

## Furor over questionnaire prompts suit

United Press International  
LA GRANGE — Sex in La Grange was pretty much taken for granted as long as it was confined to the Chicken Ranch, the infamous brothel that inspired the Broadway hit "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."

Discussing sex in a high school classroom, however, can get one in trouble — even in a town that said its economy would be hurt when the governor closed the Chicken Ranch in 1976.

Teacher Melonie Peck was fired in 1976 for administering a widely published "purity test" by advice columnist Ann Landers to her all-female home economics class at La

Grange High School. Now she has filed suit to get her job back.

The problem even has attorneys making "Dear Ann" telephone calls to the columnist for advice.

The flap began when two students brought a copy of the purity test, which ranks a person according to his worldly and sexual experiences, to class. Peck printed it and distributed it to the class, omitting the rating scale. The school board was shocked and fired her.

The questionnaire, first published by Landers in 1966, asks questions ranging from "Ever said 'I love you?'" to "Ever had group sex?" that

classify a person as "candidate for sainthood," "either you are a damned fool or completely freaked out" or somewhere in between.

Peck's suit claims she was denied freedom of speech and the right to due process. The Texas State Teachers Association is supporting her.

"She put out a questionnaire that was a dilly," said school board attorney Newton Crain. "It asked some pretty searching questions. She's contending she has a right to say and put out anything in her class she wants to and we are saying, 'Well, within limits.'"

## Stolen Coors can dumped behind bar

That missing beer can is back.

A wooden sculpture of a Coors Light container that was stolen from a College Station park earlier this month was returned to park officials Feb. 20.

David Walling, superintendent of parks for College Station, said an employee of a bar found the \$350 carving in a dumpster behind his place of work.

The Battalion had carried a front page article about the theft that day, and other news media had reported the story.

"What happened probably was that whoever had it decided it was

too hot to keep in his room," Walling said.

The sculpture is one of several being built in the park by a group of Texas A&M University environmental design majors. The carvings are made in the tops of bench posts and are called totems. Fifteen have been completed. Eventually, the park will have 40.

Walling said the totems will be rebuilt to make it impossible to saw through the posts.

"We can fix it to where nobody can get the things off, but it's going to take a lot of man-hours," Walling said.

# Outdoor committee buys canoes for student use

By CAROLYN TILLER  
Campus Reporter

If you are planning on going to the Brazos or Lake Somerville to celebrate the arrival of spring and beautiful weather, you can celebrate in style — in one of the new canoes purchased by the MSC Outdoor Recreation Committee (ORC).

Eight whitewater canoes will be available for rent when students return from spring break. The boats, including life jackets, paddles and ear racks, will be rented for \$16 a weekend or \$30 a week.

"If you went to the Guadalupe, you'd have to pay \$18 a day," ORC Chairman Charlie Walter said. "The boats are equipped for whitewatering. They have extra flotation which keeps the boat high in the water so it won't hit rocks or go to the bottom easy."

"It's really one of the best boats on the market, if not the best. Right now you can't touch them for under \$650."

But ORC paid approximately \$495 because of the large order and because of specials offered to educational groups.

The boats will also be used in ORC basic Red Cross canoeing and whitewater canoeing instruction programs sponsored through the MSC Free University program.

To rent the canoes, students must make reservations two weeks in advance at the ORC cubicle in the Student Programs Office in the MSC. The boats can be picked up on Fridays at the Grove.

A Canoe Christening Party-Picnic, open to all students, will be held Saturday at the Airport Pond by Easterwood Airport from noon to 6 p.m.

"The activities will all be geared towards fun," Walter said. "We're having it so students can come out and find out about our program."

The fun includes paddling, swimming, water fights and canoe races. There are maps showing how to get to the airport pond available at the OCR cubicle.

## Party to be at historic site

Happy 144th, Texas!

U.S. Senator John Tower will lead a celebration of Texas' birthday at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park Sunday.

Site of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the state park is six miles west off State Highway 105 between Brenham and Navasota.

The Brazoria Militia and the Blinn College Concert Band will also participate in the day-long event. A giant birthday cake will be lighted following Tower's speech at 2:30 p.m. to conclude the festivities.

During the day there will be demonstrations at the Star of the Republic Museum showing how people lived and worked during the early days of Texas. Bill Brett, folklorist, will tell stories from the 1800s and craftsmen will display handiwork from the period.

George A. Butler of Houston, chairman of the sponsoring Washington-on-the-Brazos Park Association, will be master of ceremonies for the celebration.

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.51	Brilliant	AAAA	1425	.26	Emerald Cut	AAAA	490	1.65	Marquis	AA	2500
.52	Brilliant	AAAA	1475	.27	Emerald Cut	AAAA	520	1.80	Pear Shaped	AA	3600
.54	Brilliant	AAAA	1550	.30	Emerald Cut	AAAA	600	1.01	Natural Canary		2800
.55	Brilliant	AAAA	1625	.33	Emerald Cut	AAAA	660	.90	Emerald Cut	AAAA	2800
.69	Brilliant	AA+	1500	.33	Pear Shaped	AAA	700	.70	Oval	AAAA	2100
.70	Brilliant	AA+	1500	.38	Emerald Cut	AAAA	750	.45	Oval	AAA+	1300
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