

# Accident victim's family discusses life after DWI

By SARAH OATES  
Staff Writer

For the Wooten family, the night of March 19 started out like any other. Cathy Wooten, 19, was on a date, but called home at 10:30 p.m. to tell her mom she'd be going somewhere else with a friend.

Ann Wooten, Cathy's mother, received another phone call at 11:15. It was a phone call every parent dreads. The call was from St. Joseph Hospital, where Cathy had been taken after an automobile accident on 29th Street in Bryan.

Ann rushed to the hospital, where she learned that Cathy had suffered numerous injuries including a fractured pelvis, a broken leg and a broken ankle. But the worst news was that Cathy's brain had been damaged.

She was moved to Houston's Hermann Hospital, where she could receive more sophisticated care. Her father, Steve Wooten, who had been out of town, joined his wife there.

"They didn't know if she would live the next 48 hours, but Cathy did live," Mrs. Wooten told reporters Friday afternoon at a press conference in her home on Jones Road.

Cathy was hospitalized in Houston for three months.

"It was destroying our family, so I

decided it was time to bring her home," Wooten said.

Ten weeks after the accident, the Wooten's insurance company cut off benefits because Cathy, a 1983 graduate of Bryan High School, was not a student and was over 19. The decision devastated the Wootens, who now face more than a quarter of a million dollars in bills.

A fund has been established at Republic Bank of A&M to help pay medical expenses.

The press conference was arranged by Kirk Brown, president of the Brazos County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Before the press conference, he told The Battalion that the driver of the car in which Cathy was a passenger received a sentence that was too light.

"She never even lost her driver's license," he said. "She didn't spend any time in jail, as far as we know."

Mrs. Wooten would not discuss the accident. But in an article in the Bryan-College Station Eagle, Assistant County Attorney Jack Pharris said that before the one-car accident, Cathy and the driver, Rebecca Martinez McWilliams, "had participated in the same activities."

The county didn't have a strong enough case for driving while intoxicated, Pharris said. He said the investigating officer couldn't establish

positively who was driving the car.

Pharris said that at the Aug. 17 trial McWilliams "was in an advanced state of pregnancy." She pleaded guilty to first offense DWI, was fined \$350 plus \$70 in court costs and sentenced to 90 days in jail. The jail time was probated except for 30 days and McWilliams was required to pay \$2,000 restitution.

McWilliams has visited Cathy once since the accident.

Mrs. Wooten said Cathy has improved in the three months she has been home. Her 17- and 14-year-old brothers and 10-year-old sister have helped in giving her 24-hour care.

"When we brought her home she wouldn't even follow us with her eyes," she said.

"Now she can give a hug, wipe her own mouth and squeeze with her right hand. That's it. She doesn't communicate with us. We don't know how far she'll go.

"A lot of people think we should be angry, but I'm hurt. It's not like when your kids are little and you can put a band-aid on the scratch and tell them it's okay. You can't put a band-aid on something this big," she said.

"It makes it hard to think of anything else."

# Change in name only, not service

By SARAH OATES  
Staff Writer

The name is new, but the services offered by the former Texas A&M Data Processing Center — now the Computing Services Center — are the same.

"Data processing" dates clear back to the 50s," director William Lafield says. "The new name is more accurately descriptive of the Center."

The name change is part of a long-range plan to change the organization of computing at Texas A&M. A task force assembled by Chancellor Arthur Hansen developed the plan in 1983.

Under the plan, two new positions have been created: director of administrative information systems and director of academic computing.

Lafield, who is the interim director of administrative computing, said he doesn't know who the new directors will be.

"The new positions were created to help the planning and coordinating of computing on campus," he said. "Computing has grown in an explosive way."

The plan divides administrative and academic computing into separate groups. The Center and a separate administrative applications group will handle administrative computing. Both will report to the director of administrative information systems under the vice president for fiscal affairs.

Lafield said the administrative applications support group will pick up software consulting and maintenance for all administrative computing. Formerly, the Data Processing Center handled all computer services.

The Center currently has three mainframe computers, including a recently installed Amdahl 5850.

Lafield said that "within the near future," one of the mainframes will

be used for a new interactive computing system.

"The user can respond better to the new interactive system," he said.

A campus-wide network of terminals are connected to the mainframes at the Center. The Remote Computing Center is located in the basement of the old Cushman Library. Academic computing is located in the Blocker Building. Terminals also are located in the Kleberg, Zachry and Teague buildings.

The 1,700 terminals, which include those owned by departments and those at the remote sites, are used by "just about every department," Lafield said.

The Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The computers are taken down for maintenance from 7 p.m. Saturday to 1 p.m. Sunday, and from 10 p.m. Sunday to 8 a.m. Monday.

# United Way campaign prepared to kick off 1984 area fundraising

By CAMILLE BROWN  
Staff Writer

It's time again for the United Way fund drive in Aggieland. From Sept. 24 to Nov. 16, Texas A&M students, faculty and staff will have the chance to give money and service to the Brazos County United Way.

A goal of \$110,000 has been set for the Texas A&M System, which is divided into three sections. The system agencies and the colleges of agriculture and engineering have a goal of \$45,000, Texas A&M University has a goal of \$55,000 and the

Texas A&M student body has a goal of \$10,000.

The University will kick off its campaign with a breakfast on Friday and the University system and colleges of engineering and agriculture will officially begin at a breakfast on Sept. 28.

In charge of system agencies and the colleges of engineering and agriculture is Ivory Nelson, executive assistant to the chancellor. Heading the University fund drive effort is Charles R. Cargill, vice president for operations, and coordinating the student part of the campaign is

John-Mark Stephenson.

The campaign sponsored by the three areas of the Texas A&M System is part of a county-wide fund drive to raise \$425,000 for the Brazos County United Way. The money raised goes to support human service agencies in Brazos County.

"The goal set for the Texas A&M University System makes up 25.8 percent of the county's goal," said Bob Fleischer, executive director of the Brazos County United Way. "So you can see how important Texas A&M is to the fund drive."

# Shark attacks, kills snorkler in water near San Francisco

United Press International

PESCADERO, Calif. — A 15-foot shark surfaced in shallow water among a group of shellfish divers, grabbed one and dragged him under before surfacing again with the dying man in its jaws, sheriff's deputies said Sunday.

Swimmers and divers were warned to stay out of the ocean 30 miles south of San Francisco where the attack occurred, but dozens of surfers were reported still riding the waves.

The shark, believed to be a great white, entered water 15 feet deep where abalone divers were snorkeling Saturday and attacked Omar Conger, 29, of San Jose, Calif., sheriff's deputies said. He died moments later.

Conger's diving partner, Chris Rehm, 33, said the shark struck twice. Its white-headed body rose out of the water with Conger locked in its jaws, then dragged Conger under before returning to the surface to release him, Rehm said.

"The head of the shark and whole body came out of the water," said Rehm, who pulled Conger, bleeding profusely, onto an inflated raft and hauled him to shore.

Two divers within 100 feet of Conger said they were unaware of the attack until they heard Rehm yell from shore.

"We were pretty scared and swam in," Steve Guzzetta said. "He said his friend had been bitten by a 15-foot great white shark. Sure enough, he

was there."

Rehm "had dragged his friend in from about 200 feet offshore and he was dead when he got to the beach," Guzzetta said.

"He was breathing when I pulled him on the raft, but I think he was dead by the time we got in," Rehm said.

Sheriff's deputies said Conger died on the beach from massive wounds to his buttocks and legs.

Great white sharks have been sighted in waters off the Golden Gate several times in recent weeks. The high predators are attracted to the area by the presence of a large number of elephant seals five miles south of Pigeon Point, Price said.

# Israel's cabinet devaluates shekel

United Press International

JERUSALEM — Israel's new unity Cabinet, meeting for the first time and under pressure from Washington to curb a soaring foreign debt and inflation, announced Sunday a \$1 billion budget cut and a 9 percent devaluation of the shekel.

Yitzhak Modai, the new finance minister, said Prime Minister Shimon Peres will present an Israeli austerity plan to President Reagan during a trip to the United States in

the next few weeks. The plan involves all ministries cutting their budgets.

The government, in an announcement on state-owned television just before midnight, said it was devaluing the Israeli shekel immediately by 9 percent in a move aimed at preventing a run on the dollar by Israelis nervous over reports of an impending devaluation.

At the same time, the government announced that the price of gasoline

would rise by 9 percent and prices of basic food stuffs subsidized by the government would increase soon.

Israelis, apparently fearing such a move was imminent, jammed gasoline stations before the announcement was made to fill up before prices rise.

After the devaluation, a person trying to sell a dollar in an Israeli bank would get 397 shekels. Before the devaluation, the exchange rate was 364 shekels to the dollar.

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