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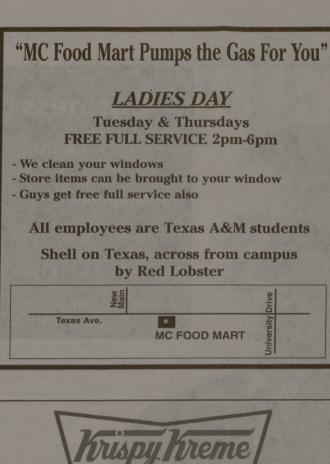
ate to feature your group in the 2004 Aggieland yearbook. Just drop by Room 004 Reed McDonald and fill out a contract. Contracts and payments, including a \$25 late fee, will be accepted until Friday, Oct. 10. After Oct. 10 your organization will be put on a waiting list.

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THE BATTALION

Officers' attorneys review hours of video, audio tape in Houston

By Pam Easton THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Prosecutors have until next month to turn over hundreds of hours of video and audiotapes made during a six-month investigation of five Houston police officers charged with taking money from cantina owners in exchange for protection and forewarning of police raids, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Defense attorneys aren't sure what is on the tapes and CDs, but believe some of what is contained on them could be surveillance from the various bars where the officers moonlighted as security guards.

'Obviously, we have to review very carefully to see what's there and maybe more importantly, what is not there," said attorney George "Mac" Secrest, who represents Javier Gomez, one of the officers, who along with robbery division Sgt. Freddie T. Gonzales Jr., were charged with engaging in organized criminal activity.

'It's a very arduous task," Secrest said of the effort to review all of the recordings after a brief status hearing at state District Judge Denise Tuesday Collins' bench morning. "It's going to take hundreds of hours to review everything.

Collins told prosecutors to turn over the audio and video recordings to defense attorneys by Nov. 10. She told attorneys on both sides to report back to her about their progress on that

Probationers use device to pass urinalysis tests

By Betsy Blaney THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUBBOCK, Texas - Some West Texas men on probation are in trouble again, this time for using the Whizzinator to help them pass court-ordered urinalysis tests.

In the st six months, fiv

date as well. "We are hoping by that date the district attorney's office will have copied everything and then provided it to defense counsel," Secrest said. "Then once we get it, we have to copy it many times so all the lawyers and clients can have a copy so all of us can begin examining what is there.'

Collins was Tuesday told that there are about 22⁻ sixhour videotapes, 38 twohour videotapes and numerous CDs containing hundreds of hours of audio recordings.

"It's a myri-ad of data that has to be sifted through," said attorney Robert Scardino, who represents

And attorneys won't just have to be aware of evidence involving their own clients, Secrest said, but also any information involving the other four defendants in the case.

"You have to be aware of the evidence that affects every person who is allegedly part of that conspiracy," he said.

Gonzales and patrol officers Rolando Cruz, Salve Rogolio Ramirez, David Acosta Gamboa and Gomez were indicted in September after their July 11 arrests.

Gomez also was charged with taking a gun from an

an Internet site. He said what he does is legal.

"How people choose to use it is beyond our control," he said. 'But we manufacture this and sell it for people who believe we still have a semblance of privacy in this country.

The five Lubbock men caught using the device will probably et their probation rev oked and

undercover officer, a third degree felony carrying a pena ty of two to 10 years in priso and a fine up to \$10,000.

They are accused of committing bribery as an organiz group from Oct. 11, 2002, June 14. The five officers wer relieved of duty with pay aft their arrests. police Chie

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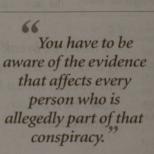
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- George Secrest attorney

> Saturday night and taking between \$25 and \$50 each night from a number of bar owners.

Bradford said illegal under age drinking, prostitution and drug activity took place in some of the clubs and bars while the officers looked the other way.

Assistant District Attorney Paula Storts did not immed ately return a call from The Associated Press seeking comment after Tuesday's hearing. If convicted, the officers can

face up to life in prison and a \$10,000 fine. No trial date has been set.

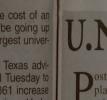
NEWS IN BRIEF **Tuition committee** recommends \$361 increase in tuition

AUSTIN - The cost of a education could be going up at the nation's largest univer

sity. A University of Texas advi-sory panel voted Tuesday to recommend a \$361 increas starting next spring. Under the proposal, the increase will double to \$722 more pe semester starting in fall 2004.

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men on probation were caught using a realistic-looking prosthetic that dispenses synthetic, drug-free urine, Lubbock County sheriff's officials said. One was caught by an alert officer who heard something unusual in the restroom.

"A body part when it's up against a plastic cup isn't going to go 'clink,''' said Tom Madigan, interim assistant director of the Lubbock County adult probation office.

The device, reusable and available in five flesh colors, is sold by California-based Puck Technology for \$150. A prosthetic penis is attached to an undergarment resembling a jock strap and connects to a pouch containing dehydrated urine. Water is added to the pouch and a heat pack can be attached to keep the urine close to body temperature.

Company owner Dennis Catalano has sold the device and one designed for women for about four years, mainly through

return to jail, said Dan Rowan, a probation office supervisor.

They also could face additional charges. Under Texas law, using a substance or device to try to falsify drug test results is a Class B misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

Catalano isn't safe, either. Selling or making a device or substance intended to falsify urine test results is a Class A misdemeanor, with a maximum one-year jail term and \$4,000 fine. Authorities haven't decided whether they will seek charges against the manufacturer.

In 2001, two San Antonio probationers caught using the Whizzinator were prosecuted and sentenced to 180 days in jail and fined \$2,000, said Susan Reed, the Bexar County district attorney.

Reed considered pursuing charges against the company, but said she would have had difficulty showing that it sold the device in her jurisdiction.

year voted to allow univers ties to set their own tuitions to offset budget cuts.

Full-time undergraduate students now pay an average of \$2,714 in tuition and fee per semester. If the propos is approved, students will pa \$3,075 next spring, a 13.3

UT's Board of Regents will meet Nov. 18 to consider the proposal.

The increase would appl to full-time resident unde graduate and graduate stu-

The Tuition Policy Advisory Committee also proposed that 28 percent of each dollar of the new "Academic Sustainability Tuition" be set aside for need-based financial aid.

For the current budget year, the university has about \$40 million less than last year in state appropriations and income from the Permanent University Fund.

DMS Night **Career Opportunities**

October 9, 2003 5pm - 8pm **MSC Bowling Alley**

National Companies and Corporations will be in attendance to talk with students.

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Door Prize Drawing for students who bring their resumes Check our website for more details: http://aggieculture.tamu.edu/

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Classless at Midnig

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