

STATE AND LOCAL

**Around town**

**Amnesty International sponsors race**

Saturday, Jan. 26 Amnesty International Roadrunners will hold a 5 km "Run Against Torture." The race begins at 8:30 a.m. on Joe Routh Blvd. at G. Rollie White. An awards ceremony will begin at 9:20 a.m. at the starting line. Registration is \$6 in advance and \$8 on the day of the race. Forms can be obtained from AI or Roadrunners at 216 MSC. Proceeds will go to Amnesty International USA.

**TAMU After Hours offers driving class**

The TAMU After Hours Program will sponsor a **Driver Safety Course** on Jan. 26. This course may be used to have certain traffic violations dismissed and to receive a 10% discount on automobile insurance. Registration is held 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday in 216 MSC. For more information, call 845-1515.

**OCA looking for apartment reps**

Off-Campus Aggies has positions open for apartment council presidents in the A&M community. ACP's are responsible for off campus poster distribution. Interested persons can sign up in 223 Pavilion or call 845-0688 for details.

**Service sorority holds Founders' Day**

Delta Sigma Theta is presenting their First Annual Founders' Day luncheon on Sunday, Jan. 27 at 2 p.m. in 201 MSC. Dr. Edith Irley Jones, president of the National Medical Association will be the guest speaker. Reservations can be made until Thursday, Jan. 24. For more information contact Teresa Brashear at 260-0904 or Karen Williams at 260-8389.

**Fellowship offered for spring semester**

The W.G. Mills Fellowship Committee is receiving applications for the **W.G. Mills Fellowship in Hydrology** for the spring semester of 1985. Fellowships in hydrology will be used to provide financial support to four or more highly qualified graduate students in hydrology. Outstanding students interested in hydrology, should call Evelyn Teaff at 845-1851 for information and details.

**Sports car club hosts autocross Sunday**

The TAMU Sports Car Club will hold **Spring Autocross I** Sunday, Jan. 27. The event is open to everyone and competition will be within cars of the same class. Registration begins at 9 a.m. in Zachry Parking lot 51. Timed runs begin at 1 p.m. There will be a registration fee and trophies awarded.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald.

**Lawmakers focus on drinking bills**

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Several bills introduced in the Texas Legislature this year would combat drunk driving, and the lawmaker sponsoring three of them says he hopes the state's "frontier mentality" is enough of a memory for action to be taken.

But Rep. Gary Thompson, D-Abilene, admits that changing some laws will mean bucking Texas tradition.

Thompson has introduced bills to ban happy hours, prohibit drinking while driving and raise the drinking age from 19 to 21. Other lawmakers have introduced proposals of their own.

The federal government is pressuring the states, with the threat of withholding highway funds, to raise the drinking age. The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission already has banned two-for-one drinks in a move against happy hours.

Thompson says outlawing open containers in motor vehicles could be the toughest fight.

Although some people might say drinking beer while driving is as Texan as boots and blue jeans, Thompson insists there is considerable public support for such a ban.

"I did a poll in my district last session," he said. "Positive response was in the 80 percent range."

"Time after time, I have had strangers, people on the streets, constituents come up to me and remark how paradoxical it is to try to control the effects of DWI (driving while intoxicated) and still have no law that forbids drinking while driving."

Also in the fight is Sen. Bill Sarpalius, D-Canyon, who has offered a slightly different open container bill.

While Thompson's proposal would ban all open containers, Sarpalius would prohibit carrying an open alcoholic beverage container while driving or while a passenger within five feet of the driver.

"In 12 percent of all fatal accidents on rural highways, an open container of alcohol has been found in one of the vehicles involved," Sarpalius said. "No state's drunk driving laws are complete if they allow drinking while driving."

Sarpalius spearheaded the 1983 drive to toughen penalties on drunken driving, including mandatory jail terms for some convictions.

Joining the fight will be Mothers Against Drunk Driving. MADD in 1983 helped lobby lawmakers for stiffer drunk driving penalties.

Marinelle Timmons, president of the Texas MADD chapter, said passage of an open container ban this year "is our top priority" because "we don't think Texas will ever take drunk driving seriously as long as it's legal to drink and drive."

Thompson said his 21-year-old drinking age bill has a chance of becoming law. It includes a provision to allow people under 21 to serve alcoholic beverages, he said, adding, "That was a concern of some of the opponents of the bill in the past."

The happy hour ban legislation comes on the heels of the Alcoholic Beverage Commission's Dec. 27 ruling which prohibited clubs, restaurants and bars from offering two drinks for the price of one.

The ruling stopped short, however, of prohibiting other happy hour gimmicks such as free drinks for women, drinks twice as large as normal or serving pitchers of drinks.

Although one newspaper columnist branded Thompson's happy hour bill a "joy-killing measure," the lawmaker says it, too, is needed.

"The bill takes the decision of the Alcoholic Beverage Commission to its logical conclusion — doing away with gimmicks that would encourage people to overindulge," he said.

The anti-liquor legislation faces a number of obstacles, backers say, including the Legislature's past failure to act and possible opposition from liquor lobbyists.

Last session, Speaker Gib Lewis was criticized for stacking the House Liquor Regulation Committee with opponents of open container and higher drinking age legislation.

The committee this year has the same chairman, Rep. Billy Hall, D-Laredo, but several new members.

**Dance Arts Society**



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