

Tuesday, April 17, 1990

NOW chapter reorganizes, works to change policies

By STACY E. ALLEN
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M chapter of the National Organization for Women has reorganized after a semester of inactivity, and plans to focus on programs to prevent sexual harassment and rape.

Stacy Carter, president of NOW and a senior psychology major, said she believes people misunderstand NOW and what the organization represents, and she wants to change any misconceptions students might have.

"I think some people perceive us as feminists and man-haters," Carter said. "None of us hate men and we're not mad at the

male population. We just work for equality for women in all areas."

Carter said the organization was founded on the A&M campus in 1985, but dissolved last semester because of low attendance at meetings.

Through reorganization and a membership drive this semester, NOW currently boasts a membership of 50 students, five of whom are men.

Carter said NOW focuses on one or two important women's issues per semester and is concentrating on sexual harassment and rape prevention this spring.

The organization is working to get a sexual harassment policy passed at A&M. Carter said they also are working to get full-

time professionals who are trained to deal with rape victims and a full-time gynecologist on staff at the A.P. Beutel Health Center.

Laura Rodriguez, a senior psychology major at A&M and vice-president of NOW, said she is hoping the organization can raise awareness among students about rape and how to prevent it through a monthly newsletter that will be distributed throughout the campus. The newsletter will cover various women's issues each month that are of interest to college students.

"If we can make people aware that rape does occur on campus, maybe women will take more precautions and not run on campus at night by themselves," Rodriguez

said. "We also hope to raise awareness for lighting on campus so it will be safer for the students to walk by themselves."

Rodriguez said that although she doesn't think discrimination against women is blatant at A&M, she does believe it exists and should be addressed.

One way it exists, she said, is through sexual harassment by professors in the classroom. The harassment usually is not physical, but can be mental, depending on the way the professor addresses the students.

Carter agrees that women are not entirely integrated on the A&M campus.

"Because A&M was an all-male school

and bases everything on tradition, it's hard to get women truly into the mainstream," she said. "It's starting to change though, and women are starting to break the tradition so we can be part of the tradition."

NOW will present a slide show April 25 about pornography and how it affects women and men's attitudes toward them. Admission to the slide show is \$1. There also will be a fall planning meeting on April 24.

"We want people to come to the meetings and express their ideas and hopefully we can do something about their beliefs," Carter said. "We're working toward important campus issues that most students would approve of and want implemented."

Police capture man wanted for bigamy

Bigamist's sister-in-law phones in tip after watching TV show

Associated Press

A former disc jockey wanted for bigamy in Virginia was arrested in Houston when the sister of his newest wife saw his case profiled on television and turned him in, authorities said Monday.

Frank Van Dyke Hobbs, 53, and Maria Salazar, 41, a nurse he married three weeks ago, were on their way back to Houston from the beach in Galveston Sunday when his sister-in-law was home watching "America's Most Wanted."

County, Va., and put him in the city jail.

Garcia said she didn't tell her sister about the bigamy charges until after the officer took Hobbs away. "I was afraid she might have defended him and he might have taken a run for it."

Wythe County Sheriff Wayne Pike said Hobbs was married to three women at the same time in Virginia and may have gotten married another five times in Tennessee and Texas, leaving an undetermined number of children behind.

He also was accused of stealing a car in Wythe County, Pike said.

met him. I never did like that guy. He was a big fat liar."

Susan Stump Hobbs of Roanoke, Va., who was eight months pregnant with their fourth child when Hobbs walked off seven years ago, was glad to hear of the arrest.

"This is great. I love it," said Susan Hobbs, a 34-year-old secretary who appeared on the taped Fox network show. Hobbs married Betsy Hamilton of Roanoke in 1974, Susan Stump in 1977 and Hazel Marie Warren of Wythe County in 1983, authorities said.

Susan Stump Hobbs said she and her four children have been forced to take food stamps and squeeze into a two-bedroom house with her parents since Hobbs left her in 1982. He owes her about \$40,000 in child support, she said.

She said Hobbs had a smooth voice and romantic flair on his radio shows. "He would read poetry on the air and dedicate it to women. It was disgusting."

The bigamy case against Hobbs might not seem serious to many people, Pike said, "but it is to the people he ruined, financially and emotionally."

Lena Garcia said the experience has been "horrible" for the family. She said her sister took the news hard at first and felt sorry for Hobbs, but had recovered enough Monday to go to work at the shelter where she distributes medicine and evaluates the health of the transient residents.

"Give her two or three weeks and that is going to turn to hate," Garcia said. "He was just taking her to the cleaners."

"He was staying at a shelter for the homeless where my sister works when she met him. I never did like that guy. He was a big fat liar."

— Lena Garcia,
bigamist's sister-in-law

Lena Garcia called the Fox network television station in Washington and said Hobbs was living in her home with her widowed sister under the alias "Hamilton Van Hobbs."

"I told the children to be quiet when I heard that name, Hobbs," Garcia said. "When they showed his picture on television, we were shocked, horrified."

Hobbs, sought since 1984, was in the kitchen eating a salad his new wife made him when Houston police officers arrived two hours later, arrested him on a fugitive warrant from Wythe

Hobbs, who worked in advertising and as a radio disc jockey in Virginia but was unemployed in Texas, has been caught several times since skipping out on his trial six years ago. But each time, he has managed to escape or convince a judge to let him out on bond.

Pike said Hobbs could be returned to Virginia within a week if he declines to fight extradition.

Garcia said she was not surprised that Hobbs had a checkered past. "He was staying at a shelter for the homeless where my sister works when she

Local police probe area for burglars of private schools

The Montessori School on Roundtree Drive in Bryan is the most recent victim of burglars who seem to target private schools for their crimes, according to a Crime Stoppers report.

The Montessori School was burglarized on Saturday, March 31.

Some time during the night, thieves entered the school by breaking and unlocking a window and climbing through.

Once inside, the suspects opened a door and stole a brown Kenmore compact refrigerator, a white Excursion cordless telephone and a wood-grain dual cassette answering machine.

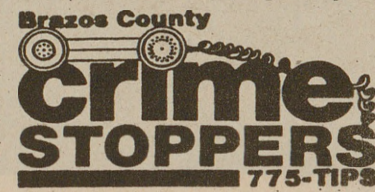
The school is near St. Michael's Academy, which also has been victimized recently. The similarities

between the burglaries lead detectives to believe that the same suspects are most likely in both offenses.

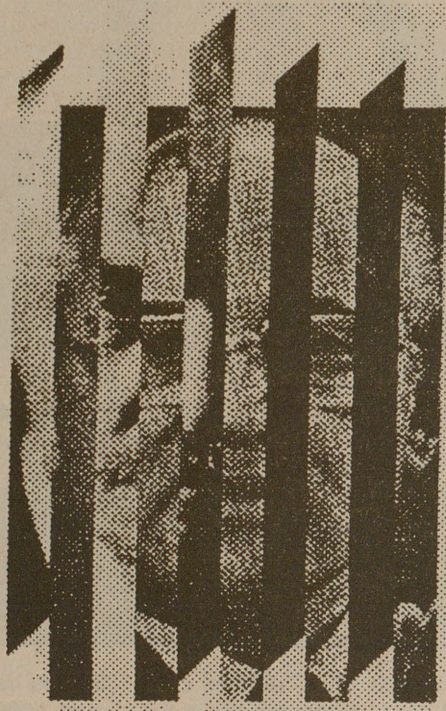
This week the College Station Police Department and Crime Stoppers need your help in identifying the person(s) responsible for this burglary.

If you have information that could be helpful, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS. When you call, Crime Stoppers will assign you a coded number to protect your identity.

If your call leads to an arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000 in cash. Crime Stoppers also pays cash for information on any felony crime or the location of a wanted fugitive.



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Thursday, April 26, 1990

7:00-10:00 p.m.

Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center

Registration
 MSC Flag Room
 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
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 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
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