

\$1-a-year volunteer, \$125-a-day

Classified Ads Cont'd

State picks up tab for millionaire

Police kill unarmed Dallas man

United Press International
AUSTIN — Tobin Armstrong, the multimillionaire who joined Gov. Bill Clements' staff as a "\$1-a-year volunteer" to oversee appointments, is billing taxpayers for his \$55-a-day hotel room and collecting up to \$131 a day in expenses from the state.

Although Armstrong agreed to serve without pay on the governor's staff, he is on an unusual personal contract that allows him to collect more in living and travel expenses than the state pays many full-time employees.

The South Texas rancher collected \$1,557 last week as partial payment for his living and travel expenses for a six-week period from Feb. 12 through March 26.

Tom B. Rhodes of Dallas, the only other "volunteer" who has claimed reimbursement for his expenses, collected \$685 for his airplane fare and partial expenses for Feb. 12 through March 14. Rhodes served temporarily as Clements' budget director but returned to private life when Clements found a full-time employee for the job.

Doug Brown, another multimillionaire serving full time without pay on Clements' staff, has not claimed or collected anything since he became the governor's special assistant for intergovernmental rela-

tions, although he calculates it has cost him more than \$2,000 to move to Austin and take an apartment.

And former Rep. Ray Hutchison of Dallas, who also worked for the governor in the first few months of his administration, refused to claim any expenses or pay.

Armstrong, however, is billing the state for expenses ranging from a \$1.50 taxi fare to a \$1,047.84 bill from the Driskill Hotel.

Although his own expense report indicates he was at his South Texas ranch and not in Austin during part of the time covered by the hotel bill, Armstrong is keeping a permanent room at the downtown hotel.

The room — one of the "special rooms on the executive floor where it's a little quieter" — includes a complimentary fruit basket and wine, daily newspaper and continental breakfast, according to a hotel clerk.

State employees who travel on government business are limited to \$30 a day inside the state and a maximum of \$40 for actual expenses when traveling out of the state.

Rhodes asked that his contract with the governor's office specify the standard \$30-a-day, but Armstrong insisted his cover "actual expenses."

Armstrong's contract limits his reimbursement for travel to the cost

of air fare on commercial airlines or 23 cents a mile when he uses his personal aircraft to fly between the capital and his 50,000-acre ranch at Armstrong.

The 23-cent limit — the same imposed on state officials and employees — was recommended by fiscal experts called in by the governor's aides from the Comptroller's Office to explain how "volunteers" working for Clements could collect expenses.

"They called Jim Blume and John Keel and spent the whole afternoon with them," said Comptroller Bob Bullock. "Armstrong told them, 'I'm a dollar a year man, but, by God, I want my \$125-a-day expenses.'"

Blume, associate deputy comptroller, said he suggested the governor put the volunteers on personal contracts as an option to get around restrictions for expense reimbursements that apply to state employees.

"If you sign a contract with consultants, legally you can do almost anything you want to about how you pay expenses," Blume said. "There aren't many limits to the way you can cut these consulting contracts."

Blume said Clements' aides were upset, however, when told the consultant contracts could not be retroactive to the date Clements took office on Jan. 16.

"I told them basically you're just out of luck," Blume said. "That didn't go down very well."

"They all expected that," Allen Clark, Clements' office manager, said. "We thought we could make it retroactive. I really felt badly about our people being down here out of their own pockets from the 16th (of January, when Clements took office) to the 12th (of February, when consulting contracts were drawn up and signed)."

"They worked completely and totally free — no salary and no expense compensation — from Jan. 16 until Feb. 12," he said.

"Talented people like that would cost you \$100,000 in business," Clark said.

Clements told a reporter recently, "I don't think there is a way in the world to take people like Tobin Armstrong or Doug Brown and bring them into government on the basis of salary."

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The tip of a bullwhip moves so fast it breaks the sound barrier. The "crack" actually is a small sonic boom.

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DALLAS — A Dallas police officer shot and killed a 22-year-old man late Saturday night when the man refused to heed the officer's command to drop a shiny object.

Dallas Police Information Officer Bob Shaw said Officer John R. Dye, 27, was patrolling alone in an unmarked car when he stopped to check out a car parked at Crawford Park in southeast Dallas. Shaw said Dye was in full uniform when he asked to see the man's driver's license.

Shaw said as Dye was checking the license, he smelled marijuana. Dye then asked the driver to get out of the car.

The officer said as the driver put his wallet back into his pocket, he pulled out a shiny object. Dye said he drew his revolver and ordered the man to drop the object, but the man began to move toward him.

Dye fired one time, hitting the driver in the upper right chest.

Officers searched the area after the shooting, but they found nothing more than a marijuana pipe with a chrome bowl.

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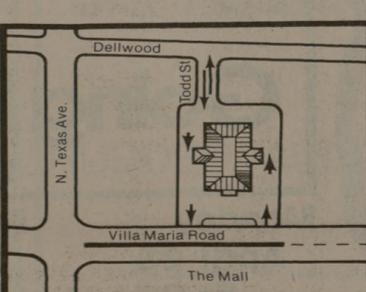
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