

Solicitors bothersome to students

Beware of magazine salesmen

By CATHIE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

If you're waiting for magazines ordered from a door-to-door salesman on campus, you could be waiting a long time.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic at Texas A&M, says that while magazine salesmen often come to sell their wares, it's not often that they produce the product. Salesmen have been appearing on campus at three-month intervals for several years.

The salesmen are in violation of A&M regulations since only University-recognized organizations are allowed to sell on campus. At times they'll say they have a

permit to sell their magazines on campus, Wiatt says. That permit is usually only good for use in Bryan-College Station though.

Wiatt says most salesmen don't have a permit from Bryan or College Station and that off-campus students wanting to know if a salesman is "on the level" should ask to see a permit.

Dave Bergen, student activities coordinator, says A&M officials have warned both the salesmen and the companies they work for about the violations against University policy, but with no success in stopping the solicitation.

The salesmen, mostly young people, say they're under pressure to sell a lot of magazines, Bergen says.

If they do, the salesmen say they get good meals and better living accommodations.

Their supervisors will tell them not to cooperate with anyone and not to identify themselves, he says.

"They don't have identification," Bergen says, "but usually they'll show you a standard company card where they write their names in. They'll say they won't go back to the dorms when we let them go, but they'll walk out the door and go right over to a dorm and start selling again."

Wiatt says that the salesmen usually travel in teams and use high-pressure tactics to sell their magazines. Their tactics can be both in-

sistent and intimidating. "Many are tough guys recruited from all over the country," he says. "They're vanned into other areas of the country."

The University Police receive about two reports per month on magazine salesmen, Wiatt says. But by the time the officers arrive at the area the solicitor is gone.

They're more often found in the women's dormitories or in married-student housing, he says.

"If a sale is not consummated," Wiatt says, "they become more and more belligerent."

He says that most of the students who buy magazines do so to get rid of the salesmen.

Democrats want new primary date

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas needs a March presidential primary to give both Democrats and Republicans an earlier — and therefore more effective — voice in electing the next president, state Democratic Chairman Bob Slagle said Wednesday.

But Slagle's Republican counterpart, George Strake, countered that "the system we have now has been working well" and told the House Elections Committee that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

After almost three hours of testimony, the measure for a presidential primary that would also bind voters to a party for the rest of the year was left as pending business.

Rep. Clint Hackney, D-Houston and committee chairman, said a vote on the measure probably would be taken next week.

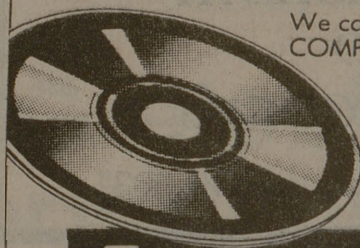
Texas Republicans have been holding a presidential primary for several years at the same time as the May party elections for state and local officials.

Democrats have a say in selecting the presidential nominee through delegates chosen for the party's national convention.

"We want it flexible so the Republicans can do what they want to do and we can do what we want to do," Slagle said in describing the proposal that arose from Democratic study committee after widespread criticism of the party's caucus system last summer.

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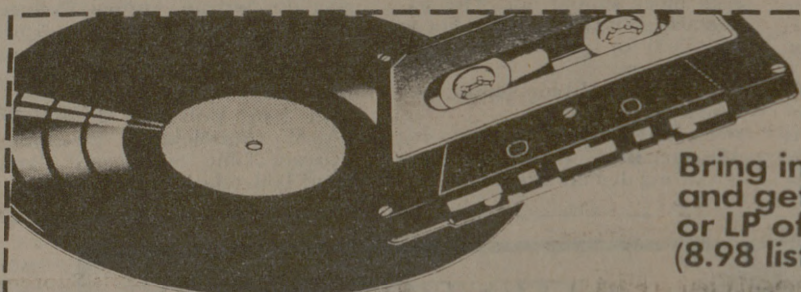
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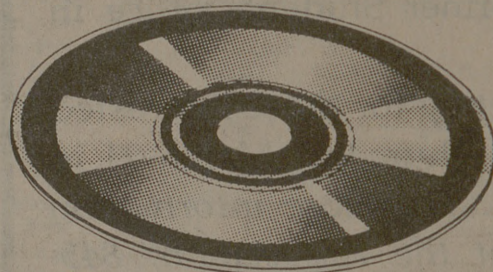
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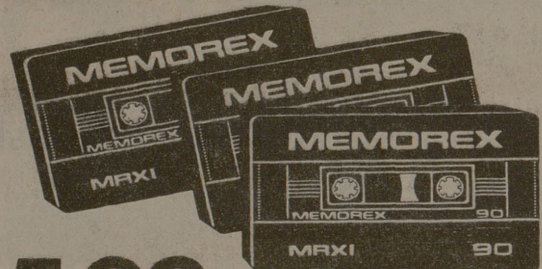
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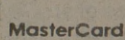
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