

The University of
Texas at San
Antonio

POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Runner Beat

Protecting Your Future... Today

A Campus Safety Newsletter from the University Police Department



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April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence by focusing on sexual assault and rape and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

Sexual assault takes many forms. It is any unwanted sexual contact, including rape or attempted rape. It can affect people of any gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or ability. According to the National Violence Against Women Survey, 1 in 6 American women has been the victim of rape or attempted rape. Another study found that nearly 5 percent of college women are victimized by sexual assault in any given calendar year. Over the course of a college career, the percentage of sexual assault victimization among women in college might

climb to between one-fifth and one-quarter of all college age women.

The UTSA Women's Resource Center is planning a number of events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month including a poster campaign and the Clothesline Project (where women can express their emotions concerning sexual violence by decorating a shirt). A self defense program is also planned and will be sponsored by the UTSA Police Department. The WRC is a safe space on campus where students can learn more about the issues effecting women and has many resources such as a library, brochures & pamphlets and various support groups. The UTSA Counseling Services office offers students and the campus community a variety of professional services for any concerns important in the lives of students. UTSA



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. (Photo www.uwstout.edu)

also has a licensed counselor designated as a Sexual Assault Advocate.

Working together as a community, we can raise awareness, change attitudes, and help prevent sexual assault from occurring to our loved ones. If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, please call the UTSA Police Dept. at 210.458.4242 to report the incident. UTSA Counseling Center (210.458.4142) or the San Antonio Rape Crisis Center (210.349.7273) can also assist.

References: nsvrc.org/saam, ovw.usdoj.gov, utsa.edu/wrc/ & ncjrs.gov

Ms. Bertha Brady Recognized for 30 Years of Service

The year is 1979 and UTSA is 10 years old. Student enrollment was 9,400, the John Peace Library building had been open for only three years and the Paisano student newspaper had not yet published a paper. And that was the year that Ms. Bertha Brady started work as a secretary for the UTSA Police Department. Ms. Brady was recently honored for her 30 years of dedicated service at a Recognition Breakfast held on February 26, 2009.

When Ms. Brady started working for UTSAPD, there were only 9 officers on the force and the original department was housed in the Physical Plant building. In those 30

years, Ms. Brady has had the opportunity to work with four police chiefs and countless officers, guards and students. Ms. Brady has had several civilian jobs within the department and currently does budget reconciliation for the Administrative Support Section. Ms. Brady is married and has two children as well as four grandchildren.

Ms. Brady has previously been recognized as Employee of the Semester in the spring of 2000. During the Recognition Breakfast she was given a plaque and roses from Chief Hernandez. Thank you Ms. Brady for all your years of faithful and dedicated service!



Ms. Bertha Brady was recently recognized for her 30 years of service to UTSA-PD. (photo Mark McClendon)





UTSA-PD wants you to be informed about cell phone safety (Photo from www.mobilegazette.com)

Sidekick Phones Top a Dubious Category: Theft

One of the latest hot targets for thieves nationwide is the T-Mobile Sidekick cell phone. Although the Sidekicks are not among the country's best-selling phones, they might be the most stolen ones.

Boston, MA police reported more than 300 stolen Sidekicks in 2008, accounting for 14 percent of all robberies in the city. New York City saw a 59 percent surge in subway robberies in December compared with the previous year, driven largely by thieves targeting high-end cell phones, especially the Sidekick. Thieves target Sidekicks because they are "hip" and are easy to resell.

All T-Mobile phones use a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM)

card, a small computer chip usually stored behind the phone's battery that holds the owner's personal information, such as account data and phone contacts. SIM cards are convenient for cell phone users, because to switch to a new device, a user simply pops out the chip and puts it into another phone that employs the same technology. The entire consumer's saved information moves to the new phone.

But the reverse also is true: By removing a SIM card, a thief can quickly and cleanly erase the owner from the phone. Crafty thieves have learned how to manipulate the Sidekick so it can be used on other networks that also use SIM cards.

Once a Sidekick is unlocked, thieves often scratch out the phone's identification number and sell the device on web sites such as Craigslist or eBay.

To prevent your cell phone from being stolen follows these tips:

Conceal your cell phone when you are in a public place. Do not leave your cell phones in the open in your car. Never leave your cell phone in a backpack that is unattended. Do not give your phone to strangers who ask to borrow it. Do not use your phone in areas where you might feel unsafe. If your phone is ever stolen, report it to the police immediately.

References: ecampusnews.com, 3gweek.net

A warm welcome to Officer Edward Gonzales who will join us effective March 24th, coming to us from The UT Health Science Center. Welcome aboard!



Employee Kudos: Congratulations to Sgt. Charles "Big Iron" Patnode who was a big winner at the 2009 Winter Range SASS National Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting held in Phoenix, AZ. Sgt. Patnode won 1st Place in the Pocket Pistol and the Derringer. He also placed 4th in Men's B-Western shooting. A GREAT week of fun and shooting with GREAT results! This year there were over 600 shooters from 40 states and 4 countries. **Way to go!**



Be Smart, Be Safe....About Fiesta 2009!

Fiesta is a 10-day, city-wide, fun-filled, multi-cultural, family-oriented celebration. With over 100 different events, it's the biggest party and greatest community benefit in the state of Texas. This year, Fiesta runs April 16 to 26, 2009.

The UTSA Police Department wants you to have a safe and enjoyable Fiesta this year. Please follow these safety tips to help avoid problems:

- Watch what you drink and know your limits. A good rule is 0-1-3: 0 drinks if you're driving

or underage, 1 drink per hour, no more than 3 drinks in an evening.

- DO NOT DRINK & DRIVE. Use a designated driver or choose public transportation.

- Park in well lighted areas. You can park at the Downtown Campus parking lots with your student permit.

- Avoid over exposure & limit your time in the sun.

- Drink plenty of water.

- Be aware of your surroundings.

- Keep your money in a safe place.

Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission will have undercover and uniformed officers at various Fiesta events. The undercover officers will look for minors who attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages and vendors who sell alcoholic beverages to minors. Law Enforcement agencies of the Bexar County DWI Task Force will have extra officers on patrol during the Fiesta events to assist with alcohol enforcement.

Above all, have fun and stay safe this 2009 Fiesta.

Reference: www.dwikills.org & San Antonio Fiesta Commission



UTSA-PD wants you to be informed about Fiesta Safety (Photos from www.dwikills.org and www.utsa.edu)





Students evacuate building during fire drill. (Photo: answers.com)

A warm welcome to Officer Alex Guerrero who will join us on March 30th, coming to us from The Alamo Community College District Police Department. Welcome aboard!

UTSAPD IS HIRING!

POLICE CADET positions available for the Academy starting July 2009. Expenses and salary are paid while in the academy.

To apply & for more info go to: www.utsajobs.com or call (210) 458-4775.

“Safety Highlights” by *Donovan Agans (Director BCEM)*

Fire Drills--Sooner or Later . . . One Will Be for Real

To create and sustain a culture of preparedness, UTSA performs annual unannounced fire drills in campus buildings with fire alarm systems. The requirement and regularity for fire drills have made some in our community think they are no big deal. They tend to continue their routine regardless of the evacuation and blaring alarms around them. The overwhelming thought is, “It’s only a drill.”

Well, in some occasions, yes it is. But there are times when something goes wrong in a kitchen or a lab or in electrical wiring and everything gets set aflame. Just last year

we had a large fire at Our Lady of the Lake University. If an individual ignores the earliest warnings chances of dying could be great depending on where the fire started and how close the individual is to an exit. The time to react in a real emergency is short. Seconds do count.

A fire drill is an important thing. It may not feel like it when it interrupts your workday, but it is. They help ensure familiarity with exit routes and can build confidence in a person’s ability to respond promptly and safely if an actual fire occurs. Drills familiarize building occupants with the sound of the fire alarm. They are also training

opportunities for emergency response units such as our Floor Captain Safety Liaisons, Police, and Facilities. They serve as important tests of alarm systems and fire reporting procedures. Most importantly fire drills save lives! It is a brief interruption in your life ... better brief than permanent.

Fire drills may seem like a bother and an unnecessary interruption to the important tasks at hand, however there is overwhelming evidence proving their significance in creating a greater level of awareness. Fire drills are a practice opportunity and practice makes perfect. Because sooner or later... One will be for real.

“Detective Time” by *Sgt. Thomas Calucci (Supervisor, Criminal Investigations)*

For this month’s edition of the Runner Beat, I’d like to talk about how the Investigations Section brings closure to a case. As you know, the Criminal Investigations Section investigates all crimes that are reported to UTSAPD. Our goal is to investigate the case and identify a suspect so they can be held accountable. However; we are not able to solve some cases or we solve them several months later when we receive additional information.

Let me first explain what an “active” case is. An active case means that we are currently investigating it and are working on developing evidence and suspects. A case can stay active for days, weeks, months and even years depending on the crime.

When CIS clears cases, we utilize the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting System. This is a standardized method that all law enforcement agencies use when reporting crimes to the Federal Government. There are several ways cases are cleared by utilizing this standardized method. The first is when we arrest an offender. This is called “Cleared by Arrest”. It simply means that we have developed enough probable cause to either obtain an arrest warrant or file the case with the District Attorney’s Office. Another way we clear a case is “Exceptionally Cleared”. This usually means we have identified an offender in a crime; however, the Complainant no longer wishes to pursue criminal charges. This classification also applies when we charge a juvenile with a

crime. Next is “Unfounded”. This simply means that as we investigate a case, evidence shows that a crime did not occur or may have occurred outside of our jurisdiction, we therefore will close it with no further investigation. The next way we may clear a case is by making it “inactive”. This means that we have exhausted all investigative resources and are unable to charge anyone with a crime. Sometimes, we discover information at a later date which can lead to the development of a suspect.

I hope this explains how we at the UTSAPD CIS clear cases. As always, I’m always available for any questions you may have regarding a case you filed. If you do, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

As part of UTSA Homecoming 2009, the Campus Activities Board sponsored the "Best Dressed Door and Office Contest" and for the first time the UTSA-PD entered. The Police Department won 3rd Place out of 22 entries at the 1604 campus. Chief Hernandez said: “A warm thank you to Rebecca Gomez, Kayla Larsen, Minnie Martinez, Toni DeGain and all those others who helped make this a great success. Not bad for our first year!”





Be a safe driver! (Photo from
www.highwaytrafficboard.sk.ca)

**Chief
Hernandez says:**
**Congratulations to
Donovan Agans who
was a speaker at The
University Risk
Management and
Insurance
Association's
Regional
Conference. Way to
go Donovan!**



**UTSA Police Chief
David Hernandez**

Be a Safe Driver: Tips to Reduce Your Risks

Up to three-fourths of all traffic accidents are attributed to a single cause: driver error. That means there is much you can do to prevent yourself from adding to the statistics. Following the six tips listed below will dramatically reduce your likelihood of becoming involved in a serious crash.

LEAVE THE PHONE ALONE. Recent studies show that distracted drivers contribute to about 80 percent of vehicle accidents and that motorists are slower to react when they are talking on a cell phone—even a hands-free model. Sending and viewing text messages while driving can be even more dangerous. If you need to use your cell phone or other electronic device, pull safely off the road to do so and limit your conver-

sations with others, especially in high-traffic areas, bad weather and other conditions that require extra concentration.

DON'T DRIVE IMPAIRED. Alcohol-related crashes claimed 41 percent of the traffic fatalities in 2006. Make sure to have a non-drinking driver as the designated driver and be on the lookout for vehicles that do not stay in their lane, brake too late, stop abruptly or respond slowly to traffic signals. Drivers of these vehicles may be intoxicated.

SLOWDOWN. Speeding was a factor in 31 percent of all fatal crashes in 2006 according the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. In particular, watch your speed when you are NOT on the inter-

state: 87 percent of speeding related fatalities occurred on roads other than interstate highways.

RESTRAIN YOURSELF. Safety belts have saved hundreds of thousands of lives, including 15,383 lives in 2006. Don't think that because your vehicle has air bags, you don't need to buckle up. Air bags are designed to work on restrained passengers, not unbuckled ones.

DON'T BRAKE HARD IN A SKID. Abrupt braking can cause you to lose steering control. If you have antilock brakes on your car apply constant, firm pressure to the brake pedal.

SLOW DOWN IF ROADS ARE WET. Tires can lose traction on wet roads. Reference: State Farm's "Good Neighbor Magazine Spring 2008.

Chief's Corner By Chief David Hernandez

Recent Thefts

The battle against crime is a never ending one, that we take very seriously. Often people will speak about the crimes that occur on our campuses and question what is being done to address them. You should know that we track crime data on a week to week and year to year basis. This enables us to see how the trends differ within each time frame and the areas most impacted. We can direct our crime prevention and patrol strategies to those areas needing our greatest attention.

The opportunity for crime often exceeds law enforcement's ability to prevent it, thus the need for a proactive and thorough response when a crime occurs. At UTSA, we have recently seen an increase in the number of thefts, an analysis of

those thefts revealed that the increase is due to the number of stolen bicycles. Many of the thefts went unnoticed by the owners as the bicycles had been parked for some time and it was not until the end of the semester that they were reported stolen. A review of the crime locations, time of occurrence, and available video provided investigative leads which led to the arrest of three suspects believed to be responsible for a number of the bikes thefts. Other accomplices have been identified and warrants have been issued for their arrests.

As the number of bicycles increases on our campuses, the potential for this type of crime increases. Working together, we can make it more difficult for the thieves to achieve success. We can start by ensuring that

every bicycle is secured with a "U" type lock which is more difficult to defeat, checking regularly to make sure the bicycle is where you left it, calling the police when individuals appear to be lingering and acting suspicious around the bicycle racks, and registering your bicycle with the UTSA PD which will ensure that we can identify you as the owner of the bicycle. Keep in mind that most bicycle thieves work in pairs as it allows them to take turns as lookouts while each steals a bicycle.

We continue in our commitment to doing all we can to protect our customers and their belongings. We thank each of you for every effort you make to help us achieve success in our promise to protect your future...today!