

# AGGIE life

THURSDAY  
June 13, 1996

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## Be smart, be safe

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**"Be alert. Trust your instincts."**

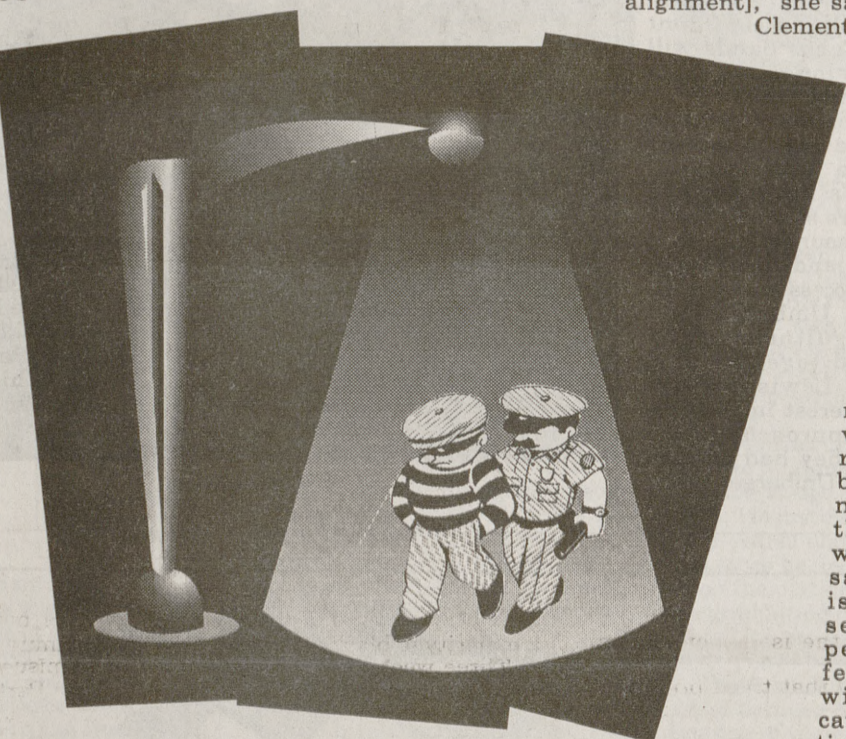
Among the most serious offenses are rape and assault. Kretzschmar said although these crimes are rare at A&M, anything is possible. "You still have to take into consideration that A&M is an open campus," Kretzschmar said. "Anyone can come on or leave."

Reported sexual offenses have, in fact, decreased. In 1994, 11 offenses were reported, whereas only four were reported in 1995.

Kretzschmar said the best thing students can do to prevent rape and assault is be careful and aware of their surroundings.

"When there's nothing to report, people get relaxed," Kretzschmar said. "Don't be lulled into a false sense of security. Be alert. Trust your instincts."

Valerie Evanoff, a junior business analysis major, said she does not usually walk around campus alone at night. "If I were by myself at night, I might be a little intimidated," Evanoff said. "But I am usually with other people."



Robie said she feels safe on the campus, but there are some instances of questionable security. "The other night while I was rollerblading by myself, I noticed that the lighting was bad," she said. "When it is darker, it seems some people might feel like they will not get caught [committing a crime]."

**"LIGHT line + blue phones = safety"**

Kretzschmar said when he first arrived at A&M 12 years ago there were no standards for lighting on campus. Now, however, there is the Security Awareness Committee (SAC) who oversees the quality of campus lighting. "SAC meets once a month and has been able to accomplish getting lighting standards," Kretzschmar said. "They're switching to a better type

**"Safety by ID"**

The residence halls on campus are considered safe as far as lighting and phone accessibility. George Tompkins, a junior chemical engineer-

ing major and summer resident advisor in Dorm 12, said he believes the residence halls are a safe place to live.

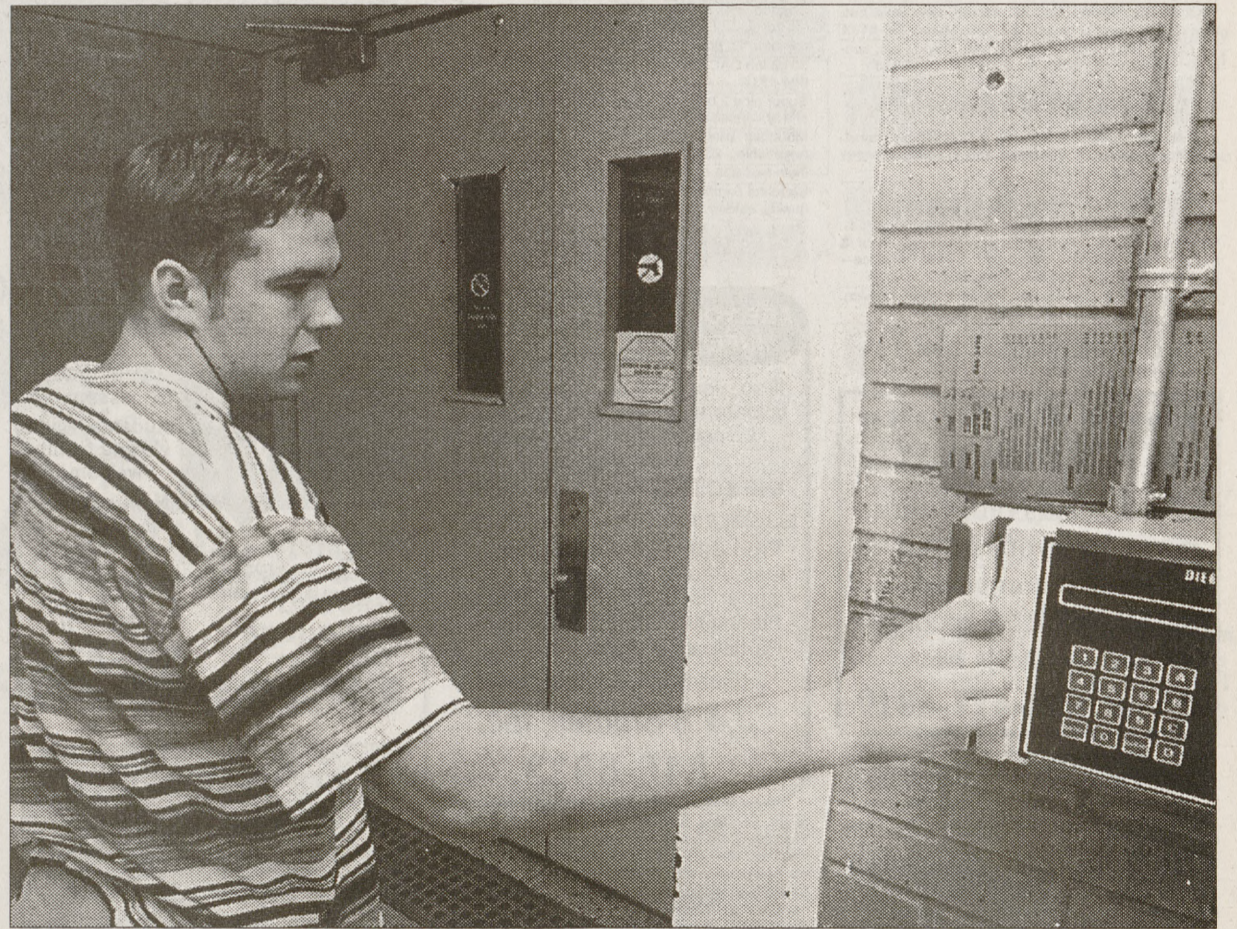
"The UPD and security guards do a good job of constantly patrolling and staying aware of what is going on around the dorms," he said.

To ensure campus security, only residents are provided with room keys and access cards, exterior doors are locked 24 hours a day, fire drills are conducted each semester and police make monthly reports on lock problems and unsecured outside doors.

This summer session, all on campus residents live on Southside.

Amanda Robie, a junior elementary education major, said having many people living in the dormitories on the quad, makes her more secure.

"You can see people moving around all the time because the quad dorms are more circular [in alignment]," she said. "I lived in Clements on Northside last year which has only one dorm next to it."



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Patrick McCarren, a freshman engineering major, uses his student identification card to enter Dunn Hall. The ID system began in 1994.

of lighting filament — high pressure sodium vapor — which produces a much better quality light. A&M has now adopted this filament as part of the lighting standard.

These cone-shaped lights have already been put up around the parking garages and UPD has recently added 20 more blue-light emergency phones, bringing the total of campus blue-light phones to 41.

Kretzschmar said SAC has also set up a "LIGHT line," where a student can call to report any lights that are out.

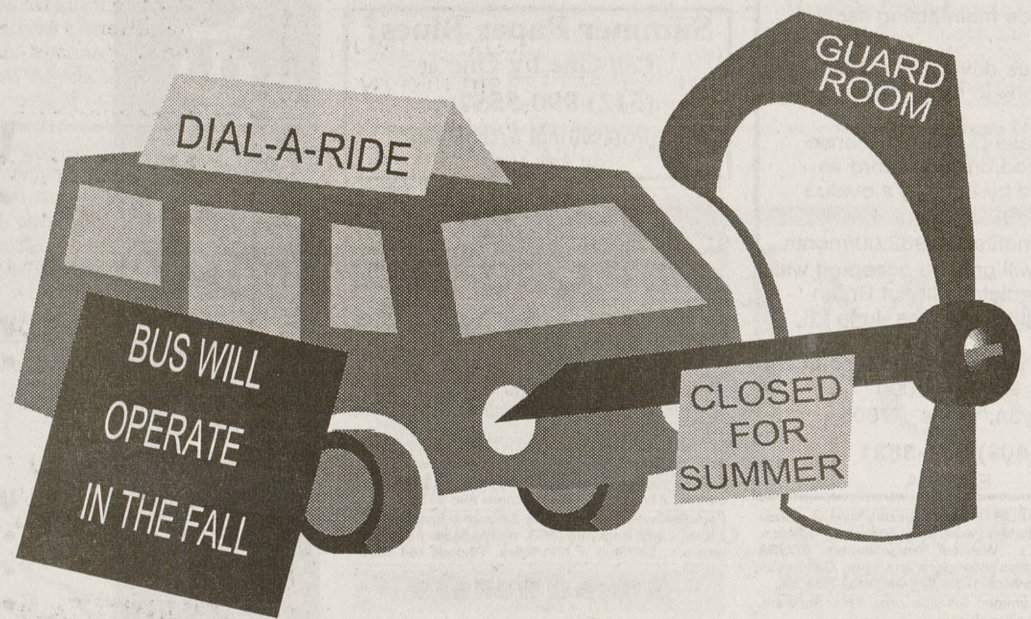
"It streamlines the reporting process," he said. "A work order is taken to the physical plant or proper maintenance area."

ing to high visibility as well as awareness of people's concerns.

**"The biggest responsibility lies on the individual."**

In the UPD "Commitment To Your Safety" operation, several methods of student protection have been made available.

There is Crime Line, where students can hear recorded crime prevention tips and details of yet-to-be-solved offenses. There is also a Victim's Assistance Program where crime victims can be provided with information and compensation. Crime



**"Safety in numbers"**

One significant loss in campus security this summer is the absence of the Corps of Cadets' nighttime escort service.

The service is available in the fall and spring semesters for any student who needs someone to escort him or her to someplace on campus.

Jennifer Jones, a senior animal science major, said she used the escort service once because the campus is not as safe at night.

"I think it is important to have at night, especially on West Campus, where a lot of students have to park their cars," Jones said. "It is good to have for people who live on campus and want to get their cars at night."

Kretzschmar said there are other options in the summertime when the Corps escort service and Dial-A-Ride are not available.

"We have police and security officers walking around willing to escort a female to her car," he said. Currently, the UPD has 58 security officers who walk the campus area in the evenings and throughout the night, in addition to the 44-state commissioned peace officers.

UPD has also employed a "Park, Walk, and Talk" program. If an officer is not busy with a call, the officer will walk around and talk with students and faculty on an informal basis, lead-

Stoppers is an anonymous information line where students can provide information about unsolved crimes.

Kretzschmar said he and Sgt. Betty LeMay periodically offer crime prevention classes to those interested. The classes include such topics as personal safety, workplace crime prevention, alcohol and the law and robbery prevention.

Crime, in general, has not significantly decreased over the past four years at A&M. Reported assaults totaled 48 last year compared to 32 in 1992.

George Bernard Shaw, playwright and literary critic, once said, "If history repeats itself, and the unexpected always happens, how incapable must Man be of learning from experience."

Kretzschmar said the new emergency phones and lighting are there to help prevent the past records of campus crime from recurring, but a reduction in campus crime requires more.

"The biggest responsibility lies on the individual," he said.

Evanoff said she fortunately has not needed to use the campus' emergency facilities.

"I have never used the Corps guard room before, and I have never had to use the blue phones," she said. "But it is good to know that they are there. And you hope that they are working."

"I do not ever really feel unsafe here but there is no reason to put yourself at risk unnecessarily," she said.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

A blue security phone on West Campus is available for students to easily dial '911' in case an emergency arises. The 20 new phones on campus brings the total to 41.

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aid. "But I am  
usually with  
other people."  
Kretz  
schmar said  
although A&M is relative  
ly safe, things do happen.  
"The primary focus has to be on the individual,"  
he said. "If you're working late, tell your roommate  
where you are and when you'll be home. Don't  
walk with blinders on."  
"Safety by ID"  
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