

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department between Sept. 22 and Friday.

- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:**
 - Someone removed the locking mechanism from the stairwell door on the third floor of the Teague Building.
 - The hood ornament on a car in Parking Area 60 was damaged.
 - The seat on a student's bicycle parked in the Evans Library bike racks was cut.
 - Someone threw a shaving cream filled balloon at a student's vehicle while it was parked in the loading dock area of the Commons Building. Two other vehicles were hit.
- MISDEMEANOR THEFT:**
 - Twenty bicycles were stolen from various locations around campus.
 - A walkman was stolen from a student's backpack in the library.
 - While playing racquetball in DeWare Field House, a man observed two people steal his wallet from the ledge outside the racquetball court. The suspects were taken to Brazos County Jail.
 - A wallet was stolen from a woman's purse, which she had left unsecured under her desk in the Peterson Building.
 - Twelve Pampas grass plants were stolen from the New Utility Plant on Turk Road.
 - A rear tire and wheel were stolen from a bicycle outside the Commons.
 - A front tire was stolen from a bicycle parked in McFadden Hall bicycle racks.
 - An '87 Yamaha moped was stolen from Joe Routh Boulevard.
 - A wallet was stolen from a woman's locker in the Large Animal Clinic of the Veterinary Medical Complex.
- BURGLARY OF A HABITATION:**
 - Several pieces of jewelry were stolen from a student's room in Krueger Hall.
 - A Minolta camera was stolen from a room in Krueger Hall.

- BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE:**
 - Stereo equipment was stolen from a vehicle parked on the Railroad Track Parking area.
 - ASSAULT:**
 - A College Station man was assaulted by a Bryan man while in the Food Services Maintenance Shop at Sbis Hall. The Bryan man struck the other man in the face without warning after a disagreement over the use of shop tools.
 - PUBLIC INTOXICATION, DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND FAILURE TO IDENTIFY:**
 - When officers intervened in a fight at the MSC, a student continued to fight officers. The student was intoxicated and refused to give his correct name to officers. He was arrested, while the other student involved in the fight was able to get away in the crowd.
 - DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED:**
 - A Baylor University student was arrested after test results showed a .20 percent blood alcohol concentration.
 - FELONY:**
 - A student's car was stolen from Parking Area 17. He had lost his keys somewhere between the vehicle and Evans Library, and it is believed the thief may have used the keys to take the vehicle.
 - An '87 Honda Elite moped was stolen from Parking Area 61.
 - A sofa reported stolen from Harrington Tower has been recovered. Some graduate students said they had "borrowed" the sofa.
 - FALSE ALARM:**
 - Officers and Fire Department personnel responded to an activated fire alarm at the Heldenfels Building. Officers found that someone had pulled the manual alarm switch on the first floor of the building.
- The Crime Prevention Unit is available to anyone requesting information on combating crime. Call 845-8900.**

Low-income school celebrates decision to redistribute funds

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — In hot, dimly lit classrooms, students throughout the Edgewood Independent School District have learned what it means to struggle.

Most come from poor families in the predominantly Hispanic south-west section of this burgeoning city. At school they have had few specialized classes and fewer sports programs, all the while attending classes in buildings in need of extensive renovation.

But their dropout rate is low. Their superintendent is recognized by educators statewide. And pride pervades.

This is where the battle to topple the Texas public school finance system began and where students, educators, lawyers and legislators rejoiced Monday over the unanimous Texas Supreme Court ruling declaring the finance system unconstitutional.

The court gave the Texas Legislature until May 1 to come up with a solution.

"When we first began the lawsuit, nobody wanted to join with us. We were sort of the Lone Ranger," Edgewood Superintendent James Vasquez said Tuesday.

But that had never bothered this maverick district.

In 1968 Edgewood resident Demetrio Rodriguez led a group of parents and students in filing a lawsuit to gain financial equality between the rich and poor school districts of Texas.

That suit ended in 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a three-judge federal panel that had ordered the Texas Legislature to devise a constitutional funding system.

Rodriguez and others remained involved in the battle, and in 1984, with the help of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the district waged the recent legal war with the state in Edgewood vs. Kirby.

While the school district had its doubts, Vasquez said, it never considered abandoning the fight. That same determination has pushed the district during its 84-year history, he said.

"We've got to fight for everything we get. I think that spirit moves us forward," said Vasquez, who has been with Edgewood 30 years as a teacher, vice principal, principal, assistant superintendent and now superintendent.

The 15,500-student district is 95 percent Hispanic and covers a section of San Antonio with 87,000 residents, many of whom are poor or work at one of several nearby military bases, school board president Pete Gonzales said.

Part of the district's problem has been that its property base, used to determine taxation, is composed mostly of low-income housing or military institutions. Though the federal government pays the district about \$200,000 a year, the bases cannot be taxed.

The lack of money means Edgewood spends about \$3,600 per pupil per year. Other Texas school districts spend anywhere from \$2,100 to \$19,300 per pupil, depending on the district's tax base.

Compounding the problem, Gonzales contends, is the higher concentration in low-income districts of students with special needs, meaning more money must be spent on them and even less channeled toward so-called "mainstream" students.

Edgewood got its start in 1905, when Bexar County Judge Robert B. Green bought a tract of land for \$1. By 1915 a red-brick three-story school named Edgewood was built to consolidate students at two already constructed schools.

Freshmen will elect class officers Thursday

Elections for Class of '93 officers and freshmen senators will be Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Freshmen may vote by presenting their A&M student identification card at one of the polling sites at the MSC, the Blocker Building, the Academic Plaza (between the Sterling C. Evans Library and the Academic Building) and the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center. Only freshmen are allowed to vote.

Below is a listing of candidates, as they appear on the ballot:

- 10. Brian K. Pinto
 - 11. Ted Henley Jr.
 - 12. Jesse Humphries
 - 13. Lori Lyn Peterson
 - 14. Esther Cochran
 - 15. James Bushong
- Class of '93 Vice-President:**
- 01. Daniel Boman
 - 02. Greg Sawyer
 - 03. Jill DiCuffa
 - 04. Julie Chelkowski
 - 05. John Miles
 - 06. Daniel P. Lessard
 - 07. Malcolm McGee
 - 08. John Sweeney
 - 09. Tim Isgitt
 - 10. Brian Markwardt
- Class of '93 Secretary:**
- 1. Lance Ogletree
 - 2. Tracy Wall
 - 3. Sarah Stuard
 - 4. Tommy Selby
 - 5. Ricci Cox
- Class of '93 Social Secretary:**
- 1. Racheal Flynn
 - 2. Felicia Gonzalez
 - 3. Michelle Karr
 - 4. Mary Collins
 - 5. Blair Johnson
 - 6. Stacy Jameson
- Class of '93 Historian:**
- 1. Dean Blackenship
 - 2. Mark Cleveland
 - 3. Tracy Gammage
- Class of '93 Senators:**
- 01. Brad Hampton
 - 02. Michael Hoyle
 - 03. Mannaser Marshall
 - 04. Mark Sass
 - 05. Dominique Halaby
 - 06. Wess West
 - 07. Brad Hickerson
 - 08. Blair Johnson
 - 09. Mark Nelson
 - 10. Davelyn Eaves
 - 11. Cathy Brownlee
 - 12. Chris Williams
 - 13. Tessa Howell
 - 14. Craig Hallenberger
 - 15. Edward Munoz
 - 16. Brad Revering
 - 17. James Bushong
 - 18. Ernest Cunningham
 - 19. Alex Balido
 - 20. Brian Smith
 - 21. Gray Schroeder
 - 22. John Biebighauser
 - 23. John Ansbach
 - 24. Eric R. Wylie
 - 25. Mike Pinkus
 - 26. John Draeger
 - 27. Ronnie Syamken
 - 28. Ted Henley, Jr.
 - 29. Jeff Lyssy
 - 30. Bill Benker
 - 31. John Cover
 - 32. Nathan Brinkley
 - 33. Matt Lapple
 - 34. Angie Saylor
 - 35. Rachel Ham
 - 36. Chris P. Solis
 - 37. Chris Wise
 - 38. Juan Cruz
 - 39. John Happ
 - 40. Terry L. Clancy
 - 41. James Record
 - 42. Greg Walfiton
 - 43. Brian Kirk
 - 44. Court Bradley
 - 45. Jay Davis
 - 46. Holly Horton
 - 47. Sam Byrd
 - 48. Michael Mitchell
 - 49. Eric Johnson
 - 50. Steven P. McCully
 - 51. March Kimmel
 - 52. Daniel P. Lessard
 - 53. Brandon Bonar
 - 54. William Griffin
 - 55. Jim Anders

Secretary stresses airport security

HOUSTON (AP) — Department of Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner, speaking Tuesday to an international group of airport operators, called for enhanced security at the world's airports to protect passengers from terrorists.

"These are times that require an international level of cooperation that we have never seen here before in the area of aviation security," Skinner told those attending the Airport Operators Council International Conference. "It's important we have a unified effort."

But Skinner added he understood the problems concerning airport security.

"Unfortunately, when many of your facilities were designed, they were not designed with the enhanced security measures that we currently have implemented," he told the group.

Terrorism, he said, is as big a problem now as hijacking was for U.S. carriers several years ago. But Skinner added he was dedicated to taking steps to enhance airport security "because the American people demand it."

"We are committed, whether it be in the form of TNA (thermo-nuclear analysis devices), or any other technology wherever it's developed in the world that will enhance our ability to detect explosives — both at the gate and as the baggage goes into the cargo," he said.

"We are totally committed to security at the airports of the United States and the world," Skinner said. "We want to make sure that what we do is realistic, and that we take into consideration the needs and concerns of general aviation. But we have to tighten the facilities throughout the world and particularly in the United States."


Although terrorists haven't been a problem on domestic flights, Skinner said the nation isn't immune to possible attacks within its borders.

"I hope it never happens," he said after his speech Tuesday morning. "The best way to make sure it doesn't happen is to put measures in place that effectively deter it."

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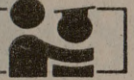
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