

Campus Names

INA elects locals

Bryan attorney John M. Lawrence has been elected counsel to the 19-member board of directors of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA), a nonprofit scientific group headquartered at Texas A&M University.

The board elected Jack W. Kelley of Tulsa as chairman and Nixon Griffis of New York City as vice chairman. Ron E. Chamness of Dallas was picked for a one-year term on the board which oversees INA.

Texas A&M professor Dr. George F. Bass was re-elected to a three-year term as INA president. Also re-elected were vice president Michael Katzev, for two years, and secretary Catherine Meyer, for a year.

INA moved its world headquarters to Texas A&M in September 1976, making the Texas campus the top center for the training of underwater archaeologists. The Coordinating

Board, Texas College and University System, recently gave approval for the master's degree in anthropology at Texas A&M. In addition, the group conducts worldwide research projects.

Debaters at LSU

Four members of the TAMU Debate and Forensics Club placed among the top winners at the LSU-Shreveport Junior Debate Tournament Sunday in Shreveport, La.

From a field of 28 teams representing 12 colleges and universities, Texas A&M Debaters ranked fourth. The team of Eric Copeland and Joe Shugnessy were undefeated and that of Michael Shelby and Jimmy Jolly lost one of their four debates.

Copeland is a sophomore majoring in Nuclear Engineering and Shugnessy a freshman with the same major. Shelby and Jolly, both freshmen, are majoring in Finance and Bio-medical sciences, respectively.

Donators feted

Plaques have been presented to Texas A&M University supporters in appreciation of \$25,000 donations establishing five more President's Endowed Scholarships.

Plaques were given to Mrs. Leslie Appelt of Houston, Mr. and Mrs. John Bergendahl of Houston, H. R. Bright of Dallas in memory of Mary Frances Smith Bright, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Grove of Brenham and Mr. and Mrs. Donald H. Niederer of Bloomingdale, Ill.

The scholarships, among the most prestigious awarded by the university, are established with a \$25,000 donation each that allows \$1,250 annually to be paid to the recipient, who is chosen for the scholarship while in high school.

The plaques were presented by Texas A&M Chancellor Jack K. Williams and Texas A&M President Jarvis Miller.

Bicycle for handicapped

United Press International
DENVER — A custom-built tricycle with rotating handlebars, hip supports and a padded seat has recently opened a new way of life for Ricky Wicks, 7, a victim of cerebral palsy.

"It's a form of independence," said his mother, Joyce Wicks. "He rides it to school every day, and we always take it shopping."

The tricycle was designed by six engineering students at Colorado State University and built at a cost of \$30. The students captured first place for the tricycle at the Conference at Systems and Devices for the Disabled.

Because of a birth defect that left him without muscular coordination in his arms and legs, Ricky was unable to move about on his own before he was given the tricycle. Now everything looks different for the youngster.

"If I had a helmet, I could be just like Evel Knievel," said the happy first grader.

Cory Carroll, one of the CSU students who designed and built the tricycle, said it was equipped with rotating handlebars, hip supports and a padded seat. The tricycle was designed so the first grader can concentrate all his efforts on pedaling.

"Before he got the tricycle, he couldn't even stand up by himself," Carroll said. "He had no sensation of movement in his legs."

"Rick's arms are tense and he couldn't reach out to grab normal handlebars, so we designed the tricycle with bars that could be adjusted separately and moved in or out," said Carroll.

Mrs. Wicks said her son can now lift his legs and take steps without assistance, but the best improvement as a result of the tricycle was psychological.

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New hope for crippled

Braces for children

United Press International
ST. PAUL, Minn. — When Gillette Children's Hospital was founded in 1897 with funds appropriated for the free care of handicapped children, Minnesota became the first state in the nation to work with cripple children.

With each passing year the work has become more refined. Now the hospital is a leader in the development of braces called orthoses that help support the limbs and trunks of handicapped youngsters.

Doctors and engineers draw on modern technology to build strong but light braces to help children with a broad range of problems.

For many years, for example, a heavy steel, aluminum and leather brace was mounted to the bottom of the shoe of a handicapped child. Now, 18 of 20 braces made for lower limbs at Gillette are constructed in a polypropylene shell design.

This design is much more weight-efficient, Marty Carlson, an aeronautical engineer at the hospital's orthotics and prosthetics laboratory, explained, and can provide a weight saving of 12 ounces for a 6-year-old.

"For a cripple child to behave like a normal child," Carlson said, "he has to behave like an athlete, so too much weight sticks him further in the hole."

The lighter brace also makes for a more normal appearance because it fits into a shoe and the child can wear the same kind of footwear as other kids are wearing.

"A handicapped child is conscious of his looks," Carlson said, "and the more normal his appearance, the healthier he is."

Crippled children also are susceptible to deformities as they grow, and in order to prevent these deformities in the ankle and foot, you need an extremely good fit. You can't get that in a shoe, but you can in a precisely molded shell.

Other innovative braces being produced at Gillette include a two-piece body jacket that can be used after spinal surgery in place of a plaster cast. This jacket also is useful for paralytic disorder.

This brace is made of polypropylene, weights about four pounds, and unlike the plaster cast, can be removed for baths or just to scratch.

Postitioning systems for cerebral palsy and advanced muscular dystrophy patients who haven't the strength to sit in a good posture have come under the scrutiny of the orthotics laboratory, resulting in development of the sitting support orthosis. This polypropylene shell is made to conform to the child.

"For years people have been up-

holstering chairs to buttress such a handicapped child," Carlson said, "but the home-made efforts didn't control the pelvis and did not conform precisely enough to body contours."

The Gillette orthosis is a thin plastic shell which conforms to the child's body, allowing the arms to hang by the sides in comfort.

During the past three years about 125 patients from Minnesota have been fitted with sitting support braces.

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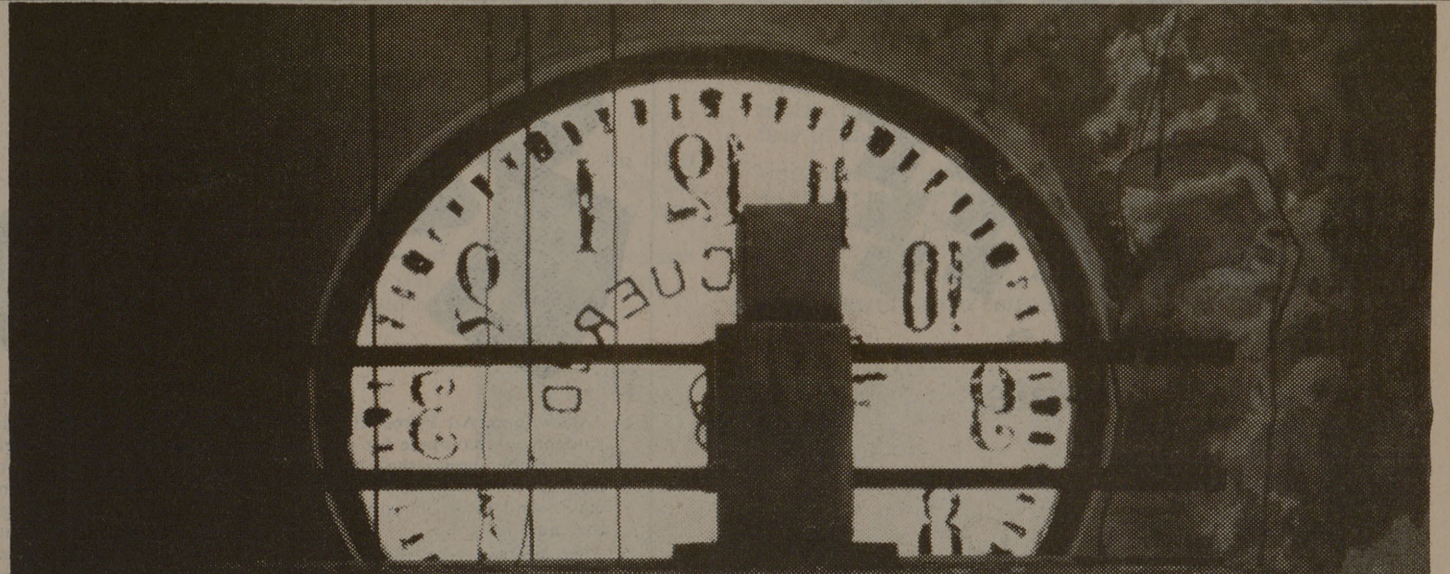
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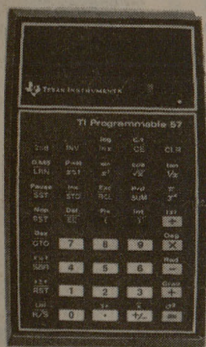
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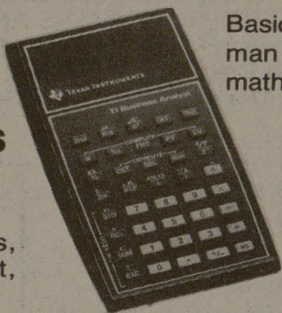
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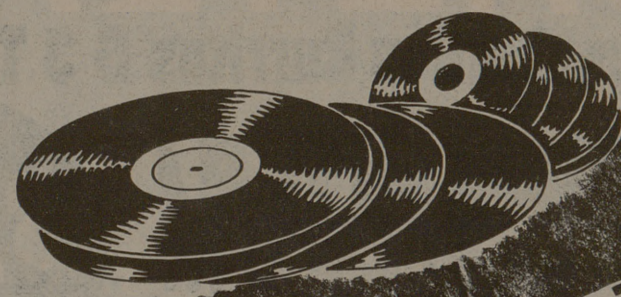
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