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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Heavy security in effect since dorm assaults

By TRICIA PARKER
and SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

Security for dormitories in the Central Area is being tightened and residents are being advised to take extra security precautions because of two recent incidents in that area, said Tim Sweeney, central area coordinator.

During the past two weeks, two incidents involving harassment of female residents living in the Keathley-Fowler-Hughes area have been reported to the University Police Department.

On April 14, one Keathley Hall resident reported she saw a man drop a knife on the stairs behind her as she returned to her room early that morning. Sweeney said the woman reported the incident to her resident adviser, who called University Police.

Sweeney also said that at approximately the same time a man tried to enter a dorm room on the first floor of Hughes Hall but was unable to get in. University Police were unable to verify this report.

On April 18, two women in Fowler Hall were assaulted by two men who entered their dorm room. No one has been charged in either case.

Sweeney said harassing phone calls are a common occurrence but assaults such as the one on April 18 are rare.

"These last few weeks are the first time I've seen anything like this in the four years I've been here," Sweeney said.

He said the Central Area Office is considering hiring a security guard to patrol the quad between the dorms. In the meantime, male RAs are accompanying female RAs on their rounds to increase security. Sweeney said undercover police officers are also stationed in that area.

Posters and signs urging residents to lock their rooms have been put up all over the Keathley-Fowler-Hughes area to increase security awareness.

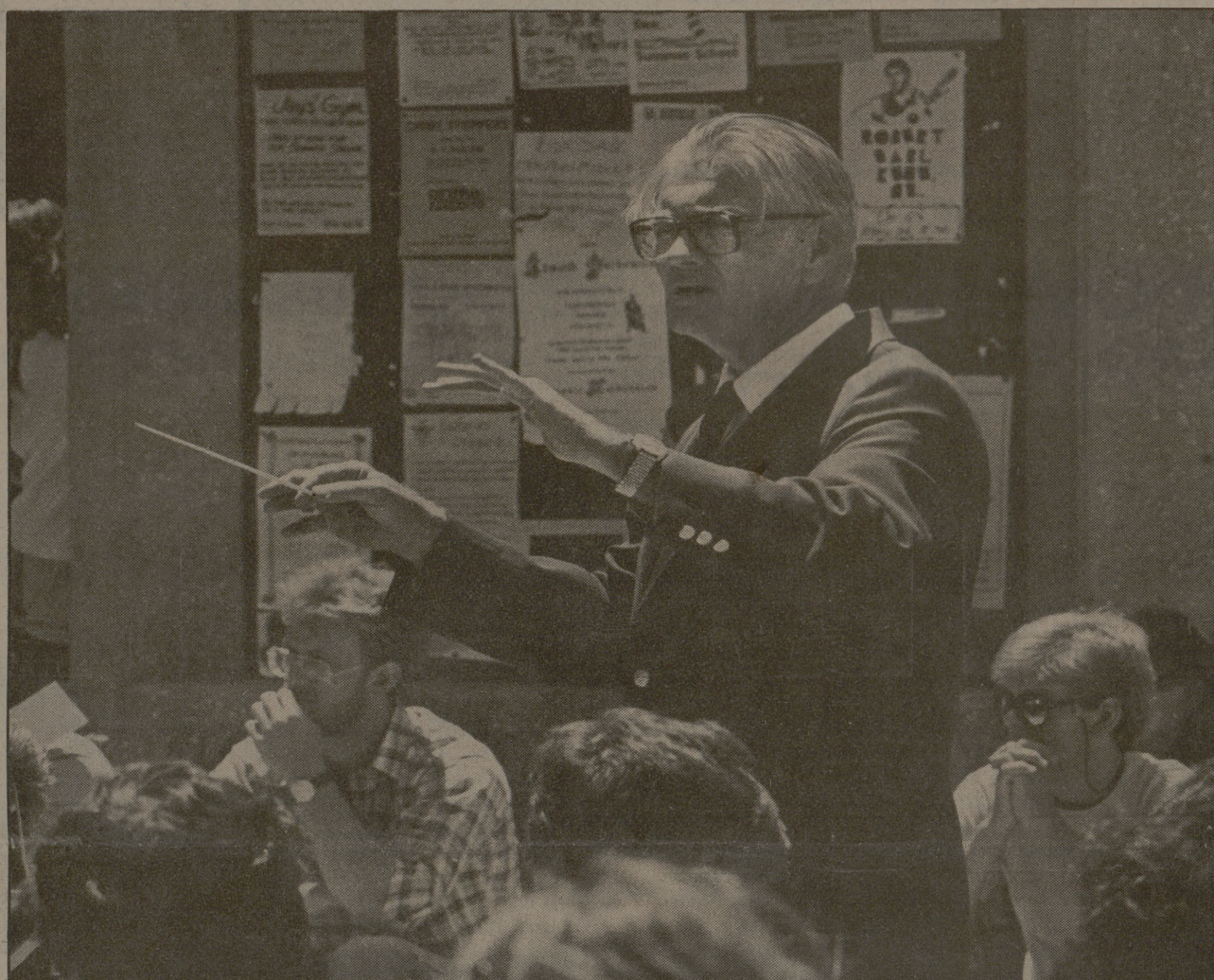
The North Area Office recommended that area residents take the following precautions:

- Lock windows and lock and chain doors at all times.
- Do not walk alone on campus at night.
- Report any suspicious-looking persons or activity to an RA and to University Police.

Lauren Murphy, president of Keathley Hall, said students need to realize the importance of taking everyday security precautions.

"It's a pain for a girl to have to call someone to walk her home when it's less than a block away, but this is your life you're playing with," she said.

Murphy also said she would like to see more security precautions taken. "If this University can afford a bell tower," she said, "it can afford one night watchman."



Baton man

Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Conductor Bill J. Dean, conductor of the Symphonic band, lead students in renditions of The Stars and Stripes Forever and other tunes Tuesday by Rudder Fountain.

Quake rocks 'Frisco

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — A strong earthquake rocked California Tuesday, causing highrise buildings in San Francisco to sway and damage to buildings in the San Jose area 50 miles to the south.

The quake was recorded at 1:15 p.m. pst and had a Richter magnitude of about 6, enough to cause serious damage.

The University of California said the quake had a Richter magnitude of 6.2 and was centered 12 miles east of Mount Hamilton near San Jose. The seismograph recorded at least four aftershocks.

At the National Earthquake Center in Colorado, scientists estimated the quake at 5.8 on the Richter scale.

In Morgan Hill, near the center of the quake, police dispatched all emergency vehicles into the streets. Damage was reported, but the extent was not immediately determined, according to an official.

In Hollister, southeast of San Jose and near the center of many earthquakes, people were "running through the streets and cars swaying," police said. Minor damage was reported to some buildings in Hollister.

The quake was felt as far east as Reno and as far south as Fresno in the San Joaquin Valley.

At the Lick Observatory, near the quake center east of San Jose, Lotus Bakes, a clerk, reported that it was felt "as two big jerks."

"Everybody dashed out of the building," she said. "Dishes were broken. Things fell off the shelves."

She said that outside a large boulder broke loose and rolled down a hill, hitting the car on which her husband was working. He was not injured.

In the 20-story Federal Building in downtown San Francisco, a prisoner in custody of the U.S. marshal collapsed and an ambulance was called.

In Daly City, just south of San Francisco, dishes were thrown from cupboards.

At the toll-gate of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, Charles Huff said he saw an untended truck "rolling back and forth" as the earth shook.

From the 12th floor window of the United Press International office workers could see the huge plate-glass windows of a highrise across the street bending and shuddering.

Inflation for March lowest in a year

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Consumer prices rose only 0.2 percent in March, slowed by lower food and heating oil prices and stable housing costs, the Labor Department said Tuesday.

There has not been a smaller monthly increase in the Consumer Price Index in a year, not since it crept up 0.1 percent in March 1983.

The March slowdown suggested the food cost acceleration of January and February was more temporary than most analysts expected.

If the weak March inflation per-

sisted all year it would produce an annual inflation rate of only 2.8 percent, the department said.

"This is very reassuring news in view of the extraordinary growth of the economy in the first quarter," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. "For the consumer, it means more and more jobs are being created and paychecks are going farther."

In a separate report, the Labor Department said the spending power of the average blue-collar worker was 0.3 percent less in March, after a 0.4 percent setback in February.

While weak inflation and higher

hourly pay helped maintain spending power, those boosts were not enough to offset a shrinkage in the number of hours worked during the month.

The strongest price increases for the month were in transportation-related costs, while the biggest declines were in food categories and home heating oil, down by 4.3 percent.

Beef and pork prices were down slightly and egg prices tumbled 12.1 percent, the most since April 1970.

Gasoline prices, after seasonal adjustment, rose 1 percent, the most in 10 months.

Used cars were 2.4 percent more

expensive, reflecting the problems that high new-car prices present.

"We haven't seen the sharp acceleration in prices that a lot of people (on Wall Street) have been warning about," said Commerce Department chief economist Robert Ortner.

Government analysts still expect an overall inflation rate for 1984 of around 4.5 percent to 5 percent, Ortner said, compared with last year's 3.8 percent.

The price index rose 0.6 percent in January and 0.4 percent in February.

The surge during the winter months was a temporary devel-

opment," caused primarily by bad weather, said economist Jerry Jasinowski.

The department's Consumer Price Index was 307.3 in March, equivalent to a cost of \$307.30 for the government's sample "market basket" of goods and services that cost \$100 in 1967.

Social Security recipients, who in years past would learn the size of their next cost-of-living increase when the March inflation rate was published, this year must wait until the end of the third quarter.

Pre-law counseling at A&M is efficient, but hard to find

By KATHY WIESEPAPE
Reporter

Editor's note: This is the second of a three-part series about pre-law students at Texas A&M. In the past 30 years, Texas A&M has grown faster, farther, bigger and better. Academics, extracurriculars, facilities, quality of students and faculty — areas of progress all.

But the University is backward in the program it offers pre-law students — even though administrators recognize the vital importance of having graduates who are lawyers.

Associate Provost Charles E. McCandless says lawyers who are former students benefit their alma mater in several ways.

"Many of the state legislators have legal training," he says. "It's helpful to have people in the Legislature who are favorable toward A&M."

Lawyers also tend to be civic leaders, McCandless says.

Past administrations also realized that Aggie lawyers could exert a positive influence for the University. The

Board of Directors, later the Board of Regents, approved two proposals — one in 1969, one in 1972 — to establish a law school here. Both were rejected by the Texas Coordinating Board and the Texas Legislature.

A 1973 Battalion editorial said the influence of alumni of Texas law schools in the Legislature was the main reason for the defeat.

The influence that Texas A&M wanted — and didn't have — effectively kept it from establishing its own law school to increase its clout.

John Milton Nance, history professor and pre-law adviser at Texas A&M during this time, said the state didn't need another law school; Texas A&M wanted one just "because everybody else had one."

With plans for their own law school squelched, administrators turned their attention to preparing undergraduates for law school.

There had never been a cohesive program for counseling students on their way to law school. There still isn't.

Until 1953, preparation for law school wasn't even mentioned in the Texas A&M catalogue.

From 1953 to 1967, catalogs listed a three-year basic curriculum as preparation for law school — even though by the mid-60s, most law schools required a bachelor's degree for admission.

By 1968, the three-year course had disappeared from the catalog. It was replaced by a paragraph in the liberal arts section recommending eight elective courses for pre-law students to include in their degree plan.

Nance said there was a pre-law advisory committee in the College of Liberal Arts during this time. The members of the committee were supposed to keep up-to-date information about law schools and advise pre-law students.

But, Nance said, it was an advisory committee in name only. Most of the members were rarely in their offices.

"Whoever takes on this responsibility

needs to be available," he said. They weren't, and Nance ended up doing most of the pre-law advising by default.

Pre-law students either went to him or to their departmental advisers — who might or might not have correct information.

In 1973, the Student Government decided pre-law students had been ignored long enough.

The Senate recommended the University designate one person or a group of people as pre-law advisors. They would be responsible for coordinating a network of pre-law counselors in different departments; providing information about the LSAT; keeping up with information from various law schools; writing the pre-law information in the Texas A&M catalogue; and acting as the adviser for the Pre-law Society.

See PRE-LAW page 7

In Today's Battalion

Local

• Two Aggie entrepreneurs have opened a gourmet snow cone eatery featuring 28 flavors right across from campus. See story page 5.

State

• Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and former Gov. Dolph Briscoe announced they will support Walter Mondale. See story page 3.

Nation

• Twenty-one members of a Minnesota high school hockey team have been suspended from school for sending a "Stripper-gram" to a birthday boy. See story page 8.