

State and Local

Efforts to keep coins break machines

Laundromats plagued by vandals

By Becky Weisenfels
Reporter

Students always are trying to save money. They buy a generic-brand product over a name brand. They ride bikes instead of driving cars.

But sometimes they tape quarters into the washing machines on campus.

Saving money can turn into vandalism. Since 1985, the problem of students taping quarters and damaging campus washing machines and dryers has been growing, says Joe C. Hopper, vice president and general manager of Aggie Wash Inc. Aggie Wash has been leasing about 350 washers and dryers to Texas A&M since 1980.

Students tape quarters into the coin slide, hoping to get their clothes washed free, Hopper says, and when they push the slide in, it often sticks. Women usually just tape the machines, while men sometimes beat the machines with tools and try to get their money back, he says.

"They get mad when they tape it and they don't get to wash, so then they tear them up," Hopper says. "I'm not speaking about our loss. I'm talking about A&M's, because they get half of the revenue."

"There's not a piece of tape made that I haven't seen put on

of tape would make it malfunction."

The coin slides cost \$45 each to replace. The biggest problem is in Aston Hall, where three slides once had to be replaced in one month, Hopper says.

Laundry rooms have been locked before in Aston and

periods this semester after warning residents not to vandalize the machines again.

Assistant area coordinator Rick Turnbough says this is the first time the laundry room in a women's dorm has been closed.

"It (closing the laundry rooms) is just an occasional measure that we use to bring to the students' attention that there is a problem," Turnbough says. "I think it has been real effective in getting people's attention. I think from here we need to start coming up with a way to educate students as to what to watch for."

"If you see someone vandalizing a machine or damaging a machine in any way, let the staff know about it."

Vandalism is as bad in other dorms as in Underwood, Turnbough says.

But Lajimodiere says Underwood residents are upset about the closing.

"They have gotten upset to the point that they are willing to turn people in and now are aware of the vandalism that's going on," she says.

"It (closing the laundry rooms) is just an occasional measure that we use to bring to the students' attention that there is a problem."

— Rick Turnbough, assistant area coordinator

those machines. Masking tape, scotch tape, builder's tape, everything has been used. None of it works, of course. It just fouls the machines up.

"Whirlpool (who makes the machines used on campus) is one of the larger manufacturers in the United States. They ship millions of units all over the world. They could not be in business if the unit was so simple that a piece

Dunn, resulting in a temporary lapse in the vandalism, he says.

"Our problem has boiled down to Aston and Dunn, but now it seems the girls are picking it up," Hopper says. "And that's all since this semester. We didn't have many problems last year in those girls' dorms."

Vandalism of the machines in Underwood Hall led head resident Cyndi Lajimodiere to close the laundry room for two short

House OKs legislation in favor of privatizing Texas prison system

AUSTIN (AP) — The House passed a bill Tuesday allowing the state to contract with private companies to build and operate prisons.

Approval came on a 122-19 vote despite opposition from a lawmaker who said the private prison concept goes back to a dark age in Texas corrections.

"Nobody should have the right to incarcerate anybody except the state," Rep. Al Price, D-Beaumont, said.

House members rebuffed a Republican lawmaker's effort to add an amendment that would give the governor the final word on contracts for the construction of private prisons. Rep. Bill Ceverha of Dallas said the governor would serve as the third party to review contracts between the Texas Department of Corrections and private prison firms.

"This is not a political power play in any sense," Ceverha said.

But the amendment, backed by Gov. Bill Clements, was tabled in an 80-46 vote.

Under the bill, TDC would be allowed to contract with private companies for construction and opera-

tion of minimum- and medium-security prisons.

Rep. Clint Hackney, D-Houston, said, "I think it's time we go ahead and use this idea to help relieve the prison overcrowding we have."

"The federal court can be shown through this legislation that we are moving post-haste to try and solve the problem."

Price, however, said private prisons have a poor track record.

"It has not been long ago when we had the involvement of private persons in the penal work of our state," Price said. "In this state and many other states across the South, we saw all kinds of abuses that have been more than adequately documented to give each one of us real serious problems with privatization of prisons."

The state should not delegate incarceration authority to anyone, Price said.

"As a matter of fact, I find it reprehensible that anybody would do anything in terms of making money based on the misery of others," he said.

2 students threaten to file suit over A&M judicial hearing

By Curtis L. Culbertson
Staff Writer

Two Dunn residents brought the wheels of justice to a screeching halt Tuesday night as they stormed out of a Residence Halls Judicial Board hearing, leaving the verdict and their fate undecided.

Supervisor of Student Judicial Affairs Brent Paterson said, "I don't know what we are going to do," when asked what action would be taken against the two students who left the hearing without directly defending the charges against them.

Donald Stroud, charged with possession of stolen property, and Joseph Skladal, charged with being an accessory,

walked out of the hearing after Skladal was told by both Paterson and Judicial Board Chairman Angie Fields that a Judicial Board hearing was not the proper forum for his questions about possible double jeopardy and vagueness of the charges.

Before leaving the hearing, which was held in Rudder Tower, Skladal said, "I will talk to my lawyer, and he'll probably file a lawsuit."

Paterson said he would consult with the University system's attorneys before any further action would be taken against Stroud and Skladal.

Stroud said that he also would seek legal representation.

Skladal brought up questions concerning the possibility of double jeopardy and vagueness of the charges in his defense and alluded to copies of federal and state statutes that he had issued to judicial board members before the trial.

Stroud and Skladal are being charged in connection with the removal of plaques, memo boards and pens from Krueger and Mosher halls. Mosher Hall Head Resident Suzanne Friend presented the case against Stroud and Skladal.

Stroud has said that he found the items in a brown paper bag marked "Courtesy of Aston" while studying in a Dunn Hall study carrel. He said he took the items to his room and went out of town the next day. While he was away, Sonya Wilson, a

Krueger resident, learned that the missing items were in Stroud's room.

Wilson testified that she went to his room and demanded that his roommate return the items.

She said some markers were returned and she moved them to a friend's room in Dunn Hall.

Stroud said that when he returned, he placed the rest of the items in front of the door of the Krueger head resident.

Wilson said that Friend asked her if she knew who stole the items and that she said she didn't know.

Wilson said that Stroud's roommate said, "They (Stroud and Skladal) did it."

Stroud and Skladal were found innocent of damages and vandalism at a pre-

vious hearing regarding the same circumstances.

Skladal said that it is double jeopardy to recharge them on the same case.

"They are charging us for something we have already admitted to in the first hearing," Skladal said. "It's entrapment." Skladal also said he was being harassed because he said many others could have been charged with the knowledge of Stoud's possession of the items.

"Sonya Wilson, Stroud's roommate and his suitemates all knew the stuff was in his (Stroud's) room," Skladal said.

Skladal also said his rights as a student were not made clear, and that Paterson had no right to address the hearing.

"There was no due process of law," Skladal said.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

1987 PARENT'S WEEKEND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, April 10, 1987

Sterling C. Evans Library Tours and Reception	1:00pm-5:00pm
RHA Casino Night	7:00pm-12:00am
MSC Variety Show (\$4/student, \$5/non-student)	7:30pm
TAMU Women's Chorus (\$3/student, \$4/non-student)	8:00pm
MSC Aggie Cinema presents "Head", starring the Monkees	12:00am

SATURDAY, April 11, 1987

CBA Fellows Program Reception	8:00am-10:00am
Recreation and Parks Golf Tournament	8:00am
Sigma Chi Open House	10:00am-12:00pm
Student Government Information Table	10:00am-3:00pm
Sterling C. Evans Library Tours	10:00am-4:00pm
Day on the Lawn: "Art, Space, and Time"	11:00am
- American Architecture Students	11:00am-2:00pm
OPA Picnic and Alumni Day	11:00am-1:00pm
Keathley Hall Bar-B-Que	11:30am-2:00pm
Student Government Freshman Aides Picnic	12:00pm
Alpha Kappa Psi Luncheon	1:00pm
What's Up With the Class of '90	3:00pm-6:00pm
Elephant Bowl	3:30pm-5:00pm
Off-Campus Aggies Reception for Parents	4:00pm-7:00pm
Ross Volunteer Reunion	4:00pm
San Antonio Hometown Club Picnic	5:30pm
Jordan Institute for International Awareness presents "We've Never Been Licked"	6:00pm
Squadron Seven, Corps of Cadets Banquet	7:00pm-10:00pm
Campus Crusade for Christ Parent's Banquet	7:30pm
Aggie Allemanders Square Dance	7:30pm-9:45pm
BAC Voices of Praise Springfest Gospel Musical	8:00pm
MSC Aggie Cinema presents "The Great Mouse Detective"	
TAMU Singing Cadets	

SUNDAY, April 12, 1987

Corps Flower Pinning Ceremony	7:00am-9:00am
Parents' Weekend Awards Ceremony	9:00am-10:30am
Parents' Weekend Reception	10:30am
Parents' Weekend Chapel Service	11:00am
MSC Awards Ceremony	11:00am
Parents' of the Year Banquet	12:30pm
Legett Hall Picnic and Slide Show	1:00pm
Ross Volunteer Performance	1:30pm
Corp of Cadets Review and Awards Ceremony	2:30pm
Fish Drill Team Performance	3:15pm
Parson's Mounted Cavalry	4:30pm
Ross Volunteer Transition Ceremony	4:00pm

If there are any additions or corrections, please contact Debbie Massey at 845-3051.



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Wednesday Nite

March 11

\$1⁵⁰ Margaritas

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5 pm-11 pm

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