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The Battalion

Wednesday, July 14, 1993

Faculty takes precautions to deter thefts

By MICHELE BRINKMANN

The Battalion

The University Police Department (UPD) is advising Texas A&M University faculty and staff to increase precautions against office and laboratory theft because of the large percentage of these thefts.

According to UPD, 45 percent of thefts on campus are office buildings and laboratories.

"The whole key is to lock things up," Crime Prevention Specialist Lt. Bert V. Kretzschmar said. "People are not locking their office doors and windows."

During the September 1992 through May 1993 fiscal year, the University had \$193,908 of property stolen from offices and labs on campus. Of this amount, stolen or vandalized computers and accessories accounted for \$42,511, ac-

ording to UPD records.

Due to recent thefts, more departments are inquiring about different types of security systems, he said. Departments are also advised to change the combination of their door locks more often and to take inventory of expensive equipment two or three times a year.

Kretzschmar said most of the thefts are opportunity crimes.

"With the abundance of computers we have now comes an abundance of opportunity," he said. "That's why we are seeing an increase in the number of thefts."

An Apple Macintosh II Si computer, a Hewlett-Packard Laser Jet scanner, and an IBM 486 personal computer were stolen from a second floor room in the Blocker Building on May 22 by someone who had removed several ceiling tiles to

gain access to the equipment.

"Our problem in Blocker is the actual design of the building," said Dr. David R. Anderson, an associate professor in the Department of English. "There are problems in the way it is constructed. Since the thefts, we have taken extra security measures."

The equipment has not been found, and it has to be replaced further steps in ensuring security such as locking computers up inside office filing cabinets.

Senior Internal Auditor Michael McCasland at A&M's Riverside Campus said they too have taken further steps in ensuring security.

To best secure computers, UPD suggests the use of lock-down devices that lock into a table. Kretzschmar said these locking devices are more effective than

alarms and cables, which are simply deterrents.

University property should have inventory numbers and department abbreviations engraved on it. And personal property should have driver's license numbers on it.

According to UPD records, campus thefts are both forced and unforced entries. No particular area on campus is being broken into more than any other area and no particular type of computer is being taken more than any other type of computer.

Students and faculty are advised to call UPD if they see any suspicious activity.

UPD suggests people working late in an office or lab let someone know where they will be and how long they expect to be there. Locking doors is also suggested.

Old commandant house escapes deterioration

By ROY L. CLAY

The Battalion

The house that served as the residence of the commandant of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets 41 years ago may escape the fate of gradual deterioration and vandalism with the possible purchase of the property by interested parties.

The house has been vacant since 1986 and was offered to the University for historical purposes in 1987, the last full year of University President Dr. Frank Vandiver's administration. The project to move the house back on campus and to restore it was in progress when Vandiver stepped down as president and Dr. William Mobley took over. However, David Woodcock, professor of architecture, said a formal proposal to restore the house never reached the Texas A&M University Board of

Regents at that time.

Woodcock was one of three professors who authored a report on the condition of the house as part of the project to move it back on University grounds. According to the report, the house was in excellent condition for its age and the only areas that had badly deteriorated were the front and back porches.

But there were several reasons that the project was never completed, one of them being that the owners would not underwrite the cost of moving the building, he said.

"The resources available to A&M did not warrant moving a building for the sake of moving it," he said. "There was pressure from the Physical Plant. They didn't want another wooden building on campus."

Now that the University is no longer interested in the house, Susan Clancy, owner of the property, said others are looking to buy it.

restore them," she said.

The prospective buyers wish to use the house as a residence and will probably move it somewhere in the College Station area, she said.

Between 1930 and 1960, many faculty homes that once stood on campus were sold to make room for an expanding University, and the commandant's house was purchased and moved from campus.

The old commandant's house once stood on Throckmorton St. behind the Military Sciences Building where a Physical Plant building now stands.

The house was built in 1909 and served as quarters for several of the University's commandants before being moved off campus in 1952. One of those commandants was Maj. Gen. George F. Moore, Class of 1908, who, while under enemy fire in Corregidor, led a small number of former Aggies in the most celebrated Aggie Muster in history.

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The following incidents were reported to University Police Department between July 1-9.

Criminal Mischief
Parking Area 50- Someone used a sharp instrument to inflict a three foot long scratch down the right side of the victim's 1988 Dodge Daytona.

Burglary of Motor Vehicle
Forge Field Laboratory- A spare tire and 15 gallons of gasoline were stolen from a University vehicle parked near the building.
Agronomy Field Laboratory- A spare tire and 10 gallons of gasoline were stolen from a 1991 GMC pickup truck.

Misdemeanor Theft
Neeley Bicycle Rack- A dark red Trek 800 bicycle was stolen.
Sterling C. Evans Library- A black Magna/Great Dividen bicycle was stolen.
Neeley and Hobby Halls Bicycle Rack- A subject was detected stealing a bicycle. When the officer attempted to place the suspect under arrest, he pulled his arms away and fled the area. Following a foot chase into College Station, the suspect was apprehended.

Reynolds Medical Sciences Building- A Panasonic, model AG1270, video cassette recorder was stolen from a first floor room.

Memorial Student Center Bookstore- A subject was detected stealing textbooks from the bookstore. After the theft, the subject was observed leaving the bookstore. He would return a few minutes later and attempt to sell the books at the Buyback Counter.

Animal Industries Building- A white Peugeot 10-speed and a gray and black Timberline 10-speed were stolen.

Peterson Building- A blue Free Spirit 10-speed bicycle was stolen.

Clements Hall- A red Schwinn 10-speed bicycle was stolen.

Eller Oceanography and Meteorology Building- A black Murray 10-speed bicycle was stolen.

Attempted Burglary
Doherty Building- Someone damaged the door, door knob, and lock of a third floor room in a failed attempt to gain entry.

Burglary of a Building
Doherty Building- A Sharp, model VL-L380U, video camcorder was stolen from a first floor room.

Criminal Trespass
G. Rollie White Coliseum- An instructor of a youth sports camp requested an individual be removed from the facility because of disruptive behavior.

Felony Theft
Biological Control Laboratory- A JVC, model HR-567004, video cassette recorder was stolen from a first floor laboratory.

Harassment by Phone
Small Animal Clinic- The victim received two annoying and obscene calls.

Injury to a Child
G. Rollie White- Victim's mother reported her son was struck by a counselor while attending youth sports camp. Investigation continues.

Felony Theft
Post Office Parking Lot on Houston Street- The victim's 1990 Daihatsu was stolen from the parking lot.

False Alarm or Report
Wells Hall- A fire alarm pull station was activated on the first floor of the residence hall.

Police Beat

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