

THE BATTALION

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Eddy Wylie/The B

Waiting to be "Kissed"

Students wait outside Rudder Tower Thursday afternoon at 2:00. Distribution of tickets for the movie "French Kiss" starring Ryan and Kevin Kline began at 3:00 p.m. The movie was shown free of charge on dead day.

Senate approves DWI checkpoints bill

The sponsor of the bill says that it will not allow police to stop random cars and harass the occupants.

AUSTIN (AP) — Police checkpoints would be used on Texas roads to stop drunken drivers under a bill approved Thursday by the state Senate.

"The fear of arrest is the most effective deterrent to drunk driving," said Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco, sponsor of the bill. "I hope the possibility of being stopped at a checkpoint will convince people to change their behavior."

The Senate voted 31-0 in favor of the measure after senators received assurances from

Sibley that the bill wouldn't allow police to harass drivers. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

"It is not the intent of this bill to be carte blanche for an officer to stop someone and say, 'Let's see what's in your trunk?' or 'What's under the blanket in the back seat?'" Sibley said.

"But if they stop a car and see a dead body in there, I would hope they would be curious enough to check out what's going on."

Sibley said the checkpoints have been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, alleviating fears of Sen. Gregory Luna, D-San Antonio, who said, "There's going to be federal objections."

The bill is strongly supported by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and law enforcement groups.

Under the measure, vehicles would be stopped according to a predetermined selection process, such as every third car. Cars couldn't be stopped on a random basis.

An officer could conduct a field sobriety test only if there was reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe the driver had committed an offense.

Drivers couldn't be stopped for more than two minutes, and the total time to pass through a checkpoint could not be longer than 10 minutes, according to the bill.

Checkpoints couldn't be operated in one location for more than four hours at a time and not more than twice at the same location within a seven-day period.

Authorities would be required to make a reasonable effort to

publicize the checkpoints. The bill would not be required to specify the precise date, time, location or purpose of the checkpoints.

Sibley said the bill would create an offense for evading a checkpoint. He said, for example, a driver who came to a checkpoint and made a left turn or pulled into a driveway and turned around to avoid the checkpoint wouldn't be stopped by police.

"Now if someone comes to a checkpoint and goes through a guardrail to turn around, not evading a checkpoint, is another traffic violation police could stop them for," Sibley said.

"If they skid to a stop for several doughnuts, to me that would raise reasonable suspicion and they might be stopped."

Hey mate,

Outback Steakhouse has special hours Parent's Weekend.

Open noon - Saturday, April 28th
Open noon - Sunday, April 29th



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CONGRATULATIONS AGS



HAVE YOU

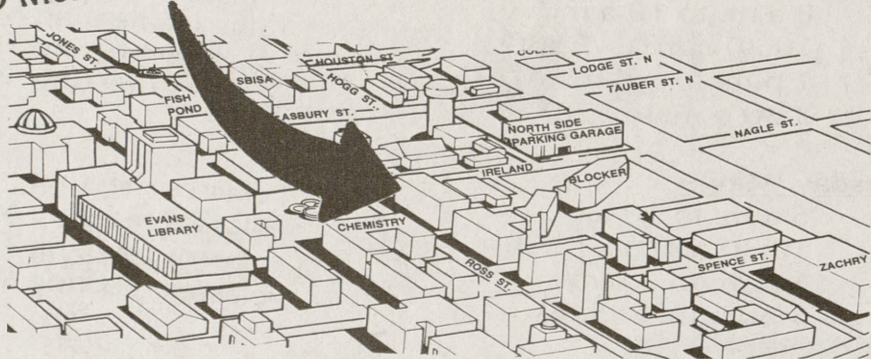
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