

## Southerland rejects dry-campus proposal

SOMMER BUNCE  
 The Battalion

Texas A&M Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. J. Malon Southerland rejected a proposal to make the campus alcohol free this fall. In a decision released Wednesday, Southerland said the alcohol policy in the residence halls will be changed to affect students of legal drinking age next year. Alcohol will be allowed in rooms only if both residents are of legal age, Southerland wrote in a memo addressed to Ron Sasse, director of Residence Life. According to rules already in place, students who are 21 may keep

### Alcohol to be prohibited from rooms where minors reside

alcohol in a room if they do not consume it in the hallways or with their doors open and if they do not allow access to alcohol to minors.

In response to this aspect of the decision, Sasse said that any room with a student younger than 21 will not be allowed to have alcohol. Residence Life will attempt to assign people of the same age in rooms together, Sasse said, though more discussion within the department is necessary before changes to current assigning take place. Residence hall advisers and hall

staff will follow normal room-change procedures to accommodate

*"I'm satisfied with this ruling."*

— Matt Fuller  
 Residence Life Staff Council

students who wish to have a roommate of legal age, Sasse said.

So-called "squatter's rights" will still exist for residents assigned to a

room, Sasse said. In an email addressed to Residence Hall Association executives, Sasse wrote that no underage student currently assigned to a room with a student of legal drinking age will be required to move to oblige the older student.

"In other words, an off-age student could not tell his roommate that they had to leave because he wanted someone who was of age so they could have alcohol in their room," Sasse said.

Last summer, Southerland appointed a subcommittee on alcohol

to find ways to combat alcohol abuse on campus. The subcommittee gave six recommendations, including making the campus residence halls alcohol free.

Before making a final decision on the dry-campus issue, Southerland asked for input from Residence Life and the Residence Hall Association (RHA).

In January, RHA delegates voted unanimously against the dry campus proposal.

"I'm satisfied with this ruling," said Matt Fuller, a Hart Hall resident

adviser and member of the Residence Life Staff Council. "It's a good ruling for students and administration both because it addresses a problem that we do have on campus but it doesn't hurt a student's legal rights."

Most of the subcommittee's other recommendations have been implemented, including the recommendation that substance-free housing be made available by the Fall 2001 semester.

Southerland's decision requires more substance-free housing options to become available to meet student demand.

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## Dorm contract renewal begins

On-Campus Housing Contract Renewal

TODAY, 8 a.m. - Friday, 5 p.m.

<http://reslife.tamu.edu>

All students currently living on campus need to renew or cancel contract

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

BY BRADY CREEL  
 The Battalion

Residence Life contract renewal begins today for on-campus residents who wish to live in residence halls again next year.

Cherney Rydl, associate director of Residence Life, said all students currently living on campus need to inform Residence Life of their decision, regardless of whether they wish to renew or cancel their contracts.

Rydl said cancellations and deposit refund checks will be processed for students who choose not to renew their contract. Renewed contracts can be canceled before April 1 with no penalty, she said.

There will be some changes to next year's on-campus configuration.

Rydl said Keathley and Hughes halls will be closed starting January 2002 in the third phase of the renovation plan for

balcony-style halls. Schuhmacher was renovated in Spring 2000, and McNinn is currently undergoing renovation.

Residence Life will also claim a bigger stake on the Quadrangle next year. The upper three floors of Kiest Hall, which are currently occupied by the Corps of Cadets, will become a non-cadet female Residence Life hall. The first floor will remain in place for the Corps staff.

Rydl said the decision to utilize more of the Corps housing was made after a study of A&M students and Corps recruitment and retention was done.

The first floors of Aston and Krueger halls will become substance free next year.

Sue Foster, associate director of Residence Life, said the new substance-free floors will not include a grandfather clause for current residents.

"If they want to stay there, they would have to stay in the (substance-free) program," Foster said.

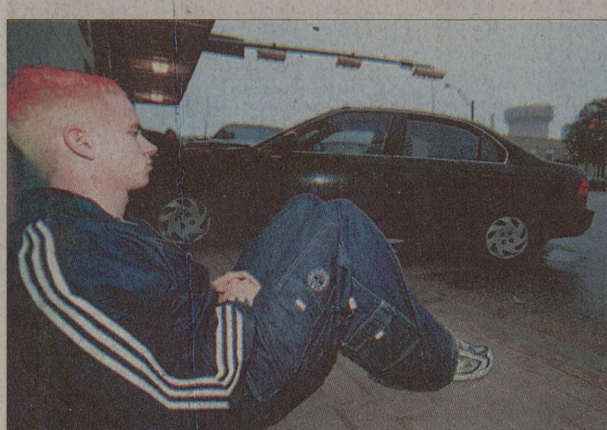
The decision to use the two Commons halls was made for multiple reasons. Foster said Residence Life wanted to offer the substance-free program to students with physical disabilities and meet the demand of incoming students. Currently, all substance-free floors are on the third or fourth floors of the buildings.

"It is not surprising that a lot of incoming freshmen are interested in living in the Commons," Foster said. "That's really what guided our choice."

Foster said the inaugural year of the substance-free program has been successful, and Residence Life expanded the capacity of the program because it is

See RENEWAL on Page 2A.

## Three cars collide on University



### Clearing scene of accident delays traffic

BY BRADY CREEL  
 The Battalion

Four people walked away unharmed from a Wednesday afternoon vehicle accident in which two vehicles struck a car leaving campus when it failed to yield right-of-way.

Vernon Autry of Brenham and Dawn Smith of Caldwell were traveling westbound on University Drive about 5:30 p.m. Autry's Chevrolet S-10 pickup was in the left lane and Smith's Ford Explorer was in the center lane.



BERNARDO GARZA & ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

Christopher Lee Terry, a sophomore chemical engineering major, struck two vehicles on University

Drive with his car Wednesday. No one was injured in the accident.

Danny Junek, a patrolman for the College Station Police Department (CSPD) said the driver of the Civic was Christopher Lee Terry, a sophomore environmental design major. The passenger in the car was Jessica Marie Taylor, a sophomore chemical engineering major.

Autry said he and Smith were about side by side when they struck the Civic, which was turning left onto University Drive from Houston Street.

Autry and Smith broadsided the Civic, and the momentum carried them across the street, and over the curb next to the Loupot's Bookstore building.

Smith said her airbags deployed and she was wearing her seatbelt.

Junek said ambulances responded to the call, but no one needed to be taken to the hospital.

"It was basically a minor accident, but just looked big because of where it was at, and it was 5 o'clock traffic," he said.

The manager of the bookstore said none of the employees saw anything, but they heard some noise from upstairs.

Junek said Loupot's sustained minor damages.

"One of the vehicles struck the south wall and cracked some bricks and bent a window frame," he said.

Junek said westbound traffic on University Drive was delayed while the scene was cleared. Normal traffic resumed shortly after 6 p.m.

## Aggies try to reduce power bills

BY ROB PHILLIPS  
 The Battalion

Because of a surprisingly cold winter in Bryan-College Station, students have seen their wallets grow thinner while paying for increased electricity costs in recent months.

The power cost adjustment, a figure used in determining utility bills, has nearly doubled from .008 to .014. This, in addition to the increased use of heat during the winter months, has resulted in unusually high bills, a major concern for the average college student.

Cathy Starks, customer service supervisor for College Station Utilities, said many students have asked about the rising costs but she thinks the power cost adjustment will drop next month.

"At this point, the temperatures are leveling off, and it seems to be going back down," Starks said.

Many students returned from winter break to find their electric bills more expensive, partly because the heaters had to remain on, Starks said.

See ELECTRICITY on Page 7A.

## Women's successes important to University

BY RISHA BRYAN  
 The Battalion

Texas A&M will celebrate Women's History Month, a national celebration honoring women's achievements, with full extravagance this month. Following the theme, "A Celebration Success," Women's Spirit Month '01 sponsors of events throughout March highlighting the achievements, issues, motivations and interests that define women's lives. The celebration begins today, with the annual luncheon and awards ceremony featuring Liz Carpenter, a

journalist, author and former press secretary for Lady Bird Johnson, wife of former president LBJ.

Dubbed "a political artifact, an aging feminist and author and lecturer," Carpenter covered the Roosevelt administration as a reporter and the Johnson administration as press secretary and staff director. Carpenter was chosen by former President Gerald Ford to serve on the International Women's Year Commission in 1976 and 1980. President Clinton honored Carpenter's writing talent by appointing

*"Women's Spirit Month is especially significant for Texas A&M because women have not always been here."*

— Lara Zuehlke  
 publicity co-chairwoman

her to the advisory committee of the White House Conference of

Aging. Carpenter recently published her fourth book, *Start With a Laugh: An Insider's Guide to Toasts, Toasts, Elgies and Other Speeches*.

Other highlights of Women's Spirit Month include: "The Ages of Women's Health," a program featuring Yvonne Green, associate director of women's health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; a series of brown-bag luncheons; lectures on women in history, entertainment and public service; and other performances.

"Women's Spirit Month is a good opportunity for all people in the Brazos Valley to recognize the activities and successes throughout the community's history," said Lara Zuehlke, publicity co-chairwoman for Women's Spirit Month and communications specialist for the Lowry Mays College of Business. "Women's Spirit Month is especially significant for Texas A&M because women have not always been here. We want to recognize the activities women have brought to the

See WOMEN on Page 7A.

## A&M's reputation in military remains strong

BY MARIANO CASTILLO  
 The Battalion

The most famous saying of Aggie lore may be the quote credited to Gen. George Patton: "Give me an army of West Point grads, and I'll win a battle. Give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I'll win a war."

Texas A&M's history is linked closely to the military. A&M began as a full-time military academy and continues to commission more officers than any other school with the exception of the military academies.

As the University changes, so have the type of military training on campus and the armed forces.

Even though the military is not the same as in Patton's day, former and current A&M stu-

dents in the military sector say that the University maintains a strong reputation in the armed forces.

Col. Jake Betty, Class of '73, will complete 28 years of service in the U.S. Army in May. As adviser for the First Brigade of the Corps of Cadets, he has seen many A&M graduates enter the armed forces during his career.

After graduating, Betty immediately went to Fort Benning, Ga. Fort Benning was composed of students from all over the nation participating in infantry training.

His training at Fort Benning gave him an opportunity to observe people from other training backgrounds, Betty said.

"Our people were more prepared to go into the military than others from ROTC

programs," he said.

Betty said he remembered being more ready than students from other military institutions, such as the Virginia Military Institute and the Citadel.

Historically, comments from A&M regarding the military have been positive. There are also instances when people's actions working with Aggies have made strong statements about A&M's military reputation.

During his active Army career, Betty was chosen from a company in the 101st Airborne Division to solve some problems because his superiors trusted Aggies.

"There was already one Aggie in the company," he said. "I was specifically assigned there because I was an Aggie. They didn't beat

around that issue."

An A&M degree is valuable in the Army, Betty said.

"[The position received] was not so much because of me, but the reputation of A&M," he said.

Many cadets question the value of Corps

See MILITARY on Page 2A.

This is the final story in a three-part series about the value of a Texas A&M degree. Part I focused on the international presence of A&M graduates and Part II focused on the Aggie Network. The focus of today is military reputation.