

Local

Rule-breakers will pay the price

By USCHI MICHEL-HOWELL
Battalion Staff

Naturally, as you would expect in any community, there are always some who will not follow rules. The student community at Texas A&M University is no exception.

Dealing with students who have failed to conform to University rules is one of the duties of Ron Blatchley, director of student affairs.

When most students first come to Texas A&M University they are not familiar with the many ways Aggies are "supposed" to behave.

But Blatchley said, "We heavily depend on Fish Camp, the Residence Hall Association and on the Off-Campus Aggies to make our expectations known among the new students."

The highest incidence of crime and other conduct problems occurs in the last weeks of the spring and fall semesters. However, initially, Blatchley said he tries to prevent problems by sending out letters to all students.

"By making our expectations known to the students there is more

pressure on them to behave," Blatchley said.

"Students today are acting up more than they used to," he added and noted, "One reason might be that there is a greater audience now for the students to show off."

Food fights on Friday nights, one such example of undesired conduct, are increasing, Blatchley said.

Excessive parking violations is another example; however, he explained the tickets can create an even further problem.

"When a student violates Texas A&M's rules and regulations by accumulating parking tickets in the glove compartment, instead of paying them to the police, for example, he comes into contact not only with the police, but also with the Office of Student Affairs," Blatchley said.

"We get reports from University police, faculty and other administrators," Blatchley said.

Once a student is reported, Blatchley said the student is notified of charges brought against him and

requested to come in for an administrative hearing.

Conduct probation is one of the ways the University can deal with the student without actually suspending him from the University.

But Blatchley said there is no set policy which specifies when a student should be put on probation. Both the length of probation and types of restrictions vary.

In some cases, a student on probation may be denied the right to hold an office at the University or from receiving a University administered loan.

"It is a matter of circumstances and we relate the case to previous ones," Blatchley said.

The accused student has all legal rights and can appeal the punishment administered by the Office of Student Affairs, according to the

University Rules and Regulations booklet.

Currently there are 32 students on conduct probation and the reasons are numerous, Blatchley said.

Since July 1979, there have been 16 suspensions from the University, 69 on conduct probation, five dismissals and 158 other disciplinary actions taken, according to the Office of Student Affairs. Specific reasons for the various actions were not given.



Battalion photo by Julie Standard

Putting parkers in their place

Charles Kuder of the electric shop in Texas A&M's physical plant helps to install an electric gate for parking lot number 34 behind the Heep building. Kuder said the gates, which have recently cropped up around campus, are

to control the flow of traffic from people not assigned to the particular parking lots. The gate goes up at 3:30 p.m. and back down at 5:30 p.m.

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