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first The price of communal living? Nowdown of ResNet due to lack of courtesy; network is a shared resource



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promise Recently, several Texas A&M movem udents have complained about and stead ow connections from on-cams sick log is computers

res," Tarre While the University's nete flight ork is light years faster than modem, it still is capaf transferring only a fiamount of data at any n time

response to complaints on-campus students rdiac surgiout slow ResNet performance, mputing and Information f the Tyler ervices (CIS) has distributed a emo asking ResNet users to o close in mit their use of the network. so blood While the issue here is a probadily. in child of new technology, its / at the plution lies in old-fashioned e of Vez Parts

ResNet users need to underxpected and they are dealing with a e in the man and they are dealing with a spect him prior to the terms of ter operation on-campus residential life is s at Tiger ult around the principle of mual respect — the unspoken, but short of mainterstood, buffer that keeps id he was adverted from traching and s his sister opmmates from trashing each ng to growther's sides of the room, and hard time onsequentially keeps everyock, refug ody's tempers at ease. Usually roommates are able to vork out their squabbles just by

> ing to each other. However, when it comes to onnpus Internet access, overlookg that respect can be easier. After all, an individual who s bandwidth by running multi-Napster connections all day s not have to face the students cannot check their email on

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

stitute

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

other.

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

However, it is the virtue these students should adhere to. A&M's ResNet was not designed for dozens of students to run multigig 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 oncampus 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 oncampus computer network, mutual respect and mod-

eration 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.

Misleading R rating confusing to parents, a poor standard A then the film Erin Brock-

ovich 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



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should happen. The movie is the true story of a coura-

geous 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 Érin 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.

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

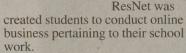
He said two types of data are clogging ResNet's bandwidth.

Students offering streaming video from their computers to outside downloaders are taking the biggest toll on ResNet's performance.

The second resource drain is

dent-run servers on campus. Moderation is not a trait people often exhibit while using Napwork. ster or any file-sharing program.

JOE PEDEN/THE BATTAL



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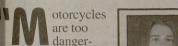
driving in hopes

that being ex-

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protective gear.

stronger standard Motorcycles more dangerous; licensing should be harder



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

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

enced drivers with them. Most teen-agers are capable of passing 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.

. I have heard stoes of terrible motorcyaccidents and do not ant to be involved in me. Those motorcycles e too risky to ride."



Anyone who has ned or driven a motorcycle probably has eard these words.

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

To reduce this risk, Texas needs to inrease the licensing requirements for opering a motorcycle.

The licensing process should put more mphasis on education by requiring a moprcycle driver safety course.

According to reports, for every mile drien on a motorcycle, a motorcycle driver is 5 times more likely to be in an accident han if they were driving a car.

This difference in risk exists because of ne functional differences between a car nd a motorcycle.

Cars have four wheels for stability and

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.

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 rid-

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.

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 experithe driving portion to get their licenses when they first get their instruction permits. The purpose of driver's education and instruction permits is to let them gain experience during that year.

Beginning motorcyclists do not have this option. They miss out on gaining that experience.

Likewise, they may be able to pass the driving test but not possess the experience or knowledge to be safe drivers.

The National Highway and Traffic Safety Association Website says a motorcycle license is "the only method state licensing agencies have to ensure they (drivers) have the knowledge and skill needed to safely and skillfully operate a motorcycle."

A motorcycle-driving test or written test cannot test every situation a driver will encounter on a motorcycle.

In this light, a driver safety course, in addition to driving and written tests, should be required to educate drivers and reduce motorcycle accidents.

> Reid Bader is a junior political science major.

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class and phone number.

The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy.

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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.



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