

Workshops focus on leadership

Student leaders encouraged to enhance decision-making

BY BRYAN BLANTON
The Battalion

During the next four weeks, students will be able to attend a series of student leadership workshops sponsored by the department of Student Activities. The workshops focus on providing student leaders with the skills needed to manage their organizations more effectively.

In the past, Student Activities held a series of leadership workshops called the Student Leadership Institute. Student leaders were required to attend six weeks of workshops. Now, Student Activities has moved to a more open workshop that students are not required to attend.

Five topics will be presented during the next few weeks. The first workshop has already taken place and dealt with assessment and effective decision-making. The goal of this particular topic was to help students determine their organizations' missions and help create a decision making-process within that structure.

"Typically, we have many different organizations with many different purposes," said Ryan Williams, employee at Student Activities and graduate student. "So helping the students define what exactly their mission is, serving to their niche, we are trying help further their mission along."

Risk management, a new directive from the office of the vice president for Student Affairs, will also be covered. The objective of the workshop is to help students make effective decisions by utilizing a thought-process model for risk management. Here, the students learn how risk management goes hand-in-hand with their organizations' mission statements.

"If you ask yourself a question about what your organization is doing, and if it goes along with your mission statement, if the answer is no, then maybe it is something the organization doesn't need to be doing to further their process," Williams said.

At this workshop, students are encouraged to take a look at all areas of their organization and find ways to make activities safer.

The third workshop will discuss safe travel and entails developing a plan for student trips. The travel workshop is designed to help students realize what variables are involved in planning a trip, such as how many students are going, what the weather conditions will be and length of the trip.

"There will always be that one variable that you will not be able to foresee," Williams said. "So this workshop is trying to help students be deliberate and reduce the factors they do see."

The other workshops will deal with event planning and conflict resolution. The event-planning workshop is intended to give students a grasp of all the situations that may take place during the course of an event. An example used is alcohol being brought to an organizational function. The workshop will tell students how to handle the situation and make sure it does not happen again.

The conflict resolution workshop is intended to help students by establishing a mechanism for overcoming conflict within the organization.

Currently, Student Activities is offering the workshops as a training opportunity for students to gain a better

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Left: David Bosmans, a sophomore speech communication major, crawls from the end of a chain being pulled by Melinda West, a freshman business administration major, in the torture chamber room at the Hotard from Hell haunted house on Sunday. Top right: First-year veterinary medicine students Kim Saunders and Shelly



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Rike get into costume at the for participation in the Night of Terror haunted house held at the Vet School. Bottom right: Schuyler Hauser, a senior industrial engineering major, and Melissa Videtto, a senior applied mathematical sciences major, hit the road in the Halloween Fun Run on Sunday.

UPD, Red Cross offer safety tips

BY ELIZABETH RAINES
The Battalion

Beware: Creatures of the night, goblins and ghouls will be wandering the streets along with witches, ghosts and Teletubbies.

To ensure a safe Halloween, the Red Cross and University Police Department (UPD) have issued lists of Halloween safety tips for students throwing or attending parties and young trick-or-treaters.

UPD compiled the list of safety tips from the National Confectioners Association and the Chocolate Manufacturers Association list of Halloween Safety Recommendations. Copies can be picked up in the University Apartments main office and programs office.

"I think the list will be effective as long as the parents read it," said Sgt. H. Allen Baron, certified crime prevention specialist. "It seems that, in the past couple years, parents have become more aware of the safety issues regarding their children and Halloween, and action has been taken to keep them safe."

The tips for children include using face paint instead of masks, choosing costumes that are marked flame-retardant, adding reflective tape to dark-colored costumes, giving and accepting only wrapped or packaged candy, having children bring treats home for adult inspection and making sure clothing is short enough to prevent tripping.

For students throwing parties, the Red Cross lists fire safety as one of the most important fac-

tors. Electrical outlets should not be overloaded with holiday lights or special effects, paper and cloth yard decorations should be placed where they cannot be blown into flaming candles and jack-o'-lanterns and hot lamps should not be placed near drapes or decorations.

For parties, the Red Cross recommends having a designated driver and remaining cautious and driving slowly through residential areas.

The Red Cross also reminds students that pets can get frightened and recommends that pets be confined or segregated during the evening of frightful sights and sounds.

For those who decide to go trick or treating, See HALLOWEEN on Page 6.

Leadership WORKSHOPS

- Oct. 31 - Risk Management:** Effective decision-making utilizing a thought-process model for risk management and the mission of the recognized student organization
- Nov. 7 - Travel with Safety in Mind:** Developing a protocol when planning recognized student organization travel
- Nov. 14 - Event Planning:** Alcohol Policy (and other factors): Planning for a recognized student organization event
- Nov. 28 - Conflict Resolution:** Getting Through Together: Establishing a mechanism for overcoming conflict within the recognized student organization

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Professors forecast Gore victory

BY ROLANDO GARCIA
The Battalion

Polls show a race that will go down to the wire, but for a handful of political scientists, the 2000 presidential election was over months ago, and the winner is Vice President Al Gore.

At an August meeting of the American Political Science Association, seven forecasts by academic analysts projected Gore winning between 53 and 60 percent of the vote cast for the two major-party candidates. The mathematical formulas, based primarily on economic factors, assumed that campaign tactics and candidate personalities make no difference and voters will reward the Democratic Party for the country's economic prosperity.

But Patricia Hurley, a political science professor at Texas A&M, cautioned that the accuracy of such forecasts can be limited because votes are influenced by more than just a pocketbook assessment.

For most voters, candidate preference is preordained by party identification, Hurley said. Although fewer and fewer Americans voluntarily identify themselves as Republicans or Democrats, their voting patterns and political leanings tend to align them with one of the two parties.

Despite candidates' aggressive courting of voters and the media's extensive coverage of issues and personalities, campaigns serve mostly to reinforce voters' latent political tendencies, Hurley said.

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Student organizations stifle campaigning, predict Bush victory

BY RICHARD BRAY
The Battalion

While the experts are predicting the closest presidential election in decades between Republican candidate Gov. George W. Bush and Democratic candidate Vice President Al Gore, few organizations are campaigning on campus because they think the Texas vote is already wrapped up in Bush's favor.

Jack Long, president of the Texas A&M College Republicans and a junior political science major, said the organization's first goal this semester was to register as many people to vote as possible.

"The county voter registrar has deputized a lot of the members of the club so they can go out and actually register people to vote," he said. "We've had about 115 people deputized and they've gone to their apartments and dorms and stuff and registered people there, so the main thing that we've been doing is registering any voters who weren't registered, so they could vote in College Station."

Long said members registered any voters who were willing and did not screen voters according to party affiliation.

Academic analysts predict Al Gore will win by 53 to 60 percent. However, with one week before the election, it is anyone's race.

Texas A&M political science professors gave some reasons for the close race:

- Influence of party affiliation
- Candidates' public image
- Skepticism toward politics
- Use of campaign resources

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Next weekend the College Republicans will travel to Arkansas and Louisiana to campaign for Bush. "We are getting ready to go on a bus trip to Texarkana and Shreveport to campaign for the governor Nov. 3-5," Long said. "Arkansas and Louisiana are battleground states where Gov. Bush and Vice President Gore are polling really close right now. Since we don't really need to campaign

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