

Night shift patrols for pranksters

Police officers keep campus safe after dark

Editor's note: This is the first in a five-part series on people who aren't vampires but work mainly at night.

by Jennifer Carr

Battalion Staff
As the police car cruised along North Bizzell, the officer checked the flags in front of the Systems Building to make sure they were still there. The flags are a

that stop sign; I'm going to have to slow him down just a little bit." Flores, who is in charge of the night shift, said this incident is typical of a Wednesday night.

"Tonight should pick up a little bit," he said. "There'll be a few people out at the bars, and when they come home, they'll probably be a little rowdy. Thursdays are really bad — seems like Thursday everybody comes out and has a good time before they go home."

The midnight shift of the University Police is from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., but the prime time for student mischief is about 1 a.m. to 3 a.m., Flores said. During that time, the three or four officers who patrol Texas A&M University at night keep on the streets and in the parking lots.

A dispatcher is constantly on duty at the station and investiga-

tors always are on call. Capt. Jack W. Bruce stays at the station until midnight, when he turns over command to Flores.

After about 3 a.m., when most students have finished their partying, the campus quiets down, Flores said. Then officers check buildings and set up surveillance in parking lots for car burglars, the most common problem on campus at night.

Flores said the two problem areas are behind the Commons and along Wellborn Road from Cain Hall to University Drive. Several campus buildings must be checked three times a night, others are checked at random.

Except for one officer who checks only buildings, there are no beats and no officer patrols two nights in a row in the same area, Flores said. If an officer



staff photo by Rose Delano

Officer Cabrina Reising tickets an illegally parked car in the circle in front of the library. Reising, from Monroe, Mich., is new on the police staff.

gets into a pattern, he said, it becomes almost impossible to catch law-breakers because they always know the location of the officer.

Flores said he has never had a problem falling asleep on the job, but admits it can be rough to adjust when shifts change every two months. It can be especially hard, he said, at the beginning of the week when things are really slow.

Officers are randomly rotated every two months, but

have an opportunity to change shifts if they want to. Flores said he likes working at night because it gives him an opportunity to try to catch thieves and pranksters, such as those who stole two flags from the Systems buildings Tuesday night. The flags were not recovered, and the pranksters have not been caught.

Tuesday: Nighttime at the Texas A&M University Physical Plant.

Shroud may be genuine, scientist says on visit

by Kellie Kurtin

Battalion Reporter
Scientific evidence may prove that the Shroud of Turin is authentic, an associate professor of electrical engineering at the University of Colorado said Saturday night. He directed experimental investigations on the cloth in 1978.

"There are rational reasons to believe that the shroud is the burial cloth of Jesus," said Dr. John Jackson, speaking at St. Mary's Catholic Church Student Center.

Jackson showed slides of the shroud, which showed an image estimated to have been that of a 5-foot-10-inch man.

The markings on the shroud correspond directly with Roman crucifixion reports concerning Jesus Christ, Jackson said.

The front view of the figure, full-bodied with crossed arms in front, shows a heavy blood flow on the head which depicts a crown of thorns, and bloody wounds on the wrists and feet. The back view shows numerous scourge marks and blood on the feet.

"On a scale of zero to 100, with zero meaning the shroud is not genuine, and 100 meaning it is definitely genuine, right now I'd give it an 85," Jackson said. "We still don't have enough evidence to be 100 percent sure."

A team of 30 scientists worked voluntarily with Jackson during the expedition on experiments. The team studied fiber samples and used tape to obtain particles from the surface of the cloth.

Scientists have not been able to carbon-date the shroud yet because this requires cutting a piece of the cloth.

The discovery of the shroud's reversed image — like a photographic negative — inspired investigation of the shroud.

Tests also show that the image is only on the surface of the cloth, and the blood penetrated from one side of the cloth to the other.

The dried, old and deteriorated blood cannot be identified as human and the type cannot be determined, Jackson said.

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