

THE BATTALION

106 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Wednesday • October 6, 1999

College Station, Texas

Volume 106 • Issue 28 • 12 Pages

Alcohol, drug notification helps, but more aid needed, parents say

BY JEANETTE SIMPSON
The Battalion

The A&M Task Force on Parental Notification has been notifying parents of underage students' alcohol violations since the end of August. Kristin Harper, senior associate director of the Department of Student Life, said several letters have already been sent to parents of students who committed violations of the University's alcohol policy, including possession of alcohol or on-campus intoxication if underage. "Seventeen letters have been sent to parents notifying them of their child's violations so far this year," Harper said. Parents of all Aggies under age 21 have received letters during the past few weeks from Brent Paterson, head of the A&M Task Force on Parental Notification and director of Student Life, warning them of underage drinking on campus, especially among first-year students.

Paterson said the letter informs parents of the need to increase awareness of the problem and encourages them to talk to their children about the abuse of alcohol.

"The University is now serving as a link in the chain making parents responsible for their child."

— Sue Perlett
Parent of A&M student

Lorna Breault, coordinator of the Alcohol and Drug Education Center, said parents have been grateful that the University is now informing them of their students' violations.

"Parents have been extremely impressed with our new notification plans," she said. "In the past parents have been concerned because the only way they could find out about their students' violations was if the students themselves talked to them. The parents were often not informed until the situation had caused their student to be forced out of the University."

Sue Perlett, mother of a 19-year-old A&M sophomore, said it is important for her to know what is happening in her child's life. "As a parent, to be informed is important to me," Perlett said. "The University is now serving as a link in the chain making parents responsible for their child."

However, some parents are unsure of what to do about their students' alcohol abuse.

Dr. Dennis Reardon, senior coordinator of Student Life Alcohol and Drug Education programs, said the letters offer suggestions to par-

SEE NOTIFY ON PAGE 2.

Senate to discuss student loan bill

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Student Senate will discuss the Proposition 13 bill and internal senate legislation tonight at 7:30 in the Koldus Student Services Building.

Justin Toal, senate speaker pro-tempore and a senior agronomy and business major, said Proposition 13 will amend the state constitution to appropriate funds for student loans.

"The Proposition 13 bill will go through its first reading at [tonight's] Student Senate meeting," he said. "This bill will amend the Texas Constitution, authorizing the Texas Higher Education Coordination Board to \$400

million in general-obligation bonds to continue loan assistance through the Hinson-Hazelwood Student Loan Program."

Toal said the Hinson-Hazelwood Student Loan Program is a stable source of financial aid for students and is self-supportive. The program does not use state funds to pay administrators or repay loans, providing many advantages over private student loans, he said.

"There is an ongoing, multi-faceted campaign for Proposition 13," Toal said. "Student Government's main goal is to get people out to the polls on Nov. 2 to vote 'yes' for this proposition."

SEE SENATE ON PAGE 2.



Who: Dr. H. T. Engelhardt
Topic: Culture becoming Post-Christian
When & Where: 7 pm in 308 Rudder

GABRIEL RUENES/THE BATTALION

Christianity subject of prof's speech

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

A professor of bioethics at Baylor College of Medicine and of philosophy at Rice University will discuss issues facing medical ethics and their relationship to Christianity at 7 p.m. in Rudder 308.

Dr. H.T. Engelhardt said he will address some of the issues facing Christians in a post-Christian world, particularly in regards to medical-ethics issues, as part of a lecture series he will host at Texas A&M.

"What I want to do is to provide an understanding of how modern medicine is having an impact on our lives, as Christians," Engelhardt said. "We put a dollar of every seven dollars into health-care."

Engelhardt said he wants to look in particular at a new Texas law concerning living wills, effective Sept. 1, making amendments to the current law affecting end-of-life decision-making.

SEE CHRISTIANITY ON PAGE 2.

Going, going ... gone!



Don Garder, (left photo, in foreground) winds up and successfully dunks Dr. Ken Poenisch, (left photo, in background, and right photo), an associate dean for the College of Science, Tuesday afternoon. The dunking booth, located outside the MSC, was sponsored by the College of Science to raise funds for the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC).



KIMBER HUFF/THE BATTALION

Fraternity establishes Ticket Mart

BY ERIKA DOERR
The Battalion

Instead of paying an outrageous price for a scalped football ticket, Alpha Phi Omega offers a different alternative by reselling tickets at face value — a program called Ticket Mart.

Ticket Mart is the sale and consignment of football tickets at every home game. Alpha Phi Omega, the national coed service fraternity, takes donated tickets and resales them for face value through our Ticket Mart, in the MSC area, three hours before the home football game.

Melissa Tripp, Alpha Phi Omega publicity chair and a senior information and operations management major, said Alpha Phi Omega is ultimately trying to get scalpers out of the MSC area. She said there was an incident where a ticket-scalper shoved a member of Alpha Phi Omega in the MSC area.

"This incidents escalated to certain scalpers verbally harassing our walking sandwich boards at the A&M versus Southern Mississippi football game," she said. "Ideally, we want scalpers off the entire campus so APO Ticket Mart and the Athletic Department will be able to sell football tickets at face value."

Troy Schwartz, a member of Alpha Phi Omega and a senior industrial engineering major, said people donate tickets throughout the week to Alpha Phi Omega for face value selling, to Ticket Mart.

SEE TICKETS ON PAGE 2.

Candles light way for vigil

BY KENNETH MACDONALD
The Battalion

Citizens crowded the Bryan High School cafeteria last night for a ceremony followed by an emotional lighting of candles in the memory of victims and survivors of domestic violence.

A performance by the Texas A&M Woman's Choir accompanied the ceremony.

The vigil, sponsored by Phoebe's Home, a shelter in Bryan for battered women and the Brazos County Domestic Violence Task Force, featured speakers on domestic violence from the community and an awards ceremony honoring individuals who have contributed to the efforts of Phoebe's Home.

Nikki van Hightower of the School of Public Rural Healthcare at Texas A&M spoke about recent research into domestic-violence issues. "For years, we didn't talk about it or even have a name for it," she said. "Now that academia is involved, it is much easier to study, understand and get the word out about these issues."



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

The Alpha Chi Omega sorority sisters take part in candlelight vigil Tuesday night in support of Phoebe's Home.

Van Hightower said domestic violence now has more credibility because of the rise of the empowerment of women, but said, there is still an image portrayed in the media that it is acceptable for men to control women.

Mollie Bridges, program director for Phoebe's Home, said she usually sees two types of clients — mothers and their children.

"Phoebe's Home is a shelter that provides help to all victims of domestic violence, women, children and men, if they qualify," she said. Bridges said people do not need to be living in the shelter to receive assistance from Phoebe's Home.

"Our free, nonresidential services allow the victim to stay in their homes until they are ready to leave but still receive the same help and counseling [as if they were living at the home]," she said.

The A&M chapter of Alpha Chi Omega was honored for its contribution of \$5,000, raised from its paintball tournament, and diapers to Phoebe's Home.

No ringing endorsement

Panel calls plain, white-gold finish 'unattractive, ... not appropriate'

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

When Monti Pack, a senior speech communication major, went to order her Aggie ring in September, she had her heart set on a plain white-gold ring. What she ordered, however, was a yellow-gold ring with a natural finish.

"They made it clear that the plain, white-gold ring was just simply not going to be made available for ordering," Pack said.

Carolyn Swanzy, director of the Ring Office, said the decision not to offer the white-gold ring without antiquing was made by the Aggie Ring Committee of the Association of Former Students in 1997.

"It is my interpretation that the decision was made because they felt the ring was unattractive and was simply not appropriate," Swanzy said.

Pack said students should be allowed to order whatever options are available for the rings since they are the ones who will pay for and wear the rings.

"I think it is simply ridiculous that they would limit us because of their tastes," Pack said. "I have many friends who wanted this option and had to order the rings they really didn't like."

Swanzy said the white-gold ring without antiquing is the only option not offered.

"The other options evolved over time when the manufacturers made them available, and there were people requesting them," Swanzy said. "I have heard students commenting about the option around the office, but there is no real demand right now."

Swanzy said students may choose from a white-gold or yellow-gold ring. Yellow-gold rings may be ordered with natural, rose or antiqued finishes, while



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Ring finishes available are (From top left, clockwise) white gold, natural gold, antique and rose.

white-gold rings may be ordered only with the antiqued finish.

Ronnie Arrington, a jeweler for Douglas Jewelers in College Station, said students do have the option of buying the white-gold ring with antiquing and then have the antiquing stripped, but he does not advise the procedure.

"I stripped the antiquing off of two or three rings and then stopped offering the service," Arrington said. "It is my experience that it has a tendency to slightly discolor the ring, and it also voids the warranty."

Arrington said he understands the committee's decision not to offer the option of a plain white-gold ring.

"The Aggie ring is one of the few traditions at A&M that has not been radically changed," he said. "The ring is an important part of an Aggie's life, and that is why they put such strict restrictions on them."

Students wanting to offer input on the ring-selection process can contact Porter Garner, associate director of the Association of Former Students.

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Batt Radio
Listen to KAMU-FM 90.9 at 1:57 p.m. for details on Rick Davis' possible run for judge of the 272nd District Court.