

Parents warned of nursery hazards

Hazards are exposed

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — The Consumer Product Safety Commission warned Monday about the "hand-me-down hazards" of outdated baby equipment, such as cribs and baby gates that can catch children by the neck and strangle them.

Nancy Steorts, commission chairman, said that despite recent safety standards for new nursery equipment — including cribs, high chairs and playpens — many older items are handed down through families or purchased at garage sales.

"If a crib is more than 10 years old, throw it out," Steorts said.

She added that many old-style cribs have slats or decorative posts spaced so far apart that a child's

head can be caught between them.

"Just think how you would feel if you went into your daughter's room ... and instead of a slumbering child," Steorts said, "you found a lifeless form strangled on the headboard."

She said crib strangulation is just one of the many "hand-me-down hazards" the commission is concerned about. Steorts said older nursery equipment has caused more than 90,000 injuries — and 177 deaths — since 1983.

Commissioner Stuart Statler said expandable, X-shaped, wooden baby gates, normally placed at the top or bottom of staircases, and baby corals are still on the market although they have been made obsolete by

safer devices constructed of hard plastic.

"Get them out of your home, burn them up, get rid of them," Statler said.

Eight reported infant deaths were caused by the 15 million gates currently in use across the country, he said.

Statler said manufacturers have refused to recall the corals, although they are no longer being made, and have refused to stop making the gates.

Aaron Locker, a New York attorney representing five of the companies, said the companies have been exploring a settlement with the commission.

Court takes side of mother in her suit against the Army

United Press International
 WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that the government could be blamed for the death of a Fort Bliss soldier who was killed in 1977 by another soldier while both were off duty and off base.

The court said that even though Pvt. Andrew Heard killed Pvt. Vernon Shearer in Otero County, N.M., while both soldiers were off duty, the government could be found negligent.

Shearer was shot to death in 1977. His mother sued the Army,

claiming officials knew Heard, who was convicted of manslaughter in Germany, had murderous tendencies but did nothing to warn others.

The court upheld a ruling by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled the suit should be allowed to go to trial.

"Being kidnapped off base at gunpoint can never be perceived as one of the activities ... of being in the armed services," the appeals court said.

The Supreme Court refused to hear arguments from the govern-

ment, which contended it should be immune from lawsuits filed by the families of servicemen who are killed while on active duty, even if their deaths are not service-related.

Heard was convicted in a state court and sentenced to serve 15 to 55 years in jail in the Shearer slaying.

Heard was convicted of manslaughter in a German court in 1977 and sentenced to four years in prison.

Hazing

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 Tucker said Monday she is unsure how many active members will receive punishment because of their involvement in the incident. However, at least three students will be punished, she said.

Tucker said the punishments will be an administrative decision.

"I'll talk with the guys and tell them what I've decided in terms of punishment," Tucker said. "If they agree with my decision, that will be all. They do have the right to appeal the decision."

The hazing incident occurred

Sept. 20 and 21, when about 40 pledges were required to perform pushups, situps and other exercises for about 20 minutes.

The activities came to the attention of university officials when a pledge, who has not been identified, admitted himself into a hospital two days after the exercise session complaining of pains in his arms.

Glenn Maloney, coordinator of campus activities, said the student went to the hospital to get some pain relievers. Hospital officials decided to run some tests on the student, he said.

The tests showed the student may have suffered a breakdown in mus-

cle tissue. He was released from the hospital about 10 hours after he was admitted.

About 150 active members and 40 pledges of SAE were involved in the hazing incident, Maloney said. The exercises were conducted during the students' lunch hour, Maloney said.

"You're talking about an activity that included the whole house," he said.

Maloney said the incident and any disciplinary actions by the university will not affect the rules that govern UT's fraternities and sororities.

"Basically, the rules are the same," he said. "We're just enforcing the anti-hazing rules we think apply."

Treat

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Office and several other doctors in the area will X-ray candy bags to detect metal objects. They will be open until 9 p.m. for this service.

As far as safety goes, it is recommended that trick or treating be done in groups, and people driving cars should be wary of trick or treaters crossing the roads.

The safest way to protect against eating tainted candy, the Poison Information Center says, is to eat only hard candy. They say even wrapped candy bars could have pin holes in them that can't be seen by looking at the outside wrapper.

Mike Ellis from the Poison Information Center said to be sure to inspect all candy before eating it. All fruit definitely is not to be eaten, Ellis said.

Even though candy collected on campus usually is not tampered with, students should use caution.

"We usually have no problems with bad candy," said Garrett. "Last year some people passed out maroon and white Tylenol capsules as a joke, but nobody ate them."

Parties and carnivals are being held to encourage children from door-to-door trick or treating. MSC Hospitality is sponsoring a Halloween party for the children, ages 3 to 12, of A&M faculty, staff and students in 201 MSC Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

What's up

Tuesday

- AGGIE GOP:** Texas Republican Party Chairman George Strake will speak at 7 p.m. in 226 MSC. Final preparations for the election also will be discussed.
 - CO-OP STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** is meeting at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder. A Student Government senator will be answering questions on getting involved.
 - SCUBA CLUB:** an underwater photographer will present a slide show at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
 - TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE TEACHERS:** Representative Neeley Lewis and Richard Smith will comment on the Legislative Program of TACT at 4 p.m. in 510 Rudder.
 - TAMSCAMS:** is having a pizza party at Mama's at 7 p.m.
 - TAMU BICYCLING CLUB:** is having a century ride meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 401 Rudder.
 - SWAMP:** Dr. Brann Johnson, president of Brazos Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, will be speaking on freedom of speech at noon by Rudder Fountain.
 - BONFIRE COOKIE CREW:** is meeting to assign work times at 7 p.m. in 224 MSC.
 - MSC HOSPITALITY:** is hosting a Halloween party for the children of A&M faculty, staff and students at 7 p.m. in 201 MSC.
 - ORC:** Fred Beckey, renowned mountaineer will speak about the mountains of North America at 7 p.m. in Rudder Tower.
 - FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES:** is meeting at 8 p.m. on the floor of G. Rollie White for game night.
 - TRADITIONS COUNCIL:** will be selling long-sleeve Howdy T-shirts for \$6 in the MSC through Friday.
- Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.*

Safety

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partment will be making visits to the school carnivals to be held at elementary schools, Lt. Bernard Kapella said.

The department will pass out complementary coupons from local merchants at these visits. The coupons will be for ice cream, tacos, cokes, hamburgers, french fries and other food-related items.

"We emphasize that it is much safer to go to the school carnivals and can also be just as much fun as trick-or-treating; however, we realize that many children will still go trick-or-treating," he said. "We encourage children not to eat any candy before they get it inspected by their parents."

"We also encourage parents to make sure their children eat a good meal before trick-or-treating, so they are less likely to snack on Halloween candy."

The University Police will be cracking down on safety at Texas A&M, Chief of Police Elmer Schneider said.

Research

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The big variable in the park development, he says, is the economy.

"Everything is interrelated to the state and national economic conditions," he says. "Even at Utah we went through periods of three to four years where nothing happened because of the economy as well as the inherent nature of the project itself."

"Plus, competition among parks is intense. It's greater now than it ever has been because of the popularity of the research park venture."

Money says it's still too early to declare A&M's park a success, but all signs now are positive.

"I'm betting the best years of my professional career that the park will succeed, and I think there's enough evidence that it can succeed," he says. "But the jury's still out."

ing the initial contact with companies to bombarding them with a promotion blitz.

Money says the University has received responses from five or six firms, but no definite commitments so far.

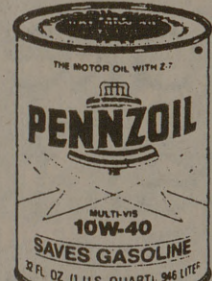
"Some of the companies are big, some are smaller," he says, "and they range in field from geosciences and engineering to robotics and medicine."

"This is something that takes time. Companies don't take things like this lightly — they take a long time to decide whether to relocate."

The process of getting a firm to locate in a research park takes a minimum of about three years, he says, from time of the initial contact to time of occupation in the park.

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