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The Weather

Today	Tomorrow
High 93	High 95
Low 75	Low 75
Chance of rain 40%	Chance of rain 20%

Officer shortage attributed to non-competitive wages

By KATHY O'CONNELL

campus security may be threatened by a shortage of police officers unless their salaries are raised to competitive local standards.

Director of Traffic and Security Col. Thomas Parsons, said Texas A&M University Police are experiencing a shortage of 11 patrol officers. The shortage in officers is because of salaries, he said.

Parsons said they've lost several officers to the Bryan or College Station city police forces. "I can name seven or eight officers that have left us and gone to Bryan, because the pay is better," he said.

"In my opinion, most of them are leaving because of the money," he said. "It's not that they aren't satisfied with their current salaries for certified officers at the Bryan Police Department are about \$16,200; College Station officers receive \$15,700 and University police officers, as of Sept. 1, receive \$12,700.

"We've always been a little behind them (Bryan/College Station), but it's way out of line. A College Station policeman makes more than a major in our department," he said.

Parsons said he has notified Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. John J. Koldus III of the problem and hopes that something can be done to make salaries comparable to the

city police forces.

Koldus said the University is in the process of having the personnel department investigate restructuring the classified employee system that sets a base salary for employees.

Koldus said when the state legislature approved the University's 1981-82 budget, there was a significant increase in the appropriation for security. Thus, there is money available to increase the salaries, but the process of upgrading the classified system must be done first.

Parsons said if there isn't an increase, some of the services provided by the officers may be limited. He said the officers often help students start a dead car battery and give aid when they've run out of gasoline.

"Many people don't realize we provide these services, and these are just the ones we'll have to limit; we'll just have to concentrate on security," he said.

Parsons said the officers will probably have to work overtime to make up for the shortage. "We just can't keep doing this because the officers will be overworked. Many of them have families and you just can't keep working them overtime."

However, there are enough officers to handle traffic violations, he said. In fact, the department has hired four students to issue parking tickets. He said they only need to be authorized by the University Police department, because they aren't making arrests.

"There is nothing uncommon about having non-commissioned officers issuing tickets," he said. "The meter maids you see writing tickets aren't officers."

University facilities change schedules for July 4 holiday

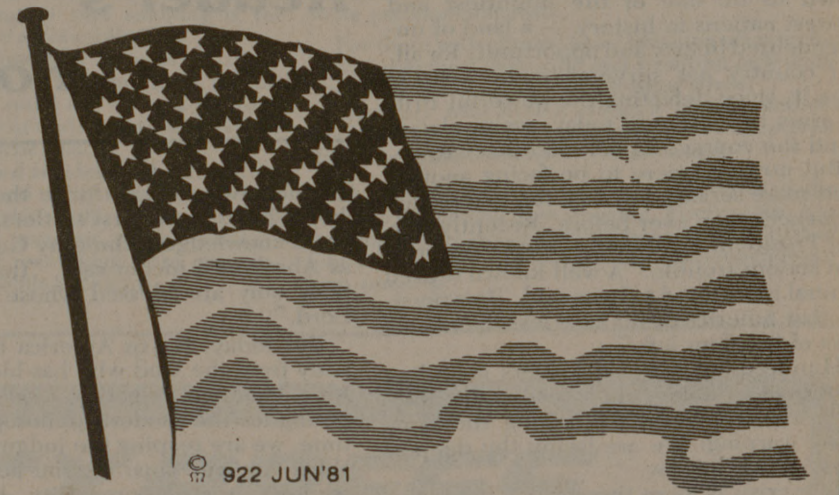
Texas A&M faculty, staff and students will observe Independence Day Friday with most University facilities either closed or operating on modified schedules.

All Memorial Student Center and University Center facilities, with the exception of the post office lobby area, will be closed beginning at 5 p.m. today. The post office lobby area may be entered at any time from the MSC entrance across from G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The MSC, including the guest rooms and main desk, will reopen at 4 p.m. Sunday. Bowling and games will reopen at 1 p.m. Sunday. All MSC and University Center facilities will return to normal operating hours on Monday.

The Evans Library will operate on a modified schedule during the holiday period. The library will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Regular hours will be in effect Sunday, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Medical Sciences Library also will operate on an abbreviated



schedule, with hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Regular hours will be in effect again Sunday.

While University facilities are closed this weekend, a variety of fourth of July activities are scheduled for the state and local community. See today's issue of Focus for details.

List of presidential candidates expected from regents today

By BERNIE FETTE

Texas A&M officials are expected to lose the names of some 500 initial considerations for the University presidency today.

In working days have passed since Army General Mark White's ruling Texas A&M would be required to the Bryan-College Station Eagle list of candidates' names.

Legally, such information deemed a public record must be released within days of the date of the attorney general's decision.

The Bryan-College Station Eagle in January requested the list of candidates' names from the Texas A&M

University System Board of Regents. After the board refused to release the list, White was asked to determine whether the list was a public record.

Glenn Dromgoole, Eagle editor, said he wasn't sure when the newspaper would receive the information or whether the list would include information such as the candidates' ages and occupations.

White ruled June 17 that the list of 500 initial considerations for the post must be released but that the list of 20 finalists could be kept confidential.

At that time Dromgoole said the Eagle would publish all 500 names upon receipt of the list.

A presidential search committee began its screening process of the nominations and applications for the presidency following the dismissal of Dr. Jarvis Miller by the regents a year ago. The 22-member committee in January recommended a list of 20 candidates to the board. Since that time, a committee including Board Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright, Vice Chairman John Blocker, Regent Clyde Wells and system Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert have interviewed candidates for the position.

Bright said in May the presidential search is running slightly behind schedule but he still anticipates the selection of a new president by Sept. 1.

Afghan rebels carry out raids

NEW DELHI, India — Islamic insurgents gunned down several Soviet and Afghan communist officials in daring daylight raids in Kabul during the last week, diplomatic sources reported.

The diplomats quoted reliable sources Wednesday, who also described widespread death and devastation in Kandahar and Herat, Afghanistan's second and third largest cities.

Soviet troops tossed grenades into irrigation tunnels near a village outside Herat recently, killing about 60 people hiding from a bomb attack, they said. Relatives then lured the Soviet personnel into an ambush and killed many in revenge, the sources said.

Four rebels shot four Russian soldiers in central Kabul June 22, before fleeing on motorcycles, two diplomats reported, quoting eyewitnesses who fled before learning if the soldiers died.

In another incident the same evening, two Afghans shot and killed two Russian soldiers in front of the Soviet Embassy, the diplomats said. Soviet troops captured one gunman.

Another Afghan officer was shot in front of the Interior Ministry building in downtown Kabul and rebels also murdered

several Afghan leaders who attended the meeting two weeks ago of the National Fatherland.

Attacks on those who attended the assembly, organized by Soviet-backed President Babrak Karmal in an attempt to muster popular support, were seen by Afghan sources in India as a rebel warning to avoid contact with government activities.

In other violence in the Afghan capital, heavily armed Soviet troops moved into positions around the residence and offices of Karmal following a gun battle June 26, one of the diplomats said. Karmal is in Czechoslovakia.

A witness reported "long bursts of shooting" in the area around the presidential palace, followed by cries of what sounded "like wounded or frightened people," the diplomat reported.

The same evening troops ready for combat arrived to guard the Bulgarian and Indonesian embassies and both entrances to the residence of Prime Minister Sultan Ali Keshtrand, he said.

The diplomat did not know the reason for the troop movement and gun battle.

After-death arrangements can be costly

Pre-planning may be the answer

By SANDRA K. GARY

While people often trouble themselves with the minute-by-minute organization of their everyday lives, many overlook the need to make arrangements in the event of their deaths.

"In order to spare their survivors the added grief of deciding what should be done with a loved one who has died, more people are coming in ahead of time and, at least, finding out what their options are," said Bill Zieren, owner of Memorial Funeral Chapel in Bryan.

"A funeral director is a businessman," said Ann Bury, former president of the Memorial Society of Bryan-College Station Inc., "an organization of people who wish to pre-plan their after-death arrangements."

Bury likened the funeral director to the car dealer who tries to get his customer to buy the car with "all of the extra gadgets."

"The problem with funeral directors," she said, "is you don't have time to shop around."

Inevitably, however, someone has to make the often costly decisions, the most consequential of which is what should be done with the body.

There are three basic types of disposition — ground burial, cremation and the donation of a body to scientific and medical research, said Ray Jones, funeral director at Callaway-Jones Funeral Home in Bryan.

If ground burial is decided upon, costs will initially include the grave space, fees for opening and closing the grave, some type of burial container and basic service fees. In the Bryan-College Station area this initial costs stems upward from \$300, Jones said.

A grave space in the city cemeteries costs \$100, Jones said, and it costs \$100 to open a grave and \$100 to close one.

The Bryan City Cemetery also requires that at least a wooden grave liner, which costs \$90, be used in addition to the casket. Other types of liners range from a \$250 concrete liner to a \$4,495 steel vault, Jones said. He explained that they are supposed to keep the ground from sinking as the coffin settles.

Grave spaces in Restever Memorial Park, however, cost "on the average \$275," said Zee Murphy, a representative for the privately-owned cemetery. This fee does not include the \$200 charge for opening and closing the grave, Murphy said. Although no grave liner is required, she added that a flat bronze marker "running around \$1,000" is required.

The cost of the burial container is often the most expensive. The least expensive casket that can be purchased in this area is, in most cases, a cloth-covered wooden box which based on the average is \$295.

"In most cases, however, we find that most people spend about \$1,300 to \$1,400 on a casket," Zieren said.

Other costs are incurred from the services provided by the funeral home that handles the body after death. "A licensed funeral director is required by law to offer the consumer an itemization of the costs and services provided by him so that the consumer has the opportunity to refuse any of the services," Jones said.

Before this law was adopted, Jones said, some directors were quoting a single service charge fee. "Some people were paying for items they weren't getting," he said. "And by the same token, some directors were giving away things that hadn't been paid for."

The services which are itemized by a funeral home, generally, include professional staff services, embalming, cosmetology and restorative treatment of remains, general use of the home's facilities, use of facilities for visitation and for funeral services, initial transfer of the deceased plus use of other vehicles including a family limousine and a flower coach. The cost of the death certificate and a few other miscellaneous charges are also added.

"All of these services are not required," Jones said. "If we pick up a body at the hospital or rest home, fill out the necessary forms and take the body immediately to the cemetery for burial, many of the costs will be subtracted," he explained. If all services are desired, the average fee is close to \$920.

Families can bury their own dead if

they wish, according to a pamphlet published by the Texas Funeral Directors Association Inc. Jones said, "right now at this moment, there is no law requiring embalming in the State of Texas."

Most funeral homes, however, will not perform a public funeral service for bodies which are not embalmed and have been dead for over 24 to 48 hours, Zieren said. He said this is because after that length of time, human flesh is like any other dead animal — it starts decomposing and the stench can become unbearable.

With the coffin purchased, services selected and place of burial decided, consumers consider other, sometimes less expensive, details such as flowers or other types of memorials.

Flowers, if desired, again add to the cost. A simple casket spray begins, on the average, at \$20. This cost can skyrocket to \$7,000 for a blanket of roses and orchids. On the average, most local florists said families spend between \$75 and \$100 for an arrangement of flowers to place on the casket.

All things considered, the least expensive burial without a funeral will be near \$650. Many people think that cremation is more economical.

"Really, in dollar bills, you're not going to save a bundle," Jones said. He pointed out that the Bryan-College Station area has no crematory. Transportation expenses push cremation costs up into the same bracket as an inexpensive burial, he said.

A simple cremation, including transportation to Houston, where the nearest crematory is located, was \$577 in 1980, Bury said. This price has increased, however, she said.

The least expensive and most useful means of disposal, she said, is to donate a body to science or medical research.

We have had some requests (by members of the local memorial society) that their bodies be left to the Texas A&M Medical School, Bury said.

"In most cases the medical institution will pay for all expenses," she said. "If requested, they may also return the cremated remains to the family after research is complete."

Council says more federal help needed

A national organization of universities involved in transportation research has agreed to take action to increase federal support for its efforts at finding answers to transportation problems.

The federal government is considering "substantial reductions" in funding for transportation research and development programs, said Dr. C. V. Wootan, a member of the board of directors for the Council of University Transportation Centers.

Meeting at Texas A&M University, the board of directors for the council agreed to develop a set of position papers pointing out the need for transportation studies.

Wootan said the federal Department of Transportation currently devotes only 2 percent of its overall budget to research programs. Because funding has remained at a constant level during the 1970s, transportation research centers and other research groups can conduct only about 40 percent of the work now with federal dollars that they could 10 years ago.

Wootan, director of the Texas Transportation Institute, a research agency headquartered at Texas A&M, said the cuts would hit programs when research is needed most.

"We are facing a choking of our economic system," he said. Wootan explained that 21 percent of the gross national product is linked directly to transportation.

The council also elected three new officers for one-year terms and voted to accept seven new members, bringing total participation on the council to 22 institutions.

CUTC was established two years ago to help pinpoint areas where research funding is needed and to pass the findings along to the various agencies responsible, Wootan said.

Wootan said CUTC representatives also discussed the declining enrollment in graduate engineering programs nationwide.

Engineering students, lured by \$20,000-plus salaries immediately upon graduation, are deserting further study for financial benefits. Wootan said the situation is seriously affecting the type of research programs that provide engineers with innovative breakthroughs.

CUTC will hold its next national meeting in Washington during January.



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

the decisions facing family and friends after death can be very complicated and very expensive. One group the Memorial Society of Bryan-College Station Inc., work to pre-plan their own after-death arrangements.