Purpose
The Aggie R-ring Program is an ongoing telephone survey created by the Department of Student Life Studies to understand the opinions, behaviors, and needs of Texas A&M students. The October 2002 Aggie R-ring topic, campus safety, was initiated in order to collect benchmarking information on students’ perceptions of personal safety as well as their use of safety resources.

Methodology
Contact was attempted with 1386 undergraduate students for this survey. Twenty-nine percent (29%) were wrong numbers and 13% declined to participate. Fifty-eight percent (58%) agreed to participate in the survey. To be statistically representative of the 36,775 Texas A&M undergraduate students, a survey sample of 381 students was needed. Eight hundred ten (810) students participated in this survey, which does provide a statistically representative sample of the undergraduate population.

Results
When asked about specific activities and locations after dark such as working in computer labs and being in student activity areas, at least 80% of students said they felt safe. The biggest concerns for students are walking to or from off campus locations after dark and being in student parking areas after dark.

Over half of students (66%) walk alone on campus after dark. Thirty percent (30%) walk with others while 4% said they do not walk on campus after dark. Males (81%) were more likely than females (51%) to walk alone after dark (p<.001).

Fifteen percent (15%) of students said they avoid specific areas of campus after dark including unlit or dark areas, parking lots and garages around campus, West Campus, and the area around the Academic Building. Females (26%) were more likely than males (6%) to avoid specific areas of campus (p<.001).

After dark, students felt the safest walking alone on campus from 6pm to 10pm. Females and non-white students were more likely to feel unsafe between the hours of 10pm and 6am than males and white students.*

Females were more likely than males to have personal safety concerns after dark in student parking areas, classroom buildings, computer labs, and walking to and from Evans Library. Females and international students had safety concerns when walking on campus after dark and waiting off campus after dark for bus transportation. Females, international students, and non-white students all had concerns walking to or from off campus locations after dark as well as waiting on campus after dark for bus transportation.*

Safety Resources
The most common safety resource used by students is personal defense courses. Other responses are in Table 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you ever…</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taken a personal defense course?</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carried a personal defense device?</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used the Corps Escort Service?</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used one of the blue emergency phones located on campus?</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>759</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Safety Resources

Females were more likely than males to have used the Corps Escort Service, carried a personal defense device, and taken a personal defense course. Non-white students were more likely to have used the blue emergency phones and international students were less likely to have used the Corps Escort Service.*

Personal Safety Violations
Most students have not had their personal safety violated. For those who did experience violations, being stalked or followed was the most cited (5%), followed by serious harassment (3%), and physical assault (2%). Females were more likely than males to have been stalked or followed.*

September 11th
When asked if the September 11th attacks changed how they viewed safety on campus, 89% of students said no. Of the 11% who said yes, the most frequent explanation was an increased awareness of surroundings. Females (15%) were more likely than males (7%) to change how they viewed safety after September 11th (p=.001).

Suggestions
Students were provided four suggestions for safety resources and could choose all that applied. Three quarters (75%) wanted to improve lighting, 47% wanted more police patrols, 34% wanted more “blue” emergency phones, and 22% wanted more personal defense courses.

Prepared on: December 10, 2002