

Student injured in collision following electrical outage



Sgt. Donnie Andreski of the College Station Police Department directs traffic following a collision between a pedestrian and an automobile Thursday at the intersection of University Drive and Spence Street.

By COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

A Texas A&M student was injured Thursday afternoon after he was struck by a Chevrolet Suburban at Chevrivity Drive and Spence Street, College Station Police Department (CSPD) said.

Shien-Wei Wang, a senior chemical engineering major, was transported to Columbia Medical Center and released after receiving treatment.

CSPD Sgt. Donnie Andreski said the accident occurred after the traffic lights at the intersection stopped working because of a power outage.

"The power went out and this light is connected as well as several others are connected to the power system at A&M," he said.

Susan Macik of Brenham was turning left onto Spence Street in her green 1993 model Suburban and did not see Wang trying to cross the street, CSPD said.

4 former cadets dismissed from drill team case

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

A district judge ruled on Wednesday to relieve four Texas A&M University officials of liability in a hazing lawsuit filed by a member of the former Fish Drill Team.

Jim Ashlock, University Relations director, said the ruling appears to sever any Texas A&M connections with the \$25 million suit filed by former Texas A&M Fish Drill Team member Travis Alton in July 1997.

"From what we understand, the defendants of Texas A&M are dismissed," Ashlock said. "It seems to have taken the University out of the case. The only recourse left now is if the plaintiff were to appeal this to the Federal Court of Appeals (Fifth Circuit)."

Alton accused Texas A&M officials of tolerating Fish Drill Team hazing practices, alleging he was beaten, kicked and slapped by upperclassmen.

Bill Hommel, the attorney representing Alton, could not be reached for comment on the ruling.

Corps of Cadets commandant Maj. Gen. M. T. "Ted" Hopgood, former Corps commandant Thomas Darling, Vice

President for Student Affairs J. Malon Southerland and former Fish Drill Team faculty adviser Robert Dalton were dismissed as defendants in the suit.

Hopgood said that he is pleased with Kent's ruling.

"I am pleased with the judge's ruling," Hopgood said. "I think the prevention of hazing has long been a policy in the running of the Corps of Cadets."

Hopgood declined to comment on the future of the hazing suit filed by Alton. U.S. District Judge Sam Kent made the ruling with some hesitation, according to a report by the *Houston Chronicle*.

Kent was not available for comment yesterday afternoon.

The Fish Drill Team was disbanded in August 1997 after the University faced numerous hazing allegations.

The claims against eight upperclassmen who served as advisers to the Fish Drill Team and who were alleged to have beaten Alton remain pending in Kent's court.

The eight were charged with misdemeanor crimes for hazing that occurred in early 1997, while Alton was a member of the Fish Drill Team.

Roe vs Wade defendant to discuss pro-life debate

By JENNIFER WILSON
Staff writer

The famous "Jane Roe," Norma McCorvey, of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* abortion decision will discuss her role in the court decision and her later anti-abortion conversion at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

"She became disillusioned in 1991 after she saw first-hand the effects of abortion," said spokesperson Rhonda Mackey. "She saw the pain of the women and how the clinics were not held up to any standards."

Mackey said McCorvey spoke to a Senate sub-committee Jan. 21 and will speak to the U.S. Congress April 23.

"People are taking a second look at the issue and on abortion because they are wondering why she would change her mind after 18 years," she said.

McCorvey said in an interview with Ted Appel a few years ago that she did not oppose abortion in first trimester pregnancies, but had changed her opinion on second and third trimester pregnancies, Mackey said.

"She is now 100 percent pro-life, even in cases of rape and incest," she said. Lauren Donahue, coordinator of the Respect for Life Commission at St. Mary's Catholic Church, said they are sponsoring the speech to help people understand more about the *Roe v. Wade* decision and McCorvey's life experiences.

"It is good for Texas A&M and the Bryan-

College Station community to hear her story of how she changed her life," she said. "It will serve as a source of inspiration to others and help them realize that there are other choices to abortion."

Donahue said the main reason for McCorvey's transformation is her daughter, who has supported her and helped in her decision. Donahue said she hopes the talk will deter people from choosing abortion.

Father David Konderla, priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church, said McCorvey was scheduled to speak before Planned Parenthood announced the opening of an abortion clinic in Bryan.

"We did not plan for it because of the abortion clinic," he said. "I guess God did."

Konderla said McCorvey is one of a growing number of people who are former supporters or providers of abortion now protesting against it.

"The great thing about Norma McCorvey is that she represents the healing power of love and forgiveness," he said. "That is what caused her to change her mind. This is meaningful to women and young girls who have been harmed by abortion."

Debra Grant, a pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, said McCorvey's talk is part of a class being held by the church to discuss all issues on the right to life and abortion.

"The purpose of her talk is to have a civil, reasonable conversation about issues on abortion and the right to life in a manner that looks compassionately at the issue," Grant said.

Aggies prepare for Mardi Gras

Ross Volunteer Company, Aggie Band to participate in festivities

By RACHEL DAWLEY
Staff writer

The celebration of Mardi Gras, called "the greatest show on Earth" by the mayor of New Orleans, will conclude next Tuesday. Many Texas A&M students will travel to the celebration this weekend to join in the festivities.

The Mardi Gras celebration includes masked balls, parties, sporting events, colorful parades and live entertainment. New Orleans is the center of Mardi Gras, but many towns including Galveston have celebrations.

Marc Morial, mayor of New Orleans, said the event brings citizens and tourists together for song, spirit and enthusiasm.

"The Mardi Gras celebration is unlike any other celebration in the world," Morial said. "From the dazzling costumes to the tossing of glittering trinkets into the hands of eager citizens, Mardi Gras creates excitement and entertainment."

The Ross Volunteer Company will lead the King Rex Parade Tuesday at 10 a.m. The parade is the largest in the Mardi Gras celebration and spans seven miles through New Orleans. The company has marched in the parade since 1951.

Branson Washburn, commander of the Ross Volunteers and a senior kinesiology major, said the parade puts A&M in the spotlight of the huge event.

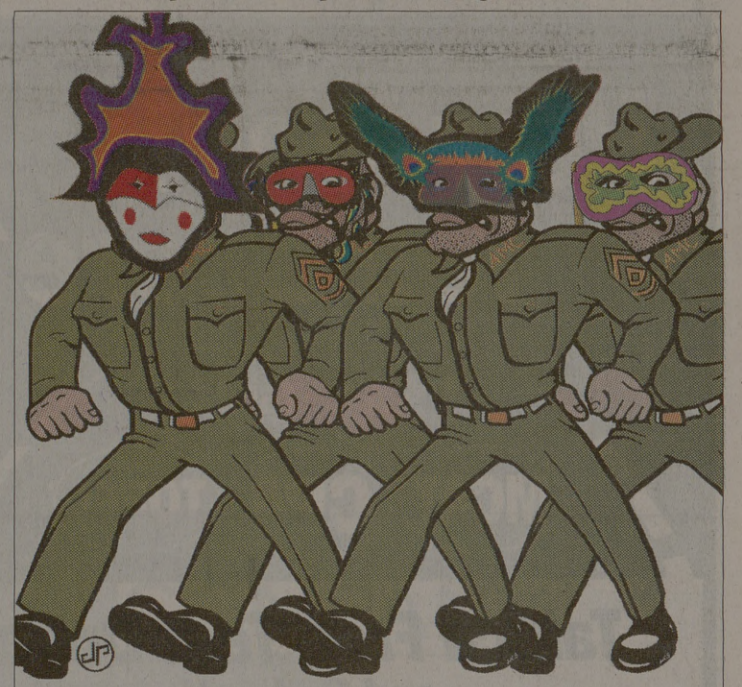
"It is an honor to be the leader of the biggest parade of Mardi Gras," Washburn said. "It gives great exposure to the Ross Volunteers and to the University."

The Aggie Band will march in the Knights of Momus parade in Galveston on Saturday at 6 p.m.

John Fugitt, head drum major and a senior history major, said the Galveston celebration is different from New Orleans'.

"I've been to Galveston once with the band and New Orleans once as a Ross Volunteer," Fugitt said. "New Orleans has more people and is more crowded. But, they both have beads flying and people screaming and yelling."

Fugitt said people recognize the Aggie Band and they are welcomed at the celebration.



"People go crazy when they hear the band, no matter where we go," Fugitt said. "The band loves to represent A&M and we take pride in being ambassadors to the University."

The Mardi Gras celebration began in 1837, and the first day of the season is always Jan. 6.

Called the "Twelfth Night," it marks the beginning of the private masked balls that are held until Mardi Gras Day, which marks the end of the season.

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Dance all night

Students to raise money for charity through Aggies Up All Night

By LYNDSEY NANTZ
Staff writer

More than 200 Aggies will voluntarily stand up for 30 consecutive hours today and Saturday, in an effort to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network.

Aggies Up All Night raised over \$7,000 last year for CMN and aim to double that amount this year. The All-nighters stand the entire time in Duncan Dining Hall and get pledges from classmates and businesses in Bryan-College Station. Entertainment including Freudian Slip will perform this year to help keep the all-nighters awake.

Amy Rios, director of Aggies Up All Night and a senior speech communications major, said the group raises money for CMN because it helps healthy, young adults understand part of the struggle these children go through.

"CMN kids fight everyday," she said. "For us to strain through 30 hours is nothing compared to what they do. We wake up the next morning and feel fine. These children wake up the next morning still in pain."

The All-nighters get a meal every five hours and snacks are available the entire time.

"We checked with nutritionists and everything is healthy," Rios said. "But there is no caffeine. We don't want them to get all pumped up then come down re-

ally fast."

Kaycie Swain, a junior political science major, went as a volunteer last year.

"The volunteers go for three-hour shifts just to raise morale," she said. "It is important to keep the All-nighters in good spirit to keep everyone going."

But Swain ended up staying and standing for 25 hours.

"I was having a ball," she said. "I met this guy, so I stayed and we have been dating ever since."

This year she and her boyfriend are going together.

Clarissa Rodriguez, the public relations and entertainment chair and a senior speech communications major, said the night is full of great entertainment.

"The Aggie Wranglers, Ballet Folklorico and Aggie Players are all coming to help boost spirits in the down times," she said. "Reveille is stopping by too."

Sitting is allowed, at times, but the 10-second sit has to be bought for a dollar or won during a game.

"There are also bathroom breaks, but they are supervised in case someone falls asleep," Rodriguez said.

Rios said she has participated in Aggies Up All Night since it began three years ago.

"I think it is true things become a tradition at A&M after its third year," she said. "I am the last person of the original group that started. It has a special place in my heart and it amazes me how big people's hearts are. They just keep giving."

Student Senate passes resolution on parking

By STACEY BECKS
Staff writer

The Student Senate Wednesday night passed a resolution that attempts to persuade the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS) to reevaluate their role as a public service entity and to admit there is a parking problem on campus.

Craig Rotter, student services chair and a graduate student, said the resolution was a shadow of the student body opinion parking is insufficient.

"The students put us here as their voice," he said. "We are working with the administration to better the parking situation. This resolution expresses the student body's concerns."

The resolution says that PTTS has not regarded the complaints from students about the lack of campus parking and asks PTTS to improve their services.

Some Student Government members said the resolution may

ruin relations between PTTS and Student Government.

Curtis Childers, student body president and a senior agricultural development major, said PTTS has made efforts to fix the parking problem and Student Government has not given them time to act on suggestions and concerns.

"PTTS has worked with us a lot this year," he said. "The vice president of administration has started two new committees to work on parking problems. This resolution is premature because PTTS is in the process of making changes."

Childers said he hopes the resolution will not stifle PTTS' efforts to work with the Student Government.

The resolution was a way to push for change for some senators.

Robert Kimmel, a senator and senior animal science major, said the resolution should only force change, and not hurt relations, if taken as it is intended.

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