

T E X A S A & M U N I V E R S I T Y

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Search committee to conduct interviews

A&M hosts diversity institute

Six candidates will be informally interviewed this month for the position of vice president for finance and administration.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

A search advisory committee selected several candidates for off-site interviews this month to fill the position of vice president for finance and administration at Texas A&M.

The 11-member committee plans to make final candidate recommendations to Dr. Ray Bowen, Texas A&M president, within a couple of weeks after concluding the off-campus, informal interviews.

Dr. Charles Lee, chairman of the search committee, said that although six applicants have been selected for off-site interviews, the committee will continue to accept applications.

"This process is still open," Lee said. "We don't want to turn any good candidates away."

Lee said it is likely that more applications come in, there are more applications come in, there

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□ The Diversity Education Institute will promote diversity education in universities and colleges throughout the United States.

By Michael Simmons
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's inaugural Diversity Education Institute will teach the theory and principles of diversity education to representatives of colleges and universities from across the nation.

The Department of Multicultural Services is sponsoring the

institute, which will be held from July 8-12.

Kevin Carreathers, director of the Department of Multicultural Services, said there is a growing need in the United States for diversity education.

"Diversity education means valuing differences in order to create a more complete campus community," he said.

Sheri Schmidt, student development specialist and A&M coordinator of diversity education, said this is the first time an institute like this, aimed solely at institutions of higher education, has been attempted in the United States.

Carreathers said the institute was developed in response to a growing need for diversity

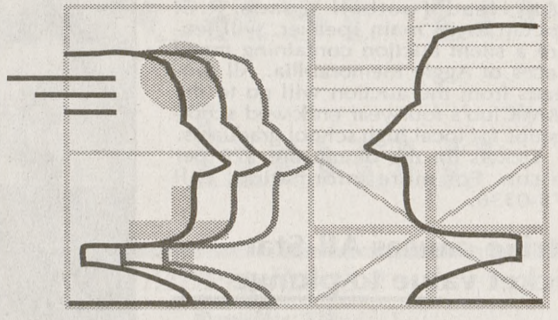
education as it relates to higher education.

"The idea behind the institute is to train the trainers," Carreathers said. "The institute will enable representatives to return to their respective schools and give a workshop or seminar on diversity education."

The representatives will be from 28 colleges and universities, ranging from small private schools to Indiana State University and the University of Southern California.

Schmidt said he participants will gain insight into diversity education through A&M's institute faculty, as well as through

group discussions. "The institute will enable the participants to understand the tenants of diversity education," Schmidt said. "They will be able to tell the difference between stereotypes and prejudice for example."



Auto thefts continue to decline

□ According to UPD, improved monitoring of parking areas and increased awareness have contributed to the decrease in car thefts.

By Michael Simmons
THE BATTALION

A decrease in automobile thefts on the Texas A&M campus is the result of increased awareness of crime prevention techniques, according to University police.

Over the past two years, the number of automobile thefts has dropped from four during the first five months of 1994 to none during the first five months of 1995.

Sgt. Betty Lemay, a crime prevention specialist with the University Police Department, said motorists can help prevent automobile thefts by using common-sense techniques for crime prevention.

"It is important for students to be aware that car theft does occur at Texas A&M," Lemay said.

Lemay attributes the decline to better awareness and the ability to monitor parking areas.

"Thefts on campus have declined because the police department can

concentrate on the parking areas around campus," she said.

It is impossible to stop a criminal who has a strong desire for a car or valuable items in a car, she said.

"The best way to combat this type of crime is to equip your car with any number of anti-theft devices on the market today," Lemay

said. "A visual deterrent, such as The Club, is not foolproof, but it may make the criminal look for an easier target."

Lt. Scott McCollum of the College Station Police Department said automobile thefts are difficult to prevent because they are sporadic crimes.

Automobile thefts in College Station decreased from 45 during the first five months of 1994 to 22 during the first five months of 1995.

Car thefts often are committed by either local offenders who have found a market for the stolen cars, McCollum said, or by an automobile theft ring operating out of one of the large surrounding cities.

Lynda Rieger, a crime analyst and statistician for the Bryan Police Department, said the number of car thefts in Bryan has declined from 106 for the first five months of 1994 to 76 for the first five months of 1995.

Although the number of automobile thefts has declined, there has been a rash of car burglaries, Rieger said.

"Most of the burglaries occur because people leave car phones, radar detectors or expensive stereo systems in their cars," she said.

Car thefts and burglaries tend to occur in apartment complex parking lots, nightclub parking lots or in poorly lit areas.

CAR THEFT AND BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS

- Always lock your car, even if you do not plan on being gone long.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Roll up windows completely when leaving your car.
- Do not leave valuables visible in your car or in the glove box; lock them in the trunk of your car.
- Park under street lights when you know you will return to your car after dark.
- Do not put anything on your key chain that would link the keys to your car or address.
- Keep doors locked while driving.
- Remove the distributor cap from your car when you are going on vacation or on a long trip.
- Alarm systems, kill switches and visual deterrents prevent theft and lower insurance in some cases.



TACKLING TRAFFIC TROUBLES

Task Force studies special event traffic

□ The traffic control methods used at Tuesday's July 4 celebration at Olsen Field will be applied this fall during football game weekends.

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

Information gathered during Tuesday's July 4 celebration at Olsen Field will help the Traffic Management Task Force alleviate traffic problems that often accompany special events like football games.

College Station police officers observed how altered traffic routes would affect traffic congestion.

Denise Fischer, Texas Department of Transportation public information officer, said the police noticed several parking lots along

Texas Avenue and George Bush Drive were filled making it difficult for cars to leave the lots. Curb areas around FM 2818 were filled with cars that people had pulled over to watch the fireworks.

Fischer said these problems indicate that traffic problems are not confined to the immediate areas of a local event.

"This tells us that it's a bigger issue because it just doesn't affect the local areas of traffic," she said.

The data now will be analyzed by the task force to determine what needs to be corrected to improve traffic.

Fischer said that while there were problems, the plan could be called a success.

"This was a success in terms of the raw data that we obtained," Fischer said. "We didn't expect this to be a cure-all. We have places to improve on in these situations."

The task force, a cooperative effort between several College Station and University agencies and

the Texas Department of Transportation, altered traffic routes along George Bush Drive, Olsen Road and Agronomy Road.

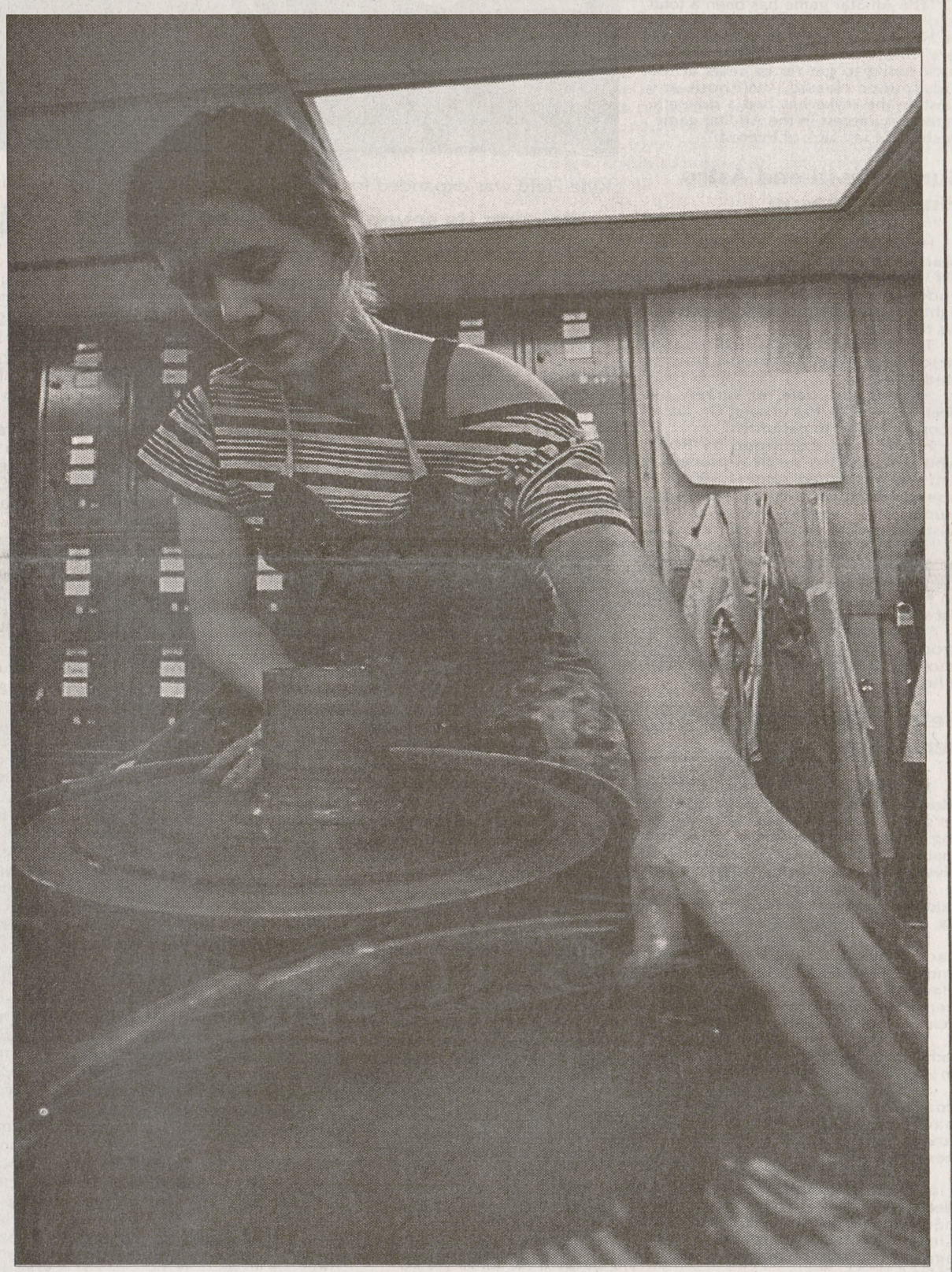
Police officers were posted at several stops along the three roads to keep traffic moving steadily. The section of Olsen Road between Olsen Field and George Bush Drive was confined to one-way traffic.

Tim Lomax, task force member and research engineer at the Texas Transportation Institute, said the task force knew it could not solve all traffic problems, but wanted to tinker with the traffic patterns to let drivers bypass the congestion.

"We understand that this is not going to eliminate the congestion," Lomax said. "But this will provide an opportunity to miss a lot of it."

Task force leaders unveiled the plan during a press conference Friday.

They said the findings could be used to ease traffic congestion during special events like A&M home football games.



Nick Rodnicki, THE BATTALION

PERFECT POTTERY

Corliss Early, junior chemical engineering student from Houston, creates pottery in the University Plus Center in the MSC Wednesday afternoon.

A&M faculty members honored for historical preservation

□ The Knobels and Van Rippers helped develop and restore historical sites in Bryan.

By Katherine Arnold
THE BATTALION

Three A&M faculty members will be honored this month by the city of Bryan for their dedication to the historical preservation of the area.

The Annual Mayor's Award for Historic Preservation will be given to Dr. Paul Van Riper, professor emeritus of political science, and his wife Dorothy Van Riper, senior English lecturer; and Dr. Dale Knobel, executive director of the Honors Program, and his wife, Tina Knobel.

Judy Pruitt, from the city of Bryan offices, said this is the fifth year the honor has been awarded and the first time it

has been awarded to two families.

"This is a recognition of their great accomplishments for the city," Pruitt said. "There is a rich history in the Brazos Valley, and a lot of people are concerned about preserving it."

Paul Van Riper is one of the founders of the Bryan Heritage Society, which began in 1975. He is also a member of the Brazos County Historical Commission.

Paul Van Riper said he and his wife have restored three old houses in the area.

"We have a policy on restoring," he said. "We like to leave houses as they once were, keeping them as close as possible to the original structure and design."

The first house they restored was the Wilson House in Bryan.

The second was a house that was once located on campus, primarily used as living quarters for administrators. The house was moved off campus in the 1940s, and is the oldest house in

College Station.

They currently reside in the Cavitt House, which was built in 1880 and is the oldest house in the county. The Cavitt House was the first house in the county to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dorothy Van Riper said she is interested in restoration because she hates to see anything wasted.

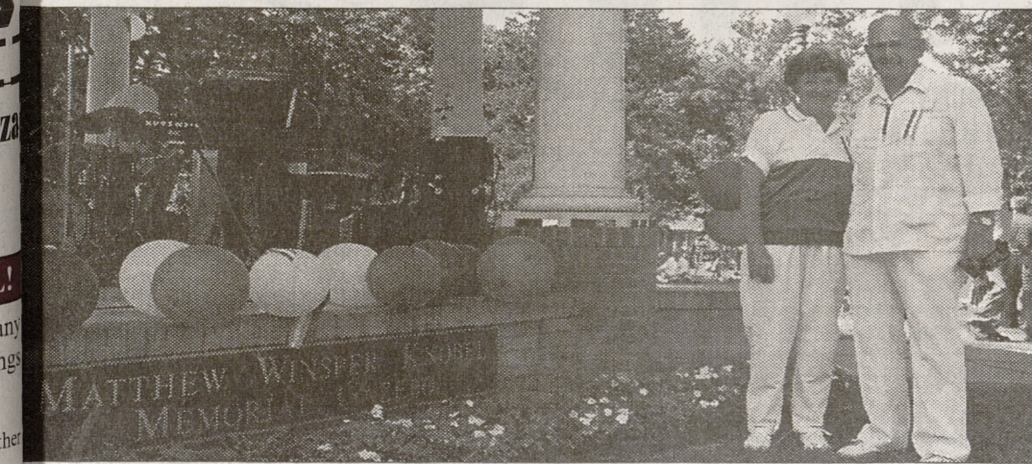
"People were shutting up these old houses and just letting them go," she said. "They are old and beautiful and deserve to stay that way."

Dorothy Van Riper said they do not restore homes for the recognition or attention.

"I think it's nice to be honored, but I don't think in terms of awards when we are involved with the community," she said.

The Knobels have been active in the

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Nick Rodnicki, THE BATTALION

Heritage Club lifetime members Dr. and Mrs. Van Riper stand next to the gazebo built in memory of Dr. Knobel's son at Heritage Park Tuesday morning during the July 4 celebration.

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