

A&M United Methodist Church



Holy Week Services

12:15-12:45 pm Service
12:45-1:15 pm Lunch
Monday-Friday

Maunday-Thursdays Services

April 16 7pm

Easter Sunday Services

6am Sunrise
7am Breakfast
8, 9:30, & 11am Worship

410 University 846-8731

Registration helps University police return stolen bikes

By Mark Gee
Reporter

Thirty-seven bicycles sit unclaimed at the University Police Station. The stolen or abandoned bicycles were recovered by University Police but can't be returned to their owners because they were never registered.

To help alleviate the problem, the University Police Department offers free bicycle registration stickers and the use of a tool to engrave identification numbers on bicycles Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the campus police station.

Nora Lopez, a sophomore psychology major from Pharr, is not taking any chances. She registered and engraved her driver's license number on her bicycle.

"It (registration) only takes a few minutes and I feel more comfortable," Lopez says. "It is a shame for a bike to be stolen, then found, and not get back to the owner."

According to the UPD records, 274 bicycles valued at \$39,985 were reported stolen during the 1985-1986 academic year. In March 1986, 21 bicycles valued at \$4,378 were reported stolen.

The reported number is less than the actual number of bicycles stolen, says Josephine Hoelscher, University Police assistant director of criminal investigations.

Fifty bicycles valued at \$7,571 were recovered during the 1985-1986 academic year.

"If a student comes in and asks for their blue bike, we can't just give it to them," Hoelscher says. "We have a lot of blue bikes. They have to give us some type of information that identifies the bike from the others. It might be something that is broken or something they added to the bike."

But not all bicycles recovered by

police were stolen — many were abandoned. Ten days after the close of the spring semester, police can remove all locked or unlocked bicycles parked in racks except those specifically designed for storage, according to University regulations.

University Police Chief Elmer Schneider Jr. encourages students to register their bicycles and added that he would like mandatory bicycle registration. He pointed out, however, that some students would resist mandatory registration because citations could be traced to registered bicycles.

If a registered bicycle is in someone else's possession, Schneider says, it gives police greater probable cause to suspect the bicycle was stolen.

An Operation Identification pamphlet distributed by the UPD states that if a person is caught with marked property, the identification numbers can be used as evidence of the possession of stolen goods.

The pamphlet also states that marked property discourages theft because marked property is difficult for thieves to resell.

An A&M bicycle registration sticker can be useful even if the bicycle is recovered out of town.

"The San Antonio Police called us about a bike that they found in somebody's front yard that had an A&M registration sticker," Hoelscher says. "We traced the number and the student got the bike."

Since the beginning of the 1986 fall semester, 485 bicycle permits have been issued. University Police keep bicycle registration information on file for five years.

Stolen or abandoned bicycles that are recovered are held by police for six months and then auctioned.

Hart Hall residents will auction the 37 unclaimed bicycles April 29 at the Rudder Fountain area.

Castration proposal fails to pass in House

AUSTIN (AP) — A House majority voted Thursday in favor of chemical castration for some sex offenders, but the measure needed a two-thirds vote for approval.

The proposal was offered as an amendment to a bill establishing a counseling program for sex offenders in the Texas Department of Corrections.

Rep. Foster Whaley, who sponsored the chemical castration amendment, said he would have preferred to go even further.

"Quite frankly, I would like to put mechanical castration in there with a darned good stock knife, but I don't think that would stand up in the courts," said Whaley, D-Pampa. "And if they don't have anybody down in Huntsville that knows how to do that, I'd be glad to show them."

"Fact is, I'd volunteer as the executioner."

The House vote on Whaley's amendment, which would have made chemical castration a requirement for probation for repeat sex offenders, was 65-64. It failed because it takes a two-thirds vote to add amendments to House bills on final reading.

The bill, written by Rep. Bob Melton, would allocate \$400,000 of TDC funds to set up the counseling program. Under the bill, parole officials could consider the results of the counseling and whether the sex offender refused to participate in the program.

Supporters said the program is

needed because sex offenders eventually leave prison.

Rep. Mark Stiles, D-Beaumont, said, "If they serve their time, they are coming out. If they have not had that counseling, we are in a world of hurt."

Melton, D-McGregor, said sex offenders have a high rate as repeat offenders and that that could be changed through counseling.

The measure, tentatively approved Wednesday, was initially defeated 73-58 Thursday. However, it was brought back to the floor on a motion to reconsider, and was approved 80-54, sending it to the Senate.

Whaley led the opposition attack on the value of counseling.

"These people are beyond counseling," he said.

Rep. Gerald Geistweidt, R-Mason, offered another solution, tied to Rep. Ron Wilson's bill that would allow Texans to carry handguns.

"Mr. Melton asked me earlier how I would feel if my wife or my mother or someone close to me were raped by one of these people after getting out of prison and not receiving counseling," Geistweidt said. "My suggestion to Mr. Melton is he should vote for Mr. Wilson's handgun bill. We'll blow them away."

After the bill was approved, Melton told the House, "Members, thank you very much and welcome to the 20th Century."

Melton later returned to the microphone and apologized for the remark.

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\$2.50/Person
(In advance)

SENIOR BANQUET

May 2
Cocktail Hour 5:30 pm
Seating 7:00 pm
College Station Hilton
Speaker: Jack Rains '60
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\$30.00/couple

RING DANCE

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