

Safe stolen from office

By DEBBIE NELSON
Campus Staff

A safe containing over \$320 was stolen in a break-in at the Reed McDonald building over the weekend.

Detective Ken Nicolas of the University Police Dept. said entry was gained to the Student Publications office by breaking the glass in the window, reaching through it and unlocking the door. The break-in occurred between midnight Saturday and 3:30 p.m. Sunday.

From marks on the floor, Nicolas said the safe was probably loaded onto a dolly by only two or three people. He said thieves probably loaded the safe on the dolly, took it down the elevator and loaded it into a pickup truck or van.

Detective Will Scott said a University police officer checked the building Saturday around midnight and found an open door. He then called the building proctor to relock

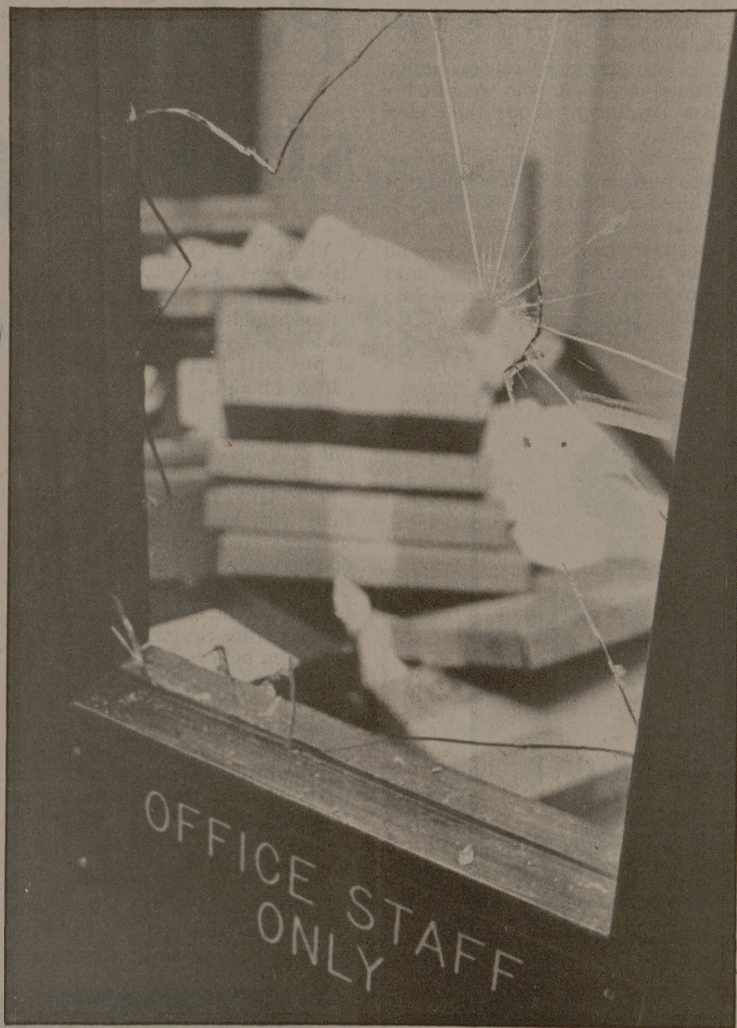
the door.

Cecilia Prihoda, who works in the Student Publications Dept., said the safe was between four and five feet tall, and very heavy.

Nicholas said the safe was a fire safe, built to keep up to 350 degree heat out, but not people. The thieves could open the safe easily with an axe, he said.

The safe held money from student directory, Aggeland and Battalion advertising sales, said Betty Popp, who also works in the office. The safe also contained money belonging to Sigma Delta Chi, the journalism honor society, keys to other doors in the office, some typewriter ribbons and change.

No items other than the safe were reported missing. Officers said anyone who has been to the office to pick up an Aggeland or student directory would know the safe was there. An investigation is in progress.



The Battalion's office safe rested in the corner visible through this broken door window, apparently broken by thieves who carried the massive fireproof safe from student newspaper office sometime during the weekend.

Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Beauty scholarship pageant this weekend

By BRIAN BLALOCK
Campus Reporter

A \$1,000 scholarship, a \$1,000 wardrobe allowance and a chance to compete in the Miss Texas Pageant in Fort Worth are the three goals of 20 women competing for the Miss Texas A&M University Scholarship title.

The pageant, an official preliminary to the Miss America Pageant, is sponsored by the MSC Hospitality Committee. It will be held at 7 p.m., Feb. 15 and 16 in Rudder Auditorium.

Steve Noak, executive director of the pageant, said Saturday's competition was moved from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. due to a conflict with the Texas A&M-Texas basketball game.

Noak said participation in the scholarship pageant was open to any woman enrolled at Texas A&M in the 1979-1980 school year, providing she complied with rules and regulations set up by the national Miss America Pageant.

He said about 40 women submitted applications to the pageant but the number had to be cut down.

"We couldn't accept every girl who applies for it," Noak said, "otherwise the pageant would have been too long. What we did was have a preliminary screening process. We had an interview, then we also had a talent screening, because they are the two most important aspects of the competition."

"From those screening, we narrowed it down to 20 girls," he said.

One of the 20 selected for the competition was Suzanne Marino, a freshman civil engineering major from Austin. Marino said she has never been in a pageant before, but with the encouragement of a friend, she decided to enter.

Looking to spiders

United Press International
NEW YORK — Researchers at Auburn University in Alabama are studying how the spider spins his web in order to discover possible new techniques for spinning yarn and weaving textiles.

A research team at the university has established that spiders release their silk in liquid form from a built-in "spigot" and that it hardens at once. The team wants to discover the mechanics of that operation, as well as how the spider joins the strands of the web together.

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Clayton faces opposition

United Press International
AUSTIN — Texas House Speaker Bill Clayton, subpoenaed to appear before a Houston grand jury Tuesday to discuss allegations he accepted a \$10,000 bribe, says he does not intend to drop out of the race for an unprecedented fourth term as speaker.

Carefully monitoring sentiment in the Capitol will be Rep. John Bryant, D-Pleasant Grove, a long-time Clayton critic who announced several months ago he would challenge Clayton.

Bryant last week claimed to have had 62 of the 76 votes needed and Rep. Ron Coleman, D-El Paso and a Bryant supporter, said Clayton's subpoena should bring more support.

"We've got a big push going," Coleman continued.

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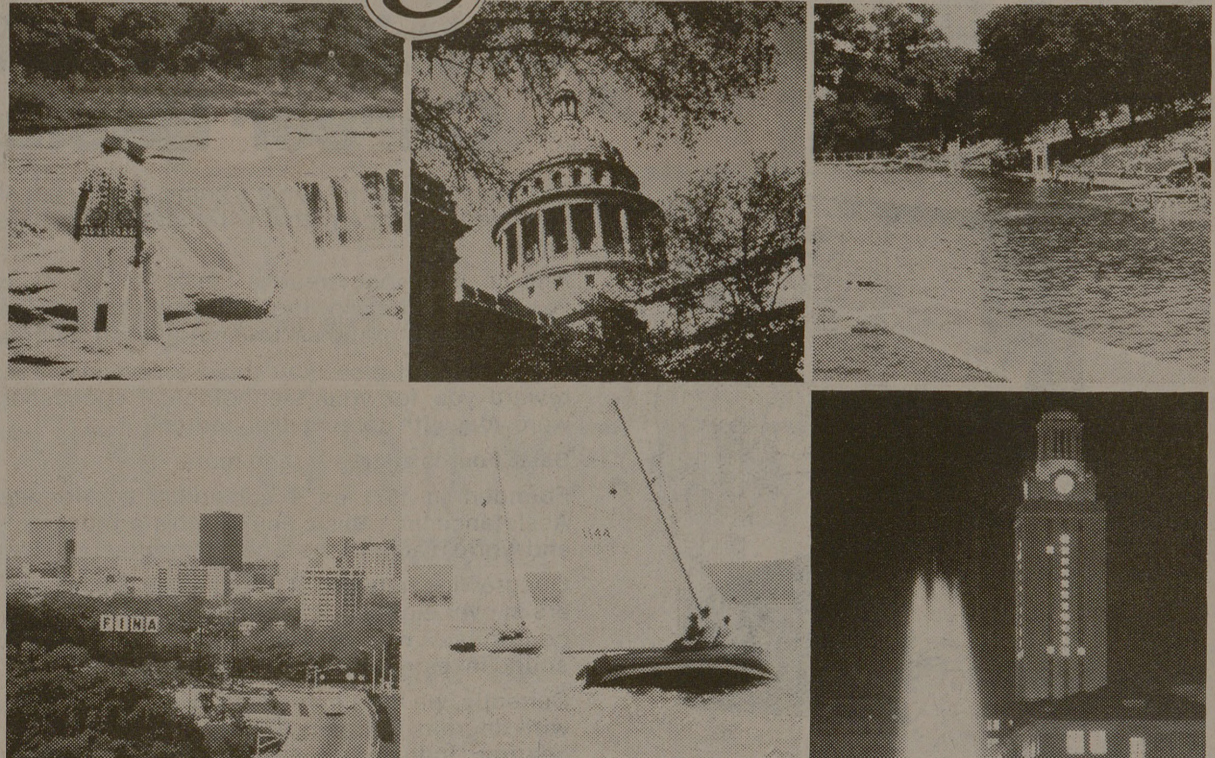
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