

Police continue probe into assault of female cadet

By Bob Grube
Staff Writer

Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic at Texas A&M, said Monday that the University Police Department is continuing its investigation into a reported assault of a female cadet at the bonfire site Nov. 18.

Wiatt said he and the officers who are working on the case will meet with some dormitory resident advisers today to concentrate on potential suspects in the case.

"Unfortunately, it looks as if at least some of the males involved are residents of Davis-Gary dormitory," Wiatt said. "We're not going into the investigation with tunnel vision, but the cadet was sure she saw the DG letters on at least two of the helmets the men were wearing.

would determine what degree of assault they would be charged with.

"If her injuries are not too bad, the charge would probably be filed as a class C misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to a \$200 fine," Wiatt said. "The county attorney will decide how to prosecute the case."

Bill Kibler, associate director of student affairs and adviser to bonfire, and Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, were unavailable for comment Monday.

Eric Wittenmyer, a senior redpot, said he was at Duncan Field the night the incident occurred but was on the other side of the bonfire.

"I heard about what happened, but I didn't see it," Wittenmyer said. "We (the redpots) are in charge of the entire bonfire, but our primary concern is the safety of all the people working on the bonfire.

"The DG helmets are very distinctive in the way they look. At this time, we have some leads on the case, but as of yet, have no positive identifications.

"We are digging, but it's going to take a lot of legwork."

Wiatt said the men involved could be charged with assault, but the severity of the cadet's injuries

What's up

Tuesday

CLEAR LAKE AREA HOMETOWN CLUB: will have a bonfire party at 4:30 p.m. at No. 704 Treehouse Apartments.

AGGIE BONFIRE: a shuttle bus will run between Old Field and the Rudder Tower bus stop from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES SPEAKERS SEMINAR: applications for the 1987 Speakers Seminar are available through today in the Student Activities Office, 208 Pavilion.

Wednesday

EUROPE CLUB: will meet at 9:30 p.m. at the Flying Mato.

Thursday

A&M INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP: will have Thanksgiving dinner at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS: anyone with information concerning a copy machine removed from 224 MSC on the evening of Nov. 18 is requested to call the University Police Department at 845-2345.

FRESHMAN CLASS COUNCIL: entries for the Class of '87 T-shirt design contest may be submitted to 216 MSC through Monday.

FRESHMAN CLASS COUNCIL: applications for committee chairmen are available through Monday in 216 MSC.

FISH CAMP: applications for Fish Camp '87 co-chairmen are available in 213 Pavilion.

A&M LITERARY ARTS CLUB: is now accepting submissions for Litmus.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS: students interested in taking actuarial examinations in February should contact Dr. H. E. Lacey, head of the Department of Mathematics, in 102 Milner Hall.

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A&M professors disprove stereotypes

Survey identifies handgun owners

By Rebecca Phillips
Reporter

General stereotypes of handgun owners in the United States are incorrect, according to a marketing survey conducted by two Texas A&M professors.

"There are stereotypes that poorly educated, low-income blacks own handguns," said Dr. O.C. Ferrell, associate professor of marketing.

But educated, wealthy, white males between 35 and 49 make up the largest percentage of handgun owners, he said.

The survey, which Ferrell organized with marketing professor Dr. William Pride, was conducted over a two-week period in September by professional field interviewers. The interviewers polled about 2,100 homes throughout the country.

Nineteen percent of the whites surveyed owned handguns, while 13.3 percent of the non-whites surveyed were owners.

Also, 19.3 percent of those employed when surveyed admitted to handgun ownership while 16.1 percent of those unemployed reported owning handguns.

"Our overall findings should question myths about handgun ownership," Ferrell said.

The study also found that 25 percent of the males interviewed owned a handgun, while 14 percent of the females owned one.

"I think males are probably more likely to own a gun because of role

differentiation in society," said Ferrell. "Owning guns is something that males have been socialized to have more interest in."

"A gun is a social gesture. Few people really expect to use it."

He added that income played a role in ownership.

"The higher the income, the more you've got to protect and you're more security-minded," he said.

Pride said, "I suspect that to some extent, males get handguns primarily for sports."

Pride said he believes a correlation exists between income and age factors.

The poll found that 29.9 percent of those interviewed in the 35- to 49-year-old group owned handguns, while only 14 percent of those under 25 had handguns.

The professors agreed that men between 35 and 49 also probably feel more obligation toward family protection.

However, Ferrell noted that although the survey found that families with children were equally likely to own handguns, those with children between the ages of 7 and 12 had a lower ownership percentage.

Ferrell also said that the percentage of people over the age of 50 who own guns is lower.

"After 50, many people feel more secure in life," he said. "Some people over 50 also feel too old to handle a gun."

The professors also found that 24 percent of the surveyed households in the South reported owning a

handgun, while 10 percent of the homes in the Northeast reported ownership.

"It's just a part of the southern subculture to own guns," said Pride. "I don't think they have a greater need to protect themselves."

Ferrell said that even though crime may be more widespread in other parts of the country, southerners traditionally have been more

sparsely populated and self-reliant.

However, Ferrell said that lenient handgun ownership laws in the South may contribute to the area's higher percentage.

About 15 percent of the respondents living alone owned a handgun, while 20 percent of the respondents in households with more than one person owned handguns.

In Advance

Squadron 7 to 'RUN TO t.u.' after bonfire

John Nohrenburg, chaplain for Squadron 7, says the squadron's annual "RUN TO t.u." will begin 30 minutes after bonfire is lit.

Nohrenburg says the cadets involved in the run expect to arrive in Austin by noon Wednesday.

The tradition of the run began in 1976, he said, when Squadron 7 was known as Seagram's 7.

The squadron began the run because it wanted to do something that would bring recognition to the outfit, Nohrenburg says.

Seagram's 7 was disbanded two years ago and was reformed last year under a new name — Challenger 7.

Nohrenburg says the new squadron is trying to uphold the tradition of the "RUN TO t.u."

that the original squadron started.

He adds that the original Squadron 7 didn't want to appear to be an "egotistical outfit," so they decided to hold a fundraiser prior to the run that would benefit a different local charity each year.

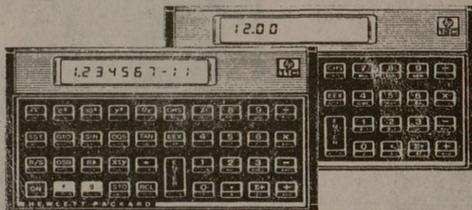
This year's run will benefit Joseph Hospital.

The original goal for this year was to raise \$500 for St. Joseph's Hospital, but by Sunday afternoon the squadron already had reached its goal and still was collecting.

Nohrenburg says that from 50 to 60 cadets are expected to participate in the run.

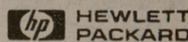
Challenger 7 is made up of Force cadets, Nohrenburg says.

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