September is National Campus Safety Month

Paintball & Airsoft Are Popular Sports; But Trouble Police

The craze for Airsoft guns has caught on within the past few years throughout the world. The guns are strikingly similar to real handguns and rifles but shoot plastic pellets or paintballs instead of real bullets. Popularity, though, often seems to go hand-in-hand with notoriety when it comes to Airsoft guns, which are strikingly realistic in terms of appearance and even weight. There is little to differentiate them from a real gun.

There have been several campus incidents where students were struck with Airsoft pellets by a passing car or from a window in the residential areas. The university police are concerned about mistaking the replica guns for real ones. When a police officer sees a gun, and if it looks real, can he/she take the chance with their own life or somebody else’s life? The answer is no.

There have been a few incidents on campus where UPD officers have found students in possession of realistic looking Airsoft weapons. Fortunately, no serious consequences have resulted. According to the UTSA Student Code of Conduct, the “possession...of imitation firearms...on University premises...is strictly prohibited.” Airsoft and paintball “extreme” sports are fun and thrilling. However, keep Airsoft and paintball numbers in your cell phone (210-458-4911).

- Trust your instincts, especially when you feel that something is “not right.”
- Be aware of what you post on social networks. You can never be sure of who is viewing your personal information.
- Do not accept drinks from strangers as they could be easily contaminated with a drug.

Emergencies, safety issues and hazards are faced by all communities, and while emergency management personnel at UTSA work year round to increase the capacities of the university to respond to emergencies, preparedness is everyone’s responsibility. Remember: we all have a role to play.

References: ncsam.org, msn.org, uta.edu

UTSAPD Wants You To Be Safe
September is Campus Safety Month
Photo: UTSAPD

Protecting Your Future...Today

In This Issue:
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Traffic Safety Important at Start of Fall Semester
Safety Highlights
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Be Prepared For The New Academic Year
The Bottom Line

UTSA Office of Business Affairs: Your Partner for Successful Solutions!
The Dangers of Binge Drinking and Drug Abuse on Campus

"I think we have, by almost any standard, a serious public health problem on the college campuses. And it’s deteriorating," said Joseph Califano, who heads the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. The report found that 49 percent of full-time college students ages 18 to 22 binge drink (consum ing five or more drinks at a time), or abuse prescription drugs such as painkillers or illegal drugs like cocaine and marijuana. That translates to 3.8 million students. In 2005, 23 percent of them met the medical criteria for substance abuse or dependence, it said.

But the proportion who binge drink frequently, defined as three or more times over two weeks, rose by 16 percent from 1993 to 2005. Drinking 10 or more times per month rose 25 percent, and drinking three or more times per month rose 26 percent. Substance abuse has contributed to alcohol-related deaths and injuries, and sexual assaults against female students, the report said. The report was based on results of a nationally representative telephone survey of 2,000 students along with other data.

From 1993 to 2005, the proportion of students who abuse prescription painkillers such as Percocet, Vicodin and OxyContin rose more than 300 percent to 3.1 percent (about 240,000 students), the report said. Abuse of prescription stimulants like Ritalin and Adderall doubled to 2.9 percent (225,000 students).

During the same period, daily marijuana use more than doubled to 4 percent (310,000 students). Overall use of other illegal drugs such as cocaine and heroin rose by half to 8.2 percent (636,000 students).

"Basically the proportion of college students who drink and binge drink has stayed constant. But what’s troubling is the tremendous increase in the intensity of their drinking and drug use and the excessiveness of it," Califano said.

Officer Piepho’s Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

Have a Safe Start to a New Semester

A new semester has started and many of you will be spending late hours in the library and around campus working on class assignments and term papers. Be mindful of your surroundings and never leave your laptops, cell phones, text books and personal items unattended. Theft of property left unattended accounts for 60-70% of crime on campus. So just remember, Secure It! Keep It!

Traffic Safety Important at Start of Fall Semester

With the start of the new academic year, there has been an increase of vehicle and pedestrian traffic on and around campus. The UTSA Police Department wants to ensure the well being of all members of the university community when it comes to traffic safety. Here are a few tips that may reduce the risk of becoming involved in a traffic accident:

Give the Right of Way: Most traffic accidents on and near campus involve one car failing to yield the right of way to another car by selecting too short a gap in traffic when entering a busy street. Avoid accidents by waiting for a sufficient gap in traffic before entering.

Unsafe Speeds: Drivers who follow vehicles too closely cause rear-end collisions. The speed limit on UTSA campus roads is 20 mph and in the parking lots the speed limit is 10 mph.

Traffic Control: UTSA police officers routinely direct traffic on campus streets that become congested as students arrive on or depart campus. Heeding instructions from the uniformed police officers directing traffic helps to ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians as well as shorten the time to arrive on or leave campus.

Emergency Vehicles: The UTSA Police Department reminds you that Texas law requires drivers of every vehicle to immediately move as close as possible and parallel to the nearest edge of the road, clear of any intersection, and stop whenever an emergency vehicle with warning lights and siren operating is approaching. The driver shall remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed and no other emergency equipment is in sight.

Pedestrians: UTSA parking regulations state that every pedestrian has the right-of-way at marked crosswalks, in intersections, and on sidewalks extending across a service drive, building entrance, or driveway. Texas Law states that a pedestrian may not suddenly proceed into the path of a vehicle so close that it is impossible for the vehicle operator to yield.

Operating a motor vehicle on campus and in the surrounding area of UTSA is a unique and challenging experience. Operators need to develop safe driving habits. We encourage every member of our community to drive safely, giving special attention to the speed limits, seat belt laws and most importantly their surroundings.

References: Runner Beat Sept 27 & Sept 08

Learn About Drug/Alcohol Issues

Protect yourself with knowledge
Photo: From Google Images

Avoid Traffic Problems on Campus
UTSAPD officer directs traffic at car fire scene
Photo: From UTSA Police

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Safety Highlights by Tiffany Schmidt (Assistant to the Director of BCEM)

It has been a busy summer for The Office of Business Continuity & Emergency Management. We've been diligently working towards the start of the fall semester, and the return of nearly 30,000 students to the UTSA Tri Campus Community. In preparation for the new semester, BCEM spoke at new student & parent orientations. Many questions in regards to personal safety were asked. One of the main concerns parents and students posed was “if there is an emergency on campus how will I be contacted?” Our community will be contacted in various ways to include Giant Voice, Local Media, the Campus Alerts website and/or R911. The Reverse 911 system is designed to inform students of an emergency if one were to occur on campus for those who chose to opt into the program. Upon activation the system will deliver a message to personal email, cell or home phone that will give a brief description of the type of emergency and protective actions that should be taken to avoid the emergency.

Students, faculty and staff can sign up to receive Reverse 911 messages through ASAP. Those who choose to participate can be contacted via phone message, text or personal email. The contact information provided can be updated by students at the start of every semester upon registering for classes.

Faculty and staff will be prompted to update their information yearly when logging into ASAP to purchase new parking permits. ASAP registration only requests personal contact information. All UTSA office phone numbers and emails are automatically uploaded. Supervisors who have staff that do not have access to a computer may print paper based forms and submit them via campus mail to the police department. To access the Reverse 911 paper registration forms or for more information please visit http://alerts.utsa.edu/reverse-911-program/. The Reverse 911 registration forms are available in English and Spanish.

Employee Kudos: A Special “Thank You” to our work study student, Sarah Nicholas, who worked on a special project for the PD and stayed well past her scheduled time to leave. Way to go!

Silent Witness

Have you witnessed a crime, wanted to report it, but wish to remain anonymous? Have you seen suspicious activity, but you're not sure who to contact at the police department? The UTSA Police Department has a valuable tool on our web site to help you in this dilemma. The form is found at: www.utsa.edu/utsapd/witness.cfm  NOTE: This form is NOT intended to report crimes in progress. For all emergencies, please call the UTSA Police Department at 210.458.4911.

Detective Time by Sgt. Thomas Calucci (Supervisor, Criminal Investigations)

Unfortunately, many of us have been victims of theft or know someone who has been a victim. At times it may be difficult to locate stolen items if there are no witnesses, surveillance video or traceable evidence. So how can you make it easier for the Detective investigating your theft case? Here are a few tips to help with the recovery or identification of your personal property that has been stolen.

First, record information that will help identify your property. Keep it filed in a safe and easily accessible location so you can provide it to the Detective if you file a theft report. You should consider photographing your property and writing down its serial number, brand name and model on the back of the photograph. This will alleviate some stress when the Detective asks you to provide a description of the stolen item. It will also allow the Detective to quickly research various pawn shops if in case it was pawned.

Secondly you should etch your driver’s license number to the back of your property near the serial number. Example: (TX11112222). This will make it easier to identify if it is recovered or pawned. A pawn shop should not accept any property that belongs to a third party without proof of ownership. If you do not have the capability of etching your driver’s license to your property, the UTSA Police Department Crime Prevention Section provides this service free of charge. Please take advantage of this program.

Our third tip involves one of the most popular stolen items on campus, but the hardest to recover. I am talking about your books. Books are difficult to locate because there is nothing that uniquely identifies them as belonging to you. Therefore, you should write your name or something that identifies you as the owner of the book somewhere inside the book itself, even under a specific page. This will allow Detectives to look at books that have recently been resold to bookstores and identify yours.
Schedule of Events For September 2010

Thursday Sept. 9, 2010
Coffee with the Cops
6:30 pm at outside UC Starbucks
The UTSAPD Crime Prevention Unit will be at the UC Starbucks. Come have some coffee with us!

Tuesday Sept. 16, 2010
Women’s Self Defense
Begins 7pm at University Oaks Apartment Phase III Clubhouse Free. Learn about personal safety and self-defense strategies.

Saturday Sept. 18, 2010
2010 Student Leader Summit
Begins 8am at University Center
A one-day conference that focuses on developing leadership skills to address the tough issues that student leaders of today are facing.

Tuesday Sept. 21, 2010
Operation Identification
Begins 9am at UC Paseo
Bring your laptops and other electronics to be engraved with your driver’s license for free!

Lost and Found

All found property that is turned in to the University Police Lost & Found section is stored at the University Police Lost & Found for 60 days. After 60 days, the found property is transferred to the Surplus Property Department for public auctions or further disposition.

To report lost property items or to make inquiries regarding lost property call 210.458.6247 (Monday to Friday; 8am to 5pm).

To claim found property items, individuals must present a valid Texas Driver’s license, UTSA photo ID card or a valid photo ID card from another source; military ID or another state photo ID card. Individuals must be able to accurately describe the property that was lost in order to claim property from the lost & found section.

The below listed items are currently being held by UTSAPD. If not claimed in 30 days, they will be disposed of in accordance with policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qty</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Books/Binders/Folders</td>
<td>Various Titles &amp; Brands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cell Phones/Cases</td>
<td>IPhone/T-Mobile/Sprint/Samsung &amp; Nokia</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Clothing/Shoes/Coats</td>
<td>Various Brands</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Contractor Badge JMF</td>
<td>Belonging to Wade Hofsetter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wells Fargo Debit Card</td>
<td>Belonging to Margaret Ferrell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TX Drivers License</td>
<td>Belonging to Sheri Lynn Funk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>UTSA TRIO Card</td>
<td>Belonging to Crystal Reyna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aetna PPO Card</td>
<td>Belonging to Qusa Ikandrami</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>GE Fuel Card 07 Chvr</td>
<td>Belonging to Time Warner Cable</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>RBFCU MasterCard</td>
<td>Belonging to Kevin D. Luker</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TX Drivers License</td>
<td>Belonging to Gregory Stokes</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Belonging to Luis Gurrola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chase Debit Card</td>
<td>Belonging to Anna M. Lopez</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Roadrunner Roundup Card</td>
<td>UTSA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Belonging to Simunetha Capreal Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Member Card</td>
<td>Belonging to “The Bullet Hole”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TX Drivers License</td>
<td>Belonging to Bianca Jasso</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>Electronics/Flash Drives</td>
<td>Various Makes &amp; Models</td>
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<td>Sunglasses &amp; Eyewear</td>
<td>Various Brands &amp; Prescriptions</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Misc</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
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<td>UTSA Transcript—Cody Dalton Robertson</td>
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<td>Important documents—Chris Polk</td>
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<td>Paperwork/Documents</td>
<td>Chemistry note/homework—Patrick Sarate</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Paperwork/Documents</td>
<td>UTSA Transcript—Russell Cyrus Martinez</td>
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<td>Document—Devinini Ananta Lakshmi Soujanya</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Paperwork/Documents</td>
<td>Performance Eval—Triya Timmons</td>
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<td>Purses/Bag/Book Packs</td>
<td>Various Brands &amp; Styles</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tools/Knives/Hardware</td>
<td>Lock &amp; Key/Leatherman/Pocket Knife</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Umbrellas</td>
<td>Various Colors &amp; Sizes</td>
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<td>Wallet/Contents—Belonging to Afzan Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wallet/Currency</td>
<td>Wallet/Contents—Belonging to Adam Forbes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wallet/Currency</td>
<td>Wallet/Contents—Belonging to Jeremy Miller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SAPD / UTSAPD Joint Exercise

The UTSA Police Department and the San Antonio Police Department conducted an emergency training exercise Aug. 6 at the Rec Wellness Center. This was the first joint exercise of its kind between the two law enforcement agencies. This event was planned and conducted in cooperation with the City of San Antonio and is important to help achieve our goal of maintaining a safer environment for UTSA students, faculty, staff and visitors. Elements of the response included UTSA Police Department assets as well as the SAPD Hostage Negotiation Team and the SWAT Team. Cpl. Joseph LoBrutto of the UTSA Police Department was instrumental in the planning of this exercise. Chief Barrera wants to thank Chief McManus of the San Antonio Police Department and the many people who participated including the countless volunteers who helped make it a successful exercise.

Crime Report for the Month of August 2010

The below is a summary of the crimes that occurred in August as of August 23. For more information, go to www.utsa.edu/utsapd and click on Crime Stats.

- Thefts = 7
- Alcohol Arrests = 26
- Burglary of Vehicle = 0
- Drug Arrests = 2
- Assaults = 1
- DWI Arrests = 5
- Theft of Motor Vehicle = 0
- Other Crimes = 8
Be Prepared For The New Academic Year

The jump to college can be stressful. You’re leaving behind your school, friends, family, and home, and going off to explore a new place, make new friends, learn new things, and set your own priorities. The more prepared you are for college when you get there, the more ready you’ll be to confront any new pressures. Here are some realities to consider, and a few common-sense ways to help you handle them:

Financial Responsibility: Practice basic money management even before you get to campus. Make a budget, avoid splurges and consider big buys seriously before you commit are all part of financial responsibility.

Study Tips: That means working out a regular study schedule, setting good habits such as reviewing class notes each day after every class and avoiding studying with distractions around you.

Use Classroom Time Wisely: When you miss class, zone out, and fall asleep you really undercut your college career. Stay at your peak in class by getting plenty of sleep at night and concentrating on the lectures.

Residence Living: Living away from home is a whole new experience as well, especially with a new roommate. A little cooperation on both of your parts can make dorm living less stressful. Develop clear lines of communication with your roommate right away. Also, be mindful of each other’s personal space and possessions.

Safety on Campus: A safer college is a more enjoyable college experience. Save our emergency number (210.458.4911) in your cell phone’s speed dial so you can call us quickly. Also, know where the blue emergency phones are.

Above all, have common sense and be sensible. You can get through college and retain your sanity by having fun while maintaining your safety. The UTSA Police Department is here to help you through your college experience.

The Bottom Line by Chief Steve Barrera

As fall semester, 2010 begins I am reminded of the time when I attended classes here at UTSA, approximately 30 years ago. At that time there were only four main buildings and the John Peace Library, located around the Sombrilla Plaza. I also taught in the Criminal Justice Department on campus around ten years ago, so I have the perspectives of both a former student and faculty member. Now with over 30 buildings and tremendous growth of over 30,000 students UTSA is a major destination university and the second largest in the UT system.

Along with this growth comes a need to create and maintain a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors. Although much has changed both at UTSA and in the world we live, there are things we can do to keep our campus safe and limit opportunities for crime. Our hectic lifestyles, due partly to new technology, have contributed to the fast paced world we live in. Despite this, we all need to take the time to slow down when it comes to crime awareness. Simple things like hiding your belongings in the trunk before you exit your vehicle, locking your doors, and not leaving valuables unattended are sometimes overlooked in our haste. These everyday things, if not adhered to, could easily lead to becoming a victim of crime.

The police department is here to assist and support in this effort and has a wealth of crime prevention information available on our Website at http://www.utsa.edu/utsapd/. Please take a moment to review these areas, which could save you a lot of grief and financial loss. Listed are a few of the programs we have available: personal safety presentations, women’s self-defense, sexual assault prevention, alcohol and drug awareness, burglary and theft prevention, safety escort program, whistle defense program, office safety, operation identification, security surveys, and crime prevention videos and literature on various subjects.

The Crime Prevention Unit works closely with campus housing departments and other UTSA student groups to develop and schedule presentations. Contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 210-458-6250 for more information. We would much rather make an effective crime prevention presentation than take a report of a crime.

As your Chief, we will have a strong focus on crime prevention within our department. Campus security is of paramount importance in order to maintain a great learning environment at UTSA. The higher the visibility of our officers and guards the better when it comes to preventing crime on campus. Much of our job involves providing the best customer service to our university community whether it involves patrolling housing and campus areas, conducting investigations, traffic control, emergency management, or access control.

As I look back on my days as a former student I am filled with pride to be a graduate of this university and play a part in these exciting times. Preventing crime is important to maintaining this momentum into future years as the university continues to grow.

The police department enthusiastically welcomes all our students back to school and encourages everyone to have a safe and productive fall semester, and remember, we stand ready to assist in meeting this goal!