

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department from June 27 through Wednesday:

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:
• Ten bicycles and were reported stolen from various locations around campus.

• A student reported that someone stole her Aggie ring after she left it outside a racquetball court.

• A bottle of whiskey was stolen from a storage cabinet in the Faculty Club.

• Someone stole a U.S. flag from the flagpole near the Academic Building.

FELONY THEFT:
Someone stole six steers from a feed lot near Farm-to-Market Road 50.

BURGLARY OF A BUILDING:
• Several tents were stolen from Harrington Tower.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:
• A student reported that someone entered her office and "messed it up."

• A student reported that someone threw a rock through the right window of his truck, which was parked on campus.

• Someone damaged the street signs at the corner of System Loop and Research Parkway.

• A man reported that some-

one tried to pry open his office door in the Hydromechanics Lab.

ASSAULT:
• A woman reported that she was threatened by her stepfather in the MSC.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT:
• A woman at Cain Pool saw a man hanging around the women's locker room. She said the man entered the locker room while women were changing clothes.

• A student reported that a man entered the women's restroom in Rudder Tower and peeped over the stall at her. She said she screamed, and the man ran away.

• The next day, another student reported that a man peeked over the stall at her in the restroom on the tenth floor of the O&M Building. The student screamed, and the man ran away.

INDECENT EXPOSURE:
A student reported that a man exposed his "naughty bits" to her on the third floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREWORKS:

• After receiving a report of fireworks going off, an officer caught three students lighting and throwing fireworks.

Competitive U.S. firms could help economy

By Juliette Rizzo
Reporter

Large corporations and small businesses, including those in the Bryan-College Station community, are in big trouble due to the higher quality of products supplied by foreign competition, Dr. Michael A. Hitt, head of Texas A&M's Department of Management, said.

But researchers in the management department have found that an increase in investment and competitiveness among large corporations may benefit the economy and turn around the decline of corporate America.

"In general, American firms spend less time and money on research and development than do their foreign counterparts," Hitt said.

In 1945, the United States was the world's dominant industrial nation and unchallenged technical leader. Since then, the competitive standing of U.S. firms in the world economy has deteriorated. U.S. dominance has slowly slipped into the hands of competition from Europe, Japan and, most recently, Korea and Singapore, he said.

Hitt said the decline comes from an unproductive use of funds and the lack of creative innovation to promote competitiveness.

"Our corporations are doing very little to increase their competitiveness," Hitt said. "Large firms are investing in mergers and short-term goals instead of investing in research

and development that will increase quality production in the long run."

Hitt said creative product innovations are the key to enterprise growth and profitability. Innovation helps firms produce existing products more efficiently.

Hitt is among researchers in A&M's College of Business Administration who are trying to suggest to the business community that investing in quality research and development will ensure competitiveness and balance the economy.

"If we don't start making changes now, not only will the Texas economy be affected, but ultimately so will our standard of living," he said. "Since the University benefits from the contributions of Aggies in the business world, the University and the community also suffer."

Hitt said that if large firms cannot come up with creative new ideas to spark competitiveness, they could consider investing in smaller firms. Big firms have more capital and are more effective at manufacturing and marketing than smaller firms but, because of their diverse structure, they stifle creativity.

He said the trend is not characteristic of all major corporations or small businesses but many are in danger.

"The big firms are going to have to become more entrepreneurial and work with smaller firms so the United States can become more competitive in world markets," Hitt said.

Judge: Civil rights trial could be settled soon

HEMPHILL (AP) — Testimony in the civil rights trial of three white lawmen, accused of beating a black prisoner to death in his jail cell, could be over by the weekend, a state judge presiding over the case said Wednesday.

District Judge O'Neal Bacon made the prediction after a jury was empaneled late Wednesday morning, culling a pool of 265 prospective jurors in the East Texas officers' hometown in less than two days.

"The jury panel was pulled from the jury wheel," Bacon said. "If it's not representative, it's just the luck of the draw."

He predicted that testimony in the controversial trial would be over "in two or three days, possibly by Friday," but did not elaborate.

Hemphill Police Chief Thomas Ladner, 40, and county deputies Bill Horton, 58, and James Hyden, 34, face state civil rights charges in connection with the death of Loyal Garner Jr. of Florien, La.

The officers, who have remained silent since the death, are expected to testify in the trial, which concerns the civil rights charges. A trial on the murder charges is scheduled later.

Best Bets

EASTGATE LIVE:
Thursday: J. P. Medlow and the Bad Boys. \$4 cover.

Friday: Van Wilks Band. 7-9 p.m. \$3, after 9 p.m. \$4 cover.

Saturday: Street Pizza. \$3 cover.

Tuesday: The Meditations. Reggae. \$4 cover.

Wednesday: Lippman Jam. Open stage. No cover.

BRAZOS LANDING:
Friday: Quizumba. Cover.

Saturday: About 9 Times. \$4 cover.

COW HOP EXPANSION:
Thursday: Neue-Regal. \$3 cover.

Friday: Texas Twisters. \$3 cover.

Saturday: Red Shift. \$3 cover.

KAY'S CABARET:
Thursday: D.A. McDowell and Texas Party. No cover.

Saturday: Don Overby. No cover.

TEXAS HALL OF FAME:
Thursday: Southern Rain. \$2 cover.

Friday: Johnny Lyons and the Country New Notes. \$4 cover.

Saturday: Leon Routs and the former Texas Playboys. \$4 cover.

CENTRAL PARK:
Friday: There will be a free showing of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" at 8:30 p.m.

AGGIE PLAYERS:
Summer Dinner Theater and the Aggie Players will present "The Foreigner" July 6-9 in 201 MSC. Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office.

PIONEER FARM:
Saturday: KLB radio in Austin is sponsoring a summer special at Pioneer Farm. Activities during open house will be butter churning, corn husk doll making and baking molasses cake. Call (512) 837-1215 for more information.

MOVIE OF THE WEEK:
"Who Framed Roger Rabbit"
Fans of animation and action will love this Touchstone Pictures release. A detective thriller and cartoon all rolled into one, this picture has gotten rave reviews all over the country. Now showing at the Manor East III.

Texas high court to review defamation case

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to review a defamation lawsuit filed by McAllen Mayor Othal Brand against a political opponent who called him an "ayatollah" and a "barbarian."

The case could set boundaries on what candidates can say about each other during a campaign.

"Electoral campaigns, by nature, are free and open debates," the Texas Civil Liberties Union said in a brief in support of Dr. Ramiro Casso, the defendant.

"They must be afforded the ultimate in constitutional protection."

Casso unsuccessfully challenged Brand for mayor in 1981. The \$2.5 million suit filed by Brand complains about several comments made by the challenger during that campaign.

State District Judge Raul Longoria of Edinburg granted a summary judgment in Casso's favor, ruling there was no need to conduct a full trial. The Corpus Christi Court of Appeals reversed that decision and sent the case back for trial.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set an Oct. 5 hearing on whether the trial should be held.

The Corpus Christi Court of Appeals, in its October 1987 decision, noted that if Brand had sued a "media defendant", he would have been required to show actual malice on the part of the defendant in printing libelous statements.

The appeals court said the U.S. Supreme Court has not determined whether public officials who sue non-media defendants have a similar burden of proof.

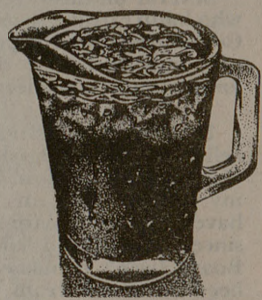
Northgate Daily Specials

501 University Dr.

Tuesday

Family Night

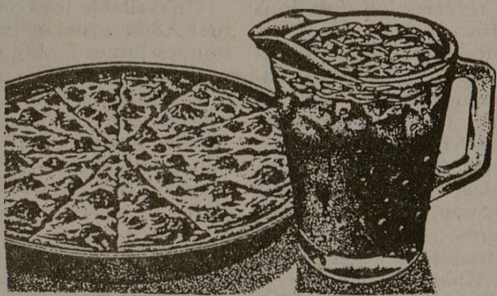
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Wednesday

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