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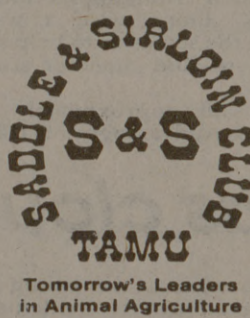
First Regular Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 4

7:00 p.m.

115 Kleberg Center

All New Members
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All Recognized Student Organizations

Be sure and check your box for information on the 1985 Aggieland.

It's going to be a great book.

Don't Miss Out!!

False alarm

Prank emergency phone calls not funny, just expensive

By ANN BRIMBERRY
Reporter

Carolyn decided to play a prank on her neighbor Susan. She called the fire department and reported a kitchen fire in Susan's apartment. The firetrucks and the ambulance arrived and the firemen barged through the door only to find Susan terrified and confused. After an investigation by the department, Carolyn was identified through a traced telephone call and arrested for her prank.

Although their real names are not Susan and Carolyn, they are real people and the prank actually did occur.

False fire alarms in Bryan-College Station cost about \$102 a piece last year. This cost includes the actual man hours and wear and tear on the truck.

Last year the city of Bryan reported 25 false alarms, one-third of which occurred from June through August. Of the six cases in College Station, three were prosecuted.

"Kids just don't realize the danger firefighters are in," Bryan Fire Inspector James Jones said.

"When we put men on an 8,000 pound firetruck, it's very dangerous because they can get thrown off in heavy traffic or speeding through intersections. If we are going to save someone's property, that's the danger involved. There is no sense in taking that chance on a false alarm just when kids want to see excitement. But when they call, we have to go.

"A lot of times kids call in a false alarm at the same location where a real fire occurred in order to see the excitement again."

Calling in a false fire alarm is a Class A misdemeanor and carries a fine of up to \$2,000 or no more than one year in jail, or both.

After receiving a call, the Bryan Fire Department responds with 12 firefighters, two engines, the department chief and an ambulance.

"We have more ambulance runs than firetrucks," Jones said, "and

this is the biggest problem because if something happened, there would be no ambulance to care for those who really needed help."

College Station Deputy Fire Marshal Joey Porter said it is a complicated procedure to catch someone because so many people are involved.

"First the phone company must trace the call, which takes about 10 minutes, and then a warrant is required by the district attorney," he said. "So before we make an arrest, we are pretty sure who did it."

Porter said the fire department will continue to trace calls and prosecute those who call in false alarms.

"Since most calls are practical jokes by kids between 15-19 years old, both Bryan and College Station fire departments conduct fire prevention programs in schools promoting fire safety for about 900 students during Fire Prevention Week," Jones said.

The College Station Fire Department holds a Safety City Program in

elementary schools throughout the year. Three to four times a week, the fire department speaks to the grade level.

Porter said that he thinks the fire department has much to do with the false alarms.

Even though no false alarm has been traced to Texas A&M, Porter said there are other problems at Texas A&M.

"Seventy percent of the problem with college students is in keeping the fire lanes open," he said.

"College students hold a grudge against us. We are paid to do a job and part of fire prevention is to let them don't understand the fire break."

Porter also added that the insurance rate is affected by the amount of fire loss per year.

"We are doing everything to prevent fires and keep the insurance rate low for taxpayers, and the better we get, the better."

P.E. program toughens grade policy

By JODI FELTON
Reporter

If you can't folkdance, play tennis, or scuba dive, you can learn how in a physical education course. But don't expect an easy A.

Dr. Bob Pender, chairman of the physical education activity program, said the Department of Health and Physical Education has given many high grades — A's and B's — hence, the grading system underwent evaluation last spring. Now students will have to work harder to meet tougher standards.

"It is not a new grading system," Pender said. "It's basically the same, but more rigorous. It's a fair system of evaluation."

It's hard to compare scuba to folkdance and therefore hard to have a norm throughout the activities, he said.

"But all instructors look for two things in grading," Pender said. "They look for cognitive skills, or knowledge, and they look for physical skills. The physical skill could be the skill itself or against others in the class, as in a tournament."

The percentage of high grades in P.E. courses was down this past summer as compared to last spring, Pender said. However, there also were fewer students, he said.

However, students do have an option. They can take the course on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis, also known as pass/fail. According to the Texas A&M University Regulations 1984-85 book, satisfactory is a C or above and the hours are not included in the grade-point ratio. Unsatisfactory is a D or F, which "shall be included in the computation of

the student's grade points per hour as an F."

There are some restrictions, however. Students must register for the course during the official registration period. Undergraduate transfer students must take at least 12 hours of Texas A&M before they can take course S/U. Graduate students take only course numbers 681, 690, 691, or 692 S/U.

Pender said all P.E. majors are restricted from taking any P.E. course S/U.

Acid leak contained after thousands flee site

United Press International

OMAHA, Neb. — A nitric acid leak from an outdoor storage tank that sent a poisonous cloud drifting over southwest Omaha, forcing thousands of persons to flee, was under control early Monday.

The leak, which began Sunday night, was contained about five hours after workers first saw the acid drip-

ping from a 4,500-gallon steel tank at Control Data Corp.

The acid leak combined with air formed a yellow-orange cloud of poisonous nitric oxide gas that drifted southeast toward homes and hotels, forcing evacuation of about 10,000 Omaha residents Fire Department Capt. Joe Welge said.

"Nitric acid is very, very danger-

ous in a liquid form and also in a vapor form," Welge said.

The leak occurred near Interstate 80, forcing police to close the highway for several hours.

Fire crews wore protective masks as they sprayed water on the leaking gas. Welge said water spray was used to get "the major concentration of the dangerous vapor down to the

ground."

The gas can irritate the eyes and skin. The vapor is deadly only in high concentrations or those with serious health problems, authorities said.

After several unsuccessful attempts to stop the leak, firefighters pumped the acid into a stainless steel tank truck.

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The Opera and Performing Arts Society

Here's what the critics say!

The Black Light Theatre of Prague

September 18, 1984

"A totally gorgeous evening of beauty, colour, magic and music."
THE IRISH TIMES

The London Philharmonic Orchestra Klaus Tennstedt Conducting

October 18, 1984

"... music-making to keep everyone on the seat's edge."
THE LONDON TIMES

Western Opera Theater "La Cenerentola" (Cinderella)

October 29, 1984

"... excellent — professional and pure, secure and sparkling."
SACRAMENTO BEE

St. Paul Chamber Orchestra Pinchas Zukerman Playing and Conducting

January 24, 1985

"If there was ever a case of love at first sound, this is it."
NEWSWEEK

Emanuel Ax Pianist

February 25, 1985

"... a pianist with spectacular fingers and a distinct poetic gift."
NEW YORK TIMES

The King's Singers

March 19, 1985

"... enormous popularity in what might have been considered an esoteric field."
BBC

The Houston Ballet "Mixed Repertoire"

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NEW YORK POST

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