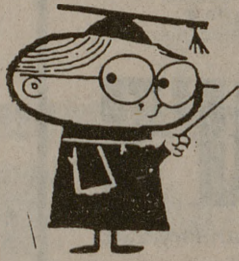


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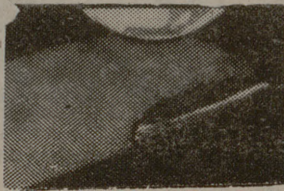
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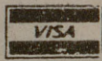
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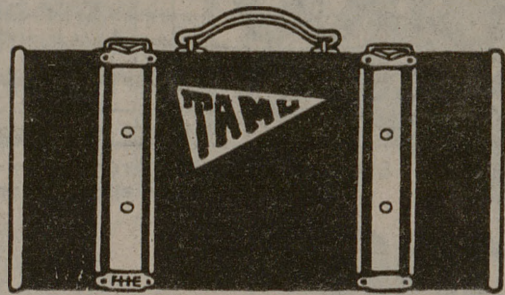
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Open-container laws reconsidered following decision

ARLINGTON (AP) — Some Texas cities that prohibit drinking behind the wheel may have to re-examine their ordinances now that the Texas attorney general says they are exceeding their authority, officials say.

Ordinances in both Arlington and Corpus Christi make it illegal to take a drink while driving a car, although possession of open containers is permitted.

The attorney general's office says it isn't sure how many cities have similar ordinances, but that those that do are infringing on state authority.

According to an opinion issued Jan. 16, the state's alcoholic beverage code reserves for the state the exclusive right to regulate the manufacture, sale, transport and possession of alcohol in Texas.

"A lot of cities do have ordinances like this, and if someone is arrested for violating one of them, the opinion would certainly help them contest it," said assistant attorney general Jennifer Riggs, who drafted the opinion at the request of State Rep. Al Luna of Houston.

"The opinion isn't binding, but it will be persuasive," she added. "I understand what these cities are trying to do, but if they're really concerned

about this, they need to get together and launch a lobbying effort to get the state law changed."

Arlington City Attorney Jay Doegey said a review of the city's ordinance is under way, but that he doubts the law will be rescinded.

"At this point, we respectfully disagree with the (attorney general's) opinion," Doegey said. "We're conducting a review to see if there's anything in there to cause concern on our part, but our ordinance is structured in such a way that it wouldn't conflict with state law."

Because a police officer must actually see the driver take a drink before issuing a citation, the laws are difficult to enforce, officials in both cities said.

In Arlington, only 135 such citations were issued in 1986, mostly to teen-agers caught drinking along a popular cruising strip, police spokesman Dee Anderson said.

Corpus Christi City Attorney Jimmy Bray said that relatively few tickets for drinking while driving are written there, but that he will wait until he sees the opinion to decide whether the law should remain on the books.

"If it's persuasive, I'll advise the City Council to drop the ordinance," he said.

Dummy officer helps slow highway speeds

HURST (AP) — Officer Dummy doesn't exactly trap many speeders, but traffic certainly slows down before passing him by.

The newest member of the police force in this Fort Worth suburb is a mannequin that sits authoritatively in a police car facing traffic on Loop 820 or the Airport Freeway.

The dummy sports a police uniform and can be either male or female, depending on whether it wears a gold motorcycle helmet or a blonde wig, police Capt. Bill Collins said.

Lead-footed motorists spotting the car usually hit the brakes to avoid getting a ticket, but don't notice whether the officer at the wheel is the real McCoy.

Even if they do, they've slowed down by that time.

Hurst police say the impersonation gives them the desired response — slower and safer speeds.

"We'll probably see some real radar activity in some of those same spots," Collins said.

The Hurst Police Department isn't the first to use dummy officers. Arlington police used the fakery to give its force more visibility.

"We're like everyone else — short-handed," Collins said. "We can't always be where we need to be."

Collins said the department plans to keep the mannequin on the move around area highways.

"Our motive is strictly to get compliance with the speed limit out there," Collins said.

Thus far in its law enforcement career, the dummy, who started work Jan. 14, has given a convincing performance.

One person called the police department expressing concern because the "officer hadn't moved in an hour or two," Collins said.

In Advance

MSC Council to choose 38th president

By Carolyn Garcia
Staff Writer

The MSC council goes into closed session Monday night to choose the organization's 38th president. During the session, MSC President Bobby Bisor will make his recommendation for the post to the council.

The president of the MSC serves a one-year term beginning in April. The student holding this position heads up the MSC council staff and a \$3.2 million budget, Bisor said.

"The president will train with me from February until April," Bisor said.

The council has the option of deciding against the candidates for the position, electing not to fill it.

But Bisor said this is highly unlikely.

Because the council is a student operation it has professional and staff advisors to turn to for help and advice when it needs it, he said.

The job as president of MSC is just that — a job.

Bisor says the position assumes anywhere from 20 hours per week.

"It's a big job," he said. "You learn to manage your time because you are forced to."

In addition to choosing a president the council will consider itself with a new budget. Allen, vice president for finance, will request a preliminary budget for next year.

"Nothing out of the ordinary is expected to be asked for," Allen said. "We don't ask for anything we can't justify. We're looking probably a small increase."

Perry Eichor, executive president for administration, expected to notify the council when the MSC master plan was introduced. Eichor also is expected to address the issue of MSC expansion.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. in MSC 216T.

Regents to discuss Kyle Field facility

By Frank Smith
Senior Staff Writer

The surfaces of Kyle Field and the physical education track encircling it may get a facelift this year, if the Texas A&M Board of Regents approves a plan scheduled to come before it Monday.

The proposal first will be examined at a meeting of the Board's Planning and Building Committee on Sunday. The full Board will convene for its regular bimonthly meeting at 3 p.m. Monday.

Under the proposal, the eight-year-old layer of artificial turf currently on the field would be removed, as well as the rubber coating on the asphalt track. The asphalt surface below the carpet would receive an additional two-inch overlay, a new carpet would be installed and an asphalt overlay would be applied to the track.

However, the rubberized coating on the track would not be replaced. Tony Heger, facilities administration division manager, said the current coating is loose and tends to "buckle up."

A proposal signed by Chancellor Perry Adkisson and Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning and Construction Wesley Peel recommends that \$65,000 be appropriated for the project.

If approved, and if the project remained on schedule, renovations would be completed by the end of July.

In other scheduled business the Planning and Building Committee will discuss a proposal to install air conditioning in the Rollie White Coliseum and consider awarding a contract for construction work on the proposed north terminal at the Interwood Airport; and consider appropriating \$550,000 for preliminary design of the Institute of Biosciences and Technology Building.

The annex at G. Rollie White for wrestling, aerobics and weight training classes as well as natural competitions and recreation.

The work to be done at the Interwood under the construction contract comprises the building of a parking area, a taxiway, access road connection and providing of lighting for apron and taxiway.

In addition, the Committee on Academic Campuses on Sunday will discuss a resolution on "mission and structure" of the A&M University at Galveston. The resolution says it is a recommendation of the Board's commitment to research and instructional programs at A&M-Galveston. It authorizes the chancellor to proceed with planning for a major research institute of natural sciences at Galveston, consistent with the University of Texas and sets a September deadline for recommendations to the Board.

Plano conductor returns on temporary visa

PLANO (AP) — After five months of wrangling with U.S. authorities over his visa, the Plano Chamber Orchestra's Mexican-born conductor will be allowed to return to the Dallas suburb — but not for long.

Hector Guzman, who has conducted the orchestra for three years, obtained a non-immigrant visa at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City on Wednesday and will arrive in Plano Friday, officials said.

But he can stay in the United States only long enough to fulfill his contractual obligations in Plano, and those expire at the end of this season, said U.S. Consul Gale Berghoefer in Mexico City.

She said Guzman will have to qualify again for a visa if the Plano orchestra renews his contract for next year, but he'll face tougher requirements if that happens.

"He failed to show sufficient ties to (Mexico), and next year he'll have to show economic ties in order to qualify for the visa," she said.

Those are part of the requirements immigration officials use to make sure aliens have reason to return to their homeland after their visas expire.

Guzman conducted the State of Mexico Symphony Orchestra and the Monterrey Symphony

Orchestra in an effort to demonstrate that but U.S. officials weren't convinced.

They suggested he would have to buy property in Mexico or marry someone residing to prove his intentions to go home some day.

But Guzman doesn't see much hope in remaining in Plano after this season.

"I am not stupid, I can take a hint," Guzman said. "The embassy's not going to give me other visa."

This might be my last time in the U.S.," he said.

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