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Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department from Nov. 16 through Sunday:

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:
 • Six bicycles were reported stolen.
 • Five purses and backpacks were reported stolen.
 • A student reported that someone stole her scuba bag from the women's dressing room in Cain Hall.

INDECENT EXPOSURE:
 • A student told police that he saw a man masturbating in the first floor men's bathroom of the Engineering Research Center.

BURGLARY OF BUILDING:
 • A computer printer was reported stolen from the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center.

FELONY THEFT:
 • A money bag containing \$1,376.42 was stolen from a desk in the Pie Are Square dining office.

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A&M attendants for handicapped find job rewarding

By Deborah L. West
 Reporter

Being an attendant for the handicapped is a tough and time-consuming job, but several Texas A&M students say it's rewarding.

"The attendants normally live with a quadriplegic person, someone who is paralyzed from the neck down," Dr. Charles W. Powell, coordinator of handicapped services, says.

"Most student attendants do not have any special medical training because they simply do not need it," Powell says.

"They help the person get up in the morning, eat lunch and go to bed at night," he says. "The attendant checks for poor circulation and pressure sores."

The attendance program is designed only to introduce the attendants and handicapped students, he says.

"They interview each other to see if they can live together," he says. "Our office doesn't hire or fire anyone, we just advertise for attendants."

Attendants say the job is an educational and rewarding experience.

"The experience gained from this job depends on who you take care of," Vincent Knodell, a senior finance major, says. "Jason Boles has been a good influence on me."

"I wanted to be an attendant and he needed a roommate. We hit it off immediately."

Laurie Marshall, a junior education major, says her attendant, Julie Vass, is a best friend.

"Julie and I have roomed together since our freshman year," Marshall says. "It's been fun. We have both learned how to deal with new circumstances."

Powell says an attendant's time is not his own. They work a minimum of 20 hours a week.

But Knodell says being an attendant doesn't limit his activities.

"My social life wouldn't fill up pages, but it's not because the job takes too much time," Knodell says. "Attendants can lead any type of life they want. They just can't leave for an extended period of time."

"I have become a better person because of the things I learned from taking care of Jason. I am more tolerant and understanding of other people."

Knodell says he did not become an attendant without knowing anything about it. His cousin, an attendant at A&M, encouraged him to get the job.

"I needed money to pay for my tuition, so I decided to be an attendant at a Muscular Dystrophy camp to see if I liked the job," he says. "It was a good experience, so I decided to try it at A&M."

Powell says attendants get paid \$450 a month, even if the month is shortened by vacations. Attendants have to pay the dorm fees.

"The Texas Rehabilitation Commission pays room, board and tuition for most handicapped students," Powell says. "The TRC pays the attendants and Texas A&M guarantees handicapped students on-campus housing."

Knodell says being an attendant is a service job. It takes patience, understanding and good communication skills.

POST GAME HIGHLIGHTS

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 University & Stasney
268-0220
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696-0191

Bryan
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Residents move to escape volatile underground gases

MONT BELVIEU (AP) — Residents of this small town are slowly moving away from the giant salt dome where volatile liquefied gases are stored underground.

Four of the Chambers County community's five churches have moved to a spot a few miles east of downtown Mont Belvieu.

The area also is the new home for a post office, the West Chambers County Courthouse Annex and several schools.

And on Dec. 5, voters will be asked to approve a bond issue that would move the Mont Belvieu civic center complex to the same area.

All but about 15 families have sold their homes and moved off the Barbers Hill Salt Dome where 120 million barrels of liquefied gases are stored underground.

For years, the town was rocked by gas leaks, fires and explosions.

Propane, ethane, butane, propylene and other hydrocarbons are stored in the underground caverns hewn out of the dome, said to be the largest such storage facility in the nation.

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