

Police track tractor thieves

Sometime during the night of Jan. 31, a lawn tractor stored at A&M Consolidated High School's Tiger stadium was stolen.

College Station police believe thieves cut the lock off the gate leading to the fenced compound under the southwest bleachers. They then entered the compound and rolled the tractor out through the gate.

Apparently, the thieves

started and drove the vehicle across school property to a point near Christine Lane, where they cut a hole in the fence and loaded the \$5,000 tractor into another vehicle.

Evidence shows that the thieves got stuck in the mud and had to use a second vehicle to get free.

College Station police believe the thieves were familiar with the school and might attempt to

sell or trade the tractor in the local area.

This week the College Station Police Department and Crime Stoppers need your help to identify the persons responsible for this theft.

If you have information that could be helpful, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS.

When you call you will be assigned a special coded number that will protect your identity.

Diversity of drilling program gives A&M worldwide attention

By Jayme Blaschke
The Battalion

While the oil industry suffered major setbacks in many parts of the world this year, the Texas A&M Ocean Drilling Program made great international advancements.

Dr. Philip Rabinowitz, director of A&M's Ocean Drilling Program, said more than 18 countries participate in the program, and the worldwide attention is a major boost to the University.

A&M operates the JOIDES Resolution, a drilling ship from which international scientists operate, Rabinowitz said.

From the Resolution, holes are drilled in the ocean floor and core samples are taken. When

the samples are examined and analyzed, millions-of-years worth of geological information is obtained.

Rabinowitz said the information provides clues about the formation of continents, changes in global climate and the evolution of life.

Karen Riedel, public information coordinator for the program, said A&M is responsible for coordinating all program operations, maintaining all the program's facilities and publishing the results of the research.

For their part, the member nations are divided into coalitions, each of which supply \$2.75 million for the operation of the program and scientists to work in the labs.

The newest member to join

the program has been the Soviet Union.

"With the Soviet's entering into the program we have become a truly worldwide effort," Rabinowitz said. "Their geologists' expertise and experience can add immeasurably to the quality of science produced by ODP."

Riedel said the program is one of the most prestigious in the world because of the diversity of cultures represented by the member nations' scientists and because of A&M's worldwide reputation.

"At every port of call people can see on the ship with the A&M logo, and the A&M flag," she said. "Everyone from longshoremen to government officials remember A&M."

The Battalion CLASSIFIED ADS

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Students decide fate of cable bill

Continued from page 1

benefit.

"The people who don't have televisions can still help pay for it because they'll be watching television in other people's rooms," she said.

RHA and the housing office emphasize the issue is up to residence hall students.

Jacobson says RHA does not back the proposal, but wants students' input.

"Right now it's (the referendum) simply a means of gaining feedback."

Tom Murray, assistant director of student affairs, said the future of the proposal depends on how favorable it is with students. He said no more work will be done on the proposal unless students are excited about it.

"Hopefully we'll get at least 80 percent (of students approving the proposal) before going on," Murray said.

Murray said the proposal will be dropped unless a large majority of students vote for it.

He said, however, some students might end up paying for

something they will not use because they don't have TVs or they just aren't interested in getting cable.

"We're anxious to find out how students feel," Murray said.

John White, assistant director of housing, agreed this is an issue for residence hall students to decide.

"Whatever the students want is what we'll provide," White said.

White said the proposal's advantage is its price. Students will not be charged the current \$25 installation fee, and cable service during the summer is free.

Randy Rogers, general manager of TCA Cable, said the company proposed a \$10 charge per month per semester. For the four months of each semester, total cable costs would be \$40 per dorm room, so each room resident would pay \$20.

Angie Saylor, co-chair on RHA's facilities and operations committee, said the \$20 charge is like the phone service in residence halls. She said residents get call forwarding, call waiting, and three-way calling in a gen-

eral phone charge included in housing rent.

"We're paying for that, but we don't realize we're paying for it," she said.

Saylor said that by hooking their stereos to cable, students could get extra FM radio stations which include A&M's student-run station, KANM.

If the proposal is given the go-ahead, TCA Cable would redesign and rebuild A&M's cable plant to allow for additional on-campus channel capacity. All cable lines would be designed to run through KAMU, allowing for one or more channels to be used only by campus residents.

Rogers said this feature would give campus organizations a chance to communicate with students about campus events.

If cable service goes into effect, TCA has reserved the right to make adjustments in the contract after two years. But Saylor says any changes will have to be voted on.

"I don't think students need to worry about the rates being raised to some outrageous prices," she says.

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