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Neglect

Continued from Page 1

bruises, police Sgt. Russell Mueller said, raising the possibility of abuse.

Three of the families had been investigated previously by the state's child-welfare agency, the Department of Children and Family Services, spokesman Scott Hamilton said. Investigators looked into drug problems, inadequate supervision of the children and, in one family's case, possible child abuse.

Mayor Richard M. Daley questioned why no one else reported conditions in the apartment.

"You wonder first of all about their parents," Daley said. "But how about their neighbors, how about family members? Where are they? ... Why didn't they come forward a week ago or two weeks ago?"

A child-abuse expert said poverty, ignorance, alcohol and illegal drugs all play some part in most such cases.

"There are chronic problems among people who grow up in violent, poor, disintegrating communities," said Anne H. Cohn Donnelly, executive director of the Chicago-based National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse.

"Young parents who grew up in these situations never really learned that there is an alternative way to behave."

As many as five families and their children lived in the first-floor apartment where the youngsters were found, neighbors said, and drug dealers were a common sight in the area.

Tubularman

By Boomer Cardinale



Bartholomew

by Kahl



Eisenhower

By Al



Regents

Continued from Page 1

The Battalion obtained several state vouchers from Ruffino Catering and bills to J.J.'s that have corresponding dates and amounts of purchase.

Owner J.J. Ruffino declined to comment about his catering business.

Bill Turner, Brazos County district attorney, said Monday the Texas Rangers are relinquishing information to his office concerning their investigation.

"It is my job to review that information and determine if criminal conduct has occurred," Turner said.

He said the Rangers had turned over a "great deal" of information to his office.

"I've discussed the investigation with the Rangers on several occasions," Turner said.

"They've talked to a lot of people and obtained a lot of records so far, and will do a lot more before it's over."

Turner said the task before him now is to weed out what might be considered administrative misconduct in order to determine if criminal conduct has occurred.

He said he met with Chancellor Bill Mobley last week at Mobley's request to discuss the general nature of the investigation.

"It was about nothing specific," he said. "No names or specific people were discussed."

In September, the Rangers began investigating allegations raised in an anonymous letter that accused Ross Margraves, chairman of the Board of Regents, of personally benefiting from a contract signed with Barnes and Noble Bookstores, the owners of A&M's bookstore.

Margraves admitted to taking a 1990 trip to New York along with Robert Smith, vice president of finance and administration, to discuss the contract.

Barnes and Noble paid for Smith and Margraves's expenses which, under current law, would be considered illegal.

However, at the time, the trip was legal under Texas law. Mar-

graves has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

In addition, Gov. Ann Richards forwarded a letter in December to the Texas Rangers that was written by Margaret Freeman, president of the A&M Mothers Club Federation.

In the letter, Freeman called for an outside investigation into allegations of wrongdoing concerning the Barnes and Noble Bookstores and the reassignment of the Department of Food Service top three officials, which allegedly a result of their opposition to Smith's plans to open an underground food court.

Also, Bobbie Hardy, A&M Mother's Club president, sent a letter to Gov. Richards Dec. 21 calling for Smith and Margraves to "temporarily shut down" until the investigation is complete.

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