

Lost poker chips? Try the MSC desk

BY LINDA NORMAN

A Mickey Mouse hat, an Alpha Zeta Pledge Paddle, a Corps member's hat, a full flask, and a set of poker chips. Articles from any Aggie's closet? No, just a sample of the merchandise in the lost and found department at the Memorial Student Center main desk.

"You wouldn't believe the things that are turned in," said Virginia Arnold, manager of the main desk and guest rooms in the MSC. "We have everything from diamond rings to class schedules."

The "display" room exhibits a variety of items from a little girl's white crocheted purse to a Victoria Bank and Trust cash bag.

"We have a lot of one of something," Arnold said, holding up a single bike pedal. Lone shoes — ranging from a baby's tennis shoe to a women's size 13 dress shoe — are common items in the back room. Tupperware sandwich cases, contact lenses, keys, books, umbrellas, calculators, and eye glasses are also standard items.

"It's better than any garage sale," Arnold said.

An abundance of both expensive and inexpensive jewelry is turned in, she said. Recently, a class ring set with a family diamond was returned to its owner after a short visit to the lost and found.

Unusual situations come up occasionally. One man who attended a conference at Texas A&M University came back a year later and found the keys he had lost on his first visit, Arnold said.

In the summer when the temperature was 95 degrees, a girl reported her winter coat had been missing six or eight months.

"It certainly is the rule rather than the exception for people to turn in wallets with the money, and also just loose monies," Arnold said. A locker full of wallets with money still inside and loose money labeled in envelopes are in the back room.

When items are turned in they are logged, giving a description of the article, who found it, and when and where it was found.

Some grateful students write "Thank God" on the log when they sign to pick up their lost things, said Dorothy Reid, clerk at the desk.

"The entire staff does a super job trying to locate the owner — sometimes better than a private eye," Arnold said.

"We kill ourselves to get the stuff back," Reid said.

Of the 123 items reported missing since the beginning of the fall semester about 75 percent have been returned to the owners, she added. This does not include all the lost keys and identification cards that are there for only a short time.

"Don't assume it's not here," Arnold said. "People are good to turn lost items in."

If students would put their name and phone number on calculators and in books and notebooks, they could be returned the very same day, Reid said. There were times when an entire semester's notes were turned in, but the owner could not be found.

Unclaimed items are auctioned off once a year, said Debra Dollar, vice president of finance in Student Affairs. Money from the auction is used to buy Christmas decorations for the MSC.

The auction this year is tentatively set for Nov. 2. Items will be on display from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the auction will start at 2 p.m., Dollar said.

Once the items are put on display, it is too late to claim them, Dollar said. Anything that is not sold at the auction is given to charity.



Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

Umbrellas, anyone? The lost and found department at the MSC holds a myriad of paraphernalia lost by unlucky, careless or just forgetful people. Virginia Arnold, manager of the main desk and guest rooms at the MSC, says diamond rings have been turned into the department.

Career workshop plans under way for women

Preparations have begun for a two-day workshop to be held in the MSC for freshman and sophomore women interested in careers in science.

The "Science Career Workshop," supported by a \$10,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, will have six main workshop categories: agriculture, geosciences, sciences, social and behavioral sciences, engineering, and physical science. It will be Feb. 28-March 1 in the Rudder Center.

An eight-member advisory panel has been named to help put the program and exhibits together. Cap and Gown, senior honor society for men and women, has begun gathering illustrations, facts and figures for the workshop.

Dr. Ethel Ashworth-Tsutsui and Karen Switzer will be directing the workshop, with Dr. Wayne M. Ahr coordinating the exhibits. Dr. Walter F. Stenning is in charge of evaluating the effectiveness of the program and the exhibits.

New assistantship for finance

Texas A&M University's department of finance has received a grant from the Harry S. and Isabel C. Cameron Foundation to establish an undergraduate research assistantship.

Students eligible for the assistantship must be undergraduate finance majors who have completed at least one semester at Texas A&M with no less than a "B" average and must anticipate graduation no earlier than May 1978. A committee from the finance department will make the selection.

The research assistant selected will be expected to work with a member of the faculty of the finance department on a project for approximately 15 hours per week.

Applications are available in room 210 of Francis Hall. All applications must be submitted by October 6.

Vets gather for dog research symposium

Veterinarians will convene at Texas A&M University next Wednesday to look at new research findings concerning dogs.

The Gaines Veterinary Symposium, will feature reports from a number of research veterinarians. The conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Rudder Tower, according to Walter Chimel, director of the White Plains, N.Y.-based Gaines Dog Research center.

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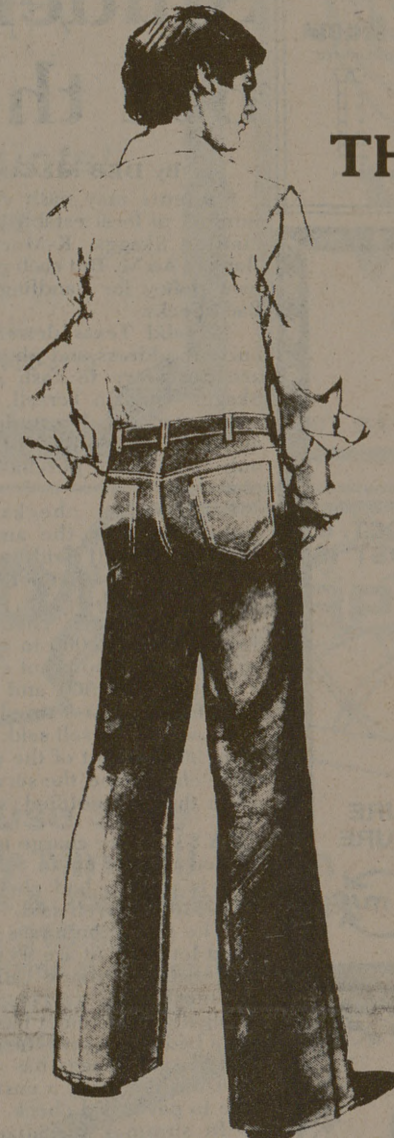
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Freshman transfer students can still sign up to interview for the Town Hall committee. All applicants must sign up in the student programs office of the M.S.C., by 5:00 p.m. Friday, September 30.

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