

Local/State

Texas prisons in most violent year

United Press International
Eleven inmates in the Texas prison system have been slain by other prisoners this year, and dis-

turbances are up over past years, but the director of the Texas Department of Corrections says he is not in a position to point fingers.

"I'm not an elected official and do not have the luxury to speak out in the way some officials can," W.J. Estelle Jr. said, referring to remarks made by Gov. Bill Clements and State Attorney General Mark White that linked reforms ordered by a federal judge with increased violence.

"My primary concern is the safety of inmates and staff," he said. "Any conclusions somebody else might make under these circumstances are strictly his own, not mine."

The 11 slayings this year are more than twice the number for each of the previous two years, and the number of prisoner deaths is 82, up from 50 in 1980.

Furthermore, 11 inmate disturbances have occurred since June — more than twice the number in each of the past eight years. In one week this month, violence flared at three prisons, resulting in injuries to 70 guards and inmates and damaging at least \$300,000 in property.

After a Nov. 20 melee at the TDC Eastham Farm Unit about 20 miles north of Huntsville, White called the situation "very dangerous and serious, directly

attributable to the actions of the federal court that has given prisoners the mistaken notion that they do not need to obey the rules and regulations of the prison system."

Meanwhile, Clements said the blame for the disturbances lies directly on special master Vincent Nathan, who was appointed by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice of Tyler to monitor compliance with the judge's order in April.

White said last week he never blamed Justice or Nathan for inciting violence, but rather that prisoners have used the ruling and Nathan's staff of monitors as an excuse for violence.

An attorney representing inmates in the 10-year-old lawsuit against TDC said the prisoners feel this way.

"It is the prisoners' perception that the court order is being violated, and it happens to be a 100 percent accurate perception," attorney William Bennett Turner said. "When the system becomes the lawbreaker, what reason do the prisoners have to follow the law?"

Huntsville prison spokesman Rick Hartley said:

"The way we see it, you have six incidents from January of 1973 to June of 1981. June of 1981 to now, you have 11. In April, we get a federal court order from Judge Justice, and about June a special master and monitors come on line.

"I think there is a statistical corollary between those facts and those numbers."

Estelle said resources have not kept pace with the population. He said the number of prisoners has increased from 15,000 10 years ago to the present 31,400.

Also, the concentration of violent criminals in the prisons is growing, he said, because of community programs offering an alternative to prison for non-violent offenders.

Justice ruled the prison system must reduce overcrowding, increase its work-furlough program and allow prisoners in solitary confinement and administrative segregation time for exercise.

The case is now before the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Corps sponsors needy child

By MARY JO RUMMEL

Battalion Staff
The spirit of brotherhood and camaraderie in the Corps of Cadets is being expanded into the role of "big brothers" to an underprivileged child.

The Corps is sponsoring a child through the Christian Children's Fund, Corps Chaplain Ken Hahn said.

The Christian Children's Fund is a non-denominational organization that links sponsors with underprivileged children of the world, English Professor Robert S. Kellner said. He has worked with the Fund for several years.

"It is not an anonymous charity," Kellner said. After the money is sent in, the sponsor communicates with the child through letters and photographs.

The project is being headed by the Corps chaplains from each outfit. This is the first time the Corps as a whole has done this type of project, Hahn said.

Hahn said the chaplains will meet this week to discuss how they expect to collect the money for the project. The drive will be held during dead week, Dec. 7 through 11.

"It costs a sponsor \$18 a

month or just \$260 a year to make sure a child receives food and care," Kellner said. "The money comes out to about 10 cents from each cadet." The Corps project will sponsor a child for one full year.

Ultimately, the sponsor money is spent on food, clothing and some education for the child, Kellner said.

He added that without the financial help of the sponsor, many families could not stay together. The children live at home but go to the centers for food and classes.

It takes about two weeks after the money is sent in to find out who the child being sponsored is, Kellner said. The children in the program range from infants to teenagers.

Christian Children's Fund was established in 1938 and is now helping 242,000 children from 20 countries including the United States. The program is working on a special drive to add 14,000 more children. The Fund's headquarters is in Richmond, Va.

Each year the Corps sponsors the March of the Brazos to benefit the March of Dimes, but this project is more than donating money, Hahn said.

NOW OPEN
Cenare
Italian Cuisine

OPEN: FOR LUNCH FOR DINNER
11:00-2:00 P.M. 5:00-10:00 P.M.

404 E. UNIVERSITY

LAMBDA SIGMA XMAS TREE SALE DEC. 1-9



Come by
and pick up
a tree!

3-4 FT. \$5.00

2-3 FT. \$4.00

Sbisa

Commons

Battalion
Classifieds
Call 845-2611

LOUPOUT'S BOOKSTORE

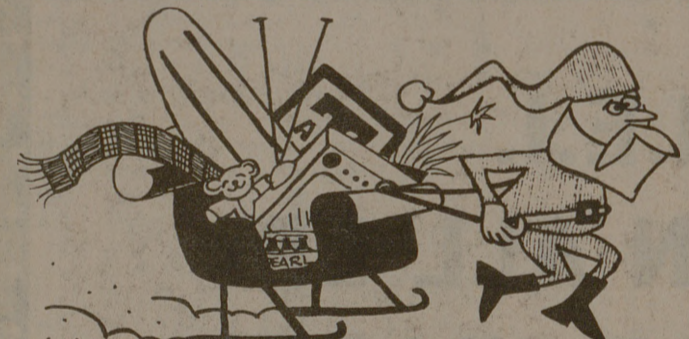
Northgate —
At the corner
across from the
Post Office

**LOST A BOOK
RIGHT BEFORE FINALS?**

Lou Will Loan You One 'til You
Take Your Exam! And We'll Buy
The Used Ones You Do Have.

**LOU NEEDS
YOUR USED
BOOKS!**

ATM LOUPOT'S ATM "OFF CAMPUS CORNER" (At The Corner Across From The Post Office)



Off Campus Corner ... What Is It?

Hopefully you've heard of the Off Campus Center. We're that office in the Department of Student Affairs which helps to meet the needs of A&M's 25,000 off campus students.

Many off campus students tell us that they don't know about campus events, and they feel left out. So, the Off Campus Center and Loupot's Bookstore are bringing you a monthly column in the *Battalion* to help you stay aware of activities both on and off campus. We wish to give a special thanks to Loupot for his continued support and interest in the Texas A&M Aggies.

"Off Campus Corner" will contain articles and tips about

off campus living and a calendar of upcoming events. We would like to include a question and answer section. Please submit your questions and comments about off campus living, as well as your suggestions for the column itself. You may need information about subleasing, lease obligations or any other topic. To submit questions or ideas, stop by the Off Campus Center or mail them to our office.

The Off Campus Center is located in Puryear Hall, directly across from the YMCA Building. Our phone number is 845-1741. Drop by or call between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Vacation Crime

The Christmas Season is almost here and this means a vacation for students! Many of you will be traveling over the holidays leaving your apartment, house, or mobile home unattended.

The Off Campus Center would like to remind all off campus students that holidays, unfortunately, are prime time for burglaries. Several apartment complexes in the Bryan/College Station area have some type of security, but the extent and effectiveness of this security varies greatly from complex to complex. Some housing has no security at all.

Therefore, you need to take an active part in protecting your property against crime. Take some precautions and follow some simple security steps to help insure a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

1. Strong locks are the single best deterrent to break-ins. Use a rod to lock a sliding glass door or window.
2. Do not leave keys outside your apartment. If you can find them, so can an intruder.
3. Never leave notes indicating that you are away.
4. Keep an inventory of your valuable possessions, listing model numbers, serial numbers, and brand names. Send a copy to parents or a relative.
5. "Operation ID" is a program supported by your local police department in which you engrave your Texas driver's license number on valuable items. An engraver may be checked out from the Campus Police.
6. You may wish to use an automatic (on-off) timer on a lamp. Timers can be purchased for as little as \$6.00.
7. Stop all deliveries including mail and newspapers.
8. If possible, ask a trusted friend to watch your place. Be sure to leave a number where you can be reached in case of an emergency.
9. Take valuables with you if at all possible: especially TVs, stereos, sewing machines, cameras, typewriters and bikes.
10. Don't panic if your apartment has been entered. Contact the police and the manager immediately. Do not "tidy up". The smallest detail could offer valuable information to police in their investigation.

We urge you to check with your apartment manager or property owner prior to the installation of any security device and for additional security steps.

For brochures and other information on Crime Prevention, contact the Police Department or come by the Off Campus Center.

Off Campus Calendar

OFF CAMPUS AGGIES: Announcing the first annual OCA Christmas Semi-Formal, Friday, December 4, 8 p.m. - 1 a.m. Bryan Lulac Hall; Dance to the "Texas Nuggets." Tickets available at Rudder Box Office \$8.00/couple.

ROOMMATE SESSION: The Off Campus Center is holding roommate sessions on the following dates, from 3:00-4:00 p.m.: December 7-11, 14, 15 and January 11-15, 18, 19. Please call for more information. 845-1741.

OFF CAMPUS AGGIES: First general meeting for the spring semester. January 27, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Rudder 701.

10% OFF ON ALL AGGIE CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Loupot's Off Campus Corner is sponsored each month by Loupot's Bookstore at Northgate as a service to Texas A&M students. Stories and artwork are provided by the staff of the Off Campus Center.

MSC hospitality presents a

HOLIDAY FASHION SHOW

7:00-9:00 DECEMBER 2, 1981

MSC BALLROOM RM 201 TICKETS-75 AVAILABLE AT DOOR

MSC Camera presents

Biomedical Photography

by

Ruth Tunnell
Director of Photo Services
- Medical School

Tuesday
Dec. 1 7:30
504 Rudder