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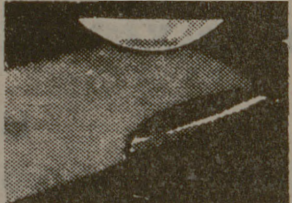
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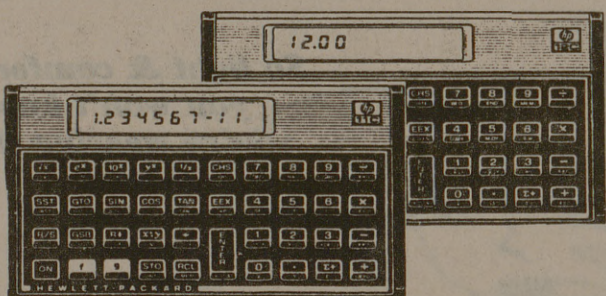
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TTI helps in development of crash barriers

By **KELLI THOMERSON**
Reporter

New crash barriers designed by the Texas Transportation Institute may be installed along Texas highways during the next year, says Dean Sicking, assistant research engineer for the project.

The Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation asked the institute to develop safer end barriers for the concrete safety barriers installed on Texas highways. The highway department also asked the institute, which is located at Texas A&M, to find a way to make the end barriers maintenance-free.

"In highly populated areas with much traffic, such as Houston and Dallas, we needed to find out how to safely end these barriers," he says. "Standard concrete and W-beam barriers are severe hazards. It's like running into a concrete wall."

The safest devices to use as end barriers are crash cushions, but they are expensive and have costly repairs, Sicking says.

"There are four or five different devices," he says. "The best system costs \$15,000 to install and has a significant amount of maintenance — \$1,500 to \$2,000 after impact."

The state asked the institute to design a new form of crash cushion that could be expensive to install but should not be expensive to repair, he says.

"We looked for barriers that could be restored in a minimal amount of time under normal impact conditions," Sicking says. "The best were

rubber cylindrical energy-absorbing devices."

The institute conducted six full-scale crash tests with the round, rubber barrels, which are designed to lie on their sides. The crash cushions withstood the impact of small cars at 60 mph and large cars at 50 mph without any damage to the barrier hardware, he says.

"The barriers can be restored for under \$100, using a three-man crew for half of a day with no hardware," he says.

The barriers do meet safety standards, Sicking says.

"They are not any better than other crash cushions, but they are just as good," he says. "They are just cheaper to maintain."

"The testing has just been completed and the highway department is very interested and hoping to install them during the next year. The state has the funds to install new end treatments because of the gas tax, but not enough for maintenance."

Hayes Ross Jr., head research engineer, says the barriers won't be widely used for the next two or three years.

"The barriers are being installed on an experimental basis," says Ross, who is also an A&M civil engineering professor.

"This is the field evaluation period," he says. "It takes time to be proof-tested and have additional developmental work. Although they are real good, they have room for improvement."

"I'm fairly sure they'll perform, but maybe something will show up. But I don't think so."

Hunger relief group in need of manpower

By **LAURIE MATUSEK**
Reporter

It's difficult for any student organization to remain in existence, but it's even tougher for an organization that has only seven members.

Chris Debrecht, chairman of Texas A&M's Hunger Relief Effort, fears the goals of the organization may not be fulfilled if more people do not join the club soon.

"The Hunger Relief Effort is a non-profit, charitable organization that seeks to serve humanity by helping the world's needy," Debrecht says.

"The only way the Hunger Relief Effort can help others is if it remains in existence," he says, "and it will be hard if we don't recruit some more people."

Debrecht is a senior electronics technician at the Texas Engineering Extension Service who says he does not get to spend as much time with the project as he would like.

"Because the organization lacks man power, more work rests upon the shoulders of the five committee members," he says. "It's difficult for me to donate 100 percent of my time to the project."

As a result, many of the projects have not been carried out, he says.

The committee, consisting of three professors and two students, tries to discover ways to assist those in the world suffering from hunger, particularly those people starving in famine-ridden countries such as Ethiopia.

Selling USA for Africa T-shirts on campus in July during the Live-Aid concert was the first money-making project the Hunger Relief Effort undertook.

"We purchased 250 T-shirts from the Live-Aid national organization and sold the shirts in the Memorial Student Center and in Post Oak Mall for \$13 a piece, all proceeds benefiting Live-Aid," Debrecht says.

Debrecht says the project was a success and estimates that only 100 T-shirts remained after the week of sales.

Most of the purchases were made by parents visiting the University or by persons attending the Firemen's Training School.

The lunch hour was the busiest time for student sales in the MSC, Debrecht says. He attributes this to the heavy flow of student traffic during that hour.

Debrecht says the group is constantly looking for new projects that the seven-member organization can handle on their own.

"The majority of the committee meets every Wednesday in the Memorial Student Center or in Rudder Tower from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and there are always different fund raising projects on our agenda," he says, "but most remain in the talk stage because we do not always have enough people to help carry them out."

Bahman Yazdani, assistant adviser for the Hunger Relief Effort, is making headway for the organization, though, Debrecht says.

Many local businesses allow Yazdani to collect bulk foods that the stores can no longer sell. After collecting the food, he distributes it to the local food bank and then to those people in the community he thinks are in need, Debrecht says.

If there were more people collecting, there would be more food distributed to those people in need, he says.

Figures of worldwide starvation are staggering, he says. According to the Hunger Project Source Document, 35,000 people die of starvation a day, 18,000 of them children.

Volunteer Michael Shields, a senior environmental design major, says people cannot grasp the idea of that many people starving every day.

"What if one morning you went to school and no one was there?" Shields asks. "If 35,000 people die a day, imagine that 35,000 figure being tolled from Texas A&M's campus."

"I bet that would wake up some people!"

Before it comes to that, Debrecht says he would rather see students take notice of the problem and try to do something about it. If anyone can help just once, it is more help than the Hunger Relief Effort had before, he says.

What's up

Tuesday

- SOCIOLOGY CLUB:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 123 Arab Bldg.
- PALEONTOLOGY CLUB:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 114 Hallbouty.
- BETA BETA BETA BIOLOGICAL HONOR SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 107 Biological Sciences Bldg. East
- PHYSICAL THERAPY CLUB:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Read.
- TAMU HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
- AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 203 Zachry.
- ON CAMPUS CATHOLICS:** will meet at 9:30 p.m. in Faiths Chapel.
- TAMU ONE-WHEELERS:** will meet at 5 p.m. at The Gateway
- DEL RIO HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder.
- HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT CENTER:** will have lessons 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- ALVIN HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Flying Tomato.
- SAILING TEAM:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 109 Trigon.
- CLASS OF '88:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder.
- PHI ETA SIGMA:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 401 Rudder.
- BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 201 VMS.
- STUDENT COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
- TAMU ROADRUNNERS CLUB:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
- FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 145 MSC.
- AGGIE ALLIANCE:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 601 Rudder.
- SKET AND TRAP CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 110 Biology Sciences Bldg.
- NRHH:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder.
- TAMU SCUBA CLUB:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
- COLLEGIATE FFA:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 208 Science Hall.
- INTRAMURALS:** Entries close for volleyball & pres volleyball tournament at 6 p.m. in 159 Read.
- 1986 MISS TAMU SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT:** Applications available now through Oct. 18 in 216 MSC.
- ALTERNATIVE CINEMA:** presents "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" at 8 p.m. in the architecture auditorium.

Wednesday

- WOMEN'S BONFIRE COMMITTEE:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in A-1 Lounge.
- AGGIE G.O.P.:** will have a reception for gubernatorial candidate Kent Hance at 6 p.m. in 145 MSC.
- CENTURY SINGERS:** has auditions for an accompanist (who is eligible for a \$250 scholarship) Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. in 003 MSC.
- TAMU HUNGER RELIEF EFFORT:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 305 Rudder. T-shirt sales for "We Are the World" in hallway 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. through today.
- MICRO SOCIETY:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 113 Biology Sciences Building East.
- STUDENT Y:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 701 Rudder.
- AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 228 MSC.
- MESQUITE HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder.
- UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY:** will meet at 6 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church for an "Aggie Supper."
- AGGIE RED CROSS CLUB:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 103 Read.
- 1986 MISS TAMU SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT:** will have an informational meeting at 6 p.m. in 200 HECC.
- PRE-VET SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 230 VMA.
- CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST:** will meet at 7 p.m. in All Faiths Chapel.
- POLITICAL FORUM:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder.
- STUDENT SENATE:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 204 HECC.



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GENERAL MEETING TONIGHT

7:00 P.M.

704 RUDDER