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BRAZOSPORT

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Wednesday, March 6, 2002

Offender

Continued from page 1

Administrators in Admissions, Department of Residence Life, University Police Department and the Corp of Cadets said they do not consider background checks to be in their jurisdiction.

Residence Life Director Ron Sasse said criminal screening is not performed on students who apply for on-campus housing and he was unaware of the student sex crime offender.

"I assume the police would notify us if there was someone living on campus. To my knowledge, we have not been notified about this," he said.

Sasse said hall staff, including resident advisers, hall directors and maintenance staff undergo

University Police Director Bob Wiatt said there is no screening of a student's criminal record unless a student commits an offense requiring a background check while at A&M. Wiatt said he was unaware of the student sex offender.

General Don Johnson, deputy commandant of the Corps, said just because a student goes to A&M and is in the Corps, does not mean Corps administration would be aware of a student's criminal history

"Especially not if they have already paid for what they did,"

Johnson said any screening would have to be performed by the University and not the Corps. "If A&M says they are not a threat to anyone

and can be a student and can live in a dorm and they decide to join the Corps, we will put them in an outfit," Johnson said. "There is no reason for me to know who they are and no need to discriminate against that individual because of what they did."

He said the issue is not easy and all implications must be considered.

The student sex offender said he spent some time in jail, and since then has changed his life drastically.

I went to God and asked for forgiveness and repented of my sins and I've lived my life totally different now since I've found that peace that Jesus Christ has given me, with total remorse for everything I've done," he said.

He said he hopes students and administrators will not pass judgment.

"When I look back on it, I think I did a very pitiful thing that should be looked down upon," he said. "Now that I've changed my life, when people judge me or others with what I've done that makes me kind of mad because they don't know me on a personal basis.'

He said he has learned not to judge others and encourages others to keep an open mind.

"Try and get to know the person b make any decisions," he said.

Wiatt said simply being a sex would not exclude anyone from living pus, and that sex offenders are not at other students.

'They have done their punishment only registered because the law requi to," Wiatt said. "This is just someth aware of. No action should be taken, hi this is a contagious disease.

A 1998 study by the American Psyc Association found that less than 20 sex offenders are found to have o another sexual offense, but DPS consid

sex offenders at risk to repeat sex offer UPD said 10 sexual assaults have been

It is not the ideal

- Tanya Knapp

neighbor you want

to have, but you can

Brazos County registered

sex offender coordinator

not discriminate.

on campus in the last five a &M won Tanya Knapp, registe ut a top 10 offender coordinator car Brazos County Sheriff ournamen said strong vigilante laws Iryan. The sex offenders from any retaliation. However, Kno 16 apartments can refuse to ation. Mic sex offenders. She sugg the University should bunded ou performing background students during the process. Also, she said who are concerned about offender next door to round total homeowners' associa

drive the convicts from the neighborhood Sasse said residence life would deal or fourth y situation by contacting the proper and the stan

before deciding if any action should be good shots You have to look at each case on mi ual basis and try to protect privacy aic much as we could," he said. "If it was had kicks thing we found important to share, w ccepting t within the limits of the law.

The DPS Website lists three risk lev offenders. Civil Commitment and Risk offenders pose, "a basis for concen person poses a serious danger to thea or will continue to engage in crimin

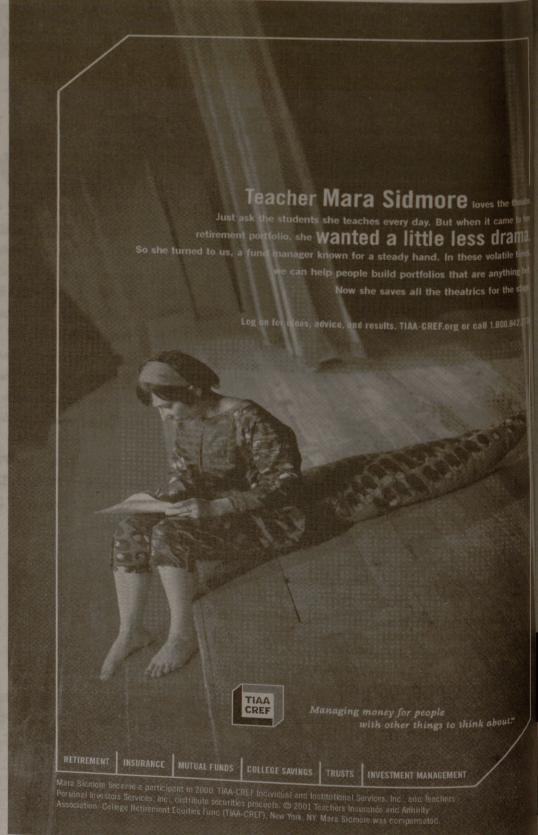
Level two offenders present a lesser Melton said danger to the community than level on we were ac

Risk Level 3 offenders offer no awa little fore re-offense. Offenses that occurred before 2000, have not been assigned a risk leathey had h

Risk levels rarely decrease over im days, a bri an offender requests that a court reduce but Knapp said this has not happened

Knapp said anyone concerned about near a sex offender should realize the times from has finished their state-set punishmen

It is not the ideal neighbor you wa but you cannot discriminate," she said



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field with

I think times you