

THE BATTALION

Volume 109 • Issue 60 • 14 pages

www.thebatt.com

Thursday, November 21, 2002

Officials say gambling not a problem at A&M

By Sarah Walch
THE BATTALION

The gambling fad that has engulfed campuses nationwide, including Texas Tech University, is not a noticeable problem at Texas A&M, officials say.

Campus gambling is reaching "epidemic proportions," Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said in a recent *Dallas Morning News* article. Congress considered a bill that would outlaw gambling on sports in Nevada, but it has gained little support, according to the Nov. 9 *Dallas Morning News*.

Organized crime might be becoming a major part of the college gambling

world, a National Gambling Impact Study Commission report presented to Congress and cited in the article said.

Though no problems have surfaced at A&M, David Batsun, director of compliance in the A&M Athletic Department, said it would be naive for any school to think that student athletes are not involved in gambling.

"We know bookies can be found, probably at any campus bar. Sports bars are a prime location for bookies to hang out," Batsun said. "We warn our student athletes to watch out for it."

The NCAA guidelines that Batsun enforces forbid student athletes to bet on any NCAA event. Athletes are also not allowed to answer questions about

who will be playing in the upcoming games or confidential questions that may lead gamblers, Batsun said.

"I'm sure some breaking of these rules does occur, but those are the guidelines we set down for our students," he said.

The *Dallas Morning News* article relates the problems Texas Tech has had with gambling. In 1995, Lubbock law enforcement officials cracked down on "dozens of bookies," but today, the article says, the business is thriving again.

University Police Department Crime Prevention Officer Sgt. Betty LeMay said gambling has not typically been a problem at A&M.

But an A&M student, Jason, a frat-

ernity member who asked that only his first name be used, said he has witnessed and taken part in gambling at A&M.

"I lost \$50 last week in a poker game with my friends," he said.

Jason said he has several friends who bet online at Sports.com, a United Kingdom-based gambling site which claims to "offer the largest selection of casino games and sporting wagers on the Internet."

More than \$3.5 billion has been lost through Internet wagers this year, making gambling more lucrative than pornography on the Web, according to an article in the Nov. 25 edition of *Newsweek*. And the Sports.com Web site said it processes more than \$2

billion in wagers a year.

"(My friends and I) are not betting with some bookie or the mafia," Jason said. "No one is going to come beat you up if you don't pay. The gambling I'm aware of is mostly friendly and low-stakes. It's just for fun."

College Station Police Department Public Information Officer Lt. Rodney Sigler said he can't remember a case of gambling in the area, and if anything, cases during the past few years have been few and far between. But people aren't apt to report gambling to authorities, he said.

"Who wants to report a loss in gambling," Sigler said. "It's like telling the cops that somebody stole your dope."

'Feed the Hell Outta t.u.' food drive begins

By Lecia Baker
THE BATTALION

Last year, 11,043 cans of food were collected and donated to the Brazos Food Bank in the annual "Feed the Hell Outta t.u." food drive. This year's drive will take place today.

"Feed the Hell Outta t.u." has become a competition between Texas A&M and the University of Texas to collect the most cans to be donated to the Brazos Food Bank, said Emily Kimball, a graduate assistant with the Volunteer Services Center at A&M.

"There is also a competition between student organizations to collect as many cans as possible, and the winner will receive a monetary prize," Kimball said.

Last year, Aggies for Christ and Aggie Sisters for Christ brought in the most donations with a collection of more than 2,000 cans, she said.

"Although we target student organization participation, we need the help of individual students, faculty, and even Aggie alumni," Kimball said. "The main goal is to bring awareness to the issue of hunger in the Brazos Valley."

If every student brought one can, Kimball said, more than 44,000 cans could be collected.

Donations can be brought to the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., where a U-Haul truck, donated by the U-Haul Co. of College Station, will be loaded with can collections.

This year's food drive slogan is "One can ... Make a Difference."

"This is not about just bringing a can or a one-time volunteer effort," said Angela Gray, coordinator of the Volunteer Services Center. "This is about learning from our experiences, getting involved and contributing to a greater cause."

Students should look at the root causes of hunger, Gray said. Students forget that hunger exists in the United States and in the community when people are not able to make a decent wage to feed themselves and their families, she said.

"Student leaders of today are the community and world leaders of tomorrow and they will be able to affect change," Gray said. "We want students to make informed decisions in a larger way than donating a can."

Once the Brazos Food Bank receives the donation from "Feed the Hell Outta t.u.," the food will either be directly distributed to needy families or to 44 nonprofit agencies within the Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison, Robertson and Washington counties.

The Brazos Food Bank currently has an abundance of peas, beans and corn and has a large demand for high protein foods, such as canned stew, chili, soups and canned meats, said Bill Thomas, executive director of the food bank. He said the goal is to provide a balanced diet to needy families.


Thomas said A&M contributes with around 25 smaller food drives from organizations, and two larger food drives, including "Feed the Hell Outta t.u."

"We truly appreciate the support of the Texas A&M University family," Thomas said.

Delta Xi Nu multicultural sorority and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity are co-sponsoring with the Volunteer Services Center by providing labor and helping count cans and load the truck.

Feed the hell out of t.u.

- Annual canned-food drive takes place today
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center
- Proceeds benefit the Brazos Food Bank



TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION

Ready, aim, fire



BRIAN RUFF • THE BATTALION

Master Gen. Jack Iglesias gives an explanation of how the M1A1 Abrams tank's guns operate to two Texas A&M ROTC members at

Duncan field Wednesday afternoon. The tank belongs to the National Guard stationed at Fort Hood.

Prospective Student Center to open second location in Rio Grande Valley

By Sarah Darr
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M will open its second Prospective Student Center next week in the Rio Grande Valley, a move that will bring information about the A&M admissions process to the mostly Hispanic population of South Texas.

The center will open Tuesday in Weslaco, a recruiting effort that follows close on the heels of the opening of A&M's first off-campus admissions center in Dallas this September. The centers assist A&M applicants in areas such as financial aid and host workshops for applications, said Bill Perry, assistant executive provost.

"Applying to universities is more

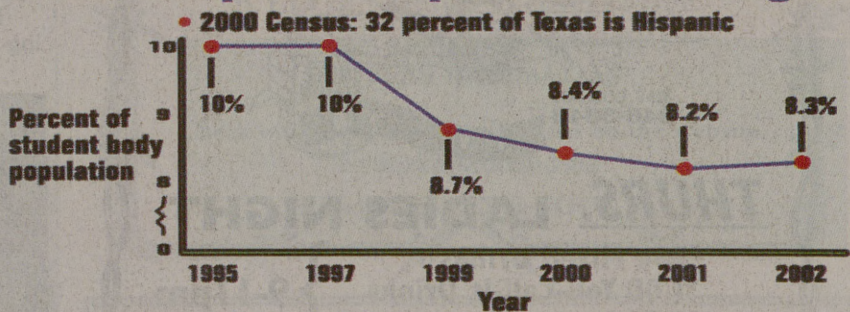
complicated than it used to be and the student center will do what it can to make it easier," Perry said.

Perry said out-of-state colleges have hit the Rio Grande area hard in seeking students to fill their rosters. Admissions counselors will be stationed in Weslaco and will correspond with the main campus' prospective student center, Perry said. Geographically, the Rio Grande center will target students outside of the main campus office's reach.

"We want to reach out to the state and let them know that we are a state university and a land-grant university and people come here to succeed," Perry said.

The center could work to enhance diversity at A&M because of its proximity to Mexico, said Felicia Scott, director of Multicultural Services at

A&M Hispanic Population Changes



Source: Office of Institutional Studies & Planning

TRAVIS SWENSON • THE BATTALION

A&M. With A&M's 9 percent Hispanic undergraduate population this fall, the land-grant university is not representative of the 32 percent Hispanic population statewide.

Overall, A&M's total Hispanic population has held steady at about 8 percent over the last three years, though

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Reveille VII placed on bed rest for six weeks

By Amy Adams
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's highest-ranking cadet is on bed rest for six weeks due to an injury to her back that occurred after the Nov. 9 football game against Oklahoma University.

The 2-year-old purebred Collie was believed to have suffered mild trauma in a fall at a campus yell practice where she jumped from the steps of the YMCA building following the game.

Burke Wilson, public relations spokesman for the Corps, said Reveille slipped through the training collar which goes around her nose and neck. The "gentle leader," which looks like a muzzle, helps Reveille hold her head high, Wilson said.

Members of Reveille's assigned unit,

Company E-2, immediately took her to the clinic where she was admitted for overnight observance, he said. The preliminary X-ray showed nothing was wrong with Reveille. The next day she was released and placed on restricted duties.

At a follow-up veterinarian examination on the Friday preceding the Missouri game, it was revealed that Reveille had received a small hairline fracture on one of her vertebra, Wilson said. Veterinarians at A&M's Small Animal Clinic said the fracture is not in a critical location on the vertebra and they expect Reveille to fully recover, Wilson said.

During the six-week period, Reveille will undergo medication for pain and inflammation that will allow her condition to heal. She will continue to be under the care of fellow cadet members, but will

only be allowed brief trips outdoors, Wilson said.

Justin Fountain, Commander of E-2, said he believes Reveille fell about six feet from a ledge off the YMCA building.

"Her injury is minor and she doesn't appear to be in any pain," Fountain said. "She should be good to go in a few weeks."

Mascot Corporal Jordan Caddick said he thinks Reveille was bothered or excited by the loud band music being played during yell practice, which caused her to run off.

"If you saw Reveille, you wouldn't notice there was anything wrong with her, but the doctors have placed her on bed rest just to be on the safe side," Caddick said.

Reveille's doctors will make an evaluation regarding her condition and return to duty at the end of the six-week period, Wilson said.