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Pedals push progress

By SUSIE TURNER
Bicycles.
They're everywhere: sharing sidewalks with pedestrians, streets with cars, and bikeways with other bikes. No matter how you get where you're going, you have to contend with bikes.

As a necessity and as a sport, bicycling has increased in the College Station area. For students at Texas A&M University especially, bicycling offers a reasonable alternative to paying for scarce parking and to jostling around in a crowded, inconstantly timed shuttle bus.

For many, bicycling is the quickest way to get to class. For some, it's the only way to get anywhere. Students aren't alone. Professors,

secretaries and the mayor of College Station ride bikes to work.

The trend began in the early '70s — according to a 1975 survey conducted by the Brazos County League of Women Voters — and the city of College Station is still trying to accommodate the bicyclists.

In June 1976, the planning departments of both Bryan and College Station combined forces with the State Urban Transportation Planner to develop "The Bryan College Station Bicycle Plan." This plan was based on studies made by the Brazos County League of Women Voters, the Environmental Action Council, the A&M Wheelmen, the Bryan Planning Department and the Fall 1975 Urban Planning 601 Lab of Texas A&M University.

According to the pamphlet, the plan was designed to "link schools, parks, shopping centers and major traffic generators, including Texas A&M University, with major residential areas. It will provide scenic bikeways for recreational use and direct routes for commuters. It will offer varying lengths of bike paths for novice and experienced riders."

The plan includes over 70 miles of bikeways throughout the area.

The most recent step made by the City of College Station toward this overall plan was approved by the local citizens in June of 1976 in the Capital Improvements Program bond issue. The program included a proposal to construct bikeways to serve all area schools.

While the proposal itself was quite extensive, the bikeways completed are only on four streets: Glade, Jersey, Kyle and Francis. These were marked off and signs were put up shortly after the proposal was given voter approval. This made a total of 11.5 miles of bikeways in College Station. Since then,

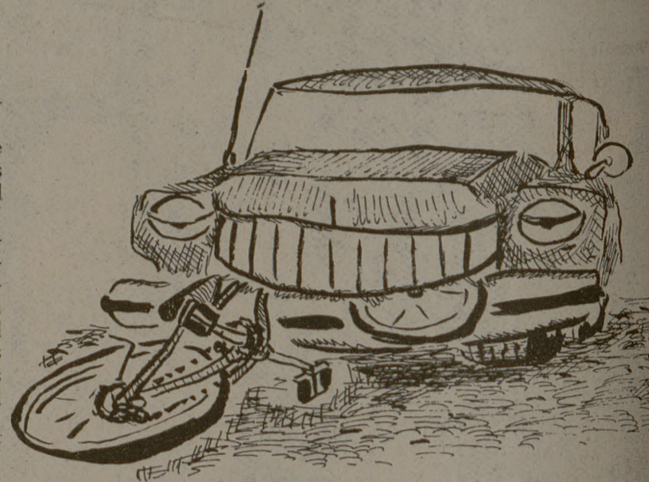
no more bikeways have been constructed. The problem is money.

Anne Hazen, a member of the College Station City Council, says that the city is hoping for federal funds for more bike paths.

"D.D. Williamson (district planning engineer for the Texas Highway Department) submitted a proposal to the Department of Urban Transportation asking for federal funding," Hazen said. "It was turned down, so Mr. Williamson is writing another proposal that would include the West Campus."

Bike paths are only one aspect of bicycling in College Station. Another aspect concerns everybody, no matter how he travels: traffic safety.

The League of Women Voters' survey revealed that bicyclists in this area do not follow proper rules of traffic and safety. At the same time, the survey showed that motorists are very negligent in their regard for the safety of bicyclists.



This tends to create problems. Between 1970 and 1975, bicycle accidents in the Bryan-College Station area increased 238 percent: from 13 in 1970 to 44 in 1975. This reflects the increased bicycle traffic paralleling the population growth during

those years. It also shows the conflicts created when cars and bicycles share the same street space.

In 1976, the number of recorded bicycle accidents for this year and through September of this year, the number of accidents is 22.

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DPS publishes bicyclist's rules

The "Bicyclist's Book of Rules," published by the Texas Department of Safety lists 16 controls for bicyclists.

They are:

1. Obey all traffic signs and signals.
2. Warn other traffic when stopping or turning by giving required hand signals.
3. Always ride as near to the right side of the road as possible and in the same direction as motor vehicles (unless there is a two-way bike path).
4. Be careful when passing parked vehicles or vehicles traveling in the same direction.
5. No more than two bicycles may be ridden side by side.

6. Do not ride double except on bicycles built for two persons.
7. Ride only on the bicycle's regular seat.
8. Do not hitch bicycle to motor vehicles.
9. Do not carry packages that will obstruct vision or prevent keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.
10. Always be alert for traffic from all directions.
11. Before leaving a driveway, alley, or when crossing streets, STOP, look both ways, and grant right of way to motor vehicles and pedestrians.
12. Let pedestrians go first at street crossings and on sidewalks.

13. Get off the street or road and STOP when you hear sirens or emergency vehicles.
14. Do not race with others on a public street or road.
15. Do not play riding games in the street or roadway.
16. Always keep your bike in good condition. Every bike should have:

Brakes that will skid the braked wheel on dry, level, clean surface.

At night: Have a white light on front visible for 500 feet.

Have a red taillight visible for 500 feet.

Have a reflector visible for 300 feet.

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3. Unusual bleeding or discharge.
4. Thickening or lump in breast or elsewhere.
5. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing.
6. Obvious change in wart or mole.
7. Nagging cough or hoarseness.
8. A fear of cancer that can prevent you from detecting cancer at an early stage. A stage when it is highly curable. Everyone's afraid of cancer, but don't let it scare you to death.

American Cancer Society

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MONDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Salisbury Steak with Mushroom Gravy Whipped Potatoes Your Choice of One Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea

TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

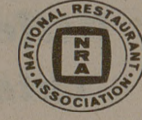
Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/chili Mexican Rice Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Chicken Fried Beef Steak w/cream Gravy Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea

THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee



FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL

BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee

SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL

"Yankee Pot Roast Texas Style" Tossed Salad Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee

SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING

ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable Tea or Coffee

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