

End of semester brings apartment subleasing

By Anita Anderson
Reporter

At the end of every fall semester, many students sublease their apartments for reasons ranging from financial problems to roommate troubles, Texas A&M Off-Campus Center employees say.

"At least two or three people have come in every day for the last three weeks to sublease their apartments," Cindy Hurt, a clerk at the center, says.

Center coordinator Kristin Sayre says students who are not going to come back usually make their decision around the end of the semester.

Roommate relationships that don't work out and high rents also are reasons students sublet their apartments, Sayre says.

Nina Alvarez, a junior psychology major, found her apartment was too expensive for her budget.

"We signed our lease in the summer and figured we could handle it," Alvarez says.

Neva Moss, an assistant manager of Treehouse Apartments, says

many apartment complexes have flexible rules for subleasing.

"We don't want to keep anybody here if they don't want to be here," Moss says. "We have less people walk out on us because we're willing to work with them."

"We take all circumstances under consideration, but the tenant is still responsible for finding someone to take over the lease."

Treehouse charges a \$25 sublease fee and the person who leases the apartment takes it as is, Moss says. In order to make a clean break from the apartment, the original tenants lose their deposit and the new tenants must pay a deposit, she says.

At Plantation Oaks apartments, like most complexes, the original tenant ultimately is responsible for rent under a sublease, says Bonnie Kuykendall, a bookkeeper there.

"If the new tenant fails to pay rent, then the original tenant is legally required to do so," Kuykendall says.

While subleasing is not as good for the sublesser, it can be an attractive deal for the person subletting.

The person who sublets often doesn't have to put down a deposit, she says.

But Sayre says a potential sub-lessee should offer to pay a deposit.

"Paying a telephone or electricity deposit can make your offer more attractive," Sayre says. "Subleasing is the only alternative for some people. It's an unfortunate situation because not even half of the available subleases will get leased."

But students who have problems with finances or roommates can try other methods.

"Try moving into a smaller apartment in the same complex," she says. "Or find somebody else in the complex who needs a roommate."

If subleasing is the only answer, a search for someone to take over the apartment is necessary, she says.

"Just don't put a card in at the Off-Campus Center and leave it," Sayre says. "Put an ad in the newspaper, talk to your apartment manager, and for as much free time as you have, come and sit in the OCC and talk to people."

Car theft steals top spot on list of state crimes

DALLAS (AP) — The lure of big cash rewards and low risks of punishment have made auto theft the fastest-growing crime in Texas and the state's No. 1 police headache.

Last year an average of 328 cars and trucks vanished each day from Texas streets and parking lots.

But during the first 10 months of this year, Texas Department of Public Safety figures show a 9.2 percent increase over the same period in 1986, when more than 119,000 cars were stolen. And that was a 20 percent increase over 1985.

Officials say a skilled car thief can open a locked car and drive away in less than 20 seconds.

Then, cars often are taken to Mexico or to the neighborhood "chop shops" that fuel an illegal parts network.

The value of vehicles stolen statewide last year was nearly \$700 million.

The thefts often occurred in cities at crowded shopping centers.

"A shopping mall is candy land to a thief," Capt. Glen York of the Houston Police Department said.

"They know the security is thin, the owners will be away for hours and the cars are there waiting," he said.

Officials said the problem is amplified by a crowded prison system and backlogged court dockets that make it difficult to prosecute and sentence thieves.

Auto theft in Texas is a third-degree felony carrying a maximum prison sentence of two to 10 years.

But police say few auto thieves spend that much time in prison, if they spend any at all.

And to make prosecution even more difficult, many auto theft rings pay juveniles to steal vehicles.

That places the cases in the complicated juvenile court system and decreases the likelihood of lengthy sentences.

Police aren't the only ones who are discouraged. Insurance industry experts say that as the number of thefts goes up in Texas, so do auto insurance rates.

Police say recovery rates vary from 60 percent to 70 percent in most parts of the state, but the cars may be stripped by that time.

Patrol finds bodies of missing doctors in wrecked plane

PORT MANSFIELD (AP) — The bodies of two men who had been missing since last week were recovered from the wreckage of their private plane Sunday, authorities said.

The body of a third man aboard had been found earlier and officials had narrowed their search for the plane, which was last heard from when it took off at Port Mansfield airport on Wednesday.

All three men aboard were Arlington doctors.

The wreckage of the plane was found Sunday in about 5 feet of water in the Laguna Madre, about 7 miles northeast of the airport, said Maj. Charles Whatley of the Civil Air Patrol, which had conducted the search along the Texas Department of Public Safety officials and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The body of Carl Rainone, 62, was discovered Saturday by a fisherman in murky water less than a foot deep along the Intracoastal Waterway, Maj. Joyce Clark of the CAP

said. Rainone was the team dentist for the Texas Rangers baseball franchise.

The Beechcraft Bonanza was piloted by Rainone's brother, Frank Jr., 61, an Arlington surgeon, and also carried Dr. William H. McLarty, 64, an Arlington dentist.

A CAP plane spotted the wreckage, which was not expected to be moved immediately because authorities lacked the necessary equipment, Whatley said.

Fred Frost, the Willacy County justice of the peace who examined Carl Rainone's body, said Rainone apparently survived the crash and died by drowning, although he did not know if Rainone was conscious when the plane hit the water.

About 19 CAP planes had searched for the plane Saturday, but the search area was narrowed to a 15-mile radius on Sunday, when only two airplanes and a Texas DPS helicopter had room to continue the search, officials said.

President of Skaggs dies in plane crash

COMMERCE (AP) — The president of Dallas-based Skaggs Alpha Beta and the chief pilot for Trinity Industries died when their twin-engine plane struck a tree, authorities said.

Killed in the crash Saturday was Albert Kara, 47, of McKinney, president of Skaggs Alpha Beta, a division of American Stores with about 100 stores in nine states, including 48 in Texas.

The other victim was Thomas Arthur Smith, 44, of Plano, chief pilot for Dallas-based Trinity Industries, authorities said.

Trinity Industries manufactures rail cars, metal products and gas tanks. A company spokesman said Smith and three other company pilots were responsible for transporting company executives.

Smith also owned and operated a flight school at McKinney.

Authorities said the plane was about 30 feet off the ground when it struck the tree about two miles south

of the Northwest Texas town of Commerce near the Sand Hills Country Club.

Hunt County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Jason Cunningham said investigators told him an engine on the plane's right wing may have failed, causing the plane to spin out of control.

Tommy McFall, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, said the wreckage was to be taken to Lancaster for examination.

Most of the wreckage is intact because the plane did not explode upon impact, he said.

Authorities said that Kara's body was found on the pilot's side of the plane, but were not certain who was flying the plane. A friend of the victims said both men were experienced pilots.

The men had left an airport at McKinney for a test flight of the plane, which Kara had bought last week, a friend said.

Hospital staff says AIDS precautions aren't foolproof against exposure

DALLAS (AP) — Last year the staff at Parkland Memorial Hospital used 6.5 million pairs of rubber gloves — just one of the special precautions officials are taking to guard against the spread of the AIDS virus.

The risk of exposure to the deadly virus was illustrated recently when several security guards and a nurse were covered in blood when they rushed to the aid of a psychiatric patient who had slashed his wrists with a broken bottle.

Only later did they learn the patient had tested positive for AIDS.

The incident underscores the need for caution, but also shows the inability to create a foolproof policy. When the exposure occurred, Parkland already had developed one of the most extensive programs in the area to protect its patients and employees from the disease.

"We try to be as cautious as we can when we're dealing with AIDS patients," said Karen Krentz, the nurse educator at Parkland's emergency room. "But sometimes you don't know who you're dealing with. You just do the best you can."

The precautions taken at the Dallas hospital are far-reaching and expensive. The number of rubber gloves used last year is more than double the number used the year before.

Parkland also is buying more disposable needles, gowns and rubberized aprons. And the hospital has

adopted a variety of procedural changes for keeping contaminated articles separate.

The cost of these precautions is expected to add about \$1 million a year to Parkland's budget, which will translate into \$10 to \$20 a day more for patients staying at the hospital.

Dr. Ron Anderson, chief executive officer at Parkland, said, "What we're hoping is that we will see some savings down the line in fewer cases of hepatitis-B among our staff, since it is transmitted the same way as AIDS."

Since January 1986, 54 Parkland employees have been exposed to blood or other body fluids from patients who have been diagnosed with AIDS or who have tested positive for the virus believed to cause AIDS. Although none of the employees have tested positive, 50 still are undergoing regular testing.

Those exposures came despite an AIDS manual published last summer that was distributed to every department that has contact with AIDS patients, including the clinics and housekeeping and food service staffs.

Most of the Parkland employees were exposed to the virus by accidentally jabbing themselves with a needle after it was used on an AIDS patient, officials said. The hospital's procedures have been changed so that needles no longer have to be resheathed before they are thrown away.



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SPRING 1988 BATTALION STAFF

Applications are available in 216 Reed McDonald for the Spring 1988 Battalion staff.

Applications for editors and assistant editors should be returned to the editor's office, 222 Reed McDonald, 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25. Editor and assistant editor positions include:

- managing editor
- opinion page editor
- city editor
- news editor
- sports editor
- photo editor
- At Ease editor
- At Ease assistant editor
- assistant city editor
- assistant news editor
- assistant sports editor

Applications for all other positions are due by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2. Other positions include:

- staff writers
- photographers
- columnists
- copy editors
- cartoonists
- editorial cartoonist
- graphic artist
- clerks
- reviewer
- sports writers
- At Ease writers
- At Ease photographer

Applicants must be able to begin work Sunday, Dec. 6