

Traffic control, supervision, theft main concern of campus police

This is the first in a series of articles by Lee Roy Leschper investigating the activities of the A&M University Police.

By LEE ROY LESCHPER, JR.
Battalion Staff Writer

Thirty years ago last month the first Texas A&M University Police force began patrolling campus. Since then the force has grown to a complex, highly professional law enforcement agency.

Former Chief Fred Hickman headed that first five-man force of security guards. Hickman spent eighteen years with the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and had headed the first DPS training school prior to becoming A&M chief of security, according to university records. He retired in 1963 after serving the A&M force seventeen years.

Former Chief Ed E. Powell succeeded Hickman as chief of the by then 10-man force. A member of the DPS for fifteen years, Powell was also Taylor County Sheriff and head of the A&M Police Training School before becoming university chief, records show. Powell retired in August, 1971.

In 1968 the Texas Legislature passed a bill making Texas state university security police commissioned peace officers. At this time the A&M force made the transition from security guards to University Police (UP).

As commissioned officers they are subject to a six-week intensive training program and a six-month probation period.

Chief O. L. Luther has been in charge of the force for the last four years. Luther is a former Texas Ranger who spent almost 30 years in Brazos County with the DPS before becoming university police chief.

Today, Chief Luther and Assistant Chief Morris Maddox head a 41-member force. Officers on the force include 26 uniformed patrolmen and two patrolwomen, four investigators and five supervisors. Four non-commissioned office staff members complete the force.

University policemen patrol all A&M property in College Station in three shifts, 24 hours a day.

"We usually try to have at least seven (patrolmen) on the evening (3 p.m. to 11 p.m.) and night (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.) shifts," Luther said.

Each patrolman is assigned a zone of patrol during his shift. No officer is assigned specifically to issue parking tickets.

"It's all in an eight-hour tour of duty," Luther said. "Whatever's necessary, they're to do."

Members of the "Kampus Kops", as the University Police are commonly called, have jurisdiction only on university property. However, they do occasionally operate off-campus in conjunction with other local law enforcement agencies.

"It depends on the circumstances of the case," Chief Luther said. "For example, if an offense occurs on-campus and the suspect is in Bryan

or College Station, then we coordinate that investigation with that department, or with the department that would have jurisdiction."

Under such conditions, University Police have worked with both Bryan and College Station Police Departments, the Brazos County Sheriff's Department, and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

College Station, Brazos County, and State law enforcement agencies also have jurisdiction on the A&M

campus; however, those agencies work through the UP while here, Luther said. If other agencies come on-campus the UP normally has called them in for assistance.

Traffic control and supervision is the force's biggest concern. However, more serious violations do occur. "Thefts are next to parking violations in number," a source at UP headquarters said.

In the past, bicycles and stereo tape decks were the most commonly stolen items. Recently the fad has been toward citizen's band radios, Luther said.

The UP has been more than 50 per cent successful in recovering property stolen so far this year. Of ten vehicle burglaries this year, seven have been solved with the stolen property recovered.

One common theory concerning thefts is that most are committed by people coming from off-campus specifically to steal from students and faculty members. However, several informed sources discount this theory.

"I'd say the major portion of the thefts are committed by people associated with the university," Luther said.

During September the UP handled 99 non-traffic violations, with misdemeanor thefts being by far the most numerous offense at 55 cases. Other violations include: felony thefts (1), abusive phone calls (3), window peeping (1), burglary of a residence (5), burglary of a vehicle (10), vehicle thefts (1), liquor violations (5), drug violations (5), vandalism (10), missing person (1), disturbance (1), and burglary of a coin machine (1).

Animal frustration results from place in pecking order

People who have dogs that bite, snarl, bark a lot, overeat, chew furniture or lapse in their housebreaking may not dominate their pet enough, says a Texas A&M animal behaviorist who is one of the few such professionals in the country.

These canine antics can result from a dog's frustration and confusion over its place — or lack of it — in the family pecking order, believes Dr. Bonnie Beaver, veterinary ethologist.

Dogs are basically pack animals with a strong drive to know exactly where in the hierarchy they stand. Often, says Beaver, humans use their pet as a child substitute and the dog grows to assume it is second only to the family's "top dog," usually the husband.

Canines become frustrated when they're expected to obey commands from the wife and, if any, the children who are seen by the dog as lower in the pecking order. Proper training should be initiated, advises Beaver, to let the dog know he is expected to be obedient to all family members.

Another source of frustration, a lack of activity and exercise, is suffered by the larger, more popular dog breeds. Many times they are confined to small houses or apartments and cannot get the exercise they desperately desire.

Results may be barking, biting, or a lapse in housebreaking habits.

Cats, although well-known for their independence, are also beginning to show up on the frustration lists, she adds, especially in cases where humans demand the cat be affectionate, eat at a certain time or behave in a similar strict manner.

But cats generally take things their own way. However, an important problem to remember is feeding. Cats will literally starve themselves to death, she cautions, before eating something they are not familiar with or that does not appeal to them.

If fed a variety of foods as a kitten, the adult will probably be more amenable to more foods. But if younger diets are restricted, the finickiness persists.

Beaver, recently elected president of the new American Society of Veterinary Ethology, states that the relatively new field faces a number of problems.

One of the biggest in research is ascertaining just how different animals perceive their surroundings. She points to the horse as an excellent archetype.

Unlike humans, the horse does not see in three-dimension. Further, its vision is panoramic because of the eyes' position.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Venezuelan Student Association will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday in room 206 of the MSC.

San Angelo West Texas HTC will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday in room 410 of the Rudder Tower.

Civilian Bonfire Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday in room 410 of the Rudder Tower.

Soccer Club will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday in room 510 of the Rudder Tower.

All Night Centennial Fair Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday in room 226 of the MSC.

Pentagon Area HTC will meet at 7:00 p.m. Thursday in room 140 of the MSC.

Phi Delta Kappa will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 301 of the Rudder Tower.

Abilene Area HTC will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 140-A of the MSC.

Texarkana HTC will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 137 of the MSC.

Sailing Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 212 of the MSC.

TAEX will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 225 of the MSC.

Deep East Texas HTC will meet at 6:00 p.m. Thursday at Bee Creek Park.

Aggie CBers' Assoc. will meet at 7:30 p.m. Friday in room 301 of the Rudder Tower.

IED Society will meet at 7:00 p.m. Friday at the Oak Forest Trailer Park clubhouse.

India Association will meet at 7:00 p.m. Friday in the University Lutheran Chapel.

Silver Tongue Toastmasters will meet at 12:15 p.m. Friday in St. Mary's Student Center.

Chess Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. Friday in room 212 of the MSC.

Ass'n. of Arab Students will meet at 7:00 p.m. Friday in room 510 of the Rudder Tower.

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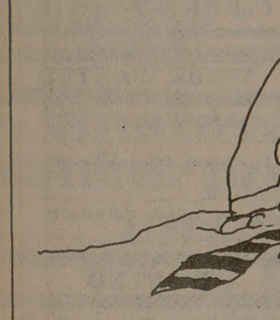


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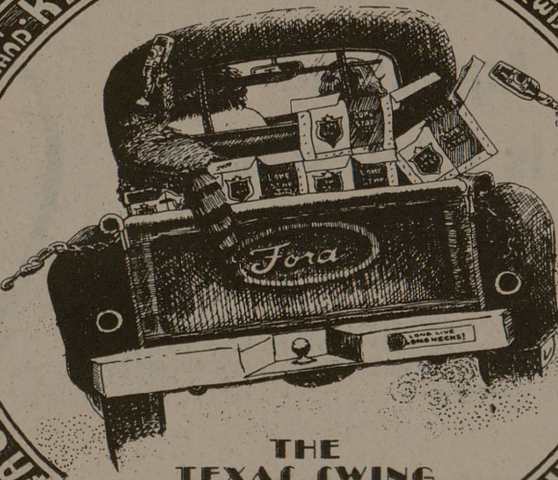
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