston said.

Janina Besa, a sophomore physics major, said voting gives students a say in their future.

"If you're in college, you obviously care about your future," Besa said. "Therefore, it's important to vote, because the people who are elected make decisions affecting our future."

James Powell, a freshman business finance major, said students have no right to complain about the government if they do not vote.

"Students should vote to be able to

say they participated," Powell said. "If they didn't, it's pointless to argue about anything (done by elected officials)."

The drive lasted two weeks and invited all campus organizations to participate by encouraging its members to vote. An anonymous donor offered a prize to the organization turning in the highest number of new registered voters.

"(The donor) wanted to see students participate in the electoral process," Livingston said.

About 10 organizations participated, with Residence Hall Association winning the \$1,000 prize.

In addition to the grand prize, all organizations turning in more than 50 new voters will be entered in a drawing for \$200. The drawing helped encourage smaller organizations, unable to reach a large number of people, to participate.

College Republicans attempted to register students in other ways besides the drive. The members went door-to-door in residence halls and apartments, setting up information tables and visiting classes.

"We've been working on that (registering voters) since school started," Livingston said.

The College Republicans registered between 6,000 and 7,000 new voters this semester.