

System saves A&M money

# Sprinklers computerized

by Kellie Dworaczyk

**Battalion Reporter**  
Computerized rain? Not yet, but Texas A&M has a computerized watering system to water the campus grass when nature doesn't provide enough rain.

Michael Goldwater, associate director for ground maintenance at Texas A&M, says the Texas A&M system is the only one of its kind.

There are about 20,000 underground sprinkler heads

on the 500 acres of the main campus. A central control in the grounds maintenance building turns them on and off according to a schedule.

The system here differs from other automatic watering systems because it sends the "on" message to the sprinklers by radio waves. Most automatic systems send messages by underground cables.

The watering schedules activate sprinklers on different parts of campus every night.

Whether an area is watered or not depends on the moisture in the air, the temperature and the rainfall in the area, Goldwater said. The grounds department looks at those factors and plans a watering schedule.

Goldwater said the Grounds Maintenance Department tries to see that all the areas receive one inch of water per week — usually a combination of rainfall and watering from the sprinklers.

A rain gauge at the grounds maintenance building measures rainfall and can be set to cut off the sprinklers. For example, if the gauge is set at two-tenths of an inch, and it rains two-tenths of an inch, the sprinklers will not turn on.

Watering the grass usually starts around midnight because the water pressure is highest and there are fewer people on campus.

The system was installed about four years ago. Previously, Texas A&M had an automatic watering system, but it did not have a central control. This means the sprinklers could be turned on by a time clock, but men had to be sent to more than 100 controllers to turn the water off if it rained.

Goldwater said that when the present system was being designed the department looked into the possibility of using underground cables or tele-

phone wires as a means of communication from the central controller to the sprinklers, but rejected both ideas.

Because of the many streets and utility lines on campus, cables would have been too expensive and too difficult to run all over campus, he said. Telephone wires also were too expensive, so the department chose radio waves.

Goldwater said the biggest advantage to the computerized watering system is that a watering schedule can be changed or shut off without having to go to the site, and this saves money. Because the rain gauge can turn off the watering system automatically, the system does not have to be monitored constantly.

Shutting the system off at night can save about one million gallons of water — about \$500. Manpower costs are saved also because no one has to go to campus and physically turn off the sprinklers. Goldwater said the computerized system saves Texas A&M about \$15,000 a year.

In the summer about 10 million gallons of water a week are used to water the grass.

The watering system can be cut off at the physical plant building if there is a fire on campus so that all available water pressure can be used to fight the fire.

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# 'Pirates' entertaining but not memorable

by Angel Stokes

**Battalion Staff**

With a drum roll and hoopla, "The Pirates of Penzance" landed at College Station Sunday night.

The first act was a flurry of flirtatious dancing and singing. Frederic, played by Lou Valenzi, is an indentured pirate apprentice who on his 21st birthday has come of age

supposed to be obnoxious, they deserve applause.

Maria Muldaur was Frederic's true love as Mabel. Although given top billing, she didn't present a character dynamic enough to compete

with the others. Her solos were good, but she was lost in the carnival effect of the ensemble.

One of the shining characters was the Major-General Stanley, the father of Mabel and her sisters. Played by Zale Kessler, he was a combination of Teddy Roosevelt and Captain Kangaroo. His outstanding solo in which he left the cast-the-orchestra-the-audience breathless, literally, was some pretty fast singing.

The Pirate King, played by Steve Steiner, used melodramatics to aid his comic swash-buckling.

Ruth was great when she later joined the pirates in their pillaging and plundering. Played by Mary Stout, she

chased men and finally one.

The performance was mired just to the stage-reached the pit—the orchestra pit. The conductor led the antics by using his baton to fence with the Pirate King lost.

The pirates kept the alive with choreography, bumbling, stumbling, fumbling. The police used the typical Keystone routine to battle with the pirates.

The songs were often difficult to understand, but music score kept it from being dull. The orchestra made a comic accessory to the well-excellent musicians well.

While the first act was moving, the second act was down ... almost to a stop.

Although entertaining "rates" isn't memorable fun.

"The Pirates of Penzance" will perform at 8 o'clock, Rudder Auditorium.

## Review

and fulfilled his indentured servitude. He has not laid eyes on a woman since he was 8 years old, except for Ruth, his 47-year-old nurse maid.

Spying six young sisters, Frederic realizes what he has been missing and proceeds to use all his manly charms to capture "... One Maiden Breast."

A swagger stolen from Elvis's pelvis sent the coy maidens into passionate swoons. If the sisters were

# Marine battalion on alert after bombing

**United Press International**  
CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — A Marine battalion that returned from Beirut four months ago was placed on alert Sunday following the terrorist attack earlier in the day on Marines in the peace-keeping force.

Grim-faced Marines moved about with 80-pound packs and M-16s. Others weighed jeeps, a procedure observers said usually means the Marines are getting

ready to go by plane.

"We have a mission to do," said Lt. Col. Edwin Kelley, commander of the Second Battalion of the Sixth Regiment of the Second Marine Division. "We are going with a level head and do the job we are assigned to do. We are ready."

Kelley declined to say how many men were assigned to his unit or where it might be going. A Marine battalion usually is

made up of 800 men.

The Pentagon said it had orders to deploy Marines anywhere, although that change.

As the Second Battalion bristled with activity, friends and members of the Marine contingent in Beirut waited anxiously for the Sunday attack.

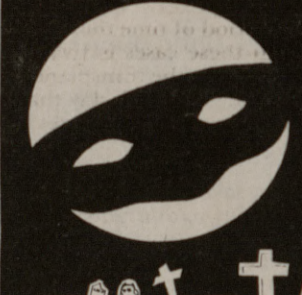
Maj. Gen. Al Gray, commander of Camp Lejeune's largest Marine base on the Coast, said the deaths of Marines in the suicide bombing in Beirut had only increased the commitment of people to the base to the U.S. role in Lebanon.

"We could muster thousands of Marines and sailors would want to go tonight if we were needed," Gray said.

Gray said morale at the base remained at "almost a pitch."

"While there is concern and anger, there is absolute compassion and while the situation," said Gray.

The Marines in Beirut have been scheduled to return to Camp Lejeune at Thanksgiving but was diverted to Beirut in the event they were needed to protect Americans there during the slaying of that country's political leader.



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