

STATE AND LOCAL

# One Wheelers find unicycles fast, versatile

By RICKY TELG  
Reporter

What has 11 wheels, 22 legs and gets to class faster than those who walk? The TAMU One Wheelers.

The One Wheelers is a University-recognized organization consisting of students promoting the virtues of the unicycle.

Though the unicycle was once used mainly by clowns in circuses, it is not viewed as a comedy prop by the group's 11 members. In fact, they can use that one-wheeled piece of machinery to ride rings around its two-wheeled cousin.

Club President Paul Schliesing said he's been riding unicycles for about 10 years and during that time, he has heard many remarks about his transportation.

"The most common reaction is 'What happened to the other wheel?'" Schliesing said. "Those who are concerned about my safety or their own say 'Don't fall.'"

Balance and coordination are the keys to staying on a unicycle, Schliesing said.

"It's just like learning to walk," he said. "Anyone with patience can learn to ride a unicycle in about 2 weeks."

The best way to learn, he said, is for the rider to find a place where he can use his arms to brace himself to get a feel for the unicycle. Schliesing said he suggested using a narrow hallway or two parked cars to get started.

Once the rider learns to ride, he can ride it almost anywhere, Schliesing said.

"On campus, it's easier to ride than a bike because it's more maneuverable, and it's a lot faster than walking," he said.

However, Schliesing and the other club members don't limit their activities to riding to class.

Some club members can ride the cycle backward. Others can ride with one foot, and others hop, juggle and spin a full 360 degrees.

Despite their simple design, unicycles are not cheap. A new cycle, depending on the brand, can cost between \$80 and \$190. The usual rule is, the taller the unicycle, the higher the price.

Because of its few movable parts and small size, a unicycle is easy to maintain and store, Schliesing said. It doesn't take up much room inside and can be carried from place to place easily.

Another bonus, Schliesing said, is that riding a unicycle also is good exercise.

"Your legs are moving all the time," Schliesing said. "You can't stop moving your feet unless you want to get off of the unicycle."

The unicycle, however, does have its disadvantages, he said. A unicycle cannot go as fast as a bike, which makes rides long and hard for the unicyclist.

But that didn't stop the One Wheelers from riding from Nava-sota to College Station this fall. The club sponsored the ride to raise money for the Village of Hope fund on campus. Every Christmas, the club also rides in the Bryan-College Station Holiday Parade. This semester, the unicycle club plans to put on demonstrations for elementary school students in the local area.

The One Wheelers meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Grove.

"Anyone is welcome to come," Schliesing said. "We'll teach you to ride if you don't know how."



Photo by WAYNE L. GRABEIN

Paul Schliesing, president of One Wheelers, rides his unicycle.

# IRS sponsors tax workshop in Bryan

By DOUG HALL  
Reporter

The old sayings goes, "You can always count on two things in life: death and taxes." But even though the former is inevitable there may be a way to keep you and the taxman happy.

An open tax workshop on small businesses will be sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service on Feb. 12, at 6 p.m.

IRS taxpayer service specialist Janet Patterson said the workshop is directed toward people who recently began a business or are contemplating getting into business.

The workshop, which will be at the Bryan Public Library at 201 E. 26th St., is open to anyone interested. The workshop is free of charge and pre-registration is not necessary.

Topics for the three-hour workshop include:

- keeping adequate records
- identifying sole proprietorships, partnerships and corporations
- determining net profit or loss for the business
- reviewing of the federal tax deposit requirements and how the IRS

functions relate to the business taxpayer.

Patterson said one feature of the workshop is a walk-through the main topics with the small business proprietors, regardless of the size of the company or the number of employees.

"We explain the employee identifying number that each employee receives and cover the W-2 and 1099 forms," she said.

Patterson said the workshop also deals with possible tax deductions for businesses such as advertising, company cars and trucks and insurance options.

Terrance Dill, an accounting lecturer, said tax workshops are valuable because taxes have gotten so complicated.

The workshop is scheduled to last two-and-a-half hours and includes a 28 minute introductory film that highlights the topics the instructors will emphasize.

Patterson said workshop members are encouraged to ask questions throughout the session and a 30-minute question-and-answer-period concludes each workshop.

# Student Senate meets tonight in Harrington

The Texas A&M Student Senate will elect a new vice president for Academic Affairs Wednesday night at 7:30 in room 204 of the Harrington Classroom Building.

Former vice president Tom Urban vacated his position January 23 because he was put on conduct probation by the Senate.

Urban was put on probation because of an excessive amount of parking tickets he accumulated last semester, the Senate's Speaker Pro Tempore Eric Thode said.

In other business, the Senate will vote on a bill creating the Student Athletic Committee.

The committee is designed to help promote all men's and women's sporting events and to serve as the liaison between the Athletic Department and the student body.

The Senate also will vote on a resolution recommending that the Student Government Comptroller place 5 percent of Student Government's budget in a cash reserve in anticipation of an upcoming budget shortage.

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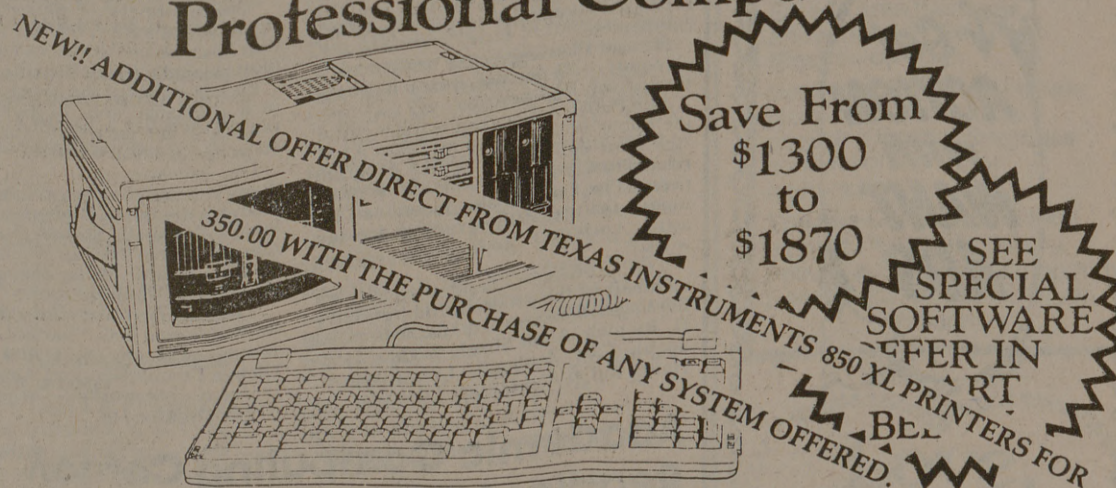
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