

State sex education laws could apply differently than intended

□ A new law that forbids condoms being passed out in classrooms is being challenged by school health clinics.

DALLAS (AP) — A new state law designed to stop condom distribution in high schools is not slowing health clinics in some districts that do not believe the measure applies to them.

But state Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, who proposed limiting sex education during the last legislative session, said he will seek an attorney general's opinion on whether school-based clinics could distribute condoms under the new law.

"Until someone says we can't, we're going to keep on doing what we're doing," said Dr. Janice Smith, who runs Galveston's Teen Health Clinic, which serves the Galveston Independent School District.

Sherrill Tompkins, general counsel for the Galveston school district, agreed.

"The law simply says that if you go into a classroom to teach kids how to use a condom, you

can't hand them out. We don't do that, we practice medicine," she said.

"And I don't think anyone could interpret this code as keeping the medical profession from practicing medicine."

But Chisum who wanted to forbid the state's 1,400 high schools from passing out condoms, said he sees no distinction between handing out condoms through a health clinic or a sex education class.

"The intent was not that schools can subvert the law and let a school nurse pass out condoms," said Chisum.

Instead, education and health officials statewide have raised questions as legal experts begin reviewing Texas' newest laws.

Officials from the Texas Department of Health and the Texas Education Agency said they, too, may seek an attorney general's opinion on whether the law will affect school-based clinics.

"This happens a lot after the session is over," said Ward Tisdale, an attorney general's office spokesman.

"When they pass a law, everybody starts asking, 'What

does this mean?' We always take into account the intent of the Legislature."

The legislation, which grants control of sex education to individual communities, recognizes it as an appropriate school topic for the first time.

Chisum said he proposed the language as an amendment to the sweeping education reform bill which, among other things, rolled back state control over

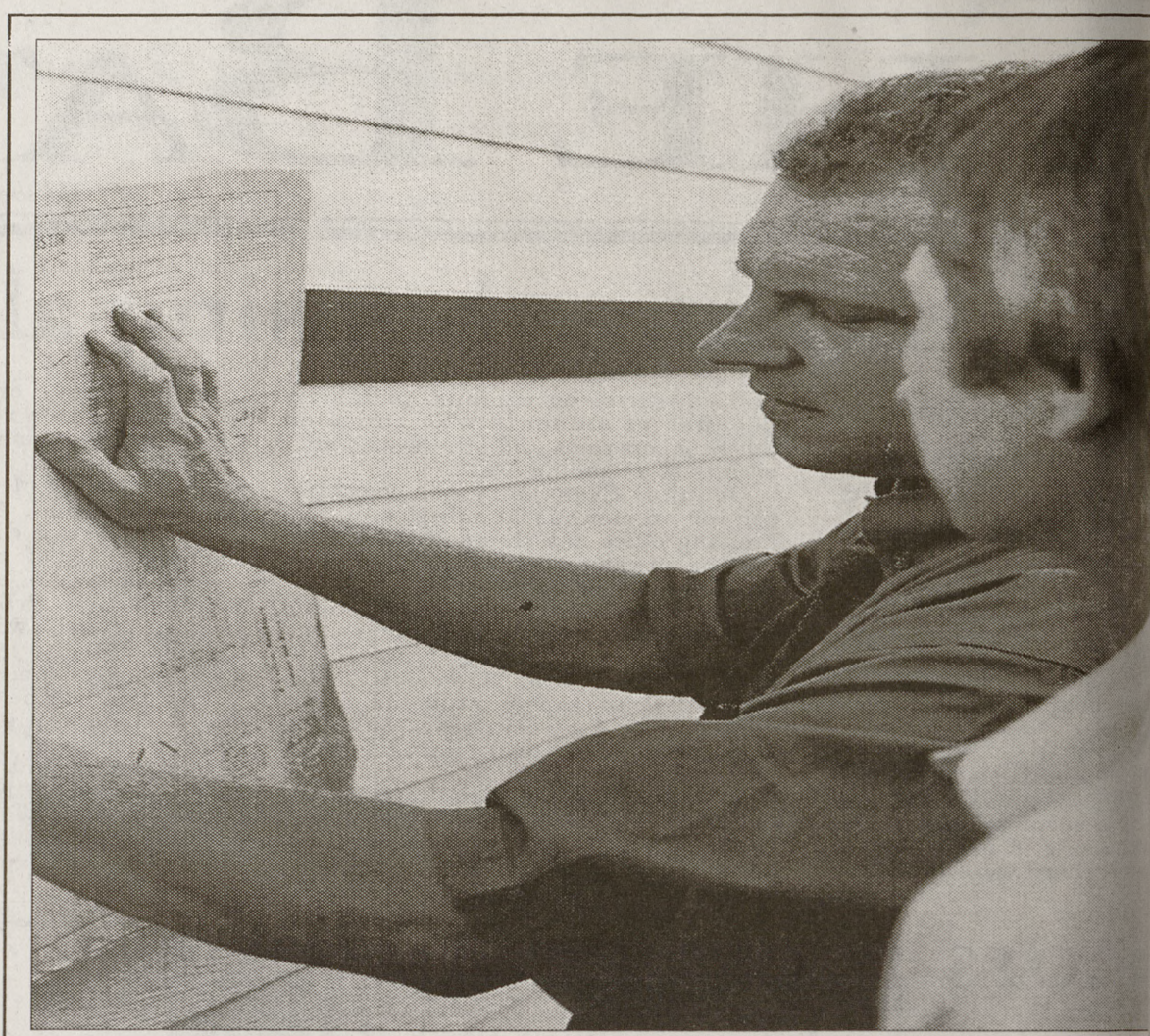
"The intent was not that schools can subvert the law and let a school nurse pass out condoms."

— Rep. Warren Chisum
R-Pampa

individual school districts in favor of home rule.

"It is clearly the legislative intent that schools only teach abstinence education, that they involve the parents in what they are teaching, and that they not pass out condoms," Chisum said.

The Texas Department of Health said every school in the state has some form of sex education, with at least 15 school districts with school-based health clinics.



Eddy Wylie, Staff

So, YOU WANT TO BE AN ARCHITECT?

Austin based architect Peter Pfeiffer assesses a set of drawings for Ron Anders, a senior architecture major. Anders was participating in a field trip as part of his ARCH 421 class.

Cost of concealed gun permit will vary with experience, skill

□ The expenses for carrying a weapon include an application fee, fingerprinting, ammunition, and the DPS training course.

FORT WORTH (AP) — The estimated 180,000 Texans seeking concealed handgun permits in the next two years may find the application process to be costlier than anticipated, experts say.

Some handgun instructors said they plan to offer training for twice the \$100 estimated by legislative sponsors. Several said they will be adding to the price for evening and weekend sessions.

"I think they're dreaming," state Rep. Bill Carter, a sponsor of the "right-to-carry" law, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram for Sunday editions.

Competition among instructors and firing ranges should keep costs under control, said Carter, R-Fort Worth.

Experts say expenses could be most burdensome for novices because instructors are worried about liability issues. Those instructors want to make sure beginners know what they're doing before accepting them in the state certification course.

Many will be sent to beginners' lessons starting at \$30 an hour, they said.

"It'll be based on skill level," said gunsmith Grant Bethurum of Arlington Arms Gun Co. and Sporting Goods, whose waiting list contains more than 100 names. "If a person doesn't know about the operation and safety of a firearm, the course will include more than the minimum requirement of 15 hours."

Lawmakers set the nonrefundable application fee at \$140. Seniors receive a 50 percent discount. Some instructors say they plan to teach a five-hour preparation course for about \$50. Guns can be rented for \$10 a day.

Experienced handgun owners should be able to get a permit for somewhere between \$200 and \$340. But a beginner may spend at least \$650.

That would include the \$140 application fee, up to \$10 for fingerprinting, \$15 for notarizations, \$8 for passport photos, \$30 for a one-hour lesson, \$18 for 100 rounds of practice-grade ammunition, \$200 for the 10- to 15-hour Department of Public Safety training course, \$5 for targets, \$9 for a holster, and \$225 for a new .38-caliber snub-nosed revolver.

DPS officials will oversee the handgun permit process.

Honors: Program has two tracks

Continued from Page 1

honors courses available.

"We would also like to encourage more departments to increase the number of honors classes. We want to see more advanced engineering courses offered as honors as well."

Matt Parker, a junior electrical engineering major, said if more engineering honors courses were available, it would be easier to graduate with honors.

"Right now it's just not feasible to graduate on an honors track because I'd have to take too many classes that don't count for my major," Parker said. "But if they were offered I'd probably take them."

Julie Cowley, assistant director of the honors program, said the program is one step closer toward its goals now that the math department offers an honors track in engineering math.

"The math department will be offering Math 151

as an honors course, as well as the classes below it," she said. "This will make it easier for engineering students to earn an honors degree."

"We encourage students to take honors class ... to show them the classes are like."

assistant director of the honors program

The honors program counsels students to take honors classes and they are enjoying the classes.

"Most students who come in aren't aware of their majors," Cowley said. "We encourage students to take an honors class their first semester here to show them what the classes are

HEALTH TIPS

Cutting back on caffeine can cause headaches

By Ashley Musick
STUDENT ASSISTANT, A.P. BEUTEL
HEALTH CENTER

One of the world's most widely used drugs is caffeine.

Although used as a mild stimulant to "wake up" the central nervous system, caffeine has been found to raise the brain's serotonin concentrations, which are associated with drowsiness.

Many people quickly develop caffeine tolerance, thereby blunting the effect of caffeine.

Because caffeine is an addictive drug, going "cold turkey" or abstaining from its use after the body has adapted to its presence may cause headaches, drowsiness, sluggishness or fatigue.

Caffeine is found in coffee beans, tea leaves and cocoa beans. Other sources of added caffeine include soft drinks and over-the-counter drugs, such as appetite suppressants, cold tablets, headache medications and allergy medications.

The drug is considered relatively harmless in adults when consumed in moderate doses of 2-3 cups of coffee per day.

Gradual reduction of caffeine intake is recommended for those wishing to reduce their caffeine consumption. This includes mixing consumption of regular and decaffeinated beverages and increasing the amount of decaffeinated beverages consumed.

Shortening the brewing time

for tea from three minutes to one minute decreases the amount of caffeine in the tea.

To keep your body alert, follow these tips instead of using caffeine.

- Follow a regular sleep schedule.
- Listen to the radio or dance to get yourself going.
- Do stretching exercises.
- Eat a balanced meal, and do not substitute coffee for breakfast.

Although caffeine masks the effects of fatigue temporarily, you cannot trick your body out of sleep. You will be more alert if you get adequate rest and food, rather than by going on a caffeine buzz.

Sketch

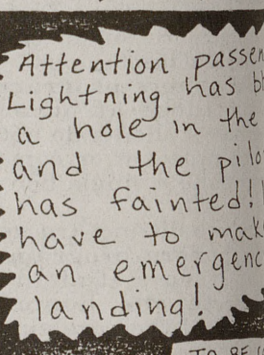


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By VALE



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October 28 vs. Houston	1 p.m.
November 18 vs. M. Tenn. State	1 p.m.
December 2 vs. Texas	2:30 p.m.

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