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Group questions ambulance service

By SCOTT PENDLETON

Four former employees of the Mid-Tex Ambulance Service at a press conference Monday questioned the quality of the ambulance company's on-the-job performance.

Though attendance at the press conference was small, allegations of lack of supplies, inadequate equipment, and incorrect medical procedures were abundant.

"I have personal knowledge of instances where I feel Mid-Tex was either legally or morally culpable," said John Hamstreet, spokesman for the group of former employees.

Bill Thornal, the owner of Mid-Tex, denied the group's charges later Monday night and made some allegations of his own.

"This group hung out some of the dirty laundry," Thornal said. "But the rest of the load is going to be hung out, too."

Thornal referred to company property that he said was damaged, lost or stolen, long distance phone calls were charged to the company, and paysheets which were falsified.

The conflict, said Thornal, originated in a dispute between he and an employee, whom he declined to name, over management of the ambulance service.

"Then this employee got up a following of a few others," Thornal said. "They wanted to take over the company. They were going to tell me what to do."

"They wanted an ambulance equipped like an emergency room," he said.

The four former employees charged Monday night that supplies and equipment were inadequate.

Thornal denied that his secretary drove the ambulance without a chauffeur's license, another charge made by his former employees.

"She had her license years before some of them," Thornal said.

He also denied Hamstreet's allegation that he charged patients for supplies not used or that he abused non-white patients to collect the ambulance bill.

"He doesn't know what he's talking about. I have more colored people on my books than white, and they pay a lot faster, too," Thornal said.

Jim Persons, another of the four former employees, related an incident in which he and Mr. Thornal responded to a request for an ambulance. The patient had been playing football, and had a compound, but closed fracture. In setting the leg, the bone pierced the skin. No dressing was applied to the wound, Persons said. Instead, the boy's pants leg was wrapped around his leg.

At the hospital it was discovered that the boy's pants leg had been pulled into the wound and sandwiched in the break. Persons and Thornal each state that the other was in charge of the first aid. Their accounts of the event disagree as to who took what actions.

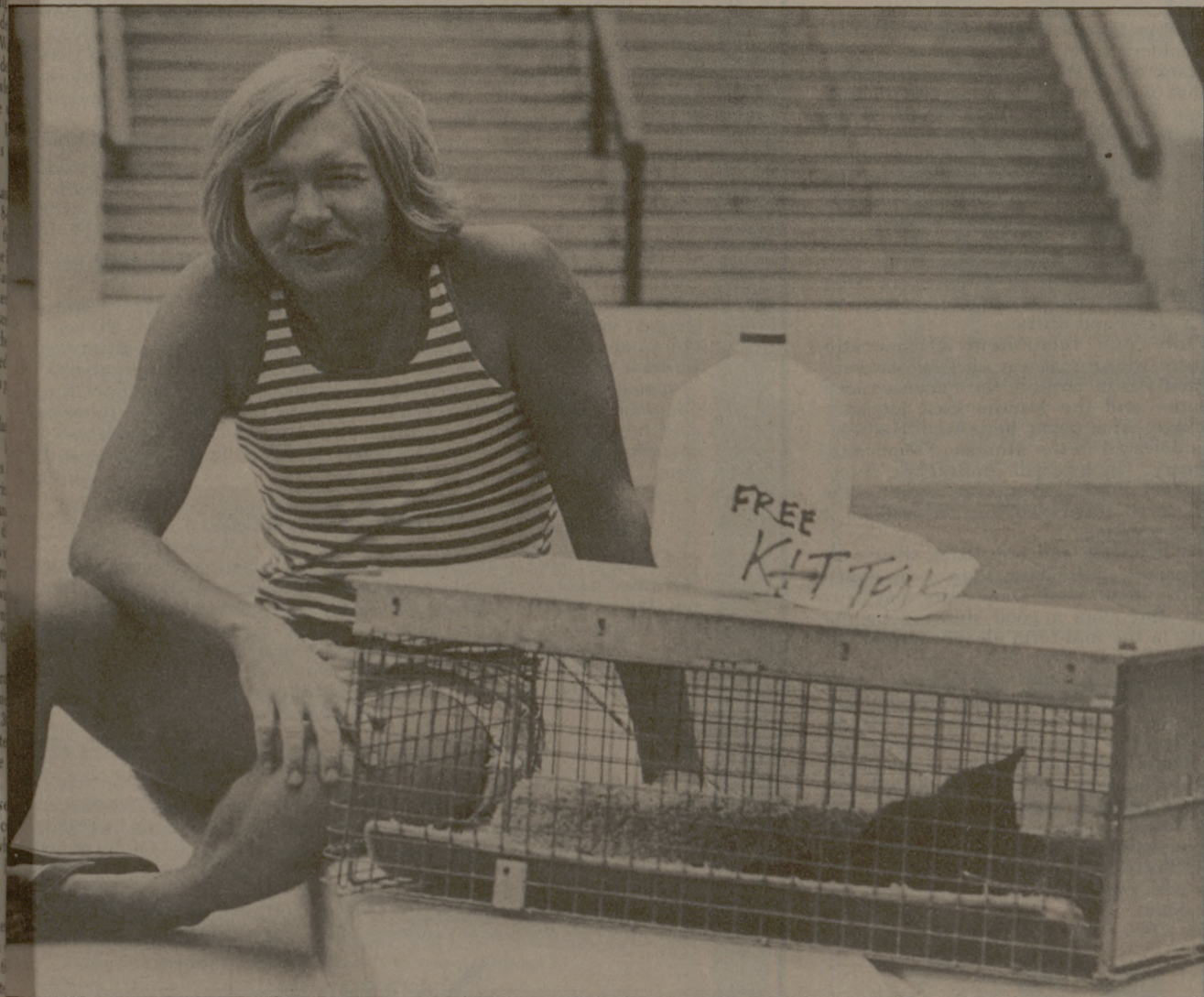
The four former employees were among 22 employees who quit their jobs with Mid-Tex over a 15-month period.

The four said that this high job turnover rate was due to widespread dissatisfaction with the management of Mid-Tex. Thornal said that the majority of his employees are students who want a little experience, and that a high turnover rate is normal.

Two weeks ago the Bryan City Council decided to renew Mid-Tex's license during a regular council meeting. The four former employees presented their allegations to the council during that meeting. Thornal said he presented to the council a written reply to those charges Monday.

When the council renewed Mid-Tex's license, the former employees said they decided to take their case to the news media and the public.

Depending on the reaction, they say they may go before the State Department of Health to seek a negligence judgement against Mid-Tex. But no emergency medical service in Texas has ever lost its license under such a judgement.



'Say, you look as if you need a kitty cat'

Billy Wood, who is an instructor in engineering design graphics during the regular school year, took up a vantage point near Rudder Tower Monday to

give away some kittens. Reports are he found plenty of takers.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Council to appeal decision cutting HUD funding plan

By MARK WILLIS
Battalion City Editor

College Station City Council has to appeal a ruling by Housing and Development officials that found it ineligible for funds in 1978 for Community Development Programs. The council considered the ruling during a council meeting Monday night. Councilman Gary Halter, who went to recently to represent city interests in D. was asked to give background on the ruling.

"I'm not sure anyone could give you a round on this," he said. He said that several of the programs which said College Station must implement were not needed in this area. This he said, made no difference to HUD.

A major objection voiced by HUD officials was that the city had no plans for construction of low cost and/or rent-subsidized housing, he said. Halter said

that though existing housing could be used, would be cheaper, and would produce a more successful result, this did not affect the HUD ruling.

Halter said he was told by one official, whom he did not identify, "You have set on your ass and done nothing for three years."

Despite the failure in College Station programs similar to several of those demanded by HUD, the department refused to reconsider its decision, Halter said.

Councilman Jim Dozier moved that the council appeal the ruling and write Texas legislators in Washington in protest. The motion carried unanimously.

The council also accepted the low bid of Rauscher Pierce Securities Inc. for sale of city bonds totaling \$3,020,000.

The sale of the bonds, approved by the voters in April 1971, is to pay for street improvement, police and fire department construction, and park land acquisition and improvement.

The Rauscher Pierce bid, which was the lowest of six, called for gross interest of \$1,848,135.63 over a seven year period. From this sum a premium of \$24.50 would be subtracted, leaving \$1,848,111.13 or an effective interest rate of 5.4093 percent.

Councilman Homer Adams questioned the need for the city to sell \$352,000 of those bonds, since the land that amount was originally set aside to purchase has already been acquired with other funds.

"The people didn't vote \$2,152,000 to parks," Adams said. "They voted \$1,800,000," referring to the \$352,000 spent out of general funds for the land in question already.

It was then explained, not to Adams' satisfaction, that to hold the bonds and attempt to sell them later would be difficult due to the relatively small amount of money involved. Park improvement was included on the original bond issue and the additional funds will be used for that purpose.

The sale was approved, with Adams casting the only negative vote.

The council also approved several plat proposals by various developers.

pected to appoint the new head legal adviser early next week.

The legal adviser's office entered a transition period following the resignation June 1 of head attorney Chris Kling, acting legal adviser Eugene Lyles said.

Lyles, formerly an assistant attorney under Kling, was chosen to temporarily head the office following Kling's resignation.

Lyles had announced his intention to leave the University last spring and will resign Aug. 1 to take up private practice in College Station.

The last three student legal advisers at Texas A&M left the University to enter private practice in Bryan or College Station, said Koldus said.

Starting salary for student adviser attorneys at Texas A&M is about \$16,500, Koldus said. However, Lyles said the promise of earning a bigger salary at a private law firm was not his primary motivation for leaving the University.

"Everyone has a different reason for leaving," Lyles said. "There is an excellent business community here and offers from private firms are forthcoming."

"I am looking forward to practicing a different type of law than I can practice here," Lyles said.

Koldus said 29 applicants responded to employment announcements sent to law schools around the state. That field has been narrowed to four contenders who are being interviewed this week by Koldus, the student services staff and a group of students active in student government at Texas A&M.

The new attorney must be licensed to practice law in Texas and should be able to relate to students, Koldus said.

Koldus said he probably will announce his decision for new student attorney Monday.

Briscoe's tax relief plan meets quick dissent

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Texas Legislature has been in special session only about 24 hours, but already major portions of Gov. Dolph Briscoe's \$1.1 billion tax relief program are in trouble.

Briscoe has proposed a seven-point plan to reduce the amount of taxes paid by an average household by as much as \$552 during the next two years, but it was greeted with a noticeable lack of enthusiasm Monday. And within hours of the opening session, House liberals had blocked attempts to accelerate consideration of one phase of the program.

House leaders could not muster the two-thirds majority vote necessary to suspend rules and allow the Constitutional Amendments Committee to conduct public hearings today on Briscoe's proposal to tax agricultural land on its productive value rather than market value.

Without the rules suspension — and another vote was likely today — the hearing on the proposition could not be scheduled before Saturday.

House rules were suspended to permit the Ways and Means Committee to begin hearings today on two of the more popular portions of the governor's tax relief package — repeal of the 4 percent state sales tax on utility bills and increasing the state inheritance tax exemption.

Speaker Bill Clayton conceded several of the governor's proposals to reduce taxes and restrict future taxing authority of state

and local governments face tough opposition during the special session.

"I figure if we get by with 50 percent or better that's doing pretty good," Clayton said.

He said he expects particularly tough opposition to Briscoe's proposed constitutional amendments requiring a two-thirds vote to raise state taxes, giving citizens the right of initiative and referendum on tax issues, and limiting the power of local governments to increase taxes and spending.

Briscoe told the legislators Monday it was his duty to recommend the tax relief proposals and their duty to pass them.

Legislators applauded politely at the beginning and end of Briscoe's speech, but not one of his proposals drew applause during the speech.

Briscoe said his tax relief program is the

largest ever considered by a state legislature.

Previous special sessions called by Briscoe have lasted no more than 10 days, but a number of legislators indicated Monday they expect the tax relief session to last a full 30 days.

Strongest opposition to Briscoe's proposals is expected to come from the Senate, where Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby endorsed only two of the seven items — repeal of the sales tax on utility bills and increasing the inheritance tax exemption.

Speaking of the new restrictions proposed for state and local government taxing and spending authority, Hobby said, "We have a pretty good system that has led to very low levels of taxation. We have responsible people in state offices, and my basic philosophy is, 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.'"

OSHA to investigate plant's second blast

United Press International

CLEBURNE — After an earlier rejection, inspectors from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have received approval to investigate a weekend

explosion at the GOEX Inc. munitions plant.

An OSHA inspection team reported to the plant Monday morning to investigate circumstances of an explosion Sunday which seriously injured one worker. An explosion in May at the plant killed four workers.

The inspectors, however, were told by plant officials that permission would first have to be granted by the president of the munition firm's parent organization, PEMGO Industries, Inc., who was in Europe.

An attorney for GOEX, Dean Owen, told the OSHA inspectors they could wait until "clearance" was obtained or they could go into court and obtain a warrant ordering the company to allow the federal inspectors access.

OSHA officials decided to wait and permission was obtained for the inspection late Monday from various directors of the munition plant's parent organization.

In Dallas, OSHA spokesman Les Gaddie said the inspection would begin at 9:45 a.m. today.

Gaddie said "We felt this (seeking permission for the inspection from higher company officials) was a reasonable administrative procedure."

He said the investigating team would try to determine whether any violations of federal safety regulations might have led to the explosion in a pressing machine die. The blast did little damage to the plant, which was the site of a massive explosion last April in which four persons died.

He said no reports would be released until the completion of the investigation, but he could not estimate how long that would take.

One worker, Gerald Durgin, was listed in generally good condition Monday at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Worth. Hospital spokeswoman Mindy Bailey said Durgin, 27, suffered the loss of his left hand and two fingers on the right hand in the explosion.

Two other employees who had been in the 30-by-30 foot building, Carol Cater and Calvin Tapp, were taken to Johnson County Memorial Hospital for observation. Only Mrs. Cater was admitted, but hospital officials declined to release the nature of her injuries.

Student legal advisor to be appointed—again

By FLAVIA KRONE
Battalion Campus Editor

ew attorney will soon head the student legal advisory office. John Koldus, resident for student services, is ex-

When it doesn't pay off to call police for help

United Press International

ONIA, Mich. — A would-be robber whose victim refused to hand over the money called police and asked them to force the victim to cooperate. Police locked him up. Police said Joe Basinger, a gas station attendant in this western Michigan town, was on duty late Monday when Larry Tate, 29, of Onia, drove up and announced a robbery. Police said Tate told Basinger he had a gun in his pocket. Basinger refused to cooperate, he said, and Tate threatened to call the police to force Basinger to cooperate.

The attendant, daring Tate to follow through on the threat, offered to use of the telephone.

Tate made the call and police arrived moments later and arrested Basinger.

"I would think we would chalk it to him being a little bit stupid," said police spokeswoman Vi Troxel. "He probably just got utterly coned when things did not go the way he wanted. So now he's cooling his heels in our jail."



Wind power

Political science professor Dr. Bruce Robeck relies on the old-fashioned method of keeping his tires

inflated. Robeck was pumping away in lot 12 on Ross Street Monday afternoon.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley