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The Weather

Today

High 80
Low 65
Chance of rain. 30%

Tomorrow

High 78
Low 66
Chance of rain. 20%

Safety awareness programs recommended

This is the second of a two-part Battalion series on the report of the residence hall security task force to the Texas A&M University director of student affairs.

By JANE C. BRUST
Battalion Staff

While students at Texas A&M University may consider their rural community campus a safe place, this may be a false sense of security.

Student awareness of campus security problems is a major concern of the Texas A&M task force on residence hall security.

The task force report on residence hall security, including recommendations, has been passed on to Ron Blatchley, director of student affairs. Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs, said he and Blatchley will review the committee's recommendations over the summer to decide which, if any, new policies or programs will be implemented for the fall.

Glenn Ferris, supervisor of housing operations, chaired the committee comprising five student affairs professionals, three head residents and one student representative of the Residence Hall Association.

Surveys were given to 500 men and 500 women who live on campus, as well as to personnel at other universities to learn how they handle on-campus security. The report contains

survey results and committee recommendations based on the responses from 78 women and 270 men.

The 78 responses from women represent a very small sampling, roughly two percent, of the 3,453 women currently living on campus.

Of responses from the 78 women, a large majority do not feel campus security problems are accurately reported to students. A similar majority said they would attend a program concerning security awareness.

The task force committee recommends that the responsibility of security awareness programs be placed under the new position of supervisor of housing programs and that residence hall security awareness programs be provided through Residence Hall Association and dorm council activities.

Ferris said the task force would like to see residence halls present informative programs on topics such as rape prevention and handling and reporting obscene phone calls.

Task force recommendations to the department of student affairs, regarding personal security on campus include:

- improved security awareness programs for on-campus residents
- improved communications and increased publicity between University police and students
- consideration of peephole installation in room doors of

women's residence halls

- investigation of roving security guards on campus
- increased University police surveillance of parking lots at night.

Much of the women's concern is for parking lot security, particularly when female students walk through parking lots alone at night, Ferris said.

Of the 78 responses from women, a vast majority do not feel safe in the parking lot areas. More than half walk alone on campus at night, and a majority does not carry any type of repellent to use against potential attackers.

A majority of the women say they would not call an escort service if one were available.

University police have provided evening escort services for women for several years, said Police Chief John R. McDonald. "They (women) take an unnecessary risk walking alone at night," he said.

McDonald said police do not usually escort groups of three or more women but would definitely escort a woman walking alone. He said the department has some "regular customers," women who work late at night, for example, and come back to campus late at night.

Ferris said 29 schools responded to the survey for colleges and universities comparable to Texas A&M. Sixteen of those

29 schools have volunteer escort services with male students, he said. Two of those schools have paid escorts.

Personal security inside the women's residence halls is another task force concern, although almost all of the 78 women say they feel safe in their rooms at night.

"There are never really major problems — there's enough people around (in the residence halls)," Ferris said, "but there's no way to keep people out after visitation."

Outside doors to corridor-style residence halls are usually locked by residence hall staff at night, but residents often prop doors open or they fail to secure the door after it has been locked. Slightly more than half of the women and a majority of the men responding said outside entrances should not be locked.

McDonald said police receive 15-30 calls each month from women reporting men in residence halls after visitation hours. "We don't care how many calls we get of suspicious behavior in dorms, if they (women) will report it," he said.

Ferris said security problems are definitely not to the point of requiring police patrols inside the halls.

However, the committee has recommended consideration of peephole installation in the doors of corridor-style residence halls. Three-fourths of the 78 women said peepholes should be installed.

Nine out of 29 schools said they have peepholes in the room doors in women's residence halls.

Aggie spirit to be taught at West Point

By KATHY O'CONNELL
Battalion Staff

The spirit of AggieLand may not be universal, but an officer at West Point Military Academy hopes it might spread a little further.

Maj. Michael J. McKean, a 1971 graduate from Texas A&M University said, he would like head yell leader Mike Thatcher to talk to yell leaders at West Point to exchange ideas on how to promote spirit at the military academy.

McKean, who is the adviser for the yell leaders at West Point, said they have had some trouble boosting spirit at sports events.

West Point is similar to Texas A&M in that they are strictly a military school; however, it seems that's where the similarity ends. McKean said West Point has 12 male yell leaders and a 12-member female dance team. He said they also have three cadets who ride army mules.

Unlike Texas A&M, the cadets try out for the positions of "Rabble Rousers" instead of being elected.

West Point even has something like Texas A&M's Twelfth Man tradition, but he was quick to point out that Texas A&M started the tradition first.

McKean is unsure when the tradition at West Point began, but he is sure that Texas A&M's tradition is based on fact. "I hated them (West Point) for that," he said jokingly.

The idea behind the tradition at West Point is basically the same as at Texas A&M — giving unmitigated support to their team, he said.

The Twelfth Man tradition at Texas A&M began in 1922 at the Dixie Classic Football game when King Gill, a basketball player, came down from the stands and stood ready to enter the game if Coach Dana X. Bible needed him to play for an injured comrade.

McKean said he would like Thatcher to go to West Point sometime in August and stay in the barracks with the cadets. He said this might give Thatcher "a feel" for what it's like at West Point.

Thatcher said he would suggest the yell leaders coordinate more yells with the cadets. He said he's not sure what is causing the apathy, but he would suggest they look at freshman orientation programs.

"The freshman class are the backbone of spirit at A&M," he said. "Maybe they should have better orientation programs."



Photo by Betty Ann Reid

A way to beat the heat

Garbage cans and cutoffs were the uniform of the day for these Corps members after dinner Wednesday. Members of the band

took on the rest of the Corps in a good old-fashioned water fight that helped cool the recent high temperatures in the area.

First fire drills held in residence halls

By CATHIE FEIGHL
Battalion Reporter

The first fire drills on the Texas A&M University campus were held in two residence halls Wednesday and Thursday.

Mosher Hall held a drill Thursday at 7 p.m. and Davis-Gary held a drill Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

An increased concern this semester about fire safety and evacuation in the dorms prompted the Department of Student Affairs to request each housing area plan and conduct a fire drill in one dorm from their area. In an earlier Battalion interview, Dr. John J. Koldus, vice-president for student services, said the recent major hotel fires and fires on the Texas Christian University campus this spring, made the department more conscious of fire dangers in campus buildings.

Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs, said earlier this semester that it is necessary to re-evaluate the fire warning systems, and that a test run in each area would be a good way.

He said by watching what happens in the three dorms, a plan could be made for all the dorms next fall.

Susie Vanacek, head resident of Mosher, said the fire drill was unannounced, but that residents were told two weeks ago that a drill would be held some time this week. Mosher's ten resident advisors knew when the drill would occur and helped coordinate evacuation procedures.

Vanacek said that during the past two weeks, the resident advisors have reviewed evacuation procedures with residents and have posted signs about what should be done during a drill.

"Once it becomes standard policy to have fire drills, and everyone knows what they are supposed to do, no prior warnings would be necessary," she said.

Harry Stitler, of the University Health and Safety Office set off the fire alarm, which rings throughout the building. About half of Mosher's 674 residents were in the dorm at the time of the drill and were evacuated within three to five minutes, Vanacek said.

"The drills are primarily to see that students know what the alarm sounds like and where to go," Stitler said.

After the alarm sounded, the two resident advisors on each floor went door-to-door telling residents to evacuate immediately. During the evacuation, two residents on each floor were asked to stand near the exits and direct people out of the dorm, Vanacek said.

Resident advisor Caryl Goodnight said her job was to check every room and make sure everyone was out.

"There wasn't much opposition to the drill on my wing," Goodnight said. "They were all kind of

prepared to leave," she said.

Goodnight said that except for a few stragglers, the evacuation went smoothly. Once outside, the residents gathered in a grassy area between the dorm and parking lot 40.

Some residents were caught off guard by the drill and had to stand outside without make-up, in hair curlers and wearing robes. A few residents complained about the inconvenience, but most of the girls did not appear upset about having to leave their rooms.

Julie Slone, a first-floor resident, said she did not mind the drill because she was given notice that it was going to occur. Jennie Jensen, also from the first floor, said she would have left even if the drill had occurred in the middle of the night.

Resident Pam Baumgartner said that some people acted too casually about the evacuation and should have taken it more seriously.

Vanacek said there were a few girls who refused to leave their rooms. Failure to leave the dorm during the drill is a J-board offense, she said.

Judicial boards or "J-boards" are made up of residents who determine guilt or innocence in the case of any alleged violation of residence hall rules. In the case of a guilty verdict, the J-board also determines an appropriate sanction.

After the drill, Vanacek and the resident advisors agreed that the only mechanical problem was

that the alarm bells were not loud enough.

Fourth-floor resident Paula Haye said she could barely hear the alarm in her room.

"I might not have known what it was if this had been a real fire situation," she said.

Dave Schnettler, head resident of Davis-Gary, said their drill was unannounced and also ran smoothly. Stitler set off the alarm system about 7:30 p.m. and the 130 residents in the dorm at the time of the drill evacuated within three minutes, he said.

As in Mosher, the four Davis-Gary resident advisors went door to door after the alarm sounded and told residents to leave immediately.

Resident advisor Tommy Smith said some residents laughed at the drill and thought it was a joke but the resident advisors treated the drill as if it was a real emergency.

"After the residents realized I was serious, they became serious about evacuating," Smith said. Schnettler said all system equipment worked fine and there were no problems during the drill.

The fire department and the University police were notified when both drills would take place and were not present at either drill.

John White, assistant area coordinator in the Corps area, said a fire drill would take place in one of the Corps dorms early next week.

Student dies in swimming accident

Services are pending in Mercedes for a 19-year-old Texas A&M University student who apparently drowned Wednesday during a swim at Lake Somerville.

Jimmy L. Newmann, a sophomore environmental design major from Los Fresnos, disappeared after complaining of cramps while swimming back to shore from an island in the lake, said investigators. Funeral arrangements for Newmann are pending at Stotler Mortuary in Mercedes.

Newmann's name will be added to the list for Silver Taps — the traditional memorial service for students who die while enrolled at Texas A&M — this fall when students who have died since Aggie Muster on April 21 will be honored.

Unit protests rule change in Hochmuth award

By BELINDA McCOY
Battalion Staff

Controversy arose within the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University last week when portions of the criteria for winning the Gen. Bruno Hochmuth award were changed.

This year Company D-2 won the Hochmuth award, which was awarded on Parents' Day. Controversy arose when discrepancies were discovered in Company D-2's extracurricular activity reports — part of the criteria originally used in judging the winner.

The Hochmuth award, a maroon cord with white interwoven portions, is given to the outfit which has the highest number of points when march-ins, inspections, contract percentages, freshman retention, upper classman retention, and extracurricular activities points are calculated.

Company P-2 came in second place for the award.

It was known that the two outfits — D-2 and P-2 — were in close competition to win the award, Chris Nygard, commanding officer of P-2, said. Nygard sent a formal letter of protest to Woodall

Thursday, asking him to reconsider the winning of the award.

"Activity points could have made the difference," Nygard said.

However, Woodall said that no one knows who would have won if the criteria had not been changed.

"We don't know and we don't want to know," he said. "We made the decision (to change the criteria) before the computations were made."

Extracurricular activity points originally counted 10 percent of the total. The activity points are given for each organization that a cadet becomes involved in.

Each cadet keeps up with his own activity point sheet, and the results are passed in according to the order of succession of authority in the Corps. The Corps staff then gives these tallies to the office of the commandant for consideration in the final computation of award winners.

This year the Corps staff discovered some discrepancies in the activity sheet of Company D-2. Col. James R. Woodall, Corps commandant,

said the staff told him that they had some doubts as to the accuracy of some of the activity sheets.

"It was brought to my attention by the Corps staff that there was some doubt about some of the activity sheets in one particular unit," Woodall said.

Woodall then formed a board of officers — one officer from each of the three services — to investigate the allegation. However, Woodall had the board investigate the activity sheets of every outfit in the Corps, not just those of Company D-2.

The board of officers found discrepancies in the activity reports of five outfits, Woodall said. The discrepancies occurred when cadets reported they had joined an organization, and no proof could be found that those cadets had become actively involved in that organization.

However, these discrepancies could never be verified, Woodall said.

"We found not one instance where a person said he was a member of an organization and we could prove that they were not a member. ... But there's nothing in the rules that prohibits a fellow from

joining an organization and getting a point from it."

Because no verifications could be made, Woodall decided upon the recommendations of the board of officers to eliminate the activity points from the competition criteria this year.

This summer the criteria for the awards will be rewritten to prohibit manipulation of the rules, Woodall said.

"We're going to make it where it will be verifiable, and in the future it will be verified," Woodall said. "And we're also going to eliminate people joining a unit to get a point. They're going to either have to be an officer or they're going to have to be in an organization where we can verify the points such as a member of the R.V.'s (Ross Volunteers) or a member of the Recon Company."

The purpose of the activity points is for a cadet to make a positive contribution toward the University and the Corps, Woodall said.

Manipulation of the activity points has been suspected in the past, but nothing has ever been proven, he said.

Dunn leading