



Motorcycle-bicycle collision

staff photo by David Fisher

Steve Barcia, a Texas A&M student, was injured in a bicycle-motorcycle accident Wednesday at the corner of Jersey and Houston streets. According to the accident report, Barcia was riding his bicycle along Houston and

entered the intersection on a red light. Robert Weatheron, another student, was riding his motorcycle on Jersey when the two collided. Barcia was taken to the A.P. Beutel Health Center. Weatheron refused treatment.

Appraiser says friction forced his resignation

by Hope E. Paasch
Battalion Staff

The chief appraiser of the Brazos County Central Appraisal District said he resigned Wednesday night because of friction with the College Station Independent School District.

Johnny Neece, chief appraiser since the appraisal district was created in 1980, said his resignation was not because of a business-level conflict, but resulted from problems with some of the officials he had to work with.

"We've had no problem with property owners and I have had no problem with my Board of Directors," he said. "The problems I've had are with four people." He refused to name the four people.

Neece's resignation follows the disapproval of the 1983 appraisal district budget this month by the CSISD and the City of Bryan and a CSISD decision to file suit against the appraisal district when its petition against the appraisal roll was rejected.

When the CSISD school board voted to disapprove the appraisal district budget Monday, board member Bill Wasson said he voted for the disapproval as a vindictive action.

"They have been so uncooperative

in everything that I don't care what kind of budget they present," Wasson said.

CSISD Assistant Superintendent Donald Ney said the CSISD fully supports the school board's action, but said the school district is not vindictive toward the appraisal district.

"We don't care who's down there (in the chief appraiser position) as long as the appraisal district can prepare a fair and equitable roll and operate in a cost-efficient manner," Ney said.

"We admit that there can not be a perfect tax roll, but there is a degree of acceptability," he said. "The one appraisal district has prepared is not acceptable."

Inequities in the roll have shifted the tax burden to the homeowner, Ney said, because at least half the business personal property values were not raised from the 1977 appraisal.

Neece said: "I do not feel like there's an exceptional number of inequities. There are some bad inequities, but we will have some of those every year. Most of the inequities are because of inaccurate information given to us from their appraisal records."

Faye Davis, tax assessor for the CSISD, said the appraisal district was to reappraise all the property on their own by the end of 1982.

The Peveto Bill, which created central appraisal districts, calls for a complete correlation of appraisal rolls by the end of 1982, but does not specify that a reappraisal be completed by then. Debbie Wheeler, assistant director of education and standards at the State Property Tax Board in Austin, said the bill leaves the date for reappraisal up to the individual appraisal districts.

"The individual appraisal district boards of directors and the chief appraiser are the ones who decide when reappraisal will take place," she said. "All the bill specifies is that all the rolls in the county must be correlated by the end of this year and each district must set up a plan for regular reappraisals."

The bill specifies all property in the county should have only one value for all entities by the end of 1982, but the 1981 special session of the Legislature passed an amendment allowing extensions. The Legislature granted the extensions because reappraising all property by 1982 is, in some cases, **See District, page 3**

Mandatory class attendance stresses academic value

by Carol Smith
Battalion Staff

James is a Texas A&M football player.

He practices with the team an average of four hours a day. Some mornings he's tired, his body aches and he doesn't feel like going to class.

But he has to attend class because of the new mandatory attendance policy for scholarship athletes that Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill established at the beginning of the fall semester.

If James chooses to skip class, his professor can report him. James will be watched and if he skips again, Sherrill can choose not to let James practice or participate in that week's game.

Dr. Don Hunt, athletic academic counselor, said: "Sometimes young men and women get caught up in the glamour of intercollegiate athletics, and this is just a reminder that academics are first and that the concept of student-athlete means exactly that — student first, athlete second."

Sherrill said he thinks the policy helps the department evaluate a student-athlete more accurately.

"It's a good way for us to get a handle on the students' activities," Sherrill said. "If they're in class every

day, they're in study hall every day and you know they're doing everything they're supposed to be doing, then we can better understand them."

Hunt, a mathematics instructor, counsels 300 student-athletes.

"I'm termed more of an academic person than an athletic person and I think it gives the faculty more confidence in me (as academic counselor for athletes) because I am, so to speak, one of them," Hunt said. "It can help them to realize that what we're trying to do is help people graduate, and the reason we're trying to help them graduate is because of the restraints put on their time by intercollegiate athletics."

Before the beginning of the fall semester, Sherrill sent a letter to Dr. Charles McCandless, interim vice-president for academic affairs, informing him of the new policy and asking his cooperation. In the letter, Sherrill outlined his plan, which calls for mandatory attendance at all classes by all scholarship athletes, both men and women.

At the beginning of the fall semester, the athletes took letters to their instructors explaining the policy and asking for cooperation in making the policy successful.

At the end of each week, the

athlete takes a card to the instructor, who signs it if the athlete has been in class. If the student has not been in class, the instructor can report his or her absence to the Athletic Department.

After the card is signed, the athlete returns the card to the counseling office in Cain Hall. The student receives a new card each week.

"We have received about 600 responses (from instructors and professors)," Hunt said. "Approximately 40 declined to participate, either because of class size or because they were not in favor of the policy."

The policy was enacted not only to increase class attendance among student athletes, but also to help the students adjust to a combination of classes, studying and the time restraints of intercollegiate athletics, he said.

"One of the main directions of the attendance policy is to increase communication with the instructor," Hunt said. "Now that's not through winning over the professor either. If we increase (the student's) communication with the professor, eventually maybe that person will go by the office and visit and perhaps increase his understanding of the material co-

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Strike broadens; more teachers plan to walk

United Press International

With the school year nearly a month old, spreading teacher walkouts plagued four northern industrial states Wednesday and strike leaders in New Jersey faced possible jail terms for defying a back-to-work order. About 285,000 youngsters were affected by the strikes.

The key issues were pay, staff reductions and job security in strikes in Pennsylvania, Illinois, New Jersey and Michigan — where Detroit's giant strike entered its 10th day under a new blackout.

Dozens of other school districts across the country were still bargaining for contracts, some of them with strike deadlines.

Striking Pennsylvania teachers ended walkouts in two school districts Tuesday — the Meyersdale district in Somerset County and the Tamaqua Area district in Schuylkill County — but strikes languished in 19 others, affecting 66,500 students and nearly 4,000 teachers.

A state mediator has joined talks in a 10-day strike in the Central Bucks district in Bucks County. No progress was reported in talks to avert a Sept. 30 strike by teachers in Shaler Area

schools, Allegheny County.

Full-time teachers at Delaware Community College in Delaware County said they will strike if a contract agreement is not reached by Friday.

Teachers in Waldwick, N.J., went on strike Tuesday after contract talks collapsed and about 100 students joined teachers on picket lines at two schools. Classes for the district's 1,750 students were being taught by substitutes.

New Jersey's other teachers' strike in Teaneck went into its sixth day with no new talks scheduled and strikers were to appear in court today for a hearing to determine if their union leaders should be jailed for defying a back-to-work order. Substitutes were teaching about 5,000 students.

Detroit's strike, which has kept 200,000 school kids out of classes since Sept. 13, showed no signs of ending as negotiations returned to a fact-finder in hopes of clarifying differences.

As students went into autumn without schooling, a coalition called the Detroit Association of Black Organizations urged teachers to return to work by next Monday while negotia-

tions continued.

State mediator David Tanzman, explaining that a news blackout handcuffed his responses to reporters' questions, said both sides were "exploring different approaches."

"I would not say there was any movement in either direction, but the teachers and board are talking and that's always a good sign," he said.

The teachers have been unyielding in refusing a school board demand for pay cuts to help wipe out a district deficit projected as high as \$60 million.

Teachers in the southern Illinois communities of McLeansboro and Dahlgren went on strike Tuesday, keeping 1,560 students out of classes.

The state's other strike in the Bremen Community High School District in the southwest Chicago suburbs affected 5,900 students.

Three-hundred striking Deer Park, N.Y., teachers voted to return to classes Tuesday for three days as a "show of good faith," a spokeswoman said, leaving the threat of another walkout if there is no contract agreement. Classes for the Long Island community's 1,400 student have been taught by substitutes paid \$100 a day.

Gemayel takes office hours before French troops land

United Press International

Amin Gemayel took office as war-torn Lebanon's president today with an ammunition dump exploding nearby, hours before the arrival of French troops spearheading the multinational peace force to replace Israeli troops in west Beirut.

"I swear by almighty God that I shall respect the constitution of the Lebanese nation and its law and preserve the independence of the homeland and the safety of its territories,"

the 40-year-old Gemayel said.

A huge ammunition dump packed with heavy artillery shells seized from Palestinian and leftist guerrillas blew up in thousands of explosions near the barracks where Lebanon's new president was being sworn into office.

Gemayel, 40, is the older brother of the late Beshir Gemayel, the president elect who was assassinated last week, prompting the Israeli invasion of west Beirut. He replaced President Elias Sarkis, whose term expired

today.

U.S. envoy Philip Habib, the architect of the withdrawal of Palestinian fighters from Beirut, attended the ceremony.

For more than 25 minutes after the initial blast at the ammunition storehouse, complex shells whistled through the air, landing up to 1½ miles away from the dump and starting secondary fires.

Television cameras outside the military barracks where Amin was

being sworn into office swiveled and broadcast pictures of the thick column of smoke rising over the complex.

Israeli troops carting off files and office equipment from a Palestine Liberation Organization office 2½ miles away ducked for cover when they heard the explosions.

"It's Katyusha rockets," the frightened soldiers cried.

Official sources said they believed the explosion was an accident.

The ammunition dump, located near one of main crossings between east and west Beirut, until recently was a base for the right-wing Phalange Party militia.

Israeli troops moved out of the area three days ago and Lebanese regular army troops took over the site, the sources said, using it as a storehouse for tons of captured explosives.

Flames from the dump leaped 50 feet, filling the sky with columns of

smoke, as citizens ran for shelters. Residents said the initial explosion felt like an "earthquake," shattering windows throughout the surrounding area.

Police sources did not immediately know if there were injuries.

Details of the return of the trination peace-keeping force were unclear, but the French Embassy said the first 350 French paratroopers would be ashore late in the afternoon.

Police suggest tracing calls in order to discourage frightening messages

by Johna Jo Maurer
Battalion Reporter

"The calls usually come in the middle of the night, when you're half asleep and so shocked by the phone ringing — then they start pouring vulgar language in your ear."

Sandra Gary, a senior secondary education major, has been victimized by persistent obscene phone calls since January.

Obscene and threatening phone calls are problems the phone company is trying to solve.

Gary is just one of an estimated 500 victims of obscene phone calls reported in the Bryan-College Station area each year.

This figure represents only about

one-third of the number of calls actually made, said patrolman Mark Langwell of the College Station police department.

"Of the approximately 500 reports made in a year, maybe less than 1 percent of the callers are actually prosecuted," he said.

Difficulty in prosecution lies in the phone company's inability to trace calls. If a victim reports a call received in the 696 exchange, for instance, a tracer will work only when the call was placed in that exchange.

The Bryan-College Station area has a large number of exchanges, making the tracing procedure close to impossible.

In Gary's case, three months

elapsed between the time she got the first obscene call until she reported it to police.

"It shocked the policeman that we had waited so long after he heard the things the obscene phone caller had been saying to us," she said.

Victims usually wait until the second or third call before they report them, Langwell said.

"As the caller gets braver, his threats may become worse," he said, "and studies have shown that people who begin by making obscene calls sometimes go on to commit more serious crimes."

Langwell suggests victims be persistent in hanging up the phone as soon as they hear an obscenity, get

their phone number changed or follow the phone company's procedure for tracing the calls.

"The policeman I reported the calls to advised me to try to catch the guy," Gary said, "but he said if we did trace and were successful in finding the caller, I would have to testify."

"This didn't bother me in the least because the guy is a criminal and he should get what he deserves for disturbing my privacy."

State law prohibits making calls of a threatening or obscene nature with the intent of disturbing or alarming the recipient.

Violation of this law is punishable by a fine up to \$1,000, up to 180 days in jail or both.

Langwell said: "It is hard to prove intent and hard to prove the suspected caller was on the other end of the line."

"It is so easy for the guy to say one of his buddies was just on the phone when we go in to apprehend him."

The General Telephone Company of the Southwest handles each problem individually.

Terry Cooper, administrative clerk responsible for handling reports of obscene calls for GTE, said customers are advised to change their number and have it unlisted.

"We also tell them to click the receiver one time when the obscene cal-

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forecast

Today's Forecast: High of 81, low in the high 50s tonight. Partly cloudy skies, drier, cooler day with less humidity.