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#### 8A

Thursday, November 20, 2003

#### Health

## Continued from p. 1A

students deal with.

"A combination of the fact that most students are living on their own for the first time, experiencing things as an adult away from their parents and are in the stage when people are looking for a relationship can lead very easily to times of trouble," Vavra said.

A&M's Student Counseling Service offers three types of counseling services to students. The Learning Skills services and the Career Counseling teach students study skills and counsel them about careers and choosing a major. The personal counseling services deal with mental health and personal crises issues.

Knipscheer said incoming students must adjust to new surroundings, people, classes and other stresses.

"The pressures of col-lege life added to the individual's biological or psychosocial predisposition have made mental illnesses on college campuses an increasingly prevalent issue," he said.

The college years are the time when an individual is most likely to be diagnosed with a mental illness, Knipscheer said. More than 27 percent of young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 have a diagnosable form of mental illness.

Mental illness is an issue that deserves serious attention of administrators, faculty and students alike. A&M's Student

Counseling Service was established to help students ease into college life and relieve stress and anxiety that some may experience.

"Some students might prefer the helpline to counseling face to face because of the animosity," Vavra said. "It might be easier to talk to a person that they can't see, but this depends on the person and their pref-

About 45 undergraduate and graduate students work at the helpline and have been trained to conduct calls properly. The Student Counseling Service consists of about 40 professionals with a wide variety of educational background, ranging from Ph.D. psychiatrists and M.D. psychologists to

counselors with their master's degrees.

staff if a student needs medication due to depression or other issues that need medical attention," Vavra said.

The Student Counseling Center is available to stuthrough Friday. The

When the helpline is closed on weekends, the answering machine refers callers to Mental Health Mental Retardation of the Brazos Valley. Over the holidays, the helpline is down, but callers are referred to 1-800-SUICIDE, a national toll-free hotline offered by the American Association of Suicidology.

that there are people still around that might need some help," Vavra said. "I know that all international students and others cannot go home for such things as Christmas break, and we try to offer as much help as possible.

"Psychiatrists are on

dents between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday helpline is available to all students after 4 p.m. until 8 a.m. at 845-2700.

"We try to keep in mind

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

THE BATTAL

#### **Bush defends Iraq warin UK state visit**

LONDON - Welcomed to Britain within pageantry and a smattering of anti-warp ers, President George W. Bush on Wedn defended the war in Iraq, saying military must at times be used to confront the ing danger of terrorism.

"In some cases, the measured use of the all that protects us from a chaotic world n force," Bush told academics gather Banqueting House.

During a 3 1/2-day state visit here, Bus seeking to puncture what he views as m ceptions on this side of the Atlantic about American-led Iraq invasion.

"There are principled objections to the force in every generation and I and motives behind these views," Bush said, m of the bitter opposition among many in B and across Europe to the U.S.- and Brit war in Iraq. Demonstrators had lined hism cade route and protesters chanted outsi he spoke.

The president added: "Those in auto however, are not judged only by good mot Aggies fou tions. The people have given us the day defend them and that duty sometimes re

the violent restraint of violent men." Prime Minister Tony Blair, who has to strong criticism from the British public remaining America's staunchest ally in the war, also defended Britain's close relation with the United States and the coalition's dling of the situation in Iraq.

# Marijuana

Continued from page The T dangerous equipment while am got the influence of marijuan ostseaso or any cannabinoid drug t aylor in comparable effects." ame mat

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The report states that man The g na smoke is associated increased risk of cancer and inth-stra damage, Martin said. "If you're intelligent, the

urrent A to consume it today is to yand match to it, drink it as a tea or put The w brownies," Hager said. nth-con Stutman said marijuanaca on. The

dependency and "interferes ins in 1 one's ability to think at time A&M co "Although few manip rived in

users develop dependence, "The p do," the report states. "A dis tive marijuana withdrawal gnifican drome has been identified, ach tha is mild and short-lived."

Elhindi Al-Barazi, a j accounting major, said he enjo the seminar and would like to a pro-legalization student of zation at A&M.

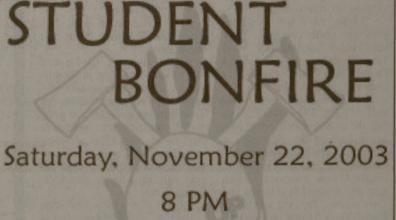
arol Pri "I think it was a very of Imance thing to see here, because ligh of 1' such a conservative campus said. "If marijuana teman age of .5" gal, I feel that alcohol and the de of .5" hould be illegal as well "I was

Allied Health Adviser



# **Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving**

As of September 1, 2003 a new penalty has been added to "driving while intoxicated" (DWI). If convicted, you will owe the court \$1,000 a year for the next three years; \$1,500 if it is your second offense. If your Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) is 0.16, the charge is raised to \$2,000 per year. Don't drink & drive. You can't afford it.



# Educate yourself. Make responsible decisions. The Choice Is Up To You.

http://studentlife.tamu.edu/adep

http://studentlife.tamu.edu/scrs



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IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY

**Special Guest Speaker November 23 - Brandon Barnard** 

WORSHIP LED BY ROSS KING **Sponsored by Compass College Ministries** 

Karstadt of Professional School Advis helped facilitate the event.

'I like the idea of det nalizing marijuana," she "It should be at least on with alcohol."

After the broadcast, a det was scheduled for the stud with moderators Lt. Dan Jone the College Station Department and Director Informatics for Me Education Gale G. Hanniga the A&M Learning Resou and Medical Sciences Library None of the students p

spoke in favor of keeping juana illegal.

"I thought we had a really servative school," Karstad "I was surprised at the turnou at the liberal nature of opin put forth."

She said the debate advertised by medical stud listservs, but the people attended weren't on the lists News of the debate had spin by word of mouth.

"They would have had an higher turnout if more people known about it," Al-Barazi

The program was the installment of a five-parts "Dimensions and Direction Health: Choices in the M produced by Phi Theta Ka International Honor Society the Two-Year College and National Collegiate How Council.

It was broadcast to 3850 leges across the nation facilitated on the A&M camp by the Office of Hor Programs and Acade Scholarships and Office Professional School Advisit

