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Candidate claims short voters can't reach write-in slots

United Press International
LITTLE ROCK — A write-in candidate for chancery judge wants the short peoples' vote and a federal judge is seeing to it that he has a legitimate shot at them.

Jack Files, who is running a write-in campaign against Little Rock prosecuting attorney Lee Munson, recently filed a lawsuit against the Pulaski County election commission, contending short voters can not comfortably reach the write-in slots located at the top of voting machines.

Judge C. Thomas Eisele — who stands 5-foot-10 — stepped into a voting booth Tuesday and tested his ability to reach the write-in slots while standing on a soft-drink crate. He pronounced it an acceptable height.

Eisele was sympathetic about the concerns and said Diemer was "imaginative" in his excuses and therefore could come up with another idea.

Eisele then gave the commission until today to come up with the specifics for a platform to be used in the Nov. 7 general election.

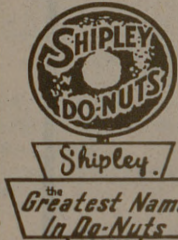


'Well, I didn't want to go to class'

Not only are cars held up by the train on Wellborn Road, but so are bikers like Amanda Adkisson and pedestrians like

Chris Sansone. Both are senior entomology students at A&M.

Battalion photo by Darwin Anderson



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**Laws too lax
Texans want crime crack-down**

United Press International
HUNTSVILLE - Texans are dissatisfied with the criminal justice system and overwhelmingly in favor of the death penalty, a Sam Houston State University Criminal Justice Center poll indicates.

In addition to the 80 percent who said they favored the death penalty, nearly half favored stronger laws against prostitution and the use of marijuana.

"The citizens of Texas want stronger measures to be taken in dealing with criminals," Dr. Raymond Teske Jr., director of the Texas Crime Poll, said Wednesday.

The observation followed evaluation of responses to a questionnaire mailed to 1,000 Texas residents.

Teske said three-fourths of the 642 persons who responded to the poll said the courts were being too easy on criminals. Two percent said the courts were too harsh. Only 18 percent were satisfied.

He also said 62 percent of those responding said victims of crimes were treated unfairly by the criminal justice system.

Some 96 percent favored stricter standards for allowing defendant freedom on bond, saying persons arrested for a serious offense should be out on bond in an earlier case should be denied a second bail-out.

Eighty-five percent said persons convicted of violent crimes should not be allowed probation.

More than half, 57 percent, said "yes" in response to the question, "Do you feel that you may be the victim of crimes within the next year?" Most said they feared being burglarized.

Teske said 77 percent of those responding said they had installed one or more security devices in their homes. The most common devices cited were door bolts, followed by guns, outside lights, door window guards and burglar alarms.

Teske said 44 percent of those polled favored more severe laws against prostitution. The opinion was strongest among Mexican Americans, of whom 63 percent favored stronger anti-prostitution laws.

Some 45 percent favored tightening laws against marijuana.

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**Rare medical ailment
no tears for 18 years**

United Press International
CHICAGO — Jennie Pankow hasn't shed a tear for 18 years. She has a rare medical ailment.

"When there's a tragedy or something bad, I really wish I could cry," she said. "There's no release so I have to bottle my feelings up. I get a knot in my stomach and a swelling in my chest."

Pankow, 58, of Lockport, Ill., is undergoing tests at Chicago's University of Illinois Hospital where doctors hope to ease her condition. They said the cause of the ailment — Sjogren's Syndrome — is still a mystery.

They do know, however, that antibodies in syndrome sufferers "go awry," attacking their joints and saliva, tear glands and possibly sweat glands as if they were foreign organisms in the body.

When someone is upset or laughing hard, muscles around tear glands tighten, causing tears to flow. But Pankow has no tears.

"I couldn't even cry at my husband's funeral," she said. "People who didn't know me very well must have thought I was cold-hearted. I just asked the doctor if he could give me some tears."

She uses fake tears, an artificial eyedrop solution, up to 10 times a day to substitute for the lack of real eye moisture. Without the drops, her eyes become irritated and with a mucous film.

Doctors said without tears, eyes will dry out and the retina will fuse, causing blindness.

Because she has virtually no tears in her mouth, she always has a dry mouth. Saliva helps in digestion but there are other chemicals that take its place in the stomach and the intestines.

"When I go to the supermarket before I cross the parking lot looking for a water fountain," she said. "When I make the bed to drive to my son's home, I use a thermos in the car with me."

"I knew I couldn't cry and I drink a lot, but I never knew I was dry," she said. "I just thought I was older, my body couldn't do things anymore. Then a few years ago, a doctor referred me to hospital, thinking I might have a syndrome."

Doctors said the tendency to have the syndrome is inherited. Symptoms become apparent in adulthood. Pankow has a sister with a similar condition.

There have been more cases than Pankow's, doctors said, which cortisone or other drugs used to suppress the body's immune system. But, they said, the drugs can cause dangerous side-effects.

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