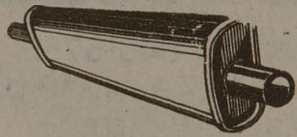


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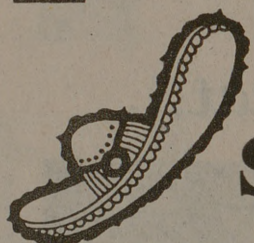
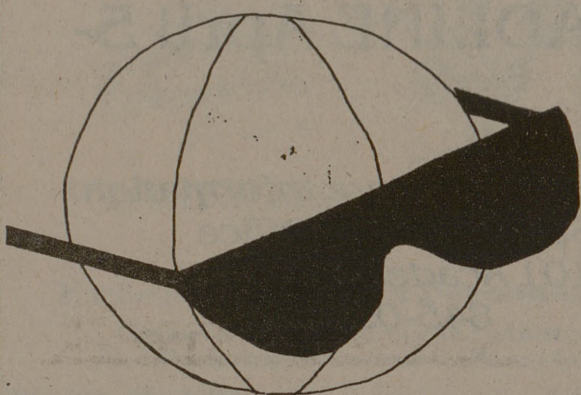
MSC HOSPITALITY presents

## Pre-Spring Break Bash

Texas Hall of Fame

Wed., March 6

8 pm - 12 am



"We Have A Special For You"



- Mon. - Buy a full order of fajitas - get a half order free  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Tues. - \$1.00 off all Fajita Plates  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Wed. - "Fiesta Day"  
\$1.00 Margaritas  
All Day Long
- Thurs. - Buy 4 Margaritas, Get an order of Pico Nachos Free (limit 1 per table)  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mon.-Sun.  
 Happy Hour  
 4-6 p.m.



4501 Texas Ave. South in Bryan  
 846-3696



Basketball Head

Rice Owl Tony Barnett (30) seems intent on removing what appears to be the head of Aggie forward Winston Crite, as Kenny Brown

(right) looks on. The incident occurred at the Rice vs. Texas A&M basketball game Saturday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Photo by DEAN SAITTS

### Comptroller authority

## Bill increases power

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Senate approved a bill Tuesday that would require the state comptroller to deny licenses and permits to delinquent taxpayers and refused by one vote to debate a bill that would restrict lawyer referral services.

Senators also voted to raise fees for beauty shops and to require detailed financial reports from state agencies, including what they have done to cut costs.

By a 31-0 vote, the Senate OK'd Sen. Ed Howard's bill to require the comptroller to refuse to issue or renew a permit or license to a person who does not have a proper permit or who is delinquent in paying any tax collected by the comptroller.

Howard's bill, which goes to the House, also authorizes the comptroller to revoke or suspend any permit or license issued to a person who fails to comply with any provision of the Tax Code or Bingo Enabling Act.

The Legislative Budget Board estimated that the bill would raise nearly \$2.68 million for the state over two years.

Sen. John Whitmire, D-Houston, described lawyer referral services as a "fraud," but after complaints that Whitmire was trying to outlaw a private enterprise, senators refused to debate Whitmire's bill restricting referral services. The vote was 24-7, and Whitmire needed 25 votes.

His bill would prohibit lawyer referral services unless they operated for the benefit of the public, were operated by the government or a non-profit organization and did not charge more than \$20 for the first 30 minutes of consultation.

Whitmire said a single lawyer can now list himself in the yellow pages as a lawyer referral service, and take a case "if it's a good case" or refuse it if it's not or the client "doesn't have the money."

"The sole purpose of a lawyer referral service should be to help the public, not to make a buck," Whitmire said.

Sen. Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville, described the measure "as a bad 'off' bill under the umbrella of public protection." He said the bill actually is an effort to restrict advertising by lawyers.

When Sen. John Traeger, D-Guin, asked to bring up a bill on methodology, cries of "Oh, no" greeted him from senators mindful of legislative battles over that industry. Traeger assured his colleagues the bill would merely raise various fees including the student permit fee from \$10 to \$25 so examinations could be held in cities other than Austin.

The bill was sent to the House for a voice vote.

Sen. Grant Jones' bill on state agency reports specifies what agencies should include each year in reporting to the governor, comptroller, treasurer and Legislative Budget Board. In addition to cost-cutting efforts, the reports would include how much in federal funds the agencies had earned, how much money was deposited outside the treasury and how many job positions had been filled.

The conference committee report on the bill was approved 31-0. The House already had approved the measure, so it goes to the governor.

## Discount store chains, others challenging Texas Blue Law

Associated Press

AUSTIN — On the books for more than a century, a quirky "Blue Law" allows Texans to buy beer on Sunday but not a mug to drink it from.

These days, however, some transplanted Yankees, discount store chains and others say it's time for the law's repeal.

"People move to Texas because they like our lifestyle," said Mickey Moore, executive vice president of the Texas Retailers Association, which backs the law. Now they want to make it like the lifestyle they came from."

The Texas Blue Law is a confusing list of 42 items that cannot be sold on consecutive Saturdays and Sundays. In effect, the law forces many stores to close on Sundays. Its name comes from the original, 1863 Sunday closing statute that was bound in blue paper.

The list of banned items includes clothing, shoes, furniture, kitchenware, china, home appliances, hardware, air conditioners, radios, televisions, motor vehicles, jewelry, watches, musical instruments, toys, draperies and lawn mowers.

Similar laws, whose origins date back to the Pilgrims,

exist in 18 other states and are supported by church groups. The Southern Baptists favor the Texas version.

From Houston to El Paso, stores are doing business on Sundays in open violation of the law. What angers Blue Law backers more, customers are buying.

State judges in Houston and Dallas late last year ruled the Blue Law unconstitutional. Many prosecutors, including those in Travis County where the capital is located, simply don't enforce the law.

The repeal legislation was introduced in January and is expected to be considered during the current legislative session.

Leading the charge for repeal is a newly organized lobbying drive called Texans for Blue Law Repeal Inc. The group includes such national retailers as K Mart, Target, Eckerd Drugs, Revco Drugs, Zale Jewelers, Sears and Southland Corp., operator of nearly 1,000 Eleven convenience stores in the state.

Besides the convenience argument, repeal backers say Sunday sales would boost the state's sales tax take. State Comptroller Bob Bullock has estimated that Sunday sales could generate \$13.5 million annually.

### It's not too late...

If you haven't registered for a craft workshop yet, you better hurry in while you still have time! Spaces are available in the following:

- Quilting; March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 26; 6-8 p.m.
- Watercolor; April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; 6-8 p.m.
- Batik; March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24; 6-7:30 p.m.
- Bike Maintenance; March 20, 27, April 3, 10; 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Cross-Stitch; April 10, 17, 24; 6-8 p.m.
- Beginning Pottery-Handbuilding; March 27, April 3, 10, 17; 6-8 p.m.
- Drawing; April 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2; 6-8 p.m.
- Beginning Pottery-Wheel; March 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25; 7:30-9:30 p.m.

For further information call 845-1631.

All nonstudents must purchase a \$2.00 identification card when registering for all classes.

MSC Craft Center



TYLER — passed since dropped out. Yet detective charging El 1976 slaying say they ge elusive fugit "We've ho ton, Dallas, a visit to Tyl Sergeant N Tyler Police information little bit late This week to the Texa \$1,000 rega information of the 41-ye Until that 1976, Elias brushes with arrested for demeanor as But on Ap the ex-soldie into his form story apartm investigators

We jum pa

Ass AUSTIN County Di Walsh jump Party Mond might be in new party's ney general. "It is an of est me," Wa made no dec fice." Walsh said Democrats b needs a stro free enterpr turn to the b made us a gr "The lead cratic Party o how to ach even worse, longer cares Walsh said for a Democr Among the nitions" liste is this line: " in the Unite tained a d Henry Lee L Lucas, a c derer, was se slaying of an hitchhiker. L in the Willi Georgetown, erated with linked him t ings around t Walsh's pa quick reactio man, William cratic chairm was "turning people who el ocrat last Nov Holman al Lucas remain County Jail m viction. "Is Mr. Wa cas's presers ture statewide the Williams ers?" Holman

Sch Rep

Asso AUSTIN — upset some vet Tuesday by try a resolution in — an issue that as political pois Rep. Robert land, wanted to process and ge his measure ca convene a cons on school praye The consti Earley favors rule on school lution said fed hibited and abri gious freedo numerous scho The U.S. S banned open schools. "The decisio by the states, n said. During a p House proceed traditionally pa ley won appr rules requiring legislation.