

Around town

Fish Aide applications due Wednesday

Students interested in applying for the Student Government Freshman Aide program must do so **before 5 p.m. Wednesday**. The Freshman Aide program gives students an opportunity to become familiar with Texas A&M Student Government. Students chosen to participate in the program will be required to work in the Student Government Office several hours a week, serve on at least one committee and page at Student Senate meetings. Applications are available in the Student Government Office, 213 Pavilion.

Defensive driving class begins Monday

The Brazos Valley Safety Agency is sponsoring a **defensive driving course** Monday and Tuesday from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, College Station. The course can be used to receive a 10 percent reduction in automobile insurance rates or for the dismissal of a traffic fine. Registration is at 5 p.m. Monday at the Ramada Inn. The fee is \$20.

College Station offering Flag Football

The College Station Parks and Recreation Department is offering an **Adult Flag Football program**. Registration will continue through Sept. 7, at the College Station Parks and Recreation office at Central Park. Registration fee is \$180 per team.

Who's Who applications available soon

Applications for **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges** will be available, beginning Sept. 10, in boxes in the Commandant's Office, MSC, Student Activities Office, Zachary Engineering Center, Sterling C. Evans Library, Kleberg Center, the Office of the Dean of Veterinary Medicine, and the Office of the Vice President for Student Services. Completed applications must be returned by 5 p.m. Sept. 28.

Students must meet requirements for grade points and completed credit hours. From the qualified applicants, 55 students will be selected to Who's Who by a committee composed of faculty, staff and students appointed by the Vice President of Student Services and the Student Body President. Any questions should be directed to Chris Carter in 110 YMCA.

Thefts involving tractors rising in Brazos Valley

By **LAUREN FLOURNOY**
Reporter

The common horse thief from the turn of the century is no longer a problem in the Brazos Valley. But tractor thieves have taken their place.

Over 860 tractors were reported stolen in 1983, said Dr. J. Fred Cross of Stephenville, community development specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University system.

In the Brazos Valley, 426 tractors were stolen in the first five months of 1984. This is a 20% increase from the same time last year. The average value for the machines is \$31,900. Cross said this makes them a much sought after item for thieves.

"Every thief must have the motivation to steal, a victim and an opportunity," Cross said. "A tractor that is not locked up is a perfect target for a thief. It is put into neutral and rolled onto trailers. This is not uncommon in rural areas."

Cross said farmers can make it more difficult for the thieves to take the tractors. An identification number noticeable to the thieves will discourage them, he said. The number will also enable law enforcement officers to notify the owner if the tractor is found.

"The proper number to use for property identification in Texas is the owners driver's license number," Cross said. "This number is preferred over other identifying numbers because it can be readily traced through the Texas Department of Public Safety computer system."

A heavy duty hardened chain and good padlock used to chain the front and rear wheels will also discourage a thief, Cross said. Most thieves will not take something that they have to work for.

However, some farmers do not use crime prevention. There was a time when farmers did not have to worry about locking doors or putting identification numbers on their farm equipment because everyone was a good neighbor, Cross explained. Unfortunately, times have changed.

If a farmer's tractor is stolen, there is not much that can be done, Cross said. The farmer should have insurance, but most of them do not. Without a tractor a farmer will lose crops.

The loss of large crops could have a major affect on the consumer, Cross said. Depending on the community, prices could go up for certain items.

'Swap meet' ends in deadly rumble

United Press International

SYDNEY, Australia — Two rival motorcycle gangs at a "swap meet" in a crowded hotel parking lot suddenly turned on each other with guns and machetes Sunday in an hour-long clash that killed seven people and injured 20 others, police said.

Some 300 people — many of them parents with children — fled for cover when the fighting began between the bikers, who once belonged to the same gang but recently split into the Comancheros and Banditos, police and witnesses said.

"It was like a new dark age with barbarians out to kill everyone," said one witness who identified himself only as John. "Shots whistled past me and I dived into the car's front seat to find my friend who jumped in through the other door."

"Then I saw a girl standing amid all the carnage. One second she was there, the next second part of her face and neck were just blown away," he said. "She was covered in blood and tottered a second before slumping down. I knew she was dead and we were helpless."

No arrests were made and it was not immediately known what touched off the fighting, police said.

"We are investigating this battle between the two bike groups, Comancheros and Banditos, and we don't yet know what it's all about," police said.

Police said the victim was a 14-year-old girl who was selling raffle tickets at the "swap meet" — a type of flea market — in the parking lot of the Viking Inn hotel in a western Sydney suburb when the fighting broke out.

Six bikers also were killed in the fighting and about 20 other people were injured — four of them critically, paramedics said. The injured, which may have included some bystanders, were treated for gunshot and stab wounds, they said.

The clash between the bikers, who exchanged gunfire and attacked each other with machetes, knives and baseball bats, lasted for nearly an hour before ambulances and riot police arrived at the scene, witnesses said.


Paramedics rushed to treat the injured as helmeted police clad in flak jackets and with high-powered rifles negotiated with the bikers to lay down their weapons, witnesses said.

Paramedic Pat Kennedy said shots were still being fired when the first ambulance arrived. "But as the crew jumped from the vehicle, both sides put up their weapons and ceased firing," he said.

The wife of one biker victim, who she identified only as Harry, said the rival gangs had once been one group but had recently split up. They were at the swap meet to exchange motorcycle parts.

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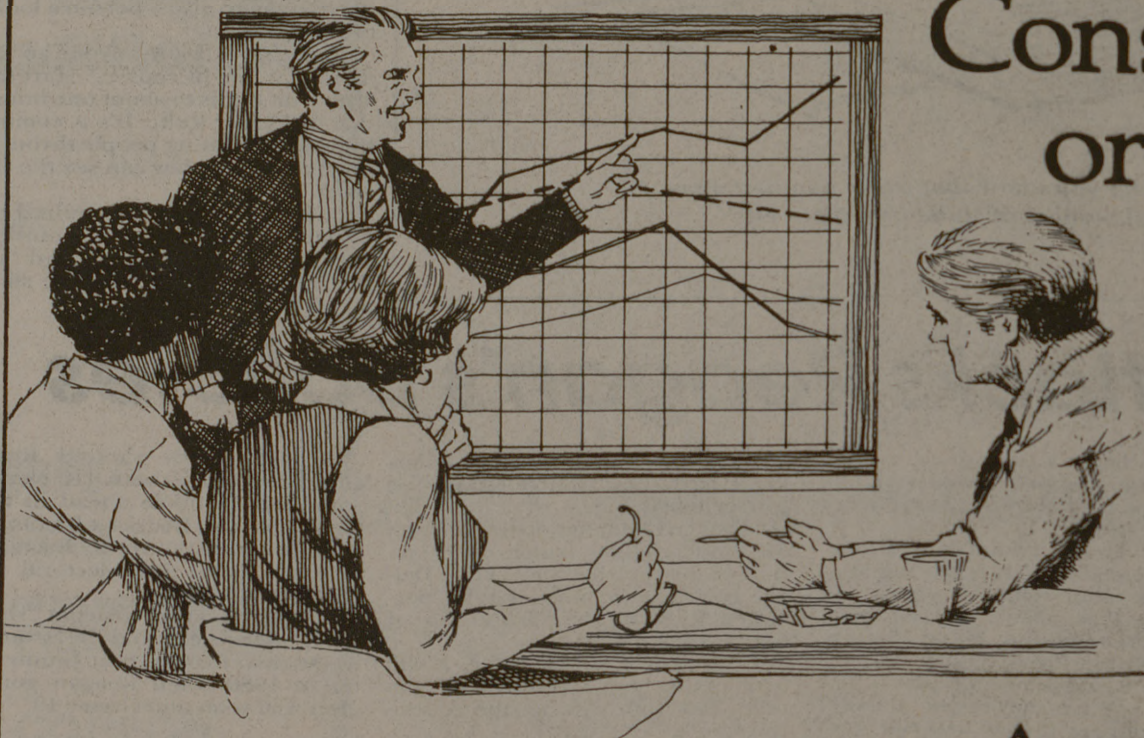
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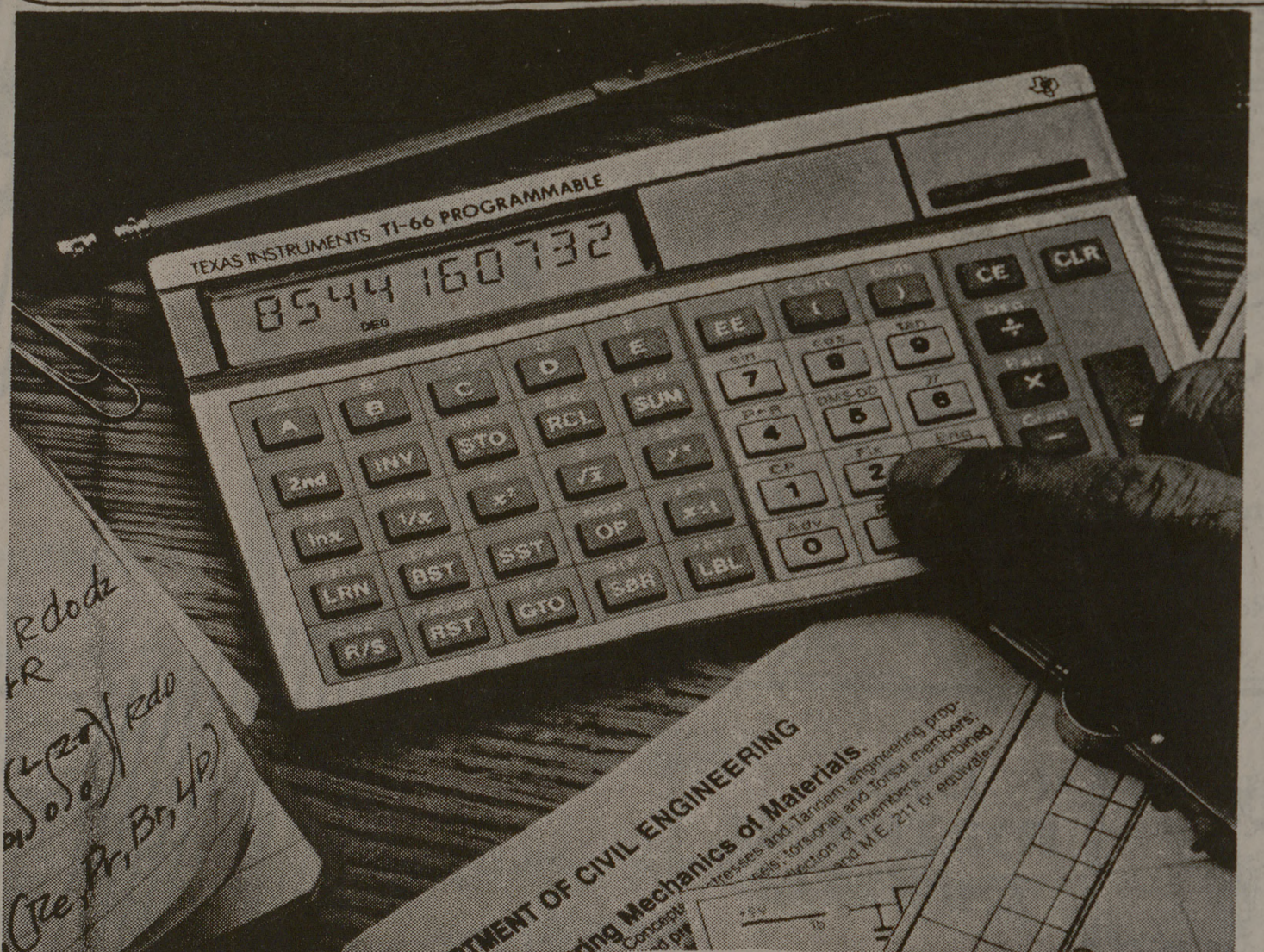
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