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States promise holiday control

United Press International
Police in several states vowed crack down on drunken drivers as Labor Day weekend arrived to end the official end of summer — complete with parades, fireworks, picnics and end-of-the-season camping trips.

The National Safety Council predicted as many as 560 people may die in traffic accidents over the three-day holiday weekend which begins at 6 p.m. local time today and ends at midnight Monday. Last year, 473 people were killed and 21,000 seriously injured in traffic accidents.

City, state, county and federal agencies were expected to be closed throughout the nation Monday, leaving thousands of people to enjoy respite from their daily labors.

In Massachusetts a combination of state, local and Metropolitan District Commission police planned to blank-

et the highways, armed with new mandatory minimum drunken driving penalties of one to two weeks in jail and stiff fines for repeat offenders.

"Law enforcement officials will be looking for and zeroing in on the drunken driver," Public Safety Secretary George Luciano said. "The revolving door of justice for the drinking driver will be closed that much quicker."

Michigan police planned to put an extra 400 state troopers on the highways during the weekend to enforce speed limits and drunken driving laws, officials said. Continued crackdowns were also planned in San Francisco and Arizona.

Indianapolis and Chicago both planned to stage their first Labor Day parades in decades, complete with floats and marching bands.

The Indianapolis parade will be

the first in that city since 1942.

The Labor Day parade was suspended because of World War II and never resumed. Organizers say the parade hereafter will be an annual event.

"I guess we have simply gotten fat, lazy and complacent," one organizer said.

Chicago's first Labor Day parade since 1952 was expected to attract thousands of people who also can partake of an evening concert and extravagant fireworks display boasting the theme "American Workers: The Winning Team."

In Phoenix, state department of public safety officials Thursday defended their legal right to set up controversial roadblocks during the weekend and said they would be of "minimum inconvenience" to motorists.

Official urges hard line on DWI cases

United Press International
AUSTIN — A state insurance official has urged jurors to show no mercy for drunken drivers he characterizes as the one of the most "serious threats to human life since the Vietnam war."

"Law enforcement officers across Texas are assigning a high priority to the DWI problem, but their efforts will be lost if jurors and judges view the drinking driver with a lack of regard and simply dismiss or reduce the charges," Jerry Johns said Thursday.

Johns, president of Southwestern Insurance Information Service, said jurors must bear the burden of getting drunken drivers off Texas highways until the Legislature deals with

the problem in January.

Legislation supported by law enforcement officials, safety organizations and the insurance industry would raise the legal drinking age in Texas from 19 to 21, abolish the open container law and crack down on repeat DWI offenders.

Pending any new legislation, a tougher judicial stance is needed, Johns said.

"Jurors who hear drunk driving cases are simply going to have to realize that the chronic drinking driver poses one of the most serious threats to human life since the Vietnam war," he said.

Drunken drivers caused 114 of 206 traffic fatalities in a major Texas city

last year and in another large Texas city, there was only a 2 percent conviction rate in drunken driving cases through 1981 and a 5 percent rate through 1982, Johns said.

Jurors err when they sympathize with drunken driving defendants because they don't want to see a person "lose his job, his drivers license and be branded for life," he said.

"The experienced drinker who by choice disregards the law and exposes innocent motorists to injury and even death should be punished and rehabilitated rather than turned loose to commit the crime again," he said.

"Last year there were 43,000 DWI arrests in Texas and only 17 percent were convicted and received jail time."



staff photo by Octavio Garcia

Don't try this at home

Robert Lambert, an environmental design major, demonstrates his technique at the TAMU Karate Club demonstration this week in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The club is open to all students in good physical condition who wish to learn the art of self-defense. Lambert is a senior from Bryan.

Local rents fall as apartments remain vacant

by Hope E. Paasch
Battalion Staff
After enjoying years of 100 percent occupancy rates, apartment owners are faced with an apartment surplus and are turning to lower rates and more lenient policies to attract tenants.

The occupancy rate for apartments has fallen 8.5 percent since last fall, and more apartments are being built.

On Aug. 23, the Texas A&M Off-Campus Housing Center showed 889 apartment units — or about 9 percent — of an available 11,000 were vacant. At the same time last year, only 49 apartments — or 0.5 percent — were available.

In an attempt to fill vacancies, 14 apartment complexes have lowered their fall rates. Several complexes are offering a half month

of free rent, and two complexes are offering a half month of free rent and \$150 to anyone who will sign a lease. At least one complex is offering \$100 off the first month's rent.

"We expected prices to fall, but we weren't really expecting them to drop until the spring semester," said Luann Schulze, off-campus housing coordinator. "There's been an increase of 15 percent in rent every fall for the last three years. This is the first time there's actually been a decrease."

Security deposits, which are often \$100 to \$200 per person, have been dropped by some complexes.

More lenient policies toward pets and lease length have been adopted by some complexes. Restrictions on the size of pets, and in some cases the total banning of pets, no longer are enforced. Apartments that formerly

accepted only 12-month tenants now are accepting anyone who will stay for at least three months.

Complex owners and management companies are not the only victims of the over-build in apartments, Schulze said. An unusually large number of students can't find roommates to help pay rent.

"I'm worried about the number of students who can't find roommates," she said. "What has happened is that students decided it was easier to sign a lease than try to find someone to move in with. In the past, after about mid-July, very few apartments were left and we told students it would be best to look through the card files we have and match themselves with someone who had a place."

"This year, after the middle of July, there were still lots of apartments available. Rather

than go through the 'hassle' of finding someone to move in with, students went out and signed a lease and then put a card on file to find more roommates. As a result, many students are going to be stuck."

Another problem resulting from the surplus concerns students who pre-leased apartments last spring, Schulze said.

"We've already had several students come in and complain about someone moving in right next door and paying less rent," she said. "Students who pre-leased are not getting a break in their rent, while someone who just walked in and signed a lease is getting the very same type of apartment for less."

How much less? One complex dropped its monthly rent from \$460 to \$299. Some complexes have lowered their rates more than once.

One reason for the high vacancy rate is the difference between the increase in construction and the increase in enrollment of the University.

The number of apartments has increased by 15 percent in the last year.

But the number of students at the University increased by only 0.5 percent during the same period.

Twenty-four new apartment complexes, containing a total of 1,600 units, have been built since last fall. Of the 13 complexes completed since January, only two are full. Of the complexes that are at least one year old, 44 percent are full. Twenty-seven percent of the complexes built since last fall are full.

Most of the new complexes contain less than 100 units and are having a difficult time filling vacancies.

Vandiver asks increase for teaching, library

by Beverly Hamilton
Battalion Staff
Texas A&M University requested a 1984-85 biennium appropriation of \$460,731,693 million Thursday — the largest single request made during the three-day System budget hearings, which conclude today.

The University requested \$231.3 million for 1984 and \$229.4 million for 1985 from members of the Legislative Budget Board staff and representatives of the governor's office.

The requested 1984 appropriation is an increase of about 59 percent over the \$136 million appropriated for the 1983 fiscal year, which began Wednesday.

After the hearings, the Legislative Budget Board staff and the governor's staff will draft an appropriations bill, which will be submitted to the next regular session of the Legislature.

University President Frank E. Vandiver presented budget requests Thursday for faculty salaries, departmental operating expenses, instructional administration, library funding and research.

"Fifty-two percent of the state budget this past year went into higher education," Vandiver said.

"I suspect that this ratio will come down and I would urge that if it does, faculty salaries still remain among the highest priorities that we have in all state universities."

He recommended the Legislature consider an across-the-board raise for staff members at the University.

Vandiver also requested full funding for departmental operating expenses.

"We are in a real bind on DOE money," he said. "The appropriation level is quite honestly alarming for our operating conditions."

Vandiver also requested increased funding for instructional administration. Low funding in such areas as co-operative education would restrict instructional administration activity and would reduce effective recruiting efforts in the University, he said.

Budget funds for the University library are essential, Vandiver said.

"We're trying to build the library; our library is adequate but it is not distinguished," he said. "The increased funding for state university libraries in the last several years is a trend, which I hope will continue. It (higher funding) is an essential item, an item which will require more than I'm sure the

state can give us."

Vandiver emphasized the importance of research and urged that such indirect costs of research as laboratory equipment be returned to the University instead of deducted from the next appropriation.

"It has damaged our research situation on the main campus and I fear it will damage it more," he said.

A lack of necessary research funds will force researchers to move to other universities and will "do serious damage to the instructional posture of A&M," he said.

He also asked legislative members for consideration of computer equipment and said all Texas A&M graduates should have programming experience. However, Vandiver said, that is not possible because of a lack of computer equipment and personnel.

Budget requests scheduled to be presented today are the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at 9 a.m., the Texas Engineering Experiment Station at 10:30 a.m., the Texas Transportation Institute at 1:30 p.m., the Texas Engineering Extension Service at 2:30 p.m., and the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at 3:30 p.m.

Insanity defense misjudged, says Manson case DA

United Press International
NEW YORK — Vincent Bugliosi, the district attorney who put mass murderer Charles Manson behind bars, thinks many prosecutors and judges are just plain wrong about the insanity plea.

"The principal error that prosecutors make in insanity cases is that they don't ask the psychiatrists 'did he know that in the eyes of society what he did was wrong?'" Bugliosi said. He said it is not sufficient merely to ascertain whether the defendant understood the difference between right and wrong.

Even judges do not understand the "subtle critical distinction" of the insanity plea, said Bugliosi, who is now in private practice.

The insanity plea, Bugliosi said, is a legal defense that is rarely successful, although admittedly successful enough to become controversial when John Hinckley Jr. was acquitted of shooting President Reagan on grounds of insanity.

Without directly commenting on the Hinckley case, which which he

said he was not fully familiar, Bugliosi said the frequently unasked question is not whether the defendant knew what he did was wrong, but whether the defendant knew it was wrong "in the eyes of society."

"That's the issue, because if it's not the issue, then every person decides for themselves what's right or wrong, and becomes a law unto themselves, and there are persons who believe it's okay to do these things," he said.

Bugliosi noted that the 1843 McNaughton opinion, the basis for the insanity plea, clearly contains the requirement that a defendant realize that his actions were wrong in the eyes of society.

"Most judges aren't aware of this," he said, "and their instructions are improper."

On the related subject of psychiatrists, Bugliosi said, "I'm not sure they have a place in the courtroom."

"Their training and their orientation is to treat people, it's not to punish them."

Drop-add ends today

Today is the last day for delayed registration and drop-add.

In order to drop courses and add new ones, students must first see their major department adviser and obtain a drop-add schedule revision form signed by the adviser.

These schedule revisions are to be turned in at drop-add headquarters in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Students must have their paid fee receipts and class schedules (the yellow copy) with them in order to drop-add.

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forecast

Today's Forecast: Same as usual. Very slight chance of afternoon showers. High in the high 90s, low in the mid-70s.