

Library Books, Materials Subject to Vandalism

By JACK G. VESTUTO JR.

On the third floor of the TAMU library, there is a book entitled "The Movies", Jane Russell's body is missing on page 392, Rudolph Valentino's intended victim is cut out on page 141 and on page 365, Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh have gone with the wind.

"Library vandalism has been going on as long as I can remember and there is no way to

estimate the damage done," says Richard L. Puckett TAMU library supervisor.

"Some get a good feeling from doing forbidden things like taking a knife, going through the stacks and ripping up book bindings. You also have people who feel that as long as it's state property, it's all right."

Puckett displayed a folder with the inside thesis missing. He said most thefts occur in the beef cat-

tle and animal husbandry section and that the graduate students who steal pages from these theses and dissertations show a "higher level of immaturity."

Library paintings and furniture were damaged one night and the reserve room hasn't been neglected. Anyone opening a folder entitled "Selected Social Psychological Models for Analysing Buyers" will be disappointed to find the inside material gone.

"If a person wants to steal a book, there isn't any way to stop them and you can't blame the doorman. He can't shake the person down and besides, there might be some law suits if he did. You have to depend on the goodness of people," said Puckett.

People caught vandalizing could be reported to their dean or faculty advisor, and, if the material is ruined, the person

could be charged for the cost of replacement. But Puckett said that this sort of activity is "sneaky" and it's hard to catch people in the act.

Puckett explained that a general book fund pays for a new book, if it is available in print. If the book is mutilated, it can be sent through an inter-library loan where zerox copies may be obtained.

Puckett suggested installing

cameras to scan the library but said that the cost of preventive action can exceed damage.

An open-stacked library such as A&M's allows the student access to all books on a given subject.

Puckett doesn't like a closed-stack system because they might turn people from the library. In a closed-stack method, a student presents a catalogue card of the book he wants to the circulation

desk. The librarian then puts back to the stacks and gets a student in left "standing around the book he wants may be more use to him," said Puckett.

Also if the student cannot locate a given book he may find one just as good or even better.

"It gets the student to use the library and the problem of vandalism goes along with it."

Jersey

(Continued from page 1)

the University Police continue to work... for a solution by the College Station Police."

Williams, never knowing any of the legal problems involved, told his administrators this fall to place someone at the intersection of Bizzell and Jersey for the same reasons as at the other intersection — traffic congestion. The rest is history.

Injuries were sustained to both drivers involved in the accident. A ticket was issued to Walter Andrew Isbell II for failure to yield the right of way to the other vehicle, driven by Rosemary Owen. Some officials tend to think the inexperience of the officers may have caused the two directions of traffic to collide at the middle of the intersection.

According to College Station City Attorney Bill Dozier, TAMU cannot be enjoined in a suit involving the matter, even though University employees may have caused it. He referred The Battalion to the 1969 Texas Tort Claims Act as the only thing that will probably keep TAMU out of court.

The bill says that each unit of government shall be liable for damages caused by the negligence, wrongful act or omission of any officer or employee of said unit of government acting within the scope of his employment.

There are exceptions and they include "all claims based on injury or death connected with any accident... or arising out of the failure to provide or the method of providing police or fire protection..." This applies to any government employee, whether he works for the city, county, school district or state governments and will probably keep TAMU out of trouble.

However, said Dozier, this doesn't mean the people involved in the accident can't sue officers Mann and Alinek for personal negligence. The situation has left the two officers in line for possible court action because the tort laws will probably not cover them, said Dozier.

In discussing the matter with Williams, The Battalion was told that there had never been any indication to the President's office about any possible trouble arising with his request.

Williams could make no comment on the salaries offered police officers, other than that the legislature had set the salaries of the men.

Luther said he was particularly concerned with the situation because compliance with Williams' wishes severely jeopardized the lives of his men while he is short-handed. He added that he hoped the problem could be solved within administrative channels as quickly as possible.

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