

THE BATTALION

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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Prison phone scam targets Texas A&M

By ERICA ROY
 THE BATTALION

New Jersey inmates are targeting Texas A&M in a telephone scam in which the prisoners imitate an AT&T operator.

Walter Magnussen, assistant director of telecommunications at A&M, said word circulated at the prison that the (409) 845 exchange belongs to a large university.

"They grab a university and place calls to [it]," Magnussen said. "If it works, they keep going. They know we have a large box of numbers."

Magnussen said the prisoners are placing collect calls to on-campus numbers. Federal law requires the operator to identify the caller as a prisoner, but the prisoners use the AT&T bilingual network, which identifies the caller in Spanish.

Sometimes the person accepting the collect call understands nothing of the Spanish-speaking operator says except for the instructions at the end: "Dial uno." The receiver unknowingly accepts the collect call, Magnussen said.

After the call is accepted, the prisoner tells the A&M employee they are an AT&T operator and are having trouble with the bilingual network. They ask the employee to assist them

by dialing transfer 900, which does not exist.

This provides the prisoner access to an operator off-campus and disconnects the A&M employee from the call. The prisoner can then call anywhere, and Texas A&M is charged for the calls.

Patsy Albright, an administrative services officer at A&M, received one of the first fraudulent phone calls.

"The only thing Spanish I understood was 'dial one,'" Albright said. "Then a male operator

claimed to be from AT&T. I did assume it was valid."

Albright said she realized the call was not valid when other people began receiving the calls.

Albright said the people in her department now hang up when they receive the fraudulent phone calls.

Magnussen said the best way to stop the phone calls is to educate people on campus about them.

"The only way to combat it is to let people know," Magnussen said.

A&M was the target of a similar phone scam a few years ago. The University stopped the scam by alerting its employees to the fraudulent calls.

"We got the word out, and in a day or so it was stopped," Magnussen said.

Magnussen said A&M will not be held responsible for paying for the phone calls because they were an unsolicited service. However, the University must use its own employees to resolve the issue.

"It's more of a loss of manpower than money," Magnussen said.

Another recent phone scam asking people to call a number with an (809) area code is not believed to be connected to prison phone scam.

"The only way to combat it is to let people know."

Walter Magnussen
 Assistant director, A&M telecommunications



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Under Cover Ruth Gold, Laura Love, Danielle Chadwell and Elizabeth Harris cheer at the Texas Tech game Saturday afternoon while seeking shelter from the brief rainstorm. They are all seniors at a high school in Palestine and plan to attend A&M next year. See related game stories, Page 7.

Ride-along aims to decrease DWI

By BRANDON HAUSENFLUCK
 THE BATTALION

Fraternity presidents are riding along with police officers on weekends to get an idea of what they confront on the streets of College Station.

Jason Jordan, Interfraternity Council president and a senior marketing major, came up with the idea for the ride-along.

Jordan said he hopes the program will reduce the number of alcohol-related offenses committed by fraternity members.

"I have been hearing 'DWI' more than I've needed to," Jordan said. "I thought this program would be good because it would give us the chance to see things from the other side."

"This is an opportunity for us to see that it's stupid [to drive drunk], and for fraternity presidents to take back to their chapters what they've learned," he said.

The ride-along program began Oct. 17 and will continue until all fraternity presidents have had a chance to ride with an officer.

The College Station Police Department schedules only two or three ride-alongs per night, Thursday through Saturday.

Sgt. Chuck Fleegeer, a patrol su-

pervisor at CSPD, said the program will help both sides understand one another.

"Anything that makes our job easier, I'm all for it," Fleegeer said. "They [fraternity presidents] have more influence over their peers than we would."

"The more they know about us, the easier our job is," he said. "Now we'll know better how they work as well."

James Starke, president of Alpha Tau Omega and a senior management major, said the ride-along helped him understand how police officers work.

"It was definitely something different to do on a Friday night," Starke said. "It was a very enlightening experience. [Police officers] have a lot of misconceptions about us and we have a lot about them."

Starke said he corrected one misconception police had about fraternities.

"They thought fraternities hold seminars on how to teach our members how to drive drunk," Starke said. "I was flabbergasted."

Starke said he and the officer responded to around 20 parties for disturbance calls.

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Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

James Stark, ATO president, rides with Senior Officer Karry Williams on Friday night as part of the IFC alcohol awareness program.

New course to examine cultural healing

By CHRISTIE HUMPHRIES
 THE BATTALION

The intercultural communication course at Texas A&M will have a new emphasis on cultural healing systems this Spring. This is the first time the course will present cultural knowledge in relation to medical practices.

Dr. Margarita Gangotena, a speech communications professor, said she will emphasize medical systems in her intercultural communications course.

"I have always wanted to teach the course with an emphasis on medicine," Gangotena said. "I am more familiar

with the material, and now I feel I can open up to new areas of study."

Gangotena began teaching the intercultural class in 1992 when she came to A&M.

Gangotena said the course would be ideal for students pursuing a job in the medical field because of the focus on healing systems.

Thomas Bosquez, coordinator of special programs and College of Medicine lecturer, said Gangotena's efforts are encouraging because a need exists for physicians to communicate effectively with intercultural patients.

Bosquez said understanding a patient's culture allows a physician to more effectively communicate the importance of seeking medical advice.

Students will be divided into groups to research one country. The students will interview an international person about the aspects of his or her culture code. The research will be conducted with a constant focus of how the culture's medical system relates to each of the three elements of the culture code — beliefs, values and norms of behavior.

Gangotena said the belief system is at the core of a culture and

determines how their medical systems develop. To see this, students will interact with people from the medical field and culture they choose to study.

"I plan to bring into the classroom medical practitioners of the systems," Gangotena said.

These practitioners may include charismatic healers, Mexican-American healers and Chinese acupuncturists.

Students will present their research to the class at the end of the semester so their findings on different cultures and their healing systems can be shared.

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Projects hinder demolition process

By JOANNE WHITTEMORE
 THE BATTALION

Two-sided Tori
 Tori Amos challenges mysterious persona with her performance tonight.
 AggieLife, Page 3

Hopes Fading
 The Aggie football team's second consecutive loss at Kyle Field harms bowl chances.
 Sports, Page 7

Love Story
 Forward: Girls should learn the new rules of the game to find the man of their dreams.
 Opinion, Page 9

Project complications have delayed the removal of the rubble that was once Law and Puryear residence halls.

Joe Estill, construction manager, said the demolition of Cain Pool, DeWare field house and Downs Natatorium has slowed down the removal process.

The residence halls and recreational facilities are joint projects under one contractor.

Estill said the contractor should have been finished with Law and Puryear Halls by Oct. 15, but complications with the other project have delayed clean-up for about 60 more days.

"Trouble with the DeWare, Downs, and Cain Pool project threw them [workers] behind," he said.

Wofford Cain Pool was opened in 1962, the Downs Natatorium was erected in 1934, and the DeWare Field

House was built in 1924. All three buildings were located next to the Rainbow Bridge, across from Cain Park.

Estill said the old recreation facilities were unnecessary after the completion of the new Student Recreation Center and Natatorium.

"It was the feeling of the University that there would be too many pools to keep up," he said. "Cain Pool is over 35 years old, more than the preferred lifetime of a pool. The University would have had to spend additional money to revamp the pool."

Estill said another factor in deciding to demolish the buildings was structural problems with the Downs Natatorium, which was affixed to DeWare Field House.

Tony Heger, facilities administration manager, said no plans for the leftover space have been made by the University.

However there is speculation that the area where the residence halls were located



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

will be made into a plaza.

Law and Puryear Halls, across from the YMCA building, were two of the oldest residence halls on campus, having been erected in 1927.

Heger said Law and Puryear Halls were demolished because of their age and condition.

"It was a timing issue," he said. "They were hazards. Various presentations were made

Major newspapers back Clinton, Dole

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major East and West Coast newspapers endorsed President Clinton for re-election over the weekend while Republican Bob Dole was more popular in the Midwest and South.

The New York Times, The Boston Globe, the San Francisco Examiner, the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Maine Sunday Telegram as well as newspapers in Hartford, Conn., Seattle, and Portland, Ore., endorsed Clinton on Sunday. He also won the backing of The Des Moines Register and the Honolulu Advertiser. In New Jersey, Clinton won endorsements from The Asbury Park Press of Neptune, The Courier-News of Bridgewater and The Times of Trenton.

Dole won endorsements from The Detroit News, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, The Kansas City Star, The Hutchinson (Kan.) News,

The Clarion-Ledger of Jackson, Miss., and The Idaho Statesman in Boise.

In Connecticut, feelings were split, with Clinton endorsed by The Hartford Courant and Dole backed by The Day of New London, the Connecticut Post of Bridgeport, the Norwich Bulletin and the New Haven Register.

The New York Times called Clinton the best candidate in the field but expressed reservations about his "resoluteness and sensitivity to ethical standards in government."

But the Times said that Clinton "is clearly the most skilled navigator of today's contrary political seas."



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