

Weather

Partly cloudy and mild with a high today in the low 80s. Winds northerly at 8-12 mph. Low tonight in the low 50s. High tomorrow in the mid-50s. No precipitation in sight.

The Battalion

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News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Pictures today

All candidates for Student Government executive positions and yell leaders who have not filled out a questionnaire should come by The Battalion office before 8 o'clock tonight to do so. Those candidates who have not had their picture taken should come by The Battalion office between 2:30 and 5 p.m. or 7 and 8 p.m. today.

Biker saves coed from burning car

A Texas A&M coed narrowly escaped from her burning car yesterday afternoon, saved by a warning shouted by a passing bicyclist.

Ann Gradwohl, a freshman from Lincoln, Neb., said she escaped from her 1970 Opel just in time.

"I was driving along and when I stopped some guy on a bike yelled 'Get out of your car! So I did,'" Gradwohl said. "As I jumped out I could see the flames under my leg. I wouldn't have gotten out if the guy hadn't yelled because I didn't know anything was wrong."

The College Station Fire Department put out the fire, officially reported at 3:44 p.m.

The burning car slowed traffic at the corner of Houston and Jersey Streets.

Gradwohl said she saw the car when she left the G. Rollie White Coliseum parking lot. A gas leak under the car's engine apparently caused the fire. She said she had had the car tuned up when she was home during A&M's spring break.

"Luckily, my parents are in town," Gradwohl said. Her father, a law professor, had been speaking at a Houston educational conference.

Gradwohl's car and its contents were thoroughly charred. She said one her first thoughts after the fire engine arrived was that her books were in the car and had been burned.



Ann Gradwohl, a freshman from Lincoln, Neb., was able to escape from her burning 1970 Opel yesterday when a gas leak caused the car to catch on fire at the corner of Houston and Jersey Streets.

Gradwohl got out of the car when a passing bicyclist yelled to her that something was wrong with her car. Gradwohl was not injured in the mishap.

Election official Tom Glass fired by S.G. director

By RAY DANIELS

Election Commissioner Tom Glass was fired last week in the middle of election filing.

Susan Price, executive director of Student Government, handed Glass a letter of dismissal Thursday evening and appointed Ceri Campbell acting commissioner.

"I didn't think he was doing the job to the best of his capacity," Price said. She said the dismissal was the result of many complaints and problems, which she was aware of earlier but had not mentioned to Glass.

Glass said he had been given no indication that he was doing anything wrong. He said he felt he was fired because of complaints Price had received and her general displeasure with his performance. Price said she did not mention the problem before Thursday.

"It was a pretty big shock to me," Glass said yesterday. He said he had delegated much of the work to responsible people and felt the process was working well.

"I made a few mistakes along the way," he said, "but I don't think I was doing a bad enough job to be fired."

Glass had been commissioner since September.

Lynn Gibson, speaker of the Senate, said he saw some problems in this election that had not occurred in the past.

In the fall Freshman elections, Glass disqualified two candidates for an illegal sign. Later, the students said Glass had told them the sign was all right, and the Judicial Board ruled the elections be run again.

There was some confusion about the grade point requirements for class officers last week when filing opened. Filing for class officers was extended seven hours on the last day of filing because of the problem.

Campbell will be acting commissioner until Tuesday, when the Senate will be asked to confirm her appointment. She worked on the commission under Glass.

"I felt she had done good work," Price said, "and she was willing to take the job." Price said if the Senate does not confirm Campbell, she will run the election herself.

Towing: a Northgate answer to illegal parking

By JULIE SPEIGHTS

Each day several Texas A&M University students become members of a select group with one thing in common — they are all temporarily without transportation because their cars have been towed away.

The main area of concern is University Square where A&M Wrecker Service is employed to make sure the lot is clear of students' cars to assure adequate customer parking.

"We're going to continue to tow, and the price is going up because I have no sympathy for grown men and women who will convert the use of a merchant's leased property for his or her own selfish personal interest," says Sparky Hardee, owner of A&M Wrecker Service.

The current rate is \$30 for towing. Hardee noted that it costs him \$23 to tow away a car.

Hardee added that A&M Wrecker has exclusive towing rights because of a contract with the owner of the University Square property, John C. Culpepper.

Culpepper refused comment, referring to Cindy Nigliazzo, his promotion manager. She was unavailable for comment.

Student legal adviser Chris Kling said that since the beginning of this semester there have been about 50 complaints concerning towing of cars.

About 95 per cent of the complaints deal solely with A&M Wrecker Service, he said.

Hardee said the wrecker service has been involved in about 15 suits with students since fall and has not lost one suit.

There are currently four suits pending against A&M Wrecker.

Three of the suits claim damage was done during towing and are asking for payment of damages ranging from \$93 to \$200. All claim the towing was unauthorized.

One question raised concerns the legality of breaking into an illegally parked car in preparation for towing.

"There is no clear-cut law in that regard," Kling said.

If an illegally parked vehicle would be hazardous to pull without first securing the steering column it is necessary and legal to break into it to do so, David Drechsel, manager of A&M Wrecker Service, said.

"There's no way to damage a car by breaking in to it if it is done right," Drechsel added.

A&M Wrecker won't tow away a car unless it is illegally parked, Hardee said.

Hardee said that at 8:30 one morning before he began clearing the lot of students' cars, an estimated 300 illegally parked student vehicles were in the University Square lot.

At the beginning of this semester between 10 and 15 cars were towed off each day, Drechsel said. He said that about two are towed off daily now.

Drechsel added that 16 signs in the shopping center lot warn people that if they park and leave the shopping center they will be towed away.

A&M Wrecker employs spotters to keep accurate accounts of what drivers of parked vehicles look like and where they go from the car, Drechsel said.

"Cars may be towed as soon as they (the drivers) leave University Square," Drechsel said.

Hardee said the wrecker service notifies the College Station police that they have the cars.

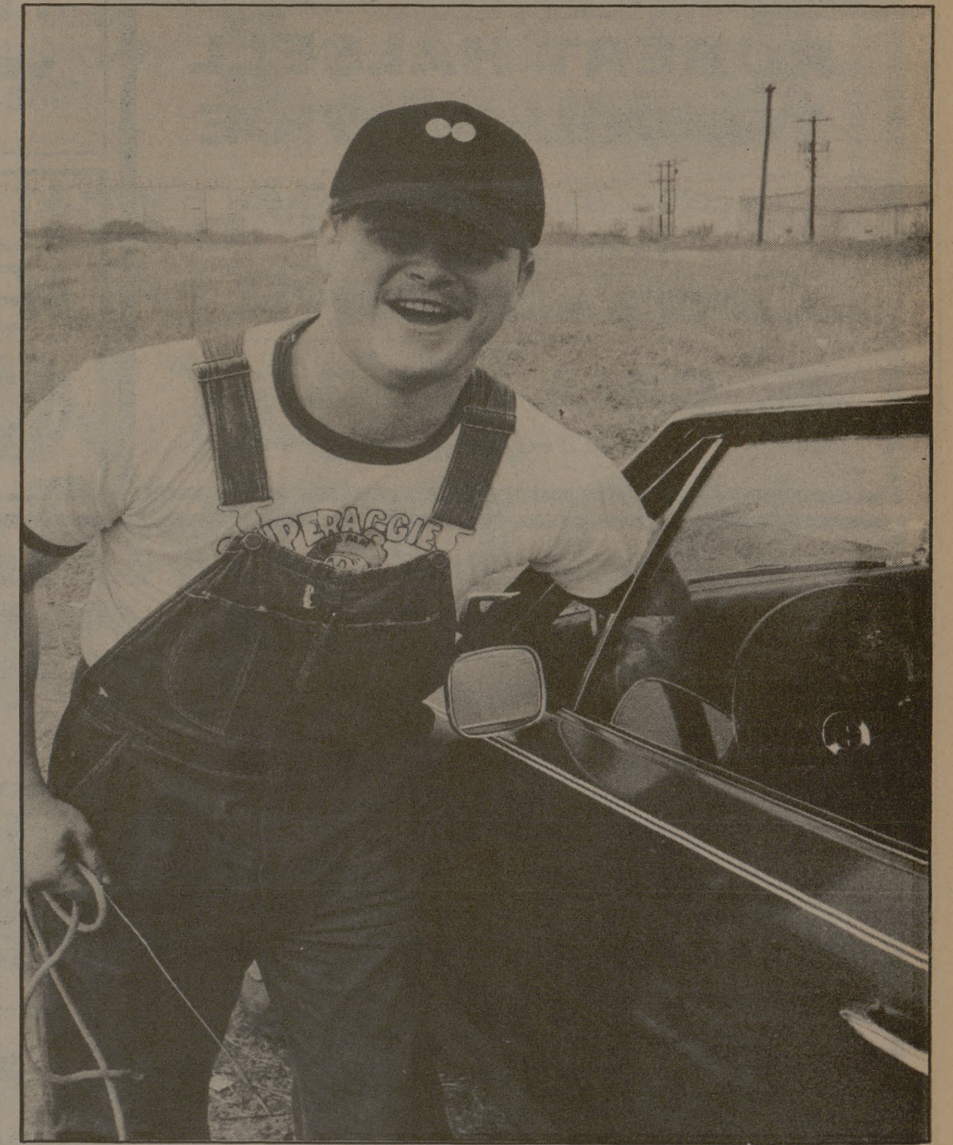
Other Northgate merchants have had problems with students occupying their customer parking and parking along streets longer than the 1-hour limit in those areas.

Linda Andrews, College Station traffic officer, said she issues between 20 and 25 tickets each day at Northgate and estimates that half of those go to students.

The Northgate merchants agreed that the parking problem is biggest at the beginning and end of each semester.



Curt Waldrop, a senior biomedical science student who works for A&M Wrecker Service, enters an illegally parked car and secures the steering column for proper towing.



Cars belonging to A&M students get towed from the Northgate area at a rate of two per day, and their owners pay a fee of \$30.

Editors selected... Publications leaders chosen

By GLENNA WHITLEY

Three students were recommended for editorial positions on the University's student publications last night.

Jamie Aitken, Battalion managing editor, was appointed editor for the fall 1977 Battalion by the Student Publications Board.

Lee Roy Leschper Jr., Battalion staff writer, was appointed summer 1977 Battalion editor. Norine Harris, assistant editor for the '77 Aggieldand, was chosen editor for the '78 Aggieldand.

These appointments are subject to approval by President Jack K. Williams.

Aitken was unanimously selected by the seven-member board. Leschper received four votes and Scott Sherman, journalism graduate student, received the remaining three votes.

Before the vote on Aggieldand editor, Joe Arredondo, a student member of the board, moved to reopen applications for the position. He said he felt none of the applicants was really qualified.

"The one possibly qualified person

seems to be lacking in an idea of what the Aggieldand should be, and the other two are not qualified," he said.

The motion failed however, with Arredondo the only member voting for it.

Harris received five votes, with Arredondo abstaining and Jerri Ward, also a student board member, absent.

Aitken is a junior journalism major. He served as Battalion city editor during fall 1976 and has served as managing editor since January. He currently covers Texas A&M for The New York Times and will intern at The Dallas Morning News this summer. He was recently elected vice president of Sigma Delta Chi, society of professional journalists.

"The main goal I have is to put the right people in the right places," Aitken said. He said he hoped to use senior reporters, persons who have been working for The Battalion at least a semester, for more in-depth features and articles.

"We've got the people we need to make a really fine newspaper. I suggest utilizing

the resources we've got to the best of our ability," Aitken said. He will take over the position April 18.

Leschper has served as a Battalion staff writer for two years and as a Battalion advertising salesman for the past seven months. He served a three-month summer internship during the summer of 1976 on the San Antonio Light.

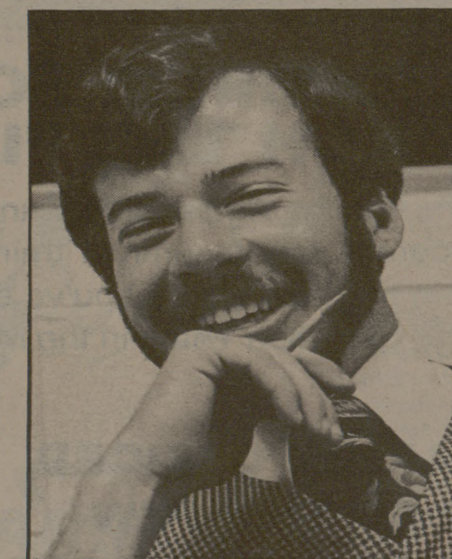
"This summer we're going to experiment with some new and some old improved techniques to make the paper more representative of what's going on around here," Leschper said.

Harris is a graduate student in history. She was a Battalion staff writer in 1974. In 1976 she was a section editor for historical research for the Aggieldand. She is presently an assistant editor for the '77 Aggieldand.

"My first responsibility is to give a picture of the University to the students. You can't show the whole University, by any stretch of the imagination, but you can show its pulse," Harris said.



HARRIS



LESCHPER



AITKEN