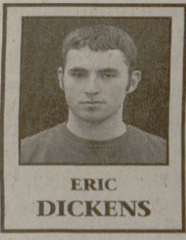


The price of communal living?

Shutdown of ResNet due to lack of courtesy; network is a shared resource



ERIC DICKENS

the other side of campus. Nonetheless, students should still have that respect for each other.

Tom Putnam, director of CIS, said A&M has a problem with several on-

students sharing their MP3 collections on programs like Napster. Putnam said MP3 servers constitute

However, it is the virtue these students should adhere to. A&M's ResNet was not designed for dozens of students to run multi-gig servers daily, especially while others are undoubtedly running similar, but smaller servers.

While nobody expects students to use the network only for downloading notes and conducting research, blatant and frivolous disproportionate use deserves punishment.

A memo by the Student Conflict Resolution Services stated that A&M takes the abuse of computing resources seriously. Every semester, ResNet users have had their Internet access rightfully cut off for misusing on-campus computers, even if it is their personal computers.

Putnam said that, in the past, offenses worthy of blocking a user's access to the network have included running FTP servers that create holes in the University's firewall and breaking University rules by, for example, sending harassing messages over the Internet.

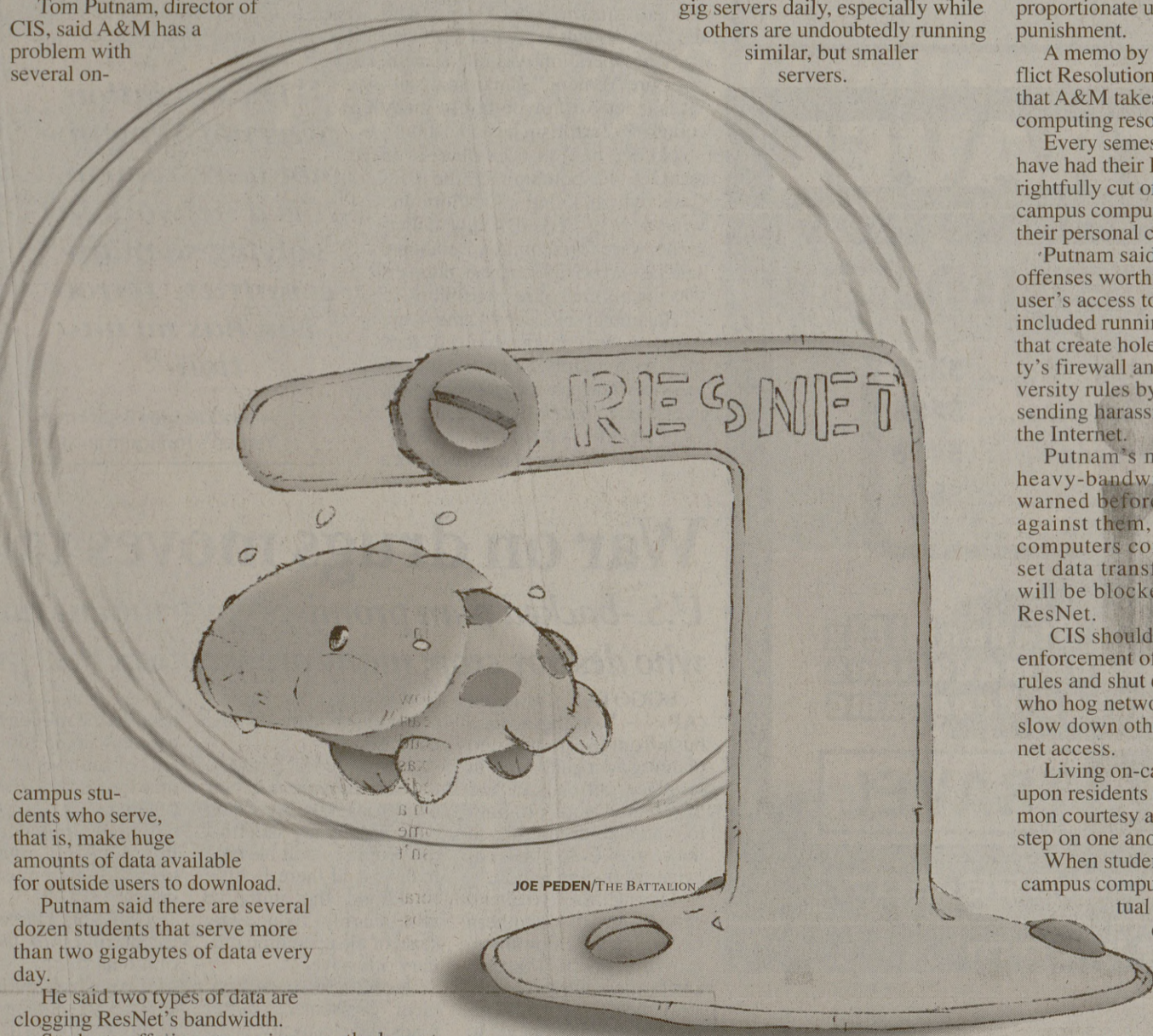
Putnam's memo said that heavy-bandwidth users will be warned before action is taken against them, and if their computers continue to exceed set data transfer limits, they will be blocked from using ResNet.

CIS should continue its strict enforcement of Student Life rules and shut down students who hog network bandwidth and slow down other students' Internet access.

Living on-campus depends upon residents exhibiting common courtesy and trying not to step on one another's toes.

When students share an on-campus computer network, mutual respect and moderation would keep users from forcing CIS to rightfully cut off their Internet access and would allow the network to run at peak performance for all students.

Eric Dickens is a senior English major.



JOE PEDEN/THE BATTALION

campus students who serve, that is, make huge amounts of data available for outside users to download.

Putnam said there are several dozen students that serve more than two gigabytes of data every day.

He said two types of data are clogging ResNet's bandwidth. Students offering streaming video from their computers to outside downloaders are taking the biggest toll on ResNet's performance.

The second resource drain is

the largest number of student-run servers on campus. Moderation is not a trait people often exhibit while using Napster or any file-sharing program.

ResNet was created students to conduct online business pertaining to their school work.

Misleading

R rating confusing to parents, a poor standard



MELISSA BEDSOLE

When the film Erin Brockovich came out last year, it was given an R rating. Children under the age of 17 could not see it unless accompanied by an adult — at least, that is what the law says should happen.

The movie is the true story of a courageous woman who fought for a small community that was lied to by a company that polluted its water.

The film teaches a lesson about having the courage to stand up against something that is wrong.

But, unless accompanied by an adult, children under 17 were not allowed to see it or learn this lesson.

Parents have the right to decide what movies are appropriate for their children, but the current R rating does not allow them to make an educated decision.

The rating system grouping movies with foul language, sex and violence in the same rating, does not provide a fair reflection of all films in this category.

Christopher Stern of the Washington Post said Erin Brockovich, "a likely contender for best picture, got an R rating strictly for language."

Because the film included some bad words, many young viewers missed an incredible story.

There was no way for adults to know exactly what they were (or were not) permitting their children to see unless they had previously seen the film.

Recently, movie studios and theater owners have taken a look at changing the 32-year-old rating system to provide parents with better information about movie content.

The new system would identify R-rated movies that are given the rating based solely on their language.

The new system not only would allow parents to have a better understanding of the ratings given to specific films, but it would help them explain the basis behind what movies their children are permitted to see.

The supporters of the new ratings are not saying it is OK for all teens to see certain R-rated films, but that there should be a better way to distinguish what is being restricted.

Parents have the right to decide what movies are appropriate for their children, but the current R rating does not allow them to make an educated decision.

Many parents may choose to let their children see certain R-rated films, but not others, and that is their right.

But making the decision is the hardest part right now.

Children should be permitted to see films that their parents deem appropriate based on the subjects, not solely on the children's ages.

Some 15-year-olds are probably not ready for certain films, but many are mature enough, and only their parents can gauge this level of development.

The president of the Motion Picture Association of America, Jack Valenti, said the rating system has been changed only a few times, most recently when the X rating was changed to NC-17.

Valenti said he has heard from several groups who support a change.

In the 32 years the current ratings have been in use, movies have changed — it is time that the rating system be altered to fit these changes.

There are movies that include a great deal of meaningless violence inappropriate for children to see, but there are also films that tell stories of inspirational people like Erin Brockovich.

There must be a way to differentiate between these two.

Unfortunately, there are parents who do not pay attention to what their children watch, and these kids have seen even the worst R-rated films.

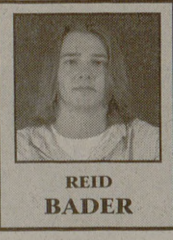
A new rating system would call attention to what certain films are really about and then parents be able to take a stronger stand on what they allow their children to watch.

Melissa Bedsole is a junior psychology major.

A stronger standard

Motorcycles more dangerous; licensing should be harder

Motorcycles are too dangerous. I have heard stories of terrible motorcycle accidents and do not want to be involved in one. Those motorcycles are too risky to ride.



REID BADER

Anyone who has owned or driven a motorcycle probably has heard these words.

In the grand scheme of things, they are true. Motorcycles are riskier to drive than cars or trucks.

To reduce this risk, Texas needs to increase the licensing requirements for operating a motorcycle.

The licensing process should put more emphasis on education by requiring a motorcycle driver safety course.

According to reports, for every mile driven on a motorcycle, a motorcycle driver is 15 times more likely to be in an accident than if they were driving a car.

This difference in risk exists because of the functional differences between a car and a motorcycle.

Cars have four wheels for stability and

impact bars in the doors to offer all-around protection for the driver and passengers.

Motorcycles sacrifice these amenities for better maneuverability and gas mileage and the experience of riding closer to nature.

Adding doors and wheels to a motorcycle in the name of safety would violate the very nature of a motorcycle.

Motorcycles are also riskier because of driver education. The more educated and knowledgeable motorcycle drivers are, the less likely they are to put themselves in dangerous situations.

Jackie Vaughn, an instructor for the Course for Motorcycle Riders, said, "Superior riders never get themselves into situations requiring superior skills."

To obtain a motorcycle license in Texas, one must pass a short multiple-choice exam on general motorcycle riding techniques and a driving test.

The driving test can be waived by taking a Texas Department of Public Safety-approved basic motorcycle operator training course.

One of these courses is the Course for Motorcycle Riders. The class offers classroom and riding instruction over a weekend.

Students in the course need no experience at all in riding a motorcycle and need to bring protective gear.

The course demonstrates all types of environments riders will encounter while driving in hopes that being exposed to these techniques will

make them safer drivers. Rather than making this course act solely as a waiver for the driving portion of the license test, it should be a requirement.

When 15-year-olds first get their instructional permits to drive cars, the purpose is to allow them to become accustomed to driving with experi-

Texas needs to increase the licensing requirements for operating a motorcycle. The licensing process should put more emphasis on education by requiring a motorcycle driver safety course.



MIKE LUKAICH

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