

THE BATTALION

109 Years Serving Texas A&M University

Volume 109 • Issue 153 • 6 pages

www.thebatt.com

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Thefts riddle KAMU, Rumours

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

More than \$112,000 worth of television equipment was taken from a parked KAMU-TV van June 6.

Equipment stolen included three professional grade cameras and their cables, camera carrying cases and switchers, said Angel Vaughn, assistant director for administration at KAMU.

Vaughn said the burglary could have been prevented. "We had a perfect garage spot taken away because of the con-

struction of the new athletic complex," she said. "This would not have happened if it was parked in the normal garage space."

The van was parked against a fence near the tennis courts.

Vaughn said KAMU is supposed to get the parking garage spot back by Saturday, but it does not look likely.

KAMU employees discovered the van had been broken into 48 hours after the last time it was driven, which was on June 4, Vaughn said.

Bob Wiatt, University Police

Department director said the suspects broke through the passenger side door and crawled through a very small space to get to the back of the truck.

"Someone had some sore knees," he said.

The task must have taken several trips, Wiatt said.

Vaughn said KAMU estimated \$89,000 of the equipment was insured and the insurance company cannot mail a check for another two weeks.

"We don't have this kind of money sitting around to buy new equipment," she said.

"I would rather have the equipment back than the money."

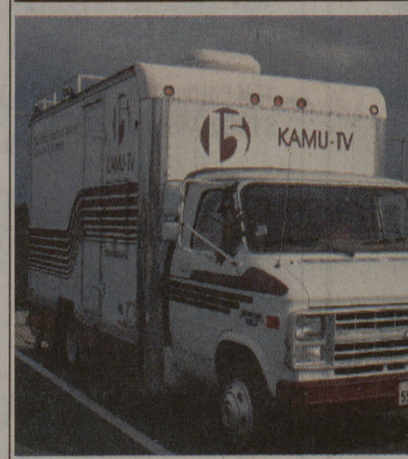
A similar burglary took place at Rumours Cafe outside the Memorial Student Center five days later, on June 11.

Wiatt said someone knocked over a wall that separated the cafeteria and the entertainment area and took more than \$10,000 worth of equipment, including the 42-inch flat panel television.

"Someone was making out like Flynn," he said.

See **Thefts** on page 2

BURGLARY OF KAMU-TV VAN and RUMOURS

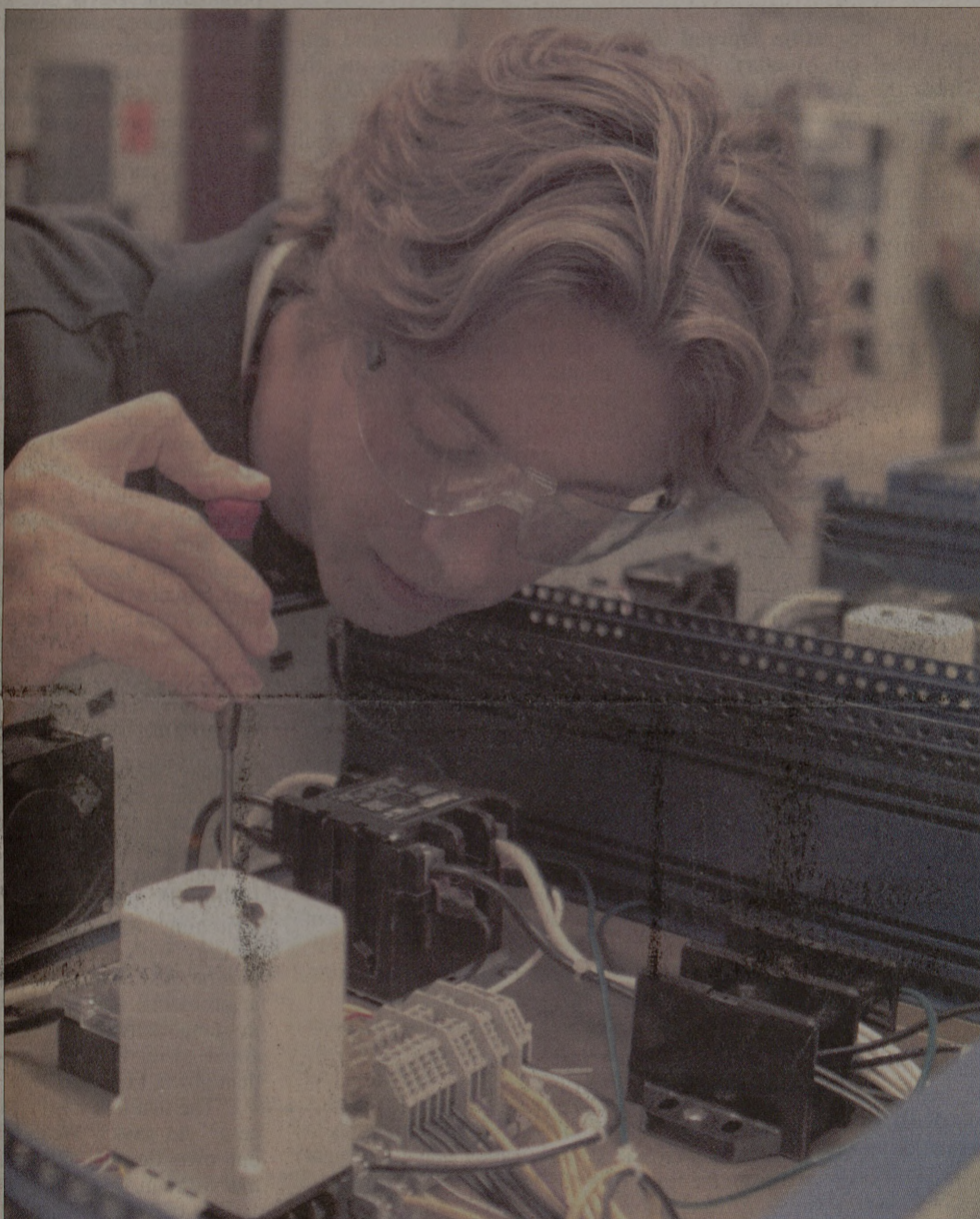


KAMU-TV Van
\$112,929 worth of property stolen
Includes cameras, cables and switchers

Rumours
\$10,000 worth of property stolen
Includes 42-inch flat panel TV, portable speakers and light instruments

RUBEN DELUNA & SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Fuel your cells



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Senior manufacturing engineering technology major **Bruce Witwer** tightens down solid state relays on a hardware safety interlock machine Monday afternoon at Lynntech Industries. The

HSI machine is an emergency safety device that provides fuel cell users with a main shutoff switch.

Cavalry injunction halts Corps punishment phase

By Melissa Sullivan
THE BATTALION

Punishment proceedings for members of the Parsons Mounted Cavalry accused of hazing last October have been delayed after the defense won a series of court order restraints.

Attorneys for the students said Texas A&M's punishment process is unfair and illegal.

State District Judge Rick Davis recently agreed to a temporary injunction, which will briefly keep everything as "status quo." Davis will rule in August on a permanent injunction, which would keep A&M from ever pursuing sanctions against the cavalry students accused of hazing.

"A student's right of due process cannot be undone," said Ronald Hole, a McAllen attorney representing his son and another A&M student.

The attorneys are not asking Davis to decide whether hazing occurred in the Corps, but for a permanent injunction Hole said.

After Brazos County Attorney Jim Kuboviak declined to pursue criminal charges, A&M moved forward with its own disciplinary procedures. Cadets went to court in April after being ordered to appear before A&M officials to face charges of rule violations.

An internal Corps investigation, prompted when Unit Commander Ty Keeling reported

hazing to the Corps Commandant Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne last October, found that juniors had been hazing sophomores by hitting them with axe handles and forcing them to perform exercises in a pit of urine and horse manure, Van Alstyne told The Battalion in March.

Hazing is a Class A misdemeanor and is prohibited by University student rules.

Hole said the University sent letters to the students stating the hearing dates, which were set near spring semester finals. They were not advised of any specific charges against them and only had two hours to prepare their case.

"I took another attorney with me and we both could not go through all that in two hours," Hole said. "There were no names and it didn't say who said what."

A&M spokesman Lane Stephenson said it is A&M's policy to not comment on pending litigations; however, the court documents filed by attorneys for A&M argue that the students should not win an injunction, because "they have not used all the options and appeals under the University system, according to the Bryan-College Station Eagle.

The court issued a temporary restraining order preventing A&M from enforcing a

See **Corps** on page 2

U.S. seeks out Saddam loyalists

By Nadia Abou El-Mag
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAMADI, Iraq — Led by informants, U.S. soldiers swept into homes in Baghdad and several outlying towns Monday in pursuit of Saddam Hussein loyalists who have been ambushing American forces. At least 59 Iraqis were detained, most taken away blindfolded and handcuffed.

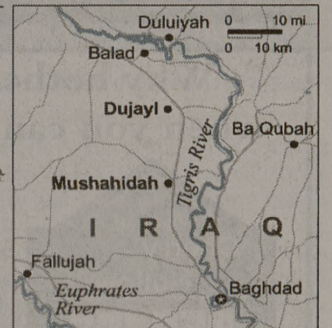
The soldiers also dug up backyards in a search for heavy arms, but the U.S. military announced no major weapons discoveries.

Ten Americans were wounded in ambushes on two convoys despite the U.S. campaign to put down resistance across Iraq's Sunni heartland where Saddam's support was strongest.

The two rocket-propelled grenade attacks reinforced the belief that Saddam loyalists were reorganizing. Residents of homes raided over the past two days warned that the U.S. operations were only fueling

U.S. military attacked

At least two Americans were seriously wounded when a convoy fended off an attempted ambush near Mushahidah on Sunday. Later, another convoy was attacked near Dujayl, lightly wounding two soldiers.



SOURCES: ESRI, Associated Press

hostility and anti-American attacks.

For weeks, American forces have been targets of hit-and-run assaults, most in the central "Sunni belt" north and west of Baghdad. About a dozen U.S. soldiers have been killed by hostile fire since May 1, when President Bush declared major combat over.

The latest ambushes came Sunday. In the first, the grenade fire set fire to a civilian bus that was passing a military convoy near the town of Mushahidah, about 15 miles north of Baghdad, seri-

ously wounding two soldiers and lightly wounding six others.

The second attack hit a U.S. convoy in Dujayl, a town 35 miles north of Baghdad, lightly wounding two soldiers, said Army spokesman Capt. John Morgan.

Qusai Taha, 33, a grocery store owner from Dujayl, said he heard gunfire while in his store, ran outside and saw that the last vehicle in a 15-vehicle U.S. convoy had been hit. He said he saw two U.S. soldiers

See **Iraq** on page 2

FBI: murder and rape rates increase

By Jonathan D. Salant
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Murders rose sharply last year in suburban communities, and rapes were up in mid-sized cities, the FBI said Monday. Still, overall crimes against people and property declined slightly.

The biggest percentage increases in murders were recorded in suburban counties, up 12.4 percent, the FBI's preliminary crime statistics for 2002 showed. Murders declined

1.2 percent in rural counties and 14.7 percent in cities with fewer than 10,000 people.

Some city problems are spilling over into adjacent suburbs that have become more urbanized, said David Muhlhaupt, a criminal justice expert with the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank. "The distinctions between cities and suburbs are sort of blurred now," he said.

But Penn State University professor Darrell Steffensmeier said rates continue to be so low in suburban areas that just a slight increase in murders could cause a huge percentage jump.

"The homicide rate is very small, you have statistical blips," said Steffensmeier, a professor of sociology and crime, law and justice.

Overall, the FBI report showed a 0.2 percent decrease in the number of crimes reported to the police or other law enforcement agencies over the previous year, continuing a decade-long trend. Last year had been the only year since 1991 that crime rose over the preceding 12 months.

The FBI statistics showed a continued decrease in violent crime, by 1.4 percent in 2002 as compared with 2001. But the number of

reported rapes rose by 4 percent and the number of murders grew by 0.8 percent, the FBI said.

The largest increase in rapes was reported in small and medium-sized cities. Cities of less than 10,000 people and cities with between 100,000 and 250,000 people reported increases of more than 7 percent in rapes.

Jamie Zuieback, a spokeswoman for the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network, a Washington-based group that runs a national rape hotline and provides other services to victims of sexual assault, said women appear to be more willing to report rapes. Several high-profile incidents, such as the Elizabeth Smart kidnapping in Salt Lake City, the increased use of DNA to convict suspects and educational campaigns have all encouraged women to come forward, Zuieback said.

"Our suspicion is absolutely this reflects an increase in reporting," Zuieback said. "We have certainly seen an incredible amount of attention to sexual assault in the news. We've seen a number of very high-profile cases."

The figures in the preliminary Uniform Crime Report released

See **Crime** on page 2

Preliminary Crime Statistics from 2002

Murders in suburban counties	Increased 12.4 percent
Overall number of crimes	Decreased 0.2 percent
Violent crime	Decreased 1.4 percent
Rapes	Increased 4 percent

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION
SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspected Victoria smugglers indicted

By Juan A. Lozano
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Authorities have arrested the suspected leader of an immigrant smuggling operation responsible for the botched trip last month that led to 19 deaths in a stifling truck trailer, federal prosecutors said Monday.

In announcing the arrest of accused ring-leader Karla Patricia Chavez, 25, U.S. Attorney Michael Shelby also unsealed a 58-count indictment naming her and 13 others for their roles in the smuggling mission that ended May 14 when a truckload of illegal immigrants was discovered in a trailer abandoned at a truck stop in Victoria,

100 miles southwest of Houston.

Seventeen immigrants died at the scene, and two others died later. Twelve of those indicted could face the death penalty for transporting undocumented immigrants in a potentially fatal manner, although Shelby said his office hasn't decided whether to pursue a capital case yet.

"People who smuggle human beings have thought that nobody really cares about this," Shelby said. "Well, people really do care about this. (Smugglers) have got to know there are severe consequences to severe conduct and that greed carries with it a price."

See **Smugglers** on page 2