

No more booths

Outdoor phones

United Press International
TOPEKA, Kan. — The outdoor phone booth — Superman's impromptu dressing room and the stage of boothstuffed college students — is in danger of becoming extinct.

Bell System telephone companies are phasing out their traditional, enclosed outdoor phone booths in favor of modern models that leave Superman, college students and pay phone patrons out in the cold.

Nationwide, the blue aluminum and glass outdoor booths with folding doors are being retired to "boneyards for old, obsolete telephones," Southwestern Bell news services Manager George Chaffee said.

Vandalism and maintenance costs are forcing the phone company to turn to new drive-up, walk-up or mounted pay phone models that are open to the elements.

"Aluminum and glass booths have been used for everything from outdoor latrines to objects

of pure and simple vandalism," Chaffee said.

He said when phone company employees service the booths to empty the coin bins, they also have to replace panels of shattered glass and toss out pop bottles, food wrappers and filth left by patrons.

B. C. Coon, Southwestern Bell coin manager, said the enclosed booths "lend themselves to being rather bad-smelling, unsightly trash collectors."

Coon predicted the booths eventually will become extinct, except for maybe a rare one that never needs a repair or replacement.

"They often have windows broken," he said. "Doors don't work. Some have been run into with cars. Vandals scratch different things on them."

Besides, he said, "You can't get stuck inside the walk-up booth."



Air control board attempts to put the measure to obnoxious odors

By ANDREA VALLS
Battalion Staff

Just how bad does an odor have to get to be classified as "offensive and annoying"? A committee of the Texas Air Control Board is trying to establish criteria for that measurement so it can institute odor regulations.

Texas law states that a nuisance is any object, place or condition which constitutes a possible and probable medium of transmission of disease to or between human beings.

Odors, if potent enough, can transmit illnesses, said Dr. John M. Sweeten of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. He said the technical advisory committee of the TACB was formed to develop ways

to regulate odors in Texas, make recommendations to the executive director of the TACB on the those findings, and create guidelines for determining whether an odor is, in fact, a nuisance.

Sweeten said air pollution control agencies study odor intensity, quality, offensiveness and the size of the area affected. Other criteria include the number of complaining persons in determining the and the frequency and duration of odors at a given location.

Although federal and state agencies take interest in air and water pollution, most of the funding for odor research is from private industries such as Shell Research Co. in Houston, Sweeten said. He added that most agencies don't take an in-

terest in odor research because odoriferous gasses are non-toxic in low concentrations, and fairly temporary because of the wind factor. He added that odor research is expensive.

Currently, the TACB staff and technical committee are testing a device called a Dynamic Olfactometer which measures the intensity of a gas. Sweeten said a panel of human judges will be selected to smell various dilutions of butanol as a reference odor in order to rate the offensiveness of a gas.

The problem with odor detection is not the concentration of the pollutant, but the human perception scale, Sweeten said.

The persons selected for the odor detection panel should not be highly

sensitive, said Sweeten. For instance, a smoker, as opposed to a non-smoker, would not be as sensitive, he said.

Sweeten stressed the technical committee does not want to make any radical changes in the current status of regulations in Texas. Their primary concern, he said, is presenting some guideline criteria for TACB to use in determining what odors and concentrations are a public nuisance.

Referring to Brazos County, Sweeten said, "I think we live in a very clean area. There are very few pollutants in Bryan and College Station. It's a good place in terms of odors."

Sweeten said in-depth research on odor detection probably will not begin until spring of 1979.

Side, rear impacts simulated

Cadavers used in auto tests

ALBUQUERQUE — A University of New Mexico official Wednesday defended the use of human cadavers in cars crashed together in a research program as the best way of recording what happens to a person in an auto wreck.

Dr. A. J. Ladman, chairman of UNM's Anatomy Department, said cadaver research in simulations of low-speed side and rear impact collisions "is very important." He said currently there is no better way of obtaining data on how the human body reacts.

For three years, auto safety tests using 11 cadavers donated to the UNM School of Medicine were conducted on a compressed air "rocket sled track" by the Physical Science Laboratory of New Mexico State University until last November.

The tests were suspended when Rep. John Moss, D-Calif., criticized them as being morally objectionable, unnecessary and poorly done. Moss is chairman of the House In-

terstate and Foreign Commerce Committee.

Sources in the Department of Transportation have indicated no decision has been made on whether or when to resume testing.

Ladman said under current procedures, potential donors are not told that the "medical research" in which their bodies would be used might include auto safety tests.

If the tests are resumed, he said,

more specific information may be needed on the donor forms in the future, as a result of the current debate over the tests.

Ladman is a member of a committee of the Association of Anatomy Chairmen, which is compiling a report on the tests.

The tests were being held at a facility once used in space mission preparations.

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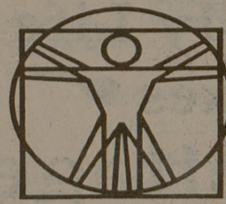
Now You Know
United Press International

ZERMATT, Switzerland — The Alpine resort of Zermatt has banned skateboards as being "dangerous and a public nuisance."

Zermatt has no gasolinepowered vehicles — the few delivery and garbage trucks are electrically powered — and the town council ruled that skateboards would disturb the peace.

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