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Comic strip influencing abused kids

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A comic book and a recent television show encouraged children to report sexual abuse, leading to a number of arrests and investigations, according to authorities in Houston and in Montgomery County.

A Spider-Man comic book portraying sexual abuse and how children should handle it was distributed with the Houston Chronicle on Jan. 27, just a few days after the television series "Different Strokes" featured a child abuse incident.

Eddie Connelly, a detective with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, said the two presentations have influenced a number of children and resulted in the arrest in Montgomery County of four men and a woman on charges of sexual abuse.

In Houston, investigators at the Police Department said they have been swamped with new child sex abuse cases, including five where the comic book figured prominently.

"These cases resulted directly from kids reading the comic book and telling someone about what happened to them," said officer R.W. Latch of the five cases. "I've never had as many cases of child sex abuse as I have on my desk right now."

Latch told of a girl, 10, who recently told a school counselor that she had been raped by her mother's boyfriend.

"I asked her why she told her counselor and she told me it was after reading the Chronicle Spider-Man Book," said Latch.

The comic book was produced by Marvel Comics Group in cooperation with the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse.

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Thursday.

BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE:

- A Jensen cassette player and a graphic equalizer booster were stolen from a 1978 Oldsmobile in Parking Annex 61.

- A radar detector was stolen from a 1981 Mercury in Parking Annex 48.

- A Sears car battery was stolen from a 1969 Chevrolet in Parking Annex 40.

- An Alpine AM/FM stereo cassette player and an equalizer were stolen from a 1977 Toyota pickup in Parking Annex 40.

- A Concord stereo system and a Babb speaker set were stolen from a 1979 Ford in Parking Annex 40.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

- A wall telephone was stolen from the fourth-floor hallway of the Chemistry Building.

- A costume in the shape of a Texas Longhorn was stolen from the first floor of the Memorial Student Center.

- Thirty-five dollars in cash was stolen from 007 Civil Engineering.

- Ninety dollars in cash was stolen from an unlocked locker in the men's locker room at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

- A 3-by-18 foot Coors beer distributor banner was stolen from 201 MSC.

- A red Western 10-speed bicycle was stolen from outside Heldenfels Hall.

- A red Centurion 12-speed bicycle was stolen from outside the Sterling C. Evans Library.

- A C. Itoh 10-speed bicycle was stolen from outside Heldenfels Hall.

- A wallet was stolen from 228-A Blocker.

- A wallet was stolen from 255 Halbouty.

- Two wire wheel covers were stolen from a Buick Century in Parking Annex 48.

- A green canvas car cover was stolen from a 1985 Mazda in Parking Annex 56.

- Two newspaper vending racks were stolen. A Wall Street Journal rack was stolen from the bus stop at Ross and Ireland. A Dallas Times Herald rack was stolen from the corner of South Bizzell and Lubbock.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT:

- A woman reported seeing a naked man walking in Hensel Park.

ASSAULT:

- A student reported she was assaulted in Keathley Hall by an unidentified man.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

- Someone threw a rock through the window of 112-C Special Services.

FELONY THEFT:

- An Ohaus top-loading analytical balance, Model B-1500-D, was stolen from 5-B Halbouty.

Around town

Writing contest deadline is today

The Texas A&M Writing Contest will be accepting poetry and short stories from graduate and undergraduate students through today. Entries can be sent through the campus mail or delivered directly to the English Department mailroom. Address entries to The Texas A&M Writing Contest. Students may submit up to three poems and/or one short story. All entries must be typed and must not include student's name on the poems or short stories. A 3x5 index card should include name, address and phone number. The contest will publish up to 15 poems and up to five short stories.

After Hours offers driver safety course

The TAMU After Hours Program will sponsor a Driver Safety Course today and Saturday. This course may be used to have certain traffic violations dismissed and to receive a 10 percent discount on most automobile insurance fees. Registration is held 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in 216 MSC. For more information, call 845-1515.

Duchesses needed for Cotton Pageant

Applications are now available for duchesses to the 51st Annual Cotton Pageant. Any campus organization is invited to enter a contestant, as well as sororities and fraternities. The winner receives a \$500 scholarship to TAMU. Entry fee is \$40. The pageant will be held March 29 and 30. For applications and information, call Pageant at 764-7133.

College of Science offers scholarships

Three scholarships are now available for undergraduate health science majors of high academic achievement. Application forms are available at the Scholarship Office in the Pavilion, the Biology Advising Office at 101 BSBW and from the Dean of Science in 313 BSBW. Deadline for application is March 1, 1985.

Blood drive begins next week

The Aggie Blood Drive, sponsored by APO, OPA and Student Government will be held Feb. 18-21. Blood donation locations will be at the Pavilion 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Commons 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and mobile at Sbis and Rudder Fountain 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Everyone is urged to donate.

Women's club offers CPR courses

Two courses in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) will be held by the Women's Club at 1200 Carter Creek Parkway in Bryan this month. The morning course will be given on Feb. 18 and 19 from 9 a.m.-12 noon on each day. The evening course will be given on Feb. 19 and 21 from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. on each night. Certification from the American Heart Association and the Red Cross will be given upon successful completion. The cost is 50 cents for the instruction booklet. To register, call the American Heart office at 775-1970.

Events planned for women's week

Aggie Women's Association and Women in Communication are sponsoring A&M Women's Week. Events on Feb. 18 include a brown bag lunch and seminar with Aggie professional women at 12 noon in 206 MSC. Lynn Noble will speak at 7:30 p.m. in 391 Rudder that evening. On Feb. 20, a style show will be held at 12 noon in the MSC Lounge and a reception will begin at 5 p.m. in Rudder Exhibit Hall. Dr. Sara Alperin will speak and entertainment will be provided by the Women's Chorus. The public is invited to attend all events which are free of charge. For more information, call Jo at 845-1133.

Spirit award applications available

Applications for the Spirit Award are available in five locations: The Former Students lobby, 110 YMCA Bldg., the Student Activities Office, the Student Government Office, and the MSC. Applications will be accepted through Feb. 25 until 5 p.m.

Defensive driving begins today

Better Drivers will sponsor a defensive driving course today 8 p.m.-10 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at 1806 Welsh St. The course can be used to receive a 10% insurance discount and to dismiss a traffic fine. Pre-registration daily from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. at 1806 Welsh St. in College Station. Pre-registration fee is \$18 or \$20 at the door. Call 693-0086 for more information.

Hope

Village gives coal in thanks for University's help, support

By KIMBERLY PETTIBON
Reporter

A thank you from the Village of Hope was presented Thursday to the Geological Society in the form of a piece of coal.

Michael Cavanaugh, president of the Village of Hope project, presented the coal from the people of Amaga, Colombia to Michael Lilly, president of the Geological Society.

The inscription on the coal, written in Spanish, was translated by Dr. Robert Scott Kellner, adviser for the Village of Hope project. Kellner said:

"We are happy to present to Texas A&M University the symbol of the mineral richness of the region of Amaga, Colombia as a demonstration of our great gratitude and affection for your kind help."

Small, primitive family-owned coal mines are abundant in the village, Kellner said. He said it would be great to see geologists go into the village and help the people develop their mines.

Cavanaugh agreed, saying, "What we'd really hope to have is some of

these geology people get interested in going down to this village perhaps, convey some of the edge they have to the villagers, we essentially want to do here is help them help themselves."

The Village of Hope project raised about \$25,000 last year, Kellner said. The money was used to feed the children of the village to provide vocational training areas such as agriculture, carpentry and mechanics.

Amaga has only elementary schools, and most men end up working in the mines, Kellner said. However, the Village of Hope is providing alternatives.

Dr. M. Charles Gilbert, head of the geology department, said the department is pleased to display coal as a symbol of the mineral wealth of Colombia.

"In many ways, it's similar to kinds of mineral wealth we have in Texas," Gilbert said, "and I think that's a special kind of bond between the people of the two countries."

The coal will be displayed in the new wing of the Halbouty Geology Building.