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Students sue wrecker service

By STEVE REIS
Battalion Copy Editor

WRECKER SERVICE SUED

Two University of Texas students have filed suits in two county courts against a university-contracted towing service and its general manager.

One of the students claimed he was pulled to the ground and kicked in the face by an employee of the Northside Wrecker Service, Inc., according to "The Daily Texan."

Roy Lane said he had gone to pick up his car after it had been towed when the incident occurred.

The other student, David McLeod said that general manager Ronald Vandervort threatened him with a shotgun when McLeod claimed his impounded car.

Vandervort denied any assault action and said McLeod entered the office and verbally abused a young employee.

A university spokesman said the university has discussed canceling the wrecker service contract.

SMU SIDEWALKS SINKING

A&M is not the only school with sidewalk problems.

Sidewalks on the Southern Methodist University's campus have to be pumped up with mud.

According to a story in "The Daily Campus," the soil shrinks when it dries, causing the sidewalks to sink. A spokesman for the SMU physical plant estimated that up to \$15,000 a year is spent to pump the sidewalks back up; sometimes as high as six inches.

The physical plant has already tried some solutions. Drains have been built to get rid of some of the water.

Another solution was to blacktop some areas — the result was a lake.

Charles Dawson, the spokesman,

cited one of the problems as students walking on the grass and killing it. At Purdue University, they charge persons caught stepping on the grass four dollars. But no one likes the physical plant there, he said.

CAMPUS GROUP RECOGNIZED

An organization was given permanent campus recognition at the University of Houston despite believed illegalities.

"The Daily Cougar" reported that the Legal Research Service (LRS) pays students to help lawyers research special legal problems. The chairman of the campus organization board felt this was a violation of the campus' solicitation policy which states, "an individual student may not solicit for personal gain nor may a student organization be used for the purpose of personal gain to an individual."

The board decided the policy was "more suited to preventing students from making a profit on bake sales." The LRS was approved.

MORE MEN THAN WOMEN QUIT

More men than women freshmen have dropped out of the Air Force Academy said Brig. Gen. H.J. Dalton, Jr. at Baylor University.

Not only in total numbers, but percentage-wise as well.

The general was speaking to Journalism classes according to "The Baylor Lariat."

An informant officer for the Air Force, Dalton said 12.1 per cent women have dropped out as compared to 16.2 per cent of the men.

Dalton said the women are making the men's grades come up and they are now allowed to date the upperclassmen.

He did not say what the women's grades are like now, nor did he give a

reason for their higher retention percentage.

TURK TALKS OF TEXAS

Tencer Gulensy is a native Turk working in Lubbock at Texas Tech for the Turkish archives. During an interview in "The University Daily," Gulensy spoke about Texas and Turkey.

He said he learned British English in Turkey but is having to relearn Texan English.

Gulensy also explained the difference in Turkey's university system saying that in the U.S., one graduate is enough. In his country, he said there are two levels after the Ph.D. Each level requires the mastery of a new language.

Finally, when asked about Lubbock weather, he said it is "like a woman — sometimes hot, sometimes cold."

Teaching assistants may face House cuts

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Texas House, in an attempt to improve the quality of undergraduate education, yesterday tentatively approved a measure requiring colleges to limit the use of classroom teaching assistants.

House members debated the proposal by Rep. John Hoestenbach, D-Odessa, for more than two hours. Opponents said the legislature should not get involved in the administration of state colleges.

Hoestenbach accused the administration of the University of Texas System of using "scare tactics" by claiming it would cause overcrowding in classrooms. He also claimed some colleges established phony classes and phony courses which no one attends.

"What's so sick about the phony course is that it was a course to train teaching assistants to go in and teach classes," he said. "The only thing it would do to classroom size is make them more efficient and more economical."

Rep. Sarah Weddington, D-Austin, said teaching assistants working on doctorate degrees should be teaching basic freshman courses to allow faculty members to work on advanced research.

Weddington said the legislation "disasters" in some university departments.

"Teaching assistants are not going to be thrown out of the classrooms," Hoestenbach said. "It isn't going to hurt to increase the workload. There are so many scare tactics that I can't believe it."

The bill would prevent teaching assistants from teaching alone unless they had prior teaching experience for at least one semester while employed by a faculty member. It also would prevent departments from having more teaching assistants than fulltime faculty members, and teaching assistants cannot teach more than 25 per cent of the student contact hours taught by fulltime faculty.

Is 'Cloud rustling' next water rights issue?

By DICK WEST
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Carter's move to kill 29 water projects has set up his first major confrontation with Congress. And this may be only the opening splash in a long series of water fights.

Because of the severe drought in the west, water is a particularly touchy subject right now. One portentous development is the dispute over who owns the rights to the water in clouds.

Specifically, Idaho officials recently got upset over rainmaking efforts in the state of Washington. They claimed that cloud seeding amounted to "cloud rustling."

The reasoning was that any moisture artificially induced in Washington might well have fallen over Idaho had the clouds been left to their own devices.

Disputes over water rights date back to the very beginning of the winning of the West. In the old days, however, folks had the decency to wait until the water hit the ground before they started to squabble over it.

Interstate contention over sky water injects a whole new element into this classic quarrel and will result, I fear, in the entire mess being dumped into the lap of the federal government.

In which case there undoubtedly will be extended debate over whether to pass a law making it illegal to transport vapors across state lines for precipitation purposes.

Ever more ominous, it may provide the Army Corps of Engineers with a new rationale for building dams.

Over the years, the corps has conceived, if not actually constructed, dams in virtually every place the water runs, plus a few dry gulches.

Although some of these structures are fairly lofty, none soars into the firmament. So the age of cloud dams apparently is just now dawning in theory, at least, it sounds great.

Clouds, as we know, tend to drop about here and there, sometimes dropping moisture where it is needed, sometimes bypassing areas in need of rain.

With a string of cloud dams along the Washington-Idaho border, clouds drifting over the region would be trapped there, creating a large vapor reservoir. Then as rain was needed in Idaho and points beyond, controlled amounts of clouds could be released.

Don't ask me how the corps expects to overcome the obvious engineering obstacles. That's the problem, not mine. But if there's congressional appropriation in prospect, they'll think of something.

As with dams, there will be certain adverse environmental factors. For one thing, the state of Washington will be perpetually overcast, possibly stunting the apple crop and making it difficult to get a good tan.

But that, as any dam builder will testify, is a small price to pay for progress.

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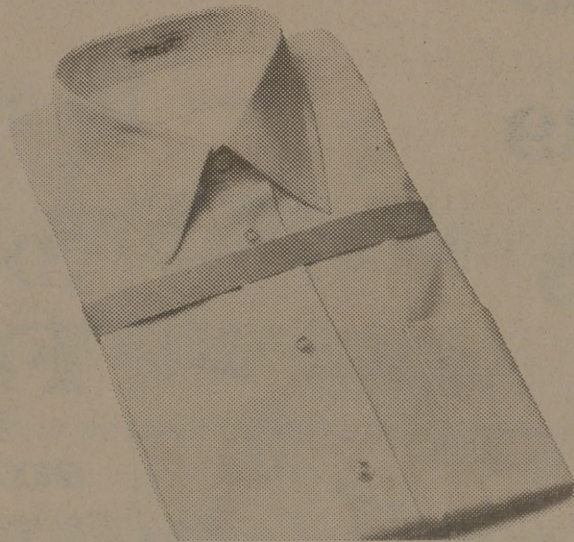
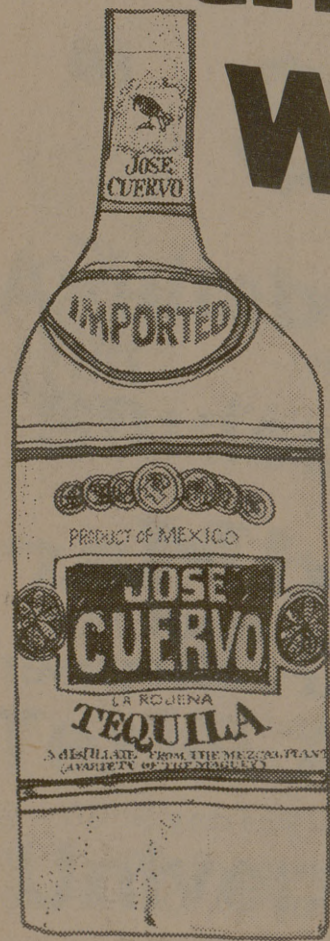
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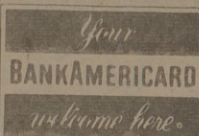
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