January is Stalking Awareness Month

Stalking sneaks into a victim's life. Often by the time anyone begins paying serious attention to the stalker, the stalking has already escalated to dangerous behaviors. Although there are many forms of stalking, the two most common types are the stalking of former intimates or a love obsession.

Recent surveys show that as many as 30% of college students experienced intrusive contact after ending a romantic relationship. The love obsession stalker develops a fixation on another person with whom they have no personal relationship. Both hope that maintaining contact will keep or establish the relationship. Sometimes it is simply annoying, but other times he/she can be frightening or dangerous.

Intrusive contact occurs when someone intentionally contacts or tries to contact you when you have asked that there be no contact. Unfortunately, you are not in complete control. Intrusive contact may continue or even get worse. However, you have the right to set reasonable limits on the contact that your ex has with you. You first need to decide what they are and then you need to communicate those limits.

In Texas, Stalking is an offense when a person on more than one occasion and in the same course of conduct directed specifically at a victim follows him/her, threatens bodily injury to the victim or threatens to destroy someone’s property. If you think you are being stalked, take these steps:

- If you are in immediate danger, find a safe place to go. If you can’t get out of danger, call 911 or 210.458.4911 on campus.
- File a complaint with the police. Tell us about all threats.
- Write down every incident that happens. Include the time, date, and other important information.
- Keep voicemail messages, photos of property damage and any letters.
- Contact support systems to help you, including the UTSA Counseling Center (458-4140).

Tell important people about the stalking problem, including family, friends and neighbors.

By learning more about stalking, communities can support victims and combat the crime. “If more people can recognize stalking,” said Jessica Muniz, LMSW, co-coordinator of the UTSA Women’s Resource Center, “we have a better chance to hold offenders accountable. Knowledge can help communities support victims and prevent tragedies.”

UTSA Women’s Resource Center will partner with Counseling Services for a stalking awareness event on Thursday, January 20, 2011 from 11am to 2pm in the Sombrilla at the Main Campus.

Traffic Safety Tips for the Beginning of the Semester

With the start of the new semester, there has been an increase of vehicle and pedestrian traffic around campus. The UTSA Police Department wants to ensure the well being of all members of the university community when it comes to traffic safety. Here are a few safety tips:

Give the Right of Way: Most traffic accidents involve one car failing to yield the right of way to another car. Avoid accidents by waiting for a sufficient gap in traffic before entering.

Unsafe Speeds: The speed limit on UTSA campus roads is 20 mph and in the parking lots the speed limit is 10 mph.

Traffic Control: UTSA police officers routinely direct traffic on campus streets that become congested as students arrive or depart campus. Heeding instructions from the police officers helps to ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

Emergency Vehicles: Texas law requires drivers of every vehicle to immediately move as close as possible and parallel to the nearest edge of the road, clear of any intersection, and stop whenever an emergency vehicle with warning lights and siren operating is approaching. The driver shall remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed and no other emergency equipment is in sight.

Pedestrians: UTSA parking regulations state that every pedestrian has the right-of-way at marked crosswalks, in intersections, and on sidewalks extending across driveways. Texas law states that a pedestrian may not suddenly proceed into the path of a vehicle so close that it is impossible for the vehicle operator to yield.

Operating a motor vehicle on campus and in the surrounding area of UTSA is a unique and challenging experience. Operators need to develop safe driving habits. We encourage every member of our community to drive safely, giving special attention to the speed limits, seat belt laws and most importantly their surroundings.
The University of Texas at San Antonio Police Department conducted its fifth promotion ceremony on Friday December 3, 2010 at the Richard Liu Auditorium of the Business Building at the Main Campus. Two officers were promoted during the ceremony and several department and community members were recognized for their outstanding service.

The master of ceremonies was Assistant Chief Dan Pena. To start the ceremony, the UTSA-PD Honor Guard posted the colors and the National Anthem was played.

The keynote address was given by Chief William McManus (Chief of Police for the San Antonio Police Department). Chief McManus commented on leadership qualities and how that leadership is important in the law enforcement community. He also commented on the important qualities that make up an effective law enforcement officer.

Officers who were promoted were sworn in by Chief Steve Barrera (Chief of Police for the UTSA Police Department). Robert Hudson was promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Hudson is currently the accreditation manager for the police department and oversees crime prevention and training. Jason Diaz was promoted to Corporal. Cpl. Diaz has been with the police department since 2003 and will be a supervisor for the second shift.

Several awards were given to various department members for their contributions to UTSA-PD. Ofc. Robert Rigney was recognized as the Officer of the Semester for Fall 2010 and Ofc. Jovany Vega was awarded Officer of the Year. Ms. Helen White was honored as the Employee of the Semester and Ms. Tiffany Schmidt was recognized as the Employee of the Year. A new award for 2010 was Supervisor of the Year. Sgt. Heather Wallace was honored for her work as the supervisor of the first shift in the Patrol Division.

Recognition was also given to four community members for their contribution to the police department with the Golden Whistle Award. Dr. Jerry Juhnke and Ms. Haylee Wells were recognized for their work in UTSA-PD active shooter exercises, Mr. Chris Koval was noticed for his work as the digital signage manger and Ms. Kari Thorson for her assistance in recovering stolen text books.

The Chief’s Commendation Award was given to Cpl. Josep LoBrutto for his work during the joint SAPD/UTSA-PD Emergency Response Exercise in August 2010. Capt. Shawn Ury of SAPD was given special recognition for his continued support of UT San Antonio PD training endeavors. Closing remarks were made by Chief Barerra.

Employee Kudos: Go to the Patrol Division’s 2nd Shift. Mr. Larry Lawrence whose daughter attends UTSA “wanted to thank us for assisting in helping his daughter, and felt much better about his daughter’s safety because of the action of this department.” Way to go!

Officer Piepho’s Crime Prevention Tip of the Month

10 Signs That You Are Being Stalked

Lurking around your workplace or your living area | Being watched | Repeated phone calls | Inappropriate gifts | Finding yourself in the position of needing to be rescued | Manipulation | Internet Stalking | Defamation of character or insults | Violence | Cumulative unwanted contact of any kind.

Stalking is often subtle, yet pervasive. The stalker is counting on you feeling as if his/her actions are ordinary demonstrations of affection. If you find yourself experiencing any of these situations on a consistent basis, you may be the victim of stalking. Your quick reporting to the police is the most effective tool in putting an end to the stalker’s terror.

Spotlight On: Anger and Assaultive Behavior

At some point in our lives, almost everyone experiences anger from time to time. Anger is a powerful, but completely healthy, human emotion that we naturally experience. Anger is often thought to be a negative emotion that results in aggressive behavior. But anger can actually be helpful. It can motivate us to overcome obstacles or solve problems. However, if we fail to deal with our anger effectively, it can propel us into inappropriate behaviors. Anger becomes unhealthy when it interferes with your daily life or relationships. Anger may be a problem if you feel out of control or physically attack someone when you are angry.

What causes you to get angry?

The most common sources of anger are frustration, disappointment and threats to our sense of security. The common thread that runs through all of these is fear. Anger is an aggressive emotion that allows you to direct energy outwards.

Striking someone when you are angry because you are provoked by another’s words or deeds (unless you are protecting yourself against life threatening violence) isn’t self-defense – it is assault. You might say “he made me do it” but the law says you can be arrested. So, think long and hard before you throw that punch, threaten a person with bodily injury, shove or slap someone. Being arrested, hauled off to jail, fined and taken to court is a learning experience we hope you will never endure. Assault can be prosecuted as either a misdemeanor or a felony - depending upon the nature and seriousness of the injuries. Assault can also be the threat of violence upon another person. A person need not be injured to be the victim of an assault.

Listed below are steps you can take to handle anger effectively.

Recognize your anger: Know your signs when you get angry.

Don't avoid the issue: Don't allow anger to build up.

 Decide how you will respond: Determine the response that will result in the most positive outcome.

Seek help: If you have difficulty handling your anger in an effective manner, talk with a counselor at the UTSA Counseling Services (210.458.4140).

The best defense against becoming a victim of or being arrested for assault and battery is common sense.

References:

Texas A & M. Texas State Univ. Counseling Center. gotrou.com
Safety Highlights Donovan Agans (Director of BCEM)

Register, update Reverse 911 contact info for the Spring For emergency notification by text or voice Reverse 911, the UTSA emergency notification system, is active at the UTSA Tri-campuses to keep students faculty and staff informed in case of an extreme emergency in which there is an imminent threat to life. Those who register for the notification system will be contacted by personal telephone or text message if a situation of this magnitude arises. Messages will include pertinent emergency information and protective actions.

All UTSA telephones (458 numbers) and e-mail addresses have been uploaded into the Reverse 911 system. To ensure the highest level of contact, the UTSA community are being asked to provide personal contact information in the system when enrolling for classes or purchasing a parking permit. UTSA faculty and staff must verify the information each year when purchasing a parking permit.

Registration and information verification can be done in two ways:

- Log on to ASAP (https://asap.utsa.edu/), scroll to "Personal Information" and select "Reverse 911 Emergency Alert Contacts." (If problems occur during registration, e-mail the UTSA Police Department at utsapd@utsa.edu.)
- Or download a Reverse 911 form at Campus Alerts (http://alerts.utsa.edu/reverse-911-program/) Web site and submit it to the UTSA PD. Forms available in English and Spanish.

UTSA supervisors should print copies of the Reverse 911 registration forms for employees who do not have access to a computer.

We are pleased that many members of the UTSA community have already registered for Reverse 911. We encourage UTSA community members to register or update their information if they have not done so, because a 100-percent participation rate can greatly enhance campus safety.

Welcome to Two New Police Officers!

On December 17, 2010 the University of Texas System Police Academy held its commissioning ceremony for the 90th Basic Peace Officer Training Class. Officer J. Seda and Officer T. Richbourg were both honored for their achievements while in the academy. Ofc. Richbourg received the “top cadet” honors and Ofc. Seda received “top gun” honors. Congratulations to both and welcome to UTSA!

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

January is National Stalking Awareness Month. A good working definition for stalking is “a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear”. In Texas, “fear” can mean that the other person or a member of the other person’s family will be harmed. Also in the State of Texas, an element for Stalking includes damage done to the other person’s property. “Course of conduct” can be following a person, unwanted telephone calls, emails or other communication.

Sometimes, people get confused on what stalking actually is. Most of the time, when we talk with someone who’s having a problem with another person, it turns out to be more of a harassment issue. I think it’s important to reach out for help if you’re experiencing problems with someone that you’re not confused. UTSA has a variety of resources available to assist, including the Counseling Center and the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Sometimes a person is reluctant to contact the police, because they don’t want to “get the person in trouble”. But sometimes if we learn about a problem and can intervene early enough, we can solve the issue before it escalates.

Stalking is considered a crime in fifty states, but less than 1/3 of states classify stalking as a felony upon the first offense. Luckily, Texas is not one of those states.

Some more statistics for you: 30% of stalking victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner; Persons aged 18-24 years experience the highest rate of stalking; & 1 in 4 victims report being stalked through the use of some sort of technology (email, social network sites).

The impact of stalking on its victims is immeasurable. Victims can experience anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction and depression. Stalking can also cause the victim to have to change residences or lose time at work. The UTSA PD Detectives who work these cases will go out of their way to ensure that a victim of stalking receives all the available resources that our University has to offer.
Schedule of Events For January 2010

**Thursday Jan. 13, 2011**
**Coffee With the Cops**
6:30 pm at UC Starbucks
The UTSAPD Crime Prevention Unit will be at the UC Starbucks. Come have some coffee with us!

**Monday Jan. 17, 2011**
**Holiday—MLK Day**
Various times at Campus Wide
Monday is a university holiday to commemorate the Rev. Martin Luther King.

**Tuesday Jan. 18, 2011**
**SD 351 Community Response to Active Shooter**
8:30 am at University Heights
HR Training and UTSAPD presents a faculty/staff training class on community response to active shooter.

**Wednesday Jan. 26, 2011**
**Personal Safety/Stalking Awareness**
6:00 pm at Laurel Village
The Women’s Resource Center will provide safety and stalking awareness information.

Lost and Found

All found property that is turned in to the University Police Lost & Found section is stored at the University Police Lost & Found for 60 days. After 60 days, the found property is transferred to the Surplus Property Department for public auctions or further disposition.

To report lost property items or to make inquiries regarding lost property call 210.458.6247 (Monday to Friday; 8am to 5pm).

To claim found property items, individuals must present a valid Texas Driver’s license, UTSA photo ID card or a valid photo ID card from another source; military ID or another state photo ID card. Individuals must be able to accurately describe the property that was lost in order to claim property from the lost & found section.

The below listed items are currently being held by UTSAPD. If not claimed in 30 days, they will be disposed of in accordance with policy.

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Crime Report for the Month of December 2010

The below is a summary of the crimes that occurred in December as of December 20. For more information, go to www.utsa.edu/utsapd and click on Crime Stats.

- Thefts = 9
- Burglary of Vehicle = 1
- Assualts = 1
- Theft of Motor Vehicle = 0
- Alcohol Arrests = 16
- Drug Arrests = 12
- DWI Arrests = 9
- Other Crimes = 9
- January is National Stalking Awareness Month
- UTSA Office of Business Affairs: Your Partner for Successful Solutions!
Resources for Weather Information & Campus Closures

Several weather predictions for the San Antonio area indicate that it could be a cold and wet winter this year, so there is always the possibility that UTSA may temporarily close because of icy conditions. There are several methods that UTSA administration communicates the operational status of the university:

- CampusAlerts website (alerts.utsa.edu)
- (210) 458-SNOW (7669)
- UTSA Web sites: UTSA home page, UTSA Today
- Local media

The CampusAlerts website is a single source for information on UTSA closures prompted by inclement weather, health and other emergencies, and construction and maintenance work. It was developed to keep students, faculty, staff and the general public informed on the status of the university.

UTSA faculty, staff and students can call 458-SNOW at any time for information about the Tri-Campus community regarding the status of classes and employee work schedules. The line accepts up to 138 calls at a time, but if there is a busy signal, please be patient and try again.

The UTSA Office of University Communications will update two Web sites (the UTSA home page and UTSA Today) with information on the university’s status.

Although University Communications attempts to distribute current information to all media outlets in San Antonio, the process can be difficult because of the large number of phone calls received by newspapers and radio and television stations during periods of severe weather.

UTSA makes every attempt to provide all media outlets correct information in a timely manner, but the university initially communicates with both WOAI Television and WOAI Radio.

When adverse weather occurs during the night, the UTSA Police Department advises the Vice President for Business Affairs concerning weather conditions. The Vice President consults with the Provost and Vice President for Student Affairs before advising the President, who determines whether or not to close the university. Officials attempt to make a decision about whether or not to close the campuses by approximately 5 a.m.

UTSA recently became StormReady accredited. StormReady is a National Weather Service program created to ensure American communities have advance warning of hazardous weather. The benefits of the Storm-Ready program to UTSA are faster weather warnings, detailed requirements to improve weather operations and enhanced preparedness.

UTSA is committed to making the best decision relevant to the safety of all students, faculty and staff. Reference: UTSA Today

Chief Barrera Says:
My thanks go out to Officers Jonathan Harris, Mike Crist, and Ray Ervin for their willingness to back-up the 1st shift on a short notice. Your professionalism and dedication to this department are commendable. Fantastict TEAM Work! Thank you for your hard work!

Chief Steve Barrera
UTSA Police Department
Photo From File

Toys for Tots from UTSA PD

The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys as Christmas gifts to needy children. Thanks to all who contributed!

The Bottom Line by Chief Steve Barrera

I am sure by now, since it is the beginning of the Spring Semester, most of you have figured out where things are on campus and many of you have made lifelong friends. Some of you have found organizations, clubs and activities that interest you on and off campus. But, how many of you have taken the time to get involved in your school? There are so many opportunities for students, staff and faculty who want to become involved at UTSA.

Obviously, everyone who comes to a university has a primary personal goal. For most student’s the goal is to receive their education and to eventually graduate, for a staff member it’s to do their best to get the job done, and for faculty member’s it is to teach and/or to complete research. Beyond these primary goals, there are secondary goals that, hopefully, student’s, staff and faculty attempt to accomplish during their time on campus, no matter how long. Getting involved by volunteering or stepping up to help an individual is a great secondary goal and helps make UTSA a better place.

A good way to get involved in your university community is to be vigilant and watch out for each other in terms of safety and protection of each other’s property. It’s a good feeling when you know people are looking out for each other and concerned about your safety. The only way this works is when people are aware of their surroundings as they go about their everyday business. If you happen to see someone doing something that does not seem right or looks suspicious please call the police department so we can investigate your concerns. It does not take much to get involved in this way and you may prevent someone from becoming a victim of a crime.

Omnipresence is our goal at the police department, where our uniformed police officers and guards are seemingly present all the time or everywhere. Knowing that the UTSA community is actively involved as a partner in our crime prevention efforts is comforting. I encourage all of our UTSA community to get involved in one way or another and most importantly to look out for your fellow roadrunners when it comes to safety. Have a great spring 2011 semester!