

THE BATTALION

Auto puff

Cars have more than wheels, doors and a radio. But many people, especially women, don't know much about the other parts of an auto. Free University offers a course that explains. See page 5.

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News Dept. 845-2611
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Few survive

In the mad world of magazine publishing, less than half survive long enough to make good profits. But potential publishers keep trying. More than 10,000 titles are currently on the market. See page 8.

Worst air disaster leaves 150 dead

United Press International
SAN DIEGO — A Pacific Southwest Airlines Boeing 727 with 136 persons aboard collided in flight with a small Cessna Monday and plunged into a residential neighborhood in the worst air accident in U.S. history.

Everyone aboard the jet as well as a student pilot and his instructor aboard the Cessna and at least one person on the ground were reported killed. Several others on the ground were rushed to hospitals.

The death toll of 139 was the worst for an airplane collision in U.S. history. In December 1960 two commercial planes collided over New York City, killing 128

aboard the planes and six others on the ground.

The worst air disaster in history occurred March 27, 1977, at Tenerife in the Canary Islands, when two jumbo jets collided on a runway, killing 582 persons.

The PSA plane, Flight 182 from Sacramento and Los Angeles, was on its landing approach when it collided with a two-seat Cessna 150 at an altitude of 3,000 feet, the Federal Aviation Administration said.

"I saw the jet plane. It was smoking on the right side," said Phil Hopkins, a witness. "The right inboard engine was burning and it exploded into a fireball, and spiraled to the ground."

The 727 smashed into a row of houses

along Dwight Street in the North Park district, about five miles from the city airport, Lindbergh Field. As it careened along the street wreckage was spewed across a wide area, injuring several persons. At least six homes were set afire.

"There were bodies lying everywhere," said Barry Fitzsimmons, a photographer for the San Diego Evening Tribune, who was one of the first to arrive at the scene. "A block of homes was on fire. It was horrible. The only thing you could see of the plane was a PSA engine. All the other wreckage appeared to level the whole block."

Residents of the neighborhood were said to be mostly elderly persons.

Lynn Durling, a reporter for radio station KSDO, said the 727 crashed with a sound "like a sonic boom." The station is in a high-rise building only a few blocks from the crash site, and in the plane's flight pattern.

"I looked out the window and saw people dodging the wreckage," Durling said.

PSA said the plane was its Flight 182, which left Sacramento at 7:20 a.m. and made a stop in Los Angeles. It had 129 passengers and a crew of seven aboard and possibly more. The airline said there were possibly more individuals on board because there were 11 seats available for employees.

Among the passengers, it was known there were 19 PSA employees.

Bryan will get new tax scheme

By LYLE LOVETT
Battalion Reporter

The Bryan City Council did away with its current four-quadrant tax assessment program, opting for a three-section program on a six to one vote Monday.

The new property tax program will divide the city into three sections, revaluing each section per year and updating tax values on all three sections the fourth year.

Under the current program, one quadrant is revalued each year and all quadrants updated at the end of the fourth year.

Mayor Richard Smith said the three-section program will be more fair than the quadrant program because taxes will be updated sooner after revaluation.

"The only fair way is to revalue everybody instantaneously," Smith said, "but you can't do that."

The tax assessor's office said it would take two years of full-time work to revalue all the property in Bryan.

The council voted to keep the current tax assessment — 62 cents per \$100 valuation at 80 percent appraised value.

In discussion, Councilman John Mobley reiterated his suggestion of two weeks ago that the property tax question be put off for one year.

The council also voted to subsidize Mid-Tex Ambulance Service for losses from its uncollected bills.

Smith proposed that rather than subsidize a private company, Bryan might join College Station and Brazos County in forming a public ambulance service. But he added that such a plan could not be

enacted immediately and Mid-Tex would have to be subsidized if the city is to continue to be provided with ambulance service.

Mid-Tex will be reimbursed monthly, receiving money only for those debts it proves cannot be collected. The council voted to budget a maximum \$2,000 per month for the subsidy.

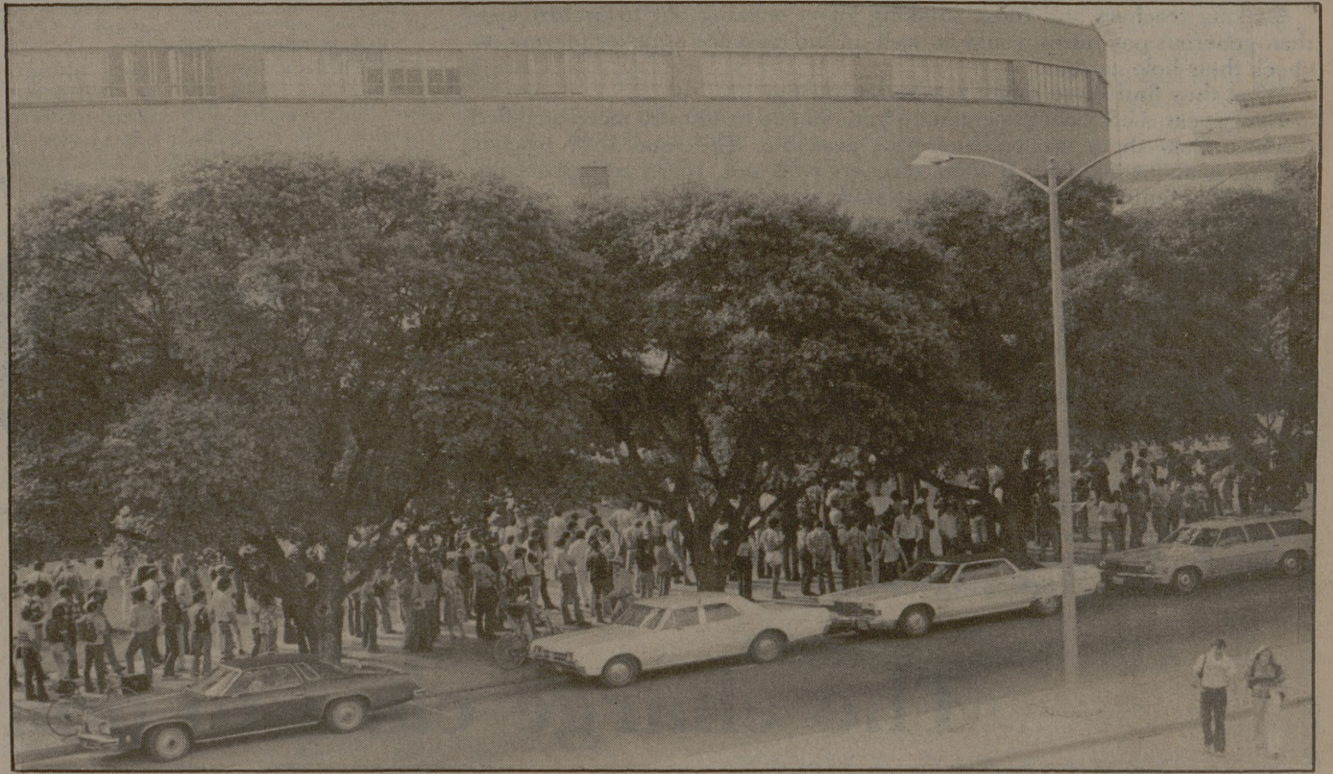
Also, the council told Billy Hodge, president of Downtown Merchants Association, that a foot patrolman would be provided in downtown Bryan when the current police officer shortage is alleviated. Acting City Manager Hubert Nelson said four men will be added to the police force in two or three weeks. Smith said the city is currently five to seven policemen short.

Hodge also was told the 30 burned out lights in the downtown area would be replaced.

The council held a public hearing on the proposed \$32,883,853 budget for fiscal year 1978-79. There was no comment from the handful of residents present. Last year's budget was \$29,163,287.

In other discussion, Councilman Henry Seale suggested the runway at Coulter Field be widened. This proposal will be discussed at the next meeting, Nelson said.

Seale also said the council needs to address the problem of burglary and theft in Bryan. He suggested posting rewards for information leading to arrest and conviction on any type of burglary or theft. Seale said if the city could "make it worthwhile for one crook to tell on another," theft might be curbed in Bryan.



'Tickets, anyone?'

It's football season again, the first home game is Saturday and the lines in front of (and around) G. Rollie White Coliseum are still long. One ticket distributor said that a student had waited two-and-a-half hours. This year only six tickets may be picked

up by one student, instead of last year's 10. But the comments are still the same—"I've waited three years to be able to get decent tickets, and I still get them in the horseshoe!"

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Regents OK dorm planning

The planning and building committee of the Texas A&M University System's board of regents recommended approval of vari-

ous stages of planning for three dormitories in a meeting Monday.

Final decisions on the committee action will be made today at a regents' meeting at Prairie View A&M University.

Recommendations of approval were made for appropriations to pay for detailed plans of a four-story, 500-bed dormitory. The committee also favored funding feasibility studies for a second 500-bed dorm and a 1,000-bed project with a commons area.

If approved, the second 500-bed dorm may be built near Sbis dining hall. University president Jarvis E. Miller said that Sbis is the only University food service facility not operating near capacity, and that building a new dorm in another area of the campus would also necessitate construction of a dining hall.

"We have virtually unlimited dining capacity in Sbis and we want to make use of that space," Miller said.

Committee chairman H.C. Bell recommended that University planners consider locating the proposed 1,000-bed dormitory near Duncan dining hall. The band practice field would be the best location, he said.

Bids for construction of the first 500-bed dorm will be accepted until Oct. 31, said Paul Stephens, University facilities plan-

ning manager. The board is expected to select a contractor at a special meeting Nov. 2.

A scheduled meeting of the committee for academic campuses was cancelled when the executive committee meeting held a three-and-one-half hour closed session after meeting openly for about 15 minutes.

The executive committee opened its meeting at 1:30 p.m. The academic campuses group was scheduled to meet at 3:30 p.m.

The planning and building committee recommended approval of a \$20,000 appropriation to study the building of a dam in an East Texas nursery run by the Texas Forest Service.

Committee head H.C. Bell opposed approval of the project, saying that the land planned reservoir would cover probably contains Indian artifacts. Several Indian burial mounds are in the area.

The committee also approved a \$94,500 appropriation for preliminary design of 88 new married student apartments, slated to be built near the College View apartments on University Drive. Plans call for the new apartments, intended to replace barracks-type married student housing, to be completed in March of 1979.

Bakke attends class while protesters yell

United Press International

DAVIS, Calif. — Allan P. Bakke, winner of a historic "reverse discrimination" suit settled by the U.S. Supreme Court, enrolled Monday at the University of California Medical School during a noisy but orderly protest.

"I'm glad to be here," the balding, blond 38-year-old engineer who wants to be a doctor remarked as he was hustled into a lecture hall guarded by university police in street clothes.

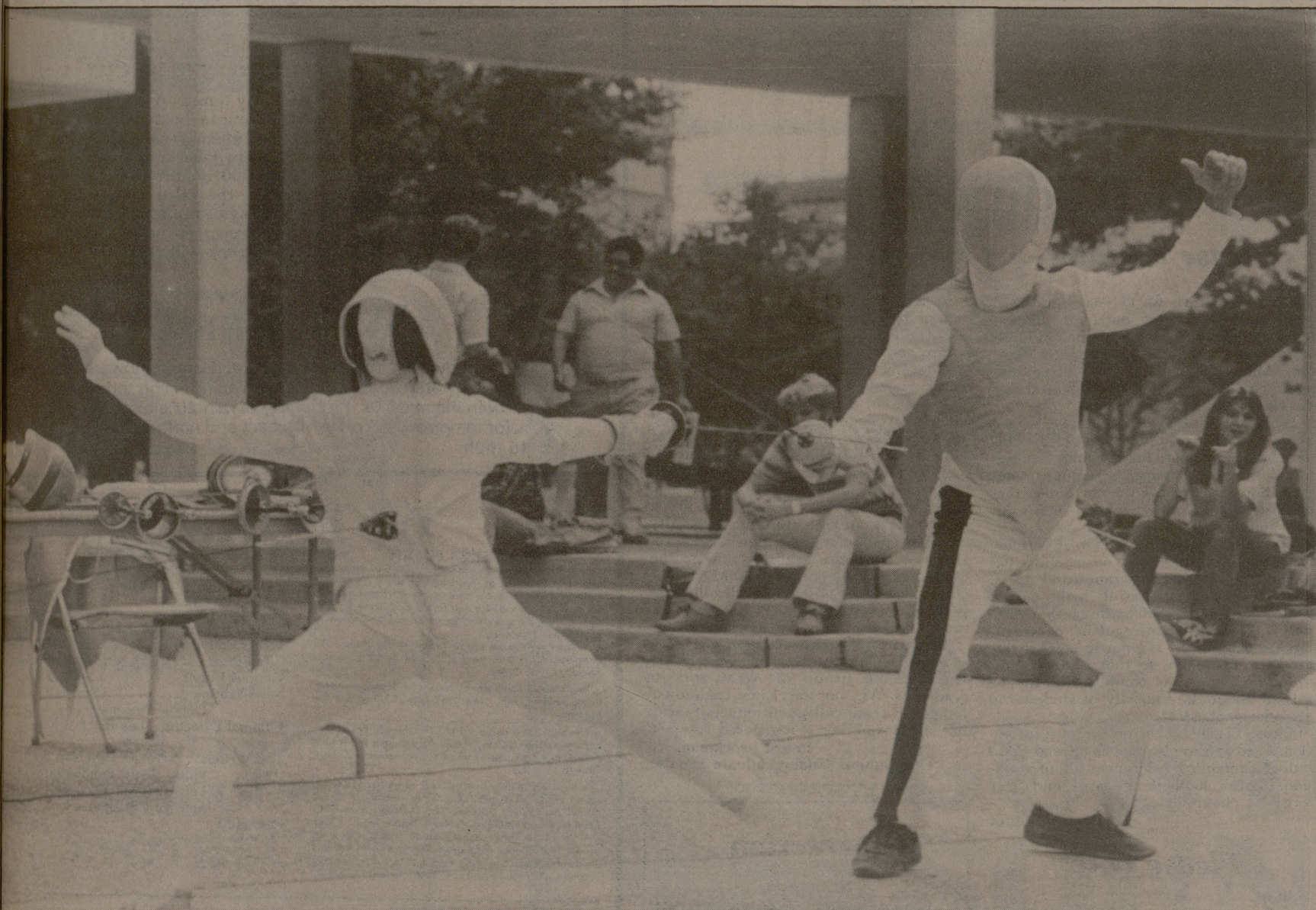
About 100 chanting demonstrators marched in a picket line. However, the racially mixed protesters did not attempt to block his entrance to the first day of medical school classes.

Bakke, a Vietnam War veteran, was rejected by the medical school in 1972 and 1973 in favor of a fixed quota of 16 minority

candidates out of 100 students accepted. He sued on grounds that he was the victim of "reverse discrimination" and last June was ordered admitted by the Supreme Court.

In the wake of the court's historic decision in favor of Bakke, the university went back to the drawing boards to try to devise a constitutionally acceptable admissions policy. Race will continue to be a factor in admissions, the university has said.

Six years after he first applied, the U.S. Supreme Court held on June 28, 1978, that Bakke must be admitted to the school, but also upheld in its complex decision the right of schools to take into account ethnic background in consideration in future admissions.



'En Garde!'

Members of the Texas A&M University Fencing Club exhibited their skills Monday at the Rudder Complex fountain. The club is challenging anyone who can, to beat them. The challenger may choose the weapons,

either foils or sabers. The club members will be at the fountain today until 3 p.m.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Consol board votes to appeal tax report

By STEVE LEE
Battalion Reporter

The A&M Consolidated Board of Education voted Monday to appeal the state's report of taxable property in the district.

The School Tax Assessment Practices Board (STAPB) report for the 1978-79 school year showed values for all taxable property to be in excess of \$600 million, an increase of 126 percent over a 1976-78 report.

Superintendent Fred A. Hopson said several other school districts are planning similar action against the STAPB. Hopson conferred with representatives from other districts this weekend at a meeting in San Antonio.

The board decided unanimously to go "through the proper channels" to appeal the assessment, possibly taking the issue to state district court. The board questions several categories of property in the report, but was unprepared to identify which specific categories it would challenge.

The questionable items are mostly, but not limited to, intangible items -- items

the board termed ambiguous or difficult to assess. An example cited by the board was an "intangible personal" category, which reported a value of more than \$180 million. There was no value for the category in the previous report.

Trustee Lambert Wilkes questioned the "vacant lots" category, which the board considered a tangible item, as possibly being in error. The figure, in excess of \$40 million, is up 250 percent over the previous total.

Also in the meeting, Trustee Rodney C. Hill said action would be taken on a bond issue pending findings of a "needs assessment" report requested by the Long Range Planning Committee. The bond issue, tentatively planned for next April, would include construction of a new elementary school. The needs assessment, which includes enrollment projections and current optimum enrollment figures at each campus, is due Friday.

In other business, the board accepted Consol's Board of Equalization assessed value of the district at \$288,316,213. The board also approved the 1978 tax assessment at \$1.27 per \$100 assessed value.

Expert says cook shellfish to lessen risk of cholera

United Press International

BATON ROUGE, La. — Health investigators who traced five cholera infections to crabs taken in a 75-mile coastal stretch of southwest Louisiana say shellfish in the area are safe to eat if thoroughly cooked.

"The risk is very low," Paul Blake, a medical epidemiologist with the National Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, said at a news conference Monday. "We have seen just a few isolated cases."

Blake told a news conference the persons who became ill with cholera or showed signs of infection all had eaten

crabs caught from an area south of Pecan Island or from Mud Lake.

He said a 19-year-old Abbeville woman was the fourth case of cholera reported in coastal Vermilion Parish since mid-August. A fifth person, the 15-year-old daughter of one of the confirmed cases, showed traces of cholera in stool tests but did not have clinical symptoms of the disease.

Until the first reported case in mid-August there had been only three reported cases of cholera in the United States since a Gulf Coast outbreak in 1911 that killed dozens of persons.