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Alcohol ruled cause of death of Aggie

BY CARRIE BENNETT AND EMILY R. SNOOKS
The Battalion

A medical examination concluded Michael Duane Wagener, a junior environmental design major of Porter, died Aug. 3, the morning of his 21st birthday, of acute alcohol poisoning.

An autopsy revealed his blood alcohol content was 0.48, well above the legal limit of intoxication.

Sergeant Charles Fleeger, Criminal Investigation Supervisor for College Station Police Department (CSPD), said the department is investigating events leading up to his death.

He said the department is working to uncover how Wagener obtained the alcohol prior to midnight, who provided the alcohol and where all of these activities took place.

"At this point we are continuing to investigate the where, who and when of the situation and see what charges are applicable, and they will be taken up with the District Attorney," he said.

Fleeger said charges could possibly be brought upon any person and any licensed establishment who supplied Wagener with alcohol prior to midnight.

Legislation introduced last February in the Texas House of Representatives will lower the legal level of blood alcohol concentration (BAC) necessary for an individual to be considered legally intoxicated from 0.10, the current level, to 0.08, effective Sept. 1.

According to this new limit, Wagener's BAC would have been six times the legal limit.

The purpose of the amendment according to the Office of House Bill Analysis includes the "belief that individuals are significantly impaired at levels lower than Texas state law currently allows." The federal government has passed legislation which would give "specific funds" to a state if the BAC is lowered to 0.08.

Omar Cantu, enforcement agent with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), said he is conducting a joint investigation into the incident with the police department. He said CSPD will investigate criminal matters and TABC will investigate administrative violations, which are violations covered under the TABC code.

Cantu said criminal charges will not necessarily be brought up, but the TABC does have the right to press criminal charges.

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New Corps of Cadets members face many challenges, changes

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

The beginning of the 1999 fall semester will mean a lifestyle change for many of the 600 plus freshmen registered in the Corps of Cadets.

Major J. H. "Doc" Mills, media relations coordinator for the Corps of Cadets, said the Corps can expect as many as one hundred additional cadets to sign up once the school year begins, and 85 percent of the cadets are expected to stay through the first semester.

"Last year, we kept 85 percent of the 780 freshmen in the Corps," he said. "This year we are going to try for even more," Mills said.

Aaron Farnum, a member of the Corps of Cadets and a senior computer engineering major, said one problem encountered by freshmen is the inability to manage their time.

"What I suggest is that [freshmen] learn how to use time effectively with a focus on academics," Farnum said.

According to a survey of freshmen leaving the Corps, one of the major complaints students had was a lack of free time.

Mark Macicek, Deputy Corps Commander and a senior business major, said the structured time frame, including 20 hours a week of mandatory study time, helps develop a sense of discipline with regards to academic success.

"The Corps helps put an emphasis on academics," he said. "As a result, Corps members often average better grades than

freshman and sophomore years than non-regs."

Macicek said the studying emphasis is one of the reasons students in the Corps averaged better grades than their civilian counterparts in nine out of the 10 colleges for the last spring semester.



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Sophomore **Chris May** (left) and senior **John Anderson** (middle) look on as **Freshman O** (right) drinks water while practicing drill instruction, a mandatory drill for all cadets who are not members of the Aggie Band, on the Quadrangle Monday afternoon.

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Forrest Lane, Corps of Cadets Commander and a senior political science and economics major, said he advises freshmen in the Corps to continue through the rough times they may encounter their first year.

"Sometimes a freshman can't see the entire picture of all the benefits the Corps can offer," he said. "But the more time you spend in the Corps, the more you realize that it is teaching

SEE CORPS ON PAGE 2.

Leadership conference to focus on networking

BY BROOKE HODGES
The Battalion

Leaders from various campus organizations will join together Aug. 25 through 27 for the 47th MSC Annual Fall Leadership Conference held in Trinidad.

Barney Fudge, adviser for the Fall Leadership Conference, said the conference is directed toward educating upperclassmen to gain leadership skills such as good communication skills, motivation and responsibility needed after graduation.

"[The conference] will gather juniors and seniors who are in leadership positions on campus to get together and network and exchange different leadership perspectives," he said.

Jeremy Hawpe, director of delegates for the conference, said the conference will emphasize the importance of building relationships among students by introducing leaders from different organizations. Beneficial networks can be formed at the conference between leaders that work together during the fall.

"This year's conference, themed 'Building Our Future,' will focus on the tools used in leadership positions such as networking personal relationships between students throughout the campus," he said.

Fudge said that this year the conference is centered around the Dominance Influence Steadiness Consciousness test (D.I.S.C.).

The test will be used by the participants to define their own personalities. Students will attend focus groups in order to gain information on how to work with other personalities in a professional setting, Fudge said.

Anne Turner, chairperson for the conference, said the participants also get a chance to meet with faculty of Texas A&M University.

The conference will include a question and answer session with Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen and the Board of Regents.

"A lot of people would not ordinarily have the opportunity to be in a room with Dr. Bowen and be able to ask questions," Turner said.

Jan Hargrave, an open session speaker for the conference, will give a presentation on the use of non-verbal communications in business including a discussion on the interpretation of body language.

Fudge said former students will be available to provide insights into the business world and the need for leadership qualities to succeed. He said former students who participated in the conference while attending A&M will discuss the ways leadership skills have been beneficial to them.

ExCEL aims to ease transition to college

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Incoming freshmen will have the opportunity to learn skills and techniques for making a smooth transition from high school to college at the Excellence Uniting Culture Education and Leadership (ExCEL) orientation conference given by the Department of Multicultural Services Aug. 27 and 28.

Tiffani Darden, senior political science major and president of the ExCEL program, said the program focuses on helping minority students adapt to the new academic and social experiences of college life by means of providing assistance from upperclassmen, called team leaders, and minority faculty members.

"We want to show these freshmen that, even though they are going to a predominately white school, minorities can still fit in and reach beyond their own comfort zone," she said.

Lorna Hermosura, assistant coordinator of

student retention for the Department of Multicultural Services, said since the program's beginning in 1987 it has helped more than 1,800 students adjust to the college environment.

"This conference gives students the survival tools to succeed in college."

—Tiffani Darden
ExCEL president

She said the conference will offer workshops and social activities to help students find their own identity at Texas A&M University and understand other cultures and the traditions of A&M. She said there will also be programs to emphasize academic and time management

skills and the majority of the 11 workshops will be held at Rudder Fountain, Rudder Tower and MSC.

Darden said one activity will be the "Cultural Extravaganza" Friday night in the MSC. This event invites many culturally different organizations from A&M to participate. Hermosura said the conference will also have workshops designed for parents of incoming freshmen in order to help them prepare for the new situations they will encounter for example, the student's absence at home.

"The workshop will help ease the fears of the parents by letting them talk to parents of current students, helping them understand the traditions here, and letting them network with parents and faculty," Hermosura said.

Darden said she encourages everyone, not just minorities, to attend the conference.

"This conference gives students the survival

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A&M's first 'Freshman Welcome Day' to help incoming students, parents adjust to campus

BY JULIE ZUCKER
The Battalion

Texas A&M has designated today as the first official "Freshman Welcome Day" where volunteers will help students and parents move into residence halls.

Ron Sasse, director of residence life, worked with the Check-In Coordination Committee to designate a specific day for the freshmen to move in.

"Fifty percent of the freshman class move into their dorms on the first day [of move-in]," Sasse said. "It is overwhelming, and there has to be a better way to move freshmen in without the hassle."

Volunteers for the program, including individual students, staff members and campus organizations applied through campus mail and on the Internet. Sasse received 175 responses, but he would like more.

"I didn't know what to expect when it came to the number of

volunteers, but we need three times as many," he said. "I hope more people will come to the tents on Wednesday."

Volunteers will meet at designated tents near Northside and Southside residence halls today. The Northside tent will be located on the corner of Houston Street and Ross Street, next to Sbsa Dining Hall. The Southside tent will be between Wells and Eppright residence halls.

Help begins at 7 a.m. with volunteers signed up for four-hour shifts throughout the day until 7 p.m. Volunteers will wear T-shirts with the logo "Got Help?" on the front. Volunteers also get the benefit of parking without charge in the Northside or Southside parking garages.

Sasse said there is an equal amount of student and staff volunteers.

Taylor Haglund, president of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO) national service fraternity and a senior management and marketing

major, said the day will ease the transition for the freshmen.

"I remember what it was like to move in, and this is a good way to help out and meet the freshmen," she said.

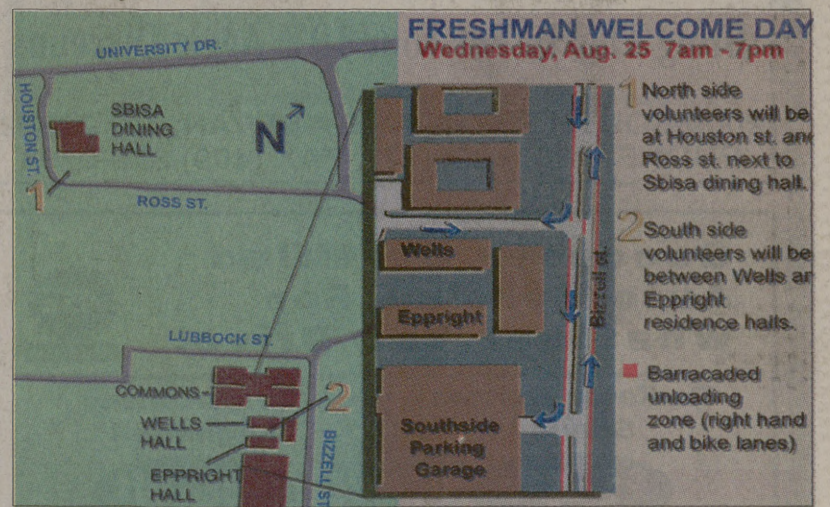
Haglund said many of the student volunteers are involved with APO.

"[APO] knew of the idea through other schools but never got around to starting it at A&M. Maybe we thought parking would be too terrible or the job was already taken," Haglund said. "Still, it will help the freshmen meet new people early on."

Sasse said volunteers' duties are to "meet, greet and help freshmen move into dorms."

He said volunteers will wait at the curbs for parents and students, help unload the cars and take items into the dorms. Sasse said volunteers will also answer any questions the students or parents may have.

He said the biggest issue for "Freshman Welcome Day" is



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

parking, Sasse said Bizzell Street and Lubbock Street will be partially barricaded and cars will follow a designated route to keep the flow of traffic from backing up. The cars will enter the residence hall areas, unload, and end up in

the parking garages, he said.

Sasse said a new tradition is beginning at A&M, and if it catches on, it will be bigger and better next year.

"If this should work anyplace it's Texas A&M," he said.