

Investigation probes stolen campaign signs

By Robert Smith
City editor

Student Election Commission (SEC) led a special meeting late last night of determining who is responsible for stolen campaign signs that were returned to the SEC Saturday.

ment on any details of the investigation until today.

Alice Gonzales, speaker of the senate and a junior agricultural development major, said the "sandwich-board" signs, which are four-foot wooden signs, belonged to 11 students running for junior and senior yell leaders, all of whom are not in the Corps of Cadets.

Only five of the 18 students running for the leader positions are in the Corps of Cadets.

Three seniors and two juniors will be elected as yell leaders by the student body Wednesday and Thursday.

"Someone called me at 12 (noon) on Saturday... and I was told that the signs had been recovered," Gonzales said. "Some of the signs were found on the side of the road on 2818."

She said the signs are now sitting in her back yard and they will be returned to the candidates.

The signs were stolen from all four of the locations where signs are allowed by the election commission — West Campus, Sbis Dining Hall, the Commons and the MSC.

Gonzales estimated the signs were stolen between 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. Saturday morning.

Murray Van Eman, the student elections commissioner, said in a telephone interview before the meeting he did not know who stole the signs or what motives the perpetrators may have had.

"I'm going to talk to the yell leader candidates in the Corps first before I talk to anyone else," he said. "They are the first ones we will be looking at. We want to find out if they know anything about it."

Van Eman, a senior animal science major, said he was attending a conference in Midland when he found out the signs were stolen. Van Eman said he would not release the

names of the individuals who returned the signs until after last night's meeting.

"If we disclose incomplete information, it makes it easier for rumors to be spread," he said. "But if we wait until after we make a complete investigation, it will be much harder for people to make general assumptions."

"We're not trying to cover it up, we're just trying to get to the bottom of this. I took an early flight so we could have this meeting tonight," he said.

Student election campaign signs have been on campus for a week.

Making up the sun



Christina Hugaard, a junior business analysis major, participates in the Phi Beta Lambda Pledge Car Wash on Sunday afternoon.

Pledge cries foul

UT fraternity faces hazing allegation, pledge says he will not press charges, but will file civil suit

AUSTIN (U-Wire) — University of Texas officials are investigating hazing allegations against the Kappa Alpha fraternity after a UT freshman alleged he was spat upon, urinated on and thrown against a wall by members of the group.

Tim Hesselsweet, a freshman, said he suffered bruises and a concussion after fraternity members grabbed him by the shoulders and threw him against a wall during a pledge meeting Feb. 15.

According to Hesselsweet and his attorney, Bill Whitehurst, Hesselsweet was hospitalized for at least three days in Brackenridge Hospital following the incident.

Hesselsweet said the alleged hazing occurred at the UT Kappa Alpha house and that about six students were present, most of them fellow pledge brothers.

"He was taken into the basement of the fraternity house and beat upon and spat on and urinated on and pushed up against a wall with such force that it cracked his skull," Whitehurst said.

Whitehurst said no criminal charges will be filed against members of the group, but said he will file civil complaints against fraternity members.

Sherri Sanders, associate dean of students, said the university is beginning to investigate the matter and could not comment further, but she added that the university will investigate both the individuals involved in the incident and the group as a whole. UT officials were informed March 16



about the situation by a letter from the national office of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity, she said.

"The real tragedy is that we've had so many things like this at the University of Texas and the fraternities don't get the message," Whitehurst, an Austin attorney with the firm of Whitehurst, Harkness, Ozmun and Archuleta, added, "This could have been a death, very easily."

He added that doctors have advised Hesselsweet to drop all but one of his classes and not to drive due to his injuries.

Jim Ewbank, an Austin attorney representing the fraternity, refused to talk about the matter Thursday.

For other members of Austin's Greek community, news of the Kappa Alpha investigation was disheartening.

NEWS BRIEFS

Conference discuss alcohol

National teleconference, "Solution for Reducing High-Risk Alcohol in the College Community," is held today in room 292 of the Student Center from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to discuss alcohol abuse on campus.

An open forum for discussion will follow until 4 p.m. The national teleconference is sponsored by the University of Vermont. Participants include experts in alcohol abuse research and alcohol prevention programs.

Austin Sayre, Alcohol Abuse Task Force chair and associate director of department of student life, said alcohol can keep students from being successful.

Dennis Reardon, senior coordinator for alcohol and drug education programs at Texas A&M, said the purpose of the teleconference is to gather information both locally and nationally. "We're trying to get a collaboration of information from those in the field, students and staff from all over the state as well as locally," he said.

Provo reiterates election policies

Campaigning for student body elections has begun. A memorandum from Vice President for Student Affairs Malon Southerland reminds the community that any type of campaigning in classrooms is prohibited, includes T-shirts, buttons, stick-flags, backpack tags, marking chalkboards or speaking to the class about the elections. The first day of campaigning ends Tuesday midnight. Students will vote Wednesday and Thursday, and results will be announced Thursday night. If runoff elections are needed, runoff campaigning begins after results are announced through April 7, when it ends at midnight. Students will vote in April 8 and 9, and runoff results will be announced the night of April 9.

Republic of Texas couple have day in court

EL PASO (AP) — Outlandish objections and repeated ejections are not expected to be a part of the next trial for Republic of Texas members who engaged police in a weeklong armed standoff.

Attorneys anticipate a normal day in court Monday when jury selection begins in the case of Gregg and Karen Paulson, not a repeat of the bizarre spectacle that was separatist leader Richard McLaren's trial last fall.

Defense lawyers say the Paulsons still cling to the Republic's beliefs that Texas is an independent nation. But they are prepared to mount a defense even if they do not acknowledge the authority of the state district court where they will be tried in Fort Stockton.

"Up to now, they have still let the lawyers handle the show. They're putting in a lot of in-

put but so far it's been as the judge, and I think everyone else, had hoped," said Ben Buecker, Karen Paulson's attorney.

The husband and wife each are charged with one count of burglary with intent to commit a felony for their role in storming a neighbor's home in the isolated Davis Mountains Resort, 175 miles southeast of El Paso.

The April 27 abduction of Joe and M.A. Rowe touched off a standoff between Republic members and scores of state troopers that only ended after McLaren and most of his group agreed to lay down their weapons a week later.

McLaren and his chief aide, Robert "White Eagle" Otto, were convicted Oct. 31 on organized crime charges stemming from the siege.

The Paulsons and another group member, Richard Keyes III, who also was involved in the

hostage situation, originally faced the same

"Up till now, they have still let the lawyers handle the show."

Ben Buecker
Attorney for Karen Paulson

charge but were re-indicted on the burglary count earlier this year.



The lead singer of Sixteen Deluxe, performs outside of Fitzwilly's Friday evening as part of the North by Northwest music festival.

Despite law, castration still not allowed on inmate

DALLAS (AP) — Months after a Texas law permitting voluntary castration of repeat sex offenders took effect, state prison officials have not approved or scheduled anyone's operation.

The child molester who inspired the law — and the one who has requested the surgery — is eligible for parole this year.

Larry Don McQuay, who made headlines by begging the state to castrate him so his sex drive would be reduced, says he has molested more than 200 children.

He says he applied for the surgery in hopes of controlling his pedophilic impulses, but is eligible for parole in November.

Although state officials have called parole for McQuay extremely unlikely, he wrote *The Dallas Morning News* that "I will be walking the streets of your city, your community, your neighborhoods."

"And without a doubt, there will be children around," he wrote. "You tell me what is likely to happen if I am not castrated before I am released."

A law permitting voluntary castration of repeat sex offenders was

approved by the Texas Legislature in 1997 and took effect in May.

But Glen Castlebury, spokesperson for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said no castrations are scheduled because officials are still working out the details of implementing the new law.

Castlebury said the corrections department has drafted a contract with the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston to perform surgical castrations.

The medical branch is one of two university hospitals — Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center is the other — that provide prison health care.

Until that contract is finalized, the Board of Criminal Justice that governs the prison system is not going to consider any rules or procedures for carrying out the castration law, said Castlebury.

"The contract is the only paperwork in progress," he said. "Until that's done, we'll have no process in place to accommodate Mr. McQuay. He can file his request. Any offender can. But it's meaningless. He might as well file his laundry list."

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