

74
35

TODAY

84
45

TOMORROW

Witness observes sign dumping, UPD says

By ROBERT SMITH
City editor

University Police Department (UPD) officials said Monday they received a report that two "college-aged" men are responsible for stealing about 15 student election campaign signs early Saturday morning on campus.

Job Wiatt, director of UPD, said Mark Anz, a freshman industrial distribution major, filed a report Saturday saying he saw two white males driving a truck make two trips to drop off the signs at the Parsons Mounted Cavalry Barns on FM 2818.

Wiatt said Dennis described the truck as a black and brown older model half-ton Chevrolet truck.

In the report, Dennis said the men unloaded several signs at the Parsons' hay barn at about 5:15 a.m. Saturday and returned about 20 minutes later and unloaded more signs.

Dennis said in the report he was at the barn to feed the horses.

Wiatt said if the perpetrators are found, they may be charged with a Class B misdemeanor and subject to a \$2,000 fine and/or six months in jail.

The "sandwich-board" signs, which are

four foot wooden signs, belong to students who are running for yell leader positions. The signs have since been returned to the candidates.

One student body president candidate filed a separate report that said his signs were stolen Saturday morning, Wiatt said.

The candidate's 8-by-2-foot white plastic signs remain missing, Wiatt said.

In a related story, the Student Elections Commission (SEC) met with yell leader and student body president candidates late last night to address the stolen-sign issue.

Murray Van Eman, the student elections commissioner, released a report early Monday morning saying, "After conducting a thorough investigation, I find there is no evidence to support that any campus organization or candidate had any involvement, organized or individually, in this incident, including the Parsons Mounted Cavalry."

All of the yell leader candidates who had campaign signs stolen Saturday were students not in the Corps of Cadets. Only five of the 18 yell leader candidates are students in the Corps of Cadets.

Corps Commander Danny Feather, a senior economics major, said evidence from the police report shows that no Corps of Cadets students were involved in stealing

the signs.

"When you take a look at the facts, it is obvious that no one in the Corps would do this," he said. "You would have to be pretty dumb to drop the signs off at the (Parsons) barn and then call and report that you found them there."

Feather said he is disappointed that the signs were stolen.

"The one shining ray of light is the class exhibited by the yell leader candidates, both Corps and non-Corps," he said.

Feather said some of the candidates whose signs were not stolen agreed to remove their signs to help maintain a fair election.

NXNG wins praise

Festival's success sparks talk of annual event

By AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

The initial success of North by Northgate Music Festival this past weekend has led to talk of making the musical festival an annual event.

Nathan McFall, the event coordinator for a senior environmental science major, said the large numbers of people in the Northgate area did not cause any problems.

"I couldn't have asked for a better weekend," McFall said. "Everybody came out and had a good time. The staff of the festival did an incredible job. Based on the preliminary figures, I would say there is no doubt we will continue."

McFall developed the idea for the North by Northgate festival a year after attending South by Southwest in Austin.

McFall said he approached Northgate business owners with the idea and they responded positively.

"Everybody was real excited about what North by Northgate could bring,"

McFall said.

North by Northgate brought about 1,500 people to the Northgate area on both Friday and Saturday nights.

Don Anz, the owner of the Crooked Path Ale House and Cafe Eccell, said \$10,000 of North by Northgate proceeds will go to two local charities. About \$6,000 will be given to the Brazos Food Bank and the remaining \$4,000 will go to Junction 505.

"Even after all the expenses, the majority of the proceeds will go to these charities," Anz said. "I hope that they will both be very happy with the donation."

All of the 72 scheduled acts performed at the festival. Fifty-one bands and 21 singer-songwriters performed. About half of the bands were from the Bryan-College Station area. Other acts came from Austin, Dallas, Houston and outside of Texas.

McFall said he hopes North by Northgate can be expanded to include daytime activities.

PLEASE SEE NXNG ON PAGE 2.



Come closer John, Deere



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Ricky Garcia, a farm foreman, levels an old peach orchard on far West Campus Monday for this year's crops.

Proteins resist HIV

NEW YORK (AP) — Four hemophiliacs who reportedly got HIV-contaminated infusions resisted infection because they had high levels of certain immune system proteins, a study suggests.

The proteins are called chemokines. Prior studies have shown they can block HIV infection in the test tube. Scientists have been hoping to use them to develop AIDS drugs or a vaccine.

The Associated Press reported the study of hemophiliacs in September when it was presented at a meeting. The work now appears in

Tuesday's issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

It was presented by Daniel Zagury of the Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris, Alessandro Gringeri of the University of Milan in Italy, Dr. Robert Gallo of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland, and others.

The hemophiliacs, from Italy, were exposed to the AIDS virus through contaminated infusions of blood products. Blood cells taken from them were found to produce about twice as much of three kinds of

chemokines as did cells from healthy blood donors, or from hemophiliacs unexposed to HIV.

The study involved 128 hemophiliacs who had repeatedly been exposed to HIV from blood products between 1980 to 1985, before a test to screen blood for the virus became available. Only three were infected by the first infusions. The total number of those infected rose to 59 in 1982, 84 in 1983, 103 in 1984 and 114 in 1985.

The pattern shows most hemophiliacs had a natural but temporary resistance to HIV infection, the researchers said.

Supreme Court hears arguments on HIV as a physical disability

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a major test of disability rights, Supreme Court justices sparred Monday over whether HIV-infected people should be considered disabled because of dangers involved in sex and childbearing.

The lawyer for Maine dentist Randon Bragdon argued that Bragdon did not illegally discriminate against an HIV-infected woman by refusing to treat her at his office.

The patient, Sidney Abbott, suffers no AIDS symptoms and therefore is not protected by the Americans With Disabilities Act, said attorney John McCarthy.

But Abbott's lawyer said lower courts correctly found that Bragdon violated the law, which bars discrimination against the disabled in jobs, housing and public accommodations.

The law — responsible for such aids as wheelchair ramps at countless public places — says people are disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that "substantially limits one or more major life activities."

HIV-infected people should always be considered disabled because the contagious and fatal nature of acquired immune deficiency syndrome severely limits their ability to have sex and bear children, said Abbott's attorney, Bennett H. Klein.

Some justices disputed whether HIV infection really creates such a limit.

Justices David H. Souter and Antonin Scalia suggested an HIV-infected person faces a "moral choice" rather than an actual physical limit on his ability to have children.

"How can we say here that your client exercised reasonable medical judgement?"

Stephen G. Breyer
Supreme Court justice

However, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy said that if a person with highly infectious tuberculosis stays away from other people, "we don't just call it a moral choice."

Someone with bubonic plague would be considered disabled, added Justice Stephen G. Breyer.

Bragdon's lawyer said the disability law aims to protect people whose disabilities

affect their "day-to-day independent living and economic self-sufficiency," not HIV-infected people who suffer no symptoms.

The disability-rights law says disabled people can be treated differently if they pose a "direct threat to the health or safety of others."

"Dr. Bragdon believes that when he provides a service in the face of the risk of death he should be allowed to take additional precautions" such as insisting on filling Abbott's cavity at a hospital, McCarthy said.

However, Breyer said that "after 15 years and hundreds of thousands of deaths" from AIDS there appeared to be no documented cases in which a dentist caught the virus from a patient.

"How can we say here that your client exercised reasonable medical judgment?" Breyer asked. McCarthy replied that there were seven possible cases of HIV transmission in dental procedures.

Klein said that unless HIV-infected people have clear protections under the law, many will hide the fact that they carry the virus.

A decision is expected by July. The justices' ruling could provide clues as to whether the law covers other kinds of disabilities, such as cases of epilepsy or diabetes that are controlled by medication.

MTV show focuses on death of Plano youth

PLANO, Texas (AP) — Barbara Shaunfield had a feeling her son Matt's life wasn't going to have a happy ending.

Her fears were realized early on the second morning of 1996 when Matt's college friends found the 220-pound, 6-foot-2 student slumped over in his bathroom, blue from lack of oxygen and about to die from a heroin overdose.

"They put a pillow under his head and covered him with a blanket and thought he would sleep it off," Mrs. Shaunfield said.

But Matt, 22, never woke up. Nor did a dozen other heroin users over the next 18 months in his hometown of Plano, a community of 188,000 about 10

miles north of Dallas.

The deaths of so many youths in a leafy suburb better known for corporate campuses than shooting galleries set off a shock wave that resonated all the way to the New York offices of MTV, the youth-oriented cable channel.

"Somehow there has been a gap in the education of this drug," said Laura Lazin, vice president of MTV News and Specials. "It seems like so many people in this generation don't understand how dangerous this drug is."

To hammer home that heroin's growing danger to young Americans, the network has produced a documentary that features Plano's ongoing battle

against the drug.

"Fatal Dose" is the first in a new series called "True Life" that will tackle subjects from drugs to personal finances and women in sports. MTV plans to air a new documentary each Tuesday night at 10 p.m. beginning this week.

Lazin said the idea is to tell young adults' stories in their own words, from their own points of view.

"Fatal Dose" shows 19-year-old addicts Allen and Eric shooting up heroin in a gas station bathroom as MTV reporter Serena Altschul looks on.

INSIDE

aggielife

Grease is the Word: Grease comes off against Grease 2 to see who rules Rydell High.

See Page 3

sports

A&M hired new basketball coach Melvin Watkins from NC-Charlotte.

See Page 7

opinion

Huffines: Smell seeping from manholes permeates A&M campus.

See Page 11

online

http://battalion.tamu.edu
Look up with state and national news through The Wire, AP's 24-hour online news service.