

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department between Oct. 12 and Oct. 16.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF: • The driver's side window of a 1989 Pontiac was broken while parked in the Married Student Housing parking lot.

A 1991 Chrysler Imperial rental car in Parking Area 48 was dented and the hood ornament was missing.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION: • One person was arrested for public intoxication.

BURGLARY OF VEHICLE: • A student reported the K-Mart car battery in his car was stolen while parked in Parking Area 61.

WEAPONS PROHIBITED: • A .22-caliber firearm in a Ford truck was observed by parking, transit traffic personnel in Parking Area 71. The owner of the vehicle was contacted and warned about firearms on University property.

THEFT: • An unknown person entered an office in the Sbsa Underground and took a purse.

HARASSMENT: • A student reported an unknown man left several obscene messages on her telephone answering machine.

BURGLARY OF HABITATION: • A student reported someone entered his residence hall room and removed his headphones and 13 compact discs.

BURGLARY OF BUILDING: • A keyboard and "motherboard" were taken from a Macintosh computer in the Remot Computer Center.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT: • 1,200 ft. of copper insulated irrigation control wire was removed from South Bizzell Street.

A student reported someone took her wallet out of her backpack at Sterling C. Evans Library.

A security monitor for the Rudder Exhibit Hall reported that two subjects attempted to steal a weaving from the building.

He made contact with one of the suspects between Hart and Bizzell halls. A scuffle ensued and the subject released the weaving.

A license plate was removed from a vehicle parked in the Southside Parking Garage.

Act Now

The Crime Prevention Unit of Texas A&M's University Police Department wants campus community members to know that if they buy stolen cars, they could lose a lot of money.

The third and final part of this auto theft series will focus on buying and selling cars and reporting stolen cars.

When buying a used car, be cautious of the low-priced "bargain" car. If the price sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

When buying a used car, check for the following:

License plates — Do they match the car? Are they dirty, worn plates on a clean car? Are there new bolts or other indications of a license plate switch?

Keys — Are there duplicates? Do they fit the locks properly?

Locks — Are there signs of tampering or replacement?

Windows and vents — Check for signs of tamperings, such as chipped paint, scratches or glass replacement.

Vehicle Identification-Number — Check the VIN for possible alterations or replacement.

Don't let the seller fast talk you with a quick sale. Check the vehicle carefully. If there is any doubt, check with the vehicle registration department of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

When selling a vehicle, watch

for people posing as potential used car buyers who could be using that as a guise for stealing the vehicle. When selling a vehicle to a prospective buyer, take the following precautions:

Never let someone test drive your car alone.

Identify anyone that wants to test drive your vehicle. Ask to see their driver's license and take down their name, address, date of birth and license number.

When allowing someone to test drive your vehicle, advise someone that you are going with the prospective buyer.

If your car is stolen, report it to the police immediately. The longer you take to report the theft, the greater the odds of recovering the vehicle.

When reporting the theft to police, tell them:

year, make, model and color of the vehicle.

the license plate and vehicle identification number.

describe any dents, scratches or other accidental damage that makes your vehicle stand out from others.

The biggest impact on the crime of auto theft will not come from police, but must come from the citizens of the community.

Help us to help you by following the guidelines in these articles; it will reduce risks of your car being stolen.

Remember to remove the keys and lock your car!

Bob

Reese '63 for County Clerk

- BBA in '63 and MBA in '69 from TAMU
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Defender Continued from page 1

ple are very negative people."
Messiah said this misrepresentation not only forms prejudices in the community as a whole, it also influences how people see themselves.

"I think the media has indoctrinated us into believing there are a lot of problems between blacks and whites," she said. "It keeps reinforcing it until we eventually believe it — and then we act the part."

In addition to correcting the stereotypes portrayed in media by providing role models for the black community, she sees the Defender's mission as a catalyst to promote positive change in an increasingly diverse society.

"This is not a color issue," Messiah said. "This is about issues and perspectives. I'm not blind to the point where everything's got to be about black people because this is a global world. I wouldn't be talking about global out of one side of my mouth and talking about black out of the other side of my mouth."

Messiah also said the media need to change with the world instead of trying to preserve the status quo.

"The media have been reluctant to recognize minorities quickly as becoming the majority," she said, citing

Houston's 65 percent minority population.

Because of this diversity, people cannot assume what they read and see in the media is "the truth," she said — they provide only one perspective.

Messiah said the 60-year-old Defender, a weekly with a circulation of 27,000, strives to present the black perspective on issues.

"If someone tells you the news is objective, that's a bunch of poppycock," Messiah said. "The thing that you should be looking for in the news to be fair. And that's something we've lost the meaning of in the news."

She believes these problems are not a mere oversight by the more accepted media.

"There are not many differences (between blacks and whites), but media projects them to keep up the status quo."

Messiah said this "divide-and-conquer" strategy is creating a chasm between whites and minorities wider than that during the 1960s.

"That's the lie you're being told, that's the image you're being presented, and that's polarizing people," she said.

Poll Continued from page 1

"yes," 12 percent said "no" and 7 percent had no opinion.

Lewis said with all the offers and counteroffers made by each candidate, he sees no possibility of a debate in the future.

He said he believes a debate is not necessary.

"The truth of the matter is, this campaign started back in 1989 and if people don't know by now what Williams believes on the issues, then it's not exactly his fault."

Medvic said he thinks it is interesting 81 percent of A&M students want a debate, yet 54 percent say they favor Williams.

"If you look at the 81 percent that want a debate, that doesn't really jive," he said. "You'd think Williams would be somehow punished by the fact that 81 percent want a debate and he won't debate, but (people) still support him."

He said he thinks the inconsis-

tency is because many students plan to vote for Williams because of his alumni status.

The Batt Poll is a survey of A&M students intended to measure opinions about campus-related issues.

The poll, which will be conducted periodically, is taken from a random sample of students. A sample of 400 students was obtained from telephone interviews.

A random sample of 400 responders yields a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

The poll was conducted exclusively for The Battalion by Research Associates, a firm operated by A&M graduate students Alister Miller and Mitch Peck, both of the sociology department.

Cindy McMillian, editor of The Battalion and senior economics major, asks students to call the newsroom at 845-2647 if those participating in the poll encounter any problems.

Bees Continued from page 1

Africanized honey bees came last Wednesday, and the bees were destroyed.

"The folks who picked them up were suspicious of their behavior," Eischen says. "They thought there was something queer about them, so they forwarded a sample to have them analyzed."

Africanized honey bees are more aggressive than domesticated European bees common in Texas.

Africanized bees have been called "killer" bees because of an aggressive nature and high tendency to swarm objects threatening their colony.

However, a single sting from an Africanized bee is no more harmful or venomous than a common bee sting.

Eischen says the 3,000 bees caught in Texas were a pioneer swarm —

this does not indicate a mass of Africanized bees will enter the state any time soon.

"We're dealing with a pioneer swarm that is probably leading the front by quite a distance," he says.

Bees swarm in the spring and fall. The Africanized bees that entered Texas are a result of fall swarming, but heavier swarming occurs during spring.

With cooler temperatures approaching, not many colonies are expected to migrate into Texas this year. Heavy migration into the area is expected in the spring, Eischen says.

He says bees' migration into Texas is part of a natural dispersion taking place throughout South and Central America since the bees escaped from a 1957 breeding experi-

ment in Brazil.

The Africanized bees are a cross between African and European bees.

Eischen says climate is the main determinant in how far north the bees will spread. Traps will allow bees' movements to be monitored, but not stop their northward migration.

"It's a physical impossibility to stop the bees' spread," he says. "As the bees move farther north, they will be less successful."

He says when the bees spread into Texas, the chances for sting-related deaths will increase slightly. The main effects, however, will be on the honey and agriculture industries.

The agriculture industry depends on bee pollination. Eischen says public reaction to the threat of African-

ized bees could lead to laws discouraging beekeeping. This would hurt farmers by limiting pollination.

Eischen advises those coming in contact with a colony of bees to run away from the nest and protect their eyes with their hands.

"If you accidentally tangle up with an African bee society, run in the opposite direction of the nest and fewer and fewer bees will pursue you as you get farther away," he says.

The research scientist says most people in South Texas are not reacting negatively to the Africanized bees' debut in the area.

"Most of the valley is aware they are already overdue," he said. "Of course, there are some 'entomophobics,' who are upset about more stinging insects in their environment."

Steve Ogden
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