

Local / State

Highway Department running out of combinations

Personalized license plates add individual touch

By **BARBIE WOELFEL**
Battalion Reporter
"E-I-E-I-O."
Chorus words to an old tune about a farmer? No, actually it's a combination on a personalized license plate owned by the McDonald Enterprises.
More and more Texas drivers are displaying their message to the world each year with personalized license plates. Out of a total of 7.5 million passenger license plates issued each year in the state of Texas, 135,000 of these are personalized plates, said Gene Dieterich, assistant regional supervisor with the Texas Highway Department.
"To obtain personalized plates, the owner of the vehicle must send an application to the state

department of highway and public transportation listing his six choices of combinations he would like to use on his plates," said Gerald L. Winn, Brazos County tax assessor-collector.
In addition to the regular registration fee prescribed by law, an annual fee of \$10 is required for personalized plates which are issued for a one-year period beginning from April 1 and ending March 31 of the following year.
"A personalized license plate combination may consist of not more than six characters; however, a plate bearing obscene or objectionable words or initials will not be authorized," Winn said.
Some possible number and letter combinations are as follows:
— one to six letters such as "A"

or "ROBERT"
— three letters followed by a number one through nine such as "ABC 9"
— four letters followed by one or two numbers such as "ABCD 4" or "ABCD 45"
— five letters followed by one number such as "ABCDE 4"
— one number followed by one to five letters such as "4A" or "4ABCDE"
Winn said any combination of numbers and letters that does not conflict with the numbering and lettering system adopted by the department for regular license plates is acceptable.
Dieterich recalled one application for a plate combination that conflicted with the regular plating system.

He explained that the conflict involved Donny Anderson, a former Texas Tech football player who was drafted by the Green Bay Packers. Anderson's number for the Packers was 44.
"He applied for the combination 'GBP 44' for his personalized plates, but that particular combination conflicted with our regular plating system, so we issued him a similar combination, '44 GBP,'" he said.
Texans who have yet to personalize their license plates but who are interested in the project, may have some problems doing so.
The department is running out of prefixes in the regular license plate numbering and lettering system and may have to begin using two or three letters in the prefixes, Dieterich said.
"I can see that conflicts may arise between the personalized plating system and the regular plating system since some of the combinations may begin to be the same when we run out of prefixes," he said.
But that hasn't stopped Texas

drivers from applying for personalized plates. Most applicants usually choose a combination that has something to do with their name or business, Winn said.
"I put my last name 'STUARD' on my plates to add a little extra spunk to my car," said Kyle Stuard, a sophomore business major from Abilene.
On his Ford Renegade jeep, Temple Aday, a senior building construction major from Arlington, uses his last name in the combination, "I ADAY."
Kim Norris, a journalism major from Banner Elk, N.C. has "KIM-BO" on her plates. "My father gave me the nickname and put it on my plates when he bought my car," she said.
Other names seen on plates around campus include "MISS JJ," "MER*J," "JODY G," "LES-LIE" and initials like "MSKH 2" and "JD."
Special combinations seen on campus include those with some type of Aggie insignia such as "AGGIE," "GIG EM," "TAMU" and "ATM."

Porter S. Garner III, field director for the Association of Former Students, uses "AGGIE 3" on his plates to show his support for the University. His father, Porter S. Garner Jr., of Laredo, uses "AGGIE 2" on his plates for the same reason.
"A vehicle owner with such a license plate that bears any one of the Aggie insignia registered by A&M with the secretary of the state, is not subject to paying a royalty to the University because it is exclusively for his personal use, not for commercial or manufacturing use in selling," said Don Powell, director of business services.

Some plates display combinations that have a special meaning to that person but may not be evident to anyone else, Dieterich said.
The inscription "NO SHOE" is seen on A&M place kicker, David Hardy's car because he kicks without a shoe. Hardy is a senior physical education major from Huntsville.
To obtain personalized plates in Brazos County, a vehicle owner can apply at the county tax assessor-collector's office. He will issue personalized license plates only to those vehicles that are currently registered in Texas, Winn said.



Staff photo by Brian Tate

This Aggie is one of 135,000 Texans expressing themselves with personalized license plates.

D.A. seeks death penalty for convicted murderers

United Press International
FORT WORTH — Despite reports from federal courts, District Attorney Tim Curry said he will continue to pursue death penalties against two convicts accused of murdering and raping their victims.
Although the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans set aside the death penalties of Kenneth Granviel and Billy Joe Battie on Friday, Curry believes he should seek the penalties again.
"Although the federal courts are making the death penalty meaningless by refusing to permit executions, we believe that the Granviel and Battie cases are so savage that we should seek the death penalty again," Curry said Monday.
Six years ago, Granviel walked into the Fort Worth police station with his pastor and admitted killing seven persons — including two women he had first raped.
Battie has been convicted in the 1975 shooting-robbery of a convenience store that resulted in the death of two people.
Granviel's penalty was rejected by the federal court because District Judge Tom Cave improperly excused at least one potential juror. Battie's penalty was dropped because his rights had been

violated when he was not informed he could refuse to talk to a psychologist.
Curry appeared more confident he could gain a new death penalty in the Granviel case than the Battie case.
"Most of our witnesses in (Granviel's) case were police officers who are still available," he said. "I'm less sure of where we stand with Battie."

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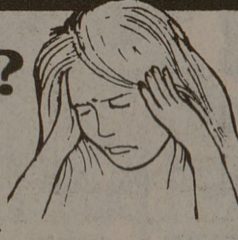
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HEALTH NEWS

Recurring Headaches?

By Dr. Stephenson




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If not corrected, these can lead to more serious complications. © LMS

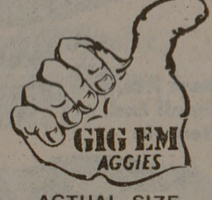


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LOOK AT THIS AGGIE!



A new year is upon us where spirits are high, and friendships are renewed. TAMU has put the old GIG 'EM on t.u. two years in a row. Be part of the cause in making the win three by being a good Twelfth Man. Let everyone know you are an Aggie!



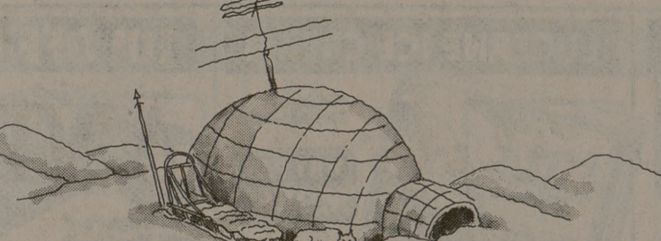
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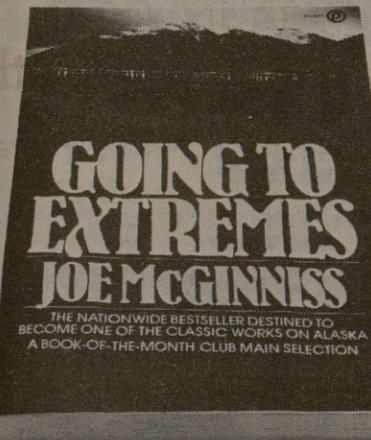
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