

State and Local

University police charge student with DWI after motorcycle crash

By Mike Sullivan
Staff Writer

Charges were filed Tuesday by the University Police Department against a Texas A&M student whose motorcycle crashed into a car about 1 a.m. Saturday.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic, said John Walter Abbott, 20, of 4441 Old College Road in Bryan, was charged with driving while intoxicated, minor in possession of alcohol, fleeing from an officer and operating a motorcycle on a sidewalk.

Wiatt said officers at the scene estimated Abbott, a sophomore economics major, was traveling about 40 mph on his Yamaha Maxim down Ross Street when he slammed head-on into the driver's side door of a 1982 Firebird.

The Firebird was driven by Mark

Allen Burns, a student from Southwestern University.

Margaret Helen Delaney, an A&M student who was a passenger in the car, said that when Abbott hit the car, his motorcycle exploded.

"All we saw when we looked up after it happened was fire," Delaney said. "Both of us thought the car was on fire, but we still didn't know what hit us."

Wiatt said Abbott, who was not wearing a helmet, flew over the car and landed on the cement near Heaton Hall.

He said that when Abbott was thrown over the car, his head hit the windshield and broke the glass.

Delaney said that at first sight she thought Abbott had been killed by the crash.

"He didn't have a helmet on or anything, and he left a dent and

some of his hair in the windshield," she said.

Abbott was taken to Humana Hospital in Bryan where he was treated for a broken arm and some head lacerations, Wiatt said.

A hospital spokeswoman said Abbott left the hospital Sunday.

Delaney and Burns were treated at the scene by A. P. Beutel Health Center emergency medical technicians for minor injuries, Wiatt said.

Wiatt said Burns was wearing a backpack containing four unopened cans of beer in a 12-pack carton. He said Abbott was tested at the hospital and the results showed he was legally drunk.

The accident occurred after a University Police officer saw Abbott riding his motorcycle in the mall area by the Langford Architecture Center, Wiatt said.

He said the officer turned on his

lights and Abbott took off down Ross Street, heading in the direction of Heaton Hall.

"He (Abbott) took off like a rocket," Wiatt said, "and the officer decided it would be too dangerous to pursue him through the campus."

Wiatt said the officer decided to give up the chase, and then he saw Abbott collide with the car.

He said Burns, who was traveling in the same direction as Abbott, began to turn left into the parking lot next to Heaton Hall and was hit by Abbott, who was attempting to pass him on the left side of the road.

The motorcycle burst into flames, Burns backed the car up away from the flames and he and Delaney jumped out, Wiatt said.

He said the car continued to roll after Burns and Delaney jumped out and it ran into the officer's patrol car, which had just pulled up.

In Advance

Workshop to focus on placement center

The College of Liberal Arts and the Career Planning and Placement Center will sponsor a workshop on the opportunities the placement center provides for Texas A&M students at 5 p.m. today in 302 Rudder.

The workshop is the seventh in a series on careers for students in liberal arts. Dr. Ann McDonald, associate director of the placement center, and Dr. Candida

Lutes, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, will discuss ways that students can benefit from the center.

Many liberal arts students think the center is helpful only to engineering students or other students, McDonald said. She wants students to realize the placement center is there to help every student.

Seminars on work, family to be held

By Lydia Berzsenyi
Reporter

The Texas A&M personnel department will present two workshops on "Families and Work: Setting Priorities/Finding a Balance," Friday in 301 Rudder.

The workshops will be conducted from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. and are open to all A&M faculty and staff members. Admission is free.

The seminars will consist of presentations and a question-and-answer session.

Mary Clayton Nance, family resource management specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, and Dorothy Taylor, family life specialist with the TAES, will lead the workshops.

The sessions will focus on stress and time management, the balancing of relationships and

household responsibilities with employment duties, parenting skills for employed parents and money-management methods.

Ann McMullan, employee relations manager and coordinator of the program, said she expects a good faculty and staff turnout and stressed that the seminars are appropriate for men and women of all ages, whether single or married, with or without children.

The workshop is the second in a series of Wellness Seminars presented by the personnel department, McMullan said. A stress management workshop was held in October and a seminar on nutrition and weight control is being planned for the spring, McMullan said.

Anyone interested in attending Friday's seminar or getting more information about the program can call Gigi Delgado at 845-4153.

Laboratory tests of economic theories said to 'breathe new life in the field'

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Economists around the United States now can test their economic theories in the laboratory in a new field called experimental economics, University of Houston scholar said Tuesday during a science briefing at Texas A&M.

"We're putting the science in the normal science," said Dr. John Kagel of the University of Houston told science writers attending the 24th Annual New Horizons in Science briefing.

The briefing, co-sponsored by Texas A&M University and the National Science Foundation, is designed to bring journalists together with the nation's top researchers to discuss current advances in science.

Kagel and Dr. Raymond Battalio of Texas A&M University are

among more than 100 scholars participating in experimental economics.

"For the most part, economics has been a descriptive and theoretical science, but in recent years researchers have been seeking to put their study of market forces and economic behavior on a sounder, or predictive, scientific footing," Battalio said. "Experimental economics is breathing new life in the field," he said.

Until about 10 years ago, Adam Smith's basic economic principal pertaining to equilibrium prices resulting from producers with the lowest costs and buyers who put the highest value on the items produced was untested, Battalio added.

"Since then, there have been over 100 experiments testing the theory, and sure enough they found Adam

Smith was right," said Battalio, whose own research draws the same conclusion.

Experiments have even shown that transactions take longer and the equilibrium prices tend to be higher in posted-price markets, where sellers list their prices and buyers take them or leave them, he said.

Battalio said that such experiments have helped in making policy decisions — such as when the railroad companies petitioned the Department of Transportation to require barge companies to post their prices.

"One researcher examined the issue and found that the posted prices would have resulted in higher prices and made the small (barge) firms worse off," he said.

Battalio and Kagel are currently

examining the efficiencies in auctioning off offshore oil leases, pointing out that many of the people who have engaged in auctions initially lost money but kept participating — behavior that contradicts economic rationale.

By simulating the auctioning process in the laboratory, the researchers found that their subjects initially lost money but after learning more about the process they began to make profits.

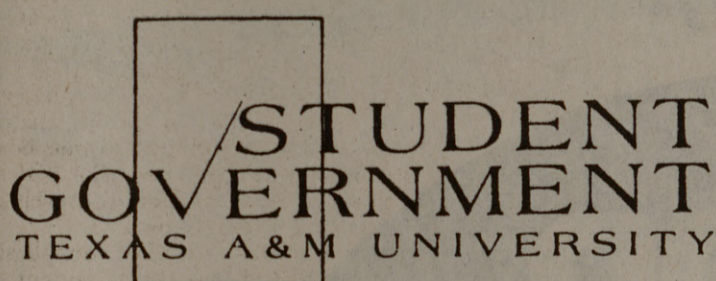
"Experimental economics can be used to test all kinds of questions," he said, "such as government rulings that affect the market, how price increases affect purchase behavior or even the effects of having additional information before a trade is made."

Precincts get wrong ballots; officials try to cut damage

STINNETT (AP) — Ballots were sent to the wrong precincts Tuesday in Hutchinson County, and officials were trying to figure out how to sort out the damage.

Precinct 2 had hotly-contested

races for county commissioner and for justice of the peace, while Precinct 3 had no such races. Voting was already under way before it was discovered that Precinct 2's ballots were sent by error to Precinct 3 polling places, and vice versa.



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