

Phone installation eases dorm security problems

By HELEN DE LA ROSA
Reporter

Installation of telephones outside the entrances to five women's residence halls have helped ease a security problem that was created by an earlier security measure.

In August of 1982, the University began installation of locks on the outside doors of women's residence halls. The doors were to be locked as soon as visiting hours ended. On most of the dorms, pushbutton locks that operate on a sequence of numbers were installed. But on some, locks with keys had to be used because of the building design.

Women who forgot to take keys with them sometimes were locked out and had no way to get in touch with anyone.

The Residence Hall Association suggested installation of outside telephones so locked out residents could call a roommate, hall adviser or the police, said Nyla Ptomey, Housing Program supervisor and adviser to the Residence Hall Association. "RHA requested the phones

more as a service for the students," Ptomey said. "The phones were also put in for easy-access to help out in emergencies."

"We've always been concerned about campus security," said W. G. "Glenn" Ferris, Housing Operations Supervisor within the Department of Student Affairs. "In the past few years there has been more awareness for safety in the women's dorm areas."

"I think the things we've done in the past two to three years have improved security for women living on campus," Ferris said.

Ferris cited the phones — which were installed in December — as part of the improved security system. The phones, which are located outside of Neeley in the A-1 lounge (where Hughes and Fowler meet), outside Legett Hall, and in the C and D Lounges in the Corps area, are available for local calls and have the 9-11 emergency number posted, Ferris said.

Another dorm security improvement, Ferris said, is the addition of peep holes

in dorm room doors in Fowler, Keathley, and Hughes halls since they open directly from the rooms to the outside.

Additional outside lighting has been installed for further improvement of dorm safety.

"We also have an awareness program in which residence advisers meet with dorm residents to discuss security," Ferris said.

Denise Stacha, a sophomore education major who has begun her fourth semester in Neeley, said that the new security measures help dorm residents.

"I've locked myself out about three times and I think the phone system is the best solution," Stacha said. "I don't mind the extra key, either. I prefer that extra lock at night."

University Police Chief Elmer Schneider Jr. said the improved security measures have not been taken in response to a specific problem. The measures are "basically to get ahead of any potential problems in the future," he said.

Watt speech tonight

By ROBIN BLACK
Staff writer

Former Secretary of the Interior James Watt just can't seem to escape controversy.

In fact, he will be embracing it tonight in Rudder Auditorium when he talks about "The Raging Controversy: Preservation Versus Development."

The event is co-sponsored by MSC Great Issues and MSC Political Forum, and will feature a 45-minute speech by Watt, followed by a 25-minute panel discussion by three members of the Texas A&M faculty and a 20-minute audience question-and-answer session.

Watt will speak in Rudder Auditorium at 8 p.m., and admission is fifty cents for students and \$1 for non-students.

Watt, who graduated with a law degree from the University of Wyoming, resigned from his position as interior secretary on October 9 last year after one of his remarks sparked yet another controversy.

Watt, who was appointed to the post in 1981 by President Reagan, took a strong stand in favor of the long-term development of energy sources such as gas, oil and coal.

His idea of developing these resources on federal lands greatly concerned environmentalists and brought criticism from political opponents.

Watt was accused of costing

the federal government millions of dollars by offering coal strip-mining leases on federal lands at a time of low demand.

He was ordered by Congress to set up a commission to investigate this charge, and it was his remark about the minority members of this commission that brought criticism from opponents and even fellow Republicans as well as public criticism and eventually led to his resignation.

Shuttle takes off Friday

United Press International

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Technicians finished last-minute preparations at the seaside launch pad Tuesday for the start of the space shuttle Challenger's 43-hour countdown to blastoff Friday morning.

The countdown was scheduled to begin at 1 a.m. Wednesday and barring unexpected snags, the carefully orchestrated sequence of pre-flight activities will end at 8 a.m. Friday when Challenger will climb into space, the 10th shuttle launch in less than three years.

The mission is to include the first return landing at Cape Canaveral and the first un-thered spacewalk.

Mission commander Vance Brand, rookie co-pilot Robert Gibson and mission specialists Bruce McCandless, Robert Stewart and Ronald McNair — the second U.S. black to fly in space — were to arrive at the spaceport at 4:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Brand and Gibson then were scheduled to practice landings at Kennedy Space Center's 3-mile-long runway in a modified jet that mimics the handling of the shuttle.

"The last week prior to a countdown has become very standard," said Mark Hess, a NASA spokesman. "The pattern is the same for every mission. There haven't been any big problems we've had to chase."

The mission is a crucial dress

rehearsal for a daring flight in April when astronauts will try to catch and repair a broken \$77 million sun-watching satellite.

Challenger's eight-day mission is scheduled to end Feb. 11 with a dawn landing at the spaceport, the first shuttle touchdown ever at the launch complex.

If bad weather forces mission planners to cancel the landing, Challenger will remain aloft an extra day for a second chance. Otherwise, it will land at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

The mission's major goal is to launch two communications satellites — one for the government of Indonesia and the other for Western Union.

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A Take Off



Seven babies had emergencies under doctor's care, says

United Press International

GEORGETOWN — Pediatrician Kathleen Holland returned to the witness stand for a fourth day Tuesday and testified a total of seven young patients experienced similar medical emergencies while in the care of nurse Genevieve Jones, 33, is accused of killing a 1-month-old Chelsea McClellan with an injection of the muscle relaxant Anectine on Sept. 30, 1982. She also has been charged with injuring six other young patients in Holland's Kerrville pediatric clinic.

District Judge John Carter heard evidence outside the jury's presence Tuesday and was expected to rule Wednesday on whether the other allegations should be presented to jurors.

In rapid succession, Kerr County District Attorney Ron Holland through a 10-day account of incidents in her office in which children were left alone with Ms. Jones and then suffered seizure-like emergencies a few moments later.

Most of the children, who ranged in age from 1 month to 7 years old, were brought to the clinic for routine problems ranging from ear infections to diarrhea, Holland said.

"Their basic symptoms were consistent," Holland said of the emergencies. "In retrospect there was a pattern of physical signs in each of the children."

The symptoms — including sudden limpness and breathing difficulties — were identical to those suffered by Chelsea the day she died, Holland said.

Also outside the jury's presence Tuesday, two Army medics testified about a Sept. 30, 1982, incident in which they said 7-year-old Jimmy Pearson was injected with a drug by Jones while being transported by military helicopter from Kerrville to San Antonio.

The Pearson boy is one of the six Kerrville children Jones is accused of injuring during her visits to Holland's pediatric clinic.

In earlier testimony Tuesday, two chemists testified that a vial of Anectine found in Holland's clinic contained just 17 percent of the drug and had been diluted with saltwater so it would appear to be full.

Texas Department of Public Safety chemist Glenn Harrison said he analyzed a vial of Anectine, the brand name for the muscle relaxant succinylcholine, that had two unexplained puncture marks in its top.

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