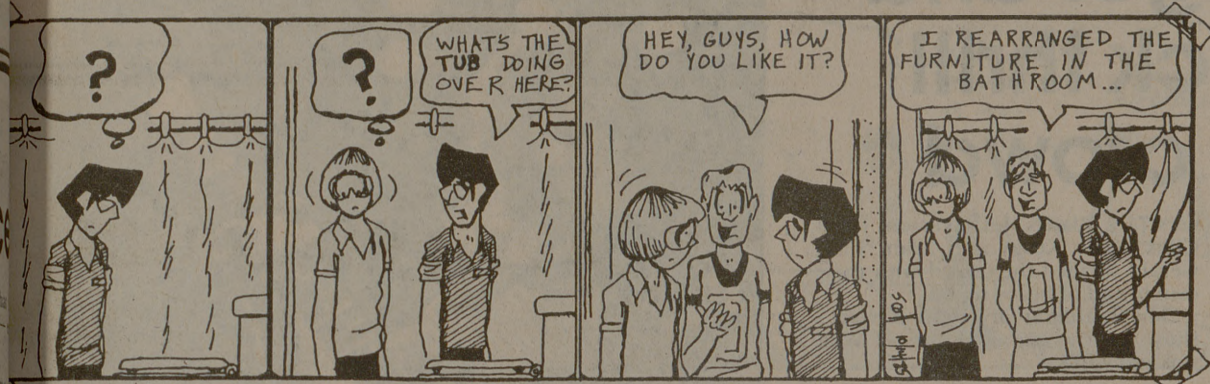## Warped
by Scott McCullar

University key control service handles most of A&M's locks

By CHRISTI DAUGHERTY
Reporter

The key to any problem people may have with locks on the Texas A&M campus probably can be found in the Key Control Department of the Physical Plant.

Laura Stratta, one of two key clerks, says the department has issued more than 20,000 keys. Nearly everyone on campus gets keys at Key Control, she says.

"We handle everything," she says. She adds that although they cut and stamp dorm keys, they don't keep records or master copies of them.

"We don't keep room keys for dorms, housing keeps those," she says.

When a department puts in an order for keys, the first five keys of the order are free. After that it costs 50 cents a key.

"The Physical Plant absorbs the cost of the first five keys," Stratta says.

The housing department charges the student $25 for each key he loses.

If a department chooses to have locks installed by an off-campus organization, Key Control can not help if there is a problem.

"We refuse to do anything for those," Stratta says.

Two copies of each key issued by Key Control are kept in the Key Control office.

The master copy, or A copy, is kept by the key clerks, and the locksmith's copy, or B copy, is kept by the locksmiths.

The two locksmiths operate out of a small room in the back of the Key Control office.

A file is kept of the keys that open each lock of each building from the Academic Building to Zachry, Stratta says.

The master copies are kept in fireproof drawers, and the cabinets are secured with large combination locks on each drawer. Five people have access to the master keys.
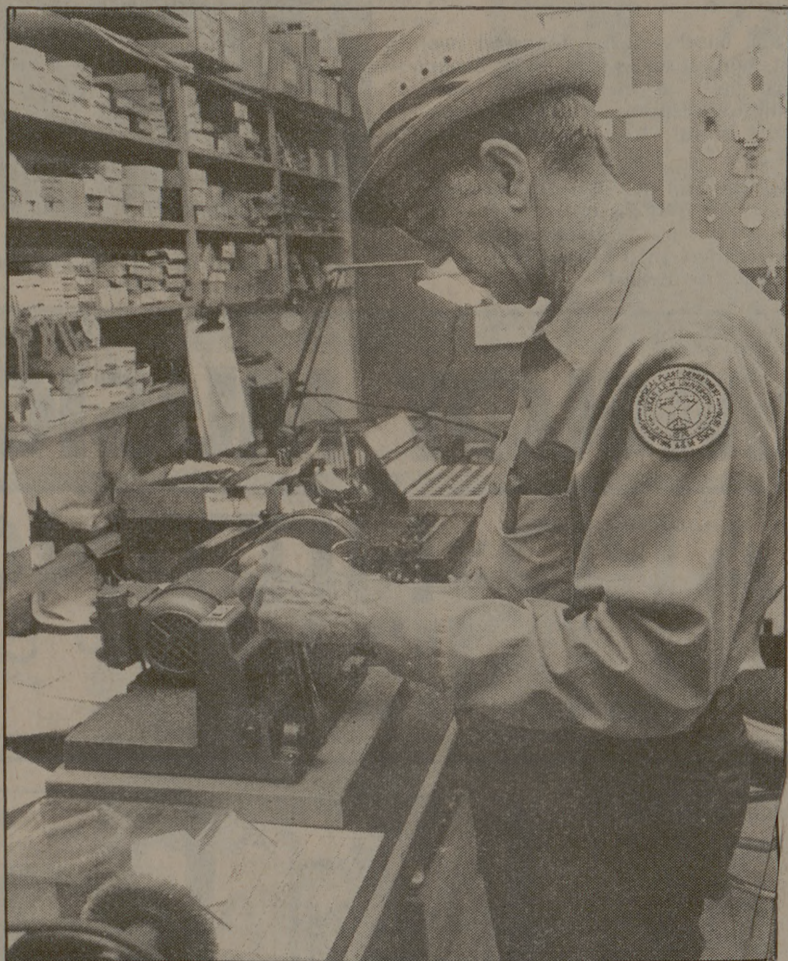

Photo by JAIME LOPEZ

Ed Patke, a locksmith with Texas A&M, buffs a key at his office in the Physical Plant Building.

The five include Stratta, the other key clerk, a supervisor and two locksmiths.

Other universities occasionally send people by to observe the A&M Key Control and see how it is run.

The main difference between the A&M Key Control and those at other universities is the price of the keys.

At Baylor, key prices range from $3 to $4.50.

The University of Houston charges $1 per key, and the first key of each order is free.

At the University of Texas here is no charge for keys, says Joyce Chaney, a key clerk.

From September 1984 through August 1985 UT issued over 18,000 keys, Chaney says.

Dallas residents fighting rat infestation

Associated Press

DALLAS — Residents of low-income neighborhoods, some of whom are keeping nightly vigils to guard against the rats, have been fighting a losing battle against rodent infestations, city officials and social workers say, he said.

One Oak Cliff resident said a rat crawled into her bed and bit her last night.

"I can't go to sleep until way up in the morning because I'm scared of the rats," said Barbara Franklin.

She said her next-door neighbor moved out after a rat bit one of her children last week.

"It's pretty much everywhere," said Richard Hernandez, supervisor of Housing and Neighborhood Services.

He said about 80 of the 408 new cases handled by his office in a recent week involved rodent problems.

The Dallas Tenants Association gets about 40 calls per week on rat infestation, all of which are referred to the city, said spokeswoman Gail Cooper.

Hernandez said there has been an increase in calls in recent years "not because of an increase in this problem, but more of a focus on it. They're reporting it more now."