

EMS

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of students in need of the HelpLine. "I know that our numbers were up last year, we handled about 900 calls," she said.

"Several people on their application said that they had thought off and on about going through the training to be a HelpLine worker, that situations last year made them realize that [students are in need of help]."

Hope said the volunteers who work with the SCS HelpLine enjoy helping students who call and usually continue to work at the SCS past their required two semester commitment.

"The thing I'm most pleased with is the service [and] the way the student body has reacted to the service," she said.

The HelpLine is not available during University holidays, such as the Christmas holiday and



BRADLY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Student volunteers for the Student Counseling Service HelpLine and the Emergency Medical Service handle the psychological and medical emergencies for Texas A&M.

Spring Break, but a counselor can be obtained through calling Dial-A-Nurse line.

The Student Counseling Service's HelpLine is available at 4

OVERASSIGNMENTS

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use of bathrooms. "Because we have suite style rooms, there aren't community bathrooms," Woodard said. "So, we offer bathrooms to them, and our rooms for a different place to hang out."

Thomas said the number of on-campus residents, excluding those in Cain Hall and the Corps halls, is down this year by 2 percent.

"Last year was one of our heaviest years," he said. "But this year's number of overassignments is fairly close to average."

MOORE

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of Hispanics, Native-Americans and Asian-Americans [attending A&M] by utilizing the department's programs and services," Moore said.

Other duties Moore will be responsible for include advising students, serving as adviser for the ExCEL Student Success Program and being a member of the department leadership team.

"I also serve as secondary adviser for the Prime Time Posse, a group who performs themed skits to organizations around campus," he said.

Moore said the skits vary from serious to funny and can cover things such as encounters of new students and social concerns such as date rape or health issues.

Moore comes to the position with experience in both education and science and will be working on his Ph.D in Educational Human Resource Development while serving as Coordinator of Student Retentions.

Phoenix

BY E. AND



Ty to retire Beanies at beginning of millennium

CHICAGO (AP) — The new millennium may be free of new Beanie Babies.

The maker of the beanbag creatures announced on the company's Internet site that its existing plush-covered, pellet-stuffed animals will be retired on New Year's Day.

Oak Brook-based Ty Inc. posted the announcement Tuesday afternoon after a listing of new Beanie Babies it will release next month.

The message said: "VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE: On December 31, 1999-11:59 p.m. (CST) All Beanies will be retired... including the above!"

The news caused a frenzy on Internet chat rooms and collectors' Websites, but company own-

er Ty Warner and top executives remained mum on the subject.

Employees reached at Ty said they had only recently been informed about the Internet message and were not able to elaborate.

"We were barely informed like a half-hour ago," a customer service representative, who would only identify herself as Laura, told *The New York Times* in yesterday's editions.

Anne Nickels, a Ty spokesperson, had little to say when reached yesterday at the company's Illinois headquarters. She said the "newsflash" was posted Tuesday afternoon and removed today.

"I think they just wanted to get it up there and that was that," she said.

Nickels declined to say why the company made the decision or whether the company would be making any new Beanie Babies after the first of the year.

"The newsflash is what it was. We have nothing further to add to it," she said.

Ty began selling the toys in 1993. The company has distributed more than 100 characters, from dinosaurs and teddy bears to birds and zoo animals.

Discontinued models — "retired" in Beanie parlance — are the hottest sellers for collectors.

Toy industry experts attempted to interpret the announcement, saying it was unlikely that the company would stop producing the profitable toys completely.

Fish



BY R. DELU

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