



THE BATTALION

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Accident leaves student with minor injuries

Car making an illegal left turn struck a student crossing University Drive.

BY ERICA ROY
THE BATTALION

A hit-and-run accident Wednesday

morning on University Drive left one Texas A&M student with minor injuries and another facing possible charges.

Rachel Barnes, the victim and a senior civil engineering major, was released from St. Joseph's Hospital after suffering minor injuries Wednesday.

Silas Luke Sarver, a freshman bio-engineering major, is facing possible charges after allegedly hitting Barnes

with his car.

Barnes was walking in the crosswalk towards the A&M campus when a car hit her while turning left on to the 800 block of University Drive from campus.

The car then left the scene of the accident.

Lieutenant Scott McCollum of the College Station Police Department said the department is continuing its inves-

tigations into possible charges against Sarver.

Barnes was able to walk away from the accident.

She said the accident occurred when the car made a left turn from Spence Street onto University Drive. A sign posted above the intersection states left-hand turns are not allowed.

Barnes said she might have been in-

jured more seriously if the car had been larger.

She said she was lucky someone helped her off the street because the driver did not stop.

"If you hit somebody, stop," she said. Barnes said drivers need to be prevented from making the left turn, because too many people turn left illegally at the intersection.

'Ring' site unites Aggies in cyberspace

BY JACKIE VRATIL
THE BATTALION

The idea of Aggie Rings being a site for seniors is slowly becoming a reality of the past with the help of Stephen Ellis, Class of '95, and the creation of the "Aggie Ring."

The Aggie Ring is a site on the World Wide Web where Aggies can

contact and keep touch with other Aggies.

Ellis said the purpose of the Aggie Ring, as with any web ring, is to bring people with similar interests together.

"My purpose in creating a ring like this one," he said, "is to unite Aggies together in cyberspace."

The Aggie Ring is hosted by "Webbing." Webbing provides this service of charge as a way to link together many different homepages in a circular manner.

Ellis said the site, <http://www.geocities.com/SouthBeach/8895/Aggie.htm>, is easy to access.

"The site is available to anybody with Internet access," he said. However, there is one stipulation for joining: you must be an Aggie and have a homepage."

Ellis came up with the idea of the Aggie Ring after coming across pages that were part of other web rings.

"I looked into them and decided to join one," he said. "After I joined, I wondered if there was an Aggie Ring, but my searches came up with nothing. So I began the creation of the Aggie Ring."

Mark Flusche, a senior mechanical

engineering technology major, helped come up with the idea.

"I worked at a co-op with Stephen (Ellis) and we knew nothing about web rings," he said. "But we worked with it and learned it that way. It was kind of just a fun thing to do."

Ellis hopes Aggies will use the ring to locate friends they have lost touch with over the years.

"They can look them up using the Aggie Ring index, which is a list of all the pages and their creator's names, in the ring," he said. "If that fails, they can e-mail me with a request, and I can send a general e-mail to everyone on the ring."

Katie Murry, a junior community health major, said the Aggie Ring is an innovative way for Aggies to keep in touch after graduation.

"I look forward to using it in the future to locate my long-lost friends, rather than just browsing through all the homepages," she said.

Ellis said web rings are a relatively new idea on the Internet that has the potential to grow.

"I am hoping that the Aggie Ring will become one of the largest rings on the web," he said. "It certainly has the potential."

Murry said she liked all the graphics and music she encountered once connected to the site.

"I appreciate the fact that somebody took the time to create something like this, because we are such a huge university and so many people will benefit from the ring," she said.



Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

Daydreamin'

Yilcan Guzelgunler, a graduate electrical engineering student, takes refuge from the rain in Freebirds Wednesday afternoon.

Whoopin' Weekend

High schoolers sample college

BY LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

High school students arrived today to spend a "Whoopin' Weekend" at Texas A&M University and get a taste of college life.

Sponsored by the Aggie Recruitment Committee, Whoopin' Weekend began three years ago as a recruiting tactic. Since then, the number of participants has grown from 21 to more than 200.

Melissa Batig, Whoopin' Weekend co-chair and a junior chemical engineering major, said the committee was forced to turn applicants away because of an overflow of interested students.

"It has the potential to be the next Fish Camp," Batig said.

Applicants are chosen on a first-come, first-serve basis. Members of the recruitment committee had applications available for Whoopin' Weekend when they recruited at high schools during the fall semester.

Students will stay with members of ARC and other volunteers who live on campus.

Lisa Kelley, Whoopin' Weekend co-chair and a junior agriculture development major, said students who attend the conference may eliminate misconceptions they have of A&M.

"It gives them a first-hand idea of what campus is like," she said. "There is a lot of hearsay, people saying 'If you go to A&M there are a bunch of hicks, and Austin is liberal.' If they come, they can see [what A&M is like] for themselves."

Students will be divided into discussion groups and attend seminars on housing, financial aid and the application process.

Mixers, a yell practice and performances by the Aggie Wranglers and the Fish Drill Team will fill the weekend.

Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs, will have lunch with the students Friday.

He said student-to-student recruiting produces the best responses from potential Aggies.

"Every program that we have that brings students to the campus enhances the probability of bringing them to the school," he said. "Our students are the greatest ambassadors we have at Texas A&M."

Lost and Found reunites items with owners

BY BENJAMIN CHENG
THE BATTALION

MSC Lost and Found makes finding stray belongings on the vast campus of Texas A&M easier for students.

Olivia Yang, a freshman international marketing major, lost her wallet while walking to Blocker two weeks ago but never went to the Lost and Found.

"I had to cancel my credit card, my debit card and my Randall's card," she said. "My driver's license and my student I.D. were gone."

Ron Fulton, MSC Guestroom Manager, oversees the Lost and Found, located at the Information Desk. Fulton said the lost and found handles about 1,000 lost items a semester.

"People turn things into us and we log them into a book," he said.

Items turned in at the Student Recreation Center, Evans Library, West Campus Library, Wehner, Heldenfels and Bus Operations are sent to MSC Lost and Found.

"Almost every building has a lost and found," Fulton said. "They may or may not bring stuff over here."

Yang said she checked Blocker,

Sbisa and the Pavilion for her wallet.

"I went to Sbisa and they were looking through the I.D.s there," she said. "It's just wherever you find it, you turn it in and they don't do anything about it. They just let it sit there."

Fulton said students must describe their items before claiming them at the Lost and Found. Expensive items like calculators must be described thoroughly by indicating specific markings or features.

MSC Lost and Found holds student I.D. cards for a week before turning them in to the I.D. office at the Pavilion.

"After we (Lost and Found) have had an item for six months, [MSC] Hospitality holds an auction," Fulton said.

This year's Lost and Found auction will be March 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the MSC Flagroom. Students can select lost and found items to bid on at the auction. Three hundred to 500 items will be auctioned off.

Brad Lockwood, MSC Hospitality fund-raising executive and a senior marketing major, said the auction is an inexpensive way for students to shop.

"If I were a student, I would bring



Robert McKay, THE BATTALION

The Lost and Found is located at the Information Desk in the MSC.

\$20 to the auction," he said. "Twenty dollars can get a lot of stuff."

After two unsuccessful days of looking for her wallet, Yang went to the Pavilion to pay the \$12 fee for a new I.D. card.

"I figured after two days I really got to eat," she said.

Don Gardner, associate registrar, said most students pay \$12 to get a new I.D. card.

"Students are really hamstrung when they lose their I.D.s," he said.

Gardner said the I.D. office extends the courtesy of calling the owners of lost I.D. cards.

"I feel more comfortable with that than sending it off somewhere," he said.

Yang said she recovered her wallet Tuesday in her ballet class. "It was really weird," she said.

'Puppy walkers' train guide dogs for the blind

BY JOEY JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

The gifts of independence, mobility, companionship and love do not come in a box for the visually impaired. Instead, they come free, complete with training and a collar.

The Guide Dog Foundation of the Southwest has teamed up with Texas A&M University students to train puppies for a future of guiding the blind.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to be "puppy walkers" for the foundation.

Jesse Czelusta, a senior agriculture economics major, volunteered as a puppy walker last year. "I trained a black Labrador named Rudder," Czelusta said. "He went everywhere with me, all over campus, and even to class."

The dog lived with Czelusta in his dorm room. Around campus, Rudder wore a blue jacket identifying him as a guide dog. Rudder's training involved obedience skills and interaction on campus.

"It was like being a miniature parent," Czelusta said. "You have to house-train your dog and love and feed him. I loved it."

Rudder is currently finishing his professional training at the Guiding Eyes for the Blind school in New York. He then will be placed in a good home for a blind person in need.

Aggie Guide Dogs and Service Dogs, a local organization, is being organized for students who want to volunteer to work with guide dogs.

Lynda Case, a sophomore biomedical science major, is president of the group. The organization will be officially recognized by the University if the Department of Student Activities approves its application.

Marci Streck, a junior computer science major, trained a golden retriever named Shelby for six months. She enjoyed the experience and has added her name to the list of potential puppy walkers.

"I grew attached to Shelby, but I knew this program is for a good cause, and I want to help people," Streck said.

The Guide Dog Foundation provides a strong background for training. The volunteer program lasts from 12 to 15 months, during which puppies learn basic training and socialization skills.

Debra Baker, executive director of the Guide Dog Foundation, said A&M offers a good training atmosphere for dogs. Students train dogs to deal with a busy schedule and to socialize.

"A&M provides a good place for dogs to learn to interact with many sights, sounds and smells and deal with them well," Baker said.

When puppies complete the basic training, at about one or two years of age, they are returned to the guide dog school to be evaluated and placed with an owner.

The Foundation recommends only one dog in training on campus at a time. Volunteers must be dedicated and have time to commit to the dog. Volunteers also must attend mandatory training classes.

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INSIDETODAY

TAKING THE PLUNGE:

The Texas A&M Swimming and Diving Teams host the inaugural Big 12 Championships this weekend.

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