

## Honts' DWI case takes legal twists

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## Taylor group gears up for truck, tractor pull

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# City/State

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Section B



Mike Kelley

## Paper work beats car woe

I know this much about what goes under the hood of an automobile: Enough things work in concert with each other, most of the time, to get you as far as the next mechanic.

I long ago reached an accommodation with cars. So long as I could start it, steer it, and stop it, whatever else went on was up to the car. It knew how to do the rest.

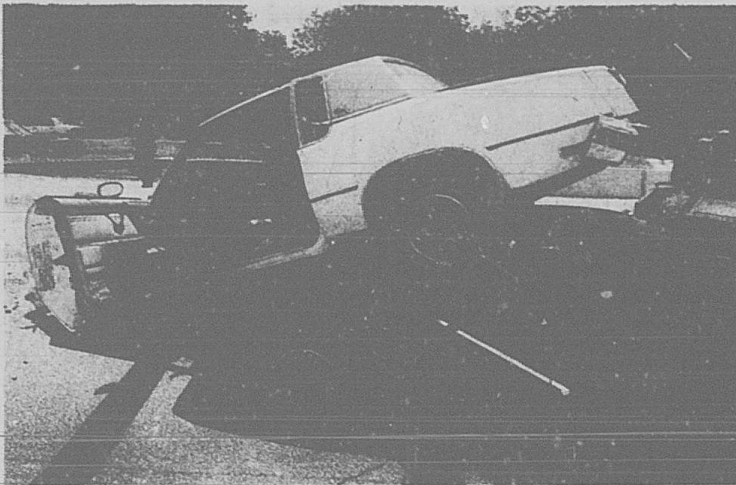
My car is a 1977 Toyota Celica. It is a simple car, a basic car. I like it because it has this tendency to continue running without frequent and major repair. This is unique in my experience with cars.

In fact, it is not really my car. By virtue of a passionate distaste for paper work, I never exactly got around to transferring the title to the car when I bought it a couple of years ago. Because I do not have title, I cannot get a new registration sticker for my car, the old one being currently expired, as a nice police officer pointed out, giving me a souvenir by which to remember our chat.

Because I did not wish to collect another such memento, Friday I borrowed a car belonging to some friends whose house I was watching while they were out of town. The car is a 1984 Pontiac Fiero. It is a racy-looking little machine, one of those that you strap on more than get into.

The dashboard is packed with dials and switches and levers and lights and bells and buzzers. Going to work I cruised smoothly down MoPac, saying, "Ah-h-h, that's a Roger, mission control; commence EVA at 0530 hours."

Got to the office, parked, turned the engine off. Pulled on key. No go. Looked for the little button that's sometimes on steering columns, to release key. No button. I sat there for a good, no, a bad five minutes, trying in vain to figure how to get the key out. A guy walked by. Feeling like an idiot, I asked for help. He fell all around the steering column and couldn't find anything. A colleague of mine came up. He sat in the car for three or four more minutes before giving up. I went into the news room and asked around. One fellow said he'd rented a Fiero once, and there was this little button in this certain place. I went back outside, looked, found nothing. Finally



Staff Photo by Larry Kolvoord

## Traffic stopper

Traffic slowed to a crawl after this multivehicle collision in the southbound lanes of Interstate 35 just north of Town Lake Sunday. Traffic backed up for at least a mile as police officers blocked the lanes and diverted cars onto the frontage road. Three motorists suffered minor injuries.

## Pilot killed, 2 badly hurt as planes collide in Temple

From Staff and Wire Reports

TEMPLE — A pilot tried in vain to warn two small planes that they were dangerously close to colliding moments before the single-engine Cessnas crashed in mid-air, killing one man and injuring two others, authorities said.

The accident occurred as both planes were making a final approach to the runway at Draughon-Miller Municipal Airport about 4:20 p.m., said patrolman Terry Kelley of the Temple Police Department, who was investigating the crash.

"The airport has no tower and

pilots are responsible for letting each other know their positions," said Kelley.

Authorities identified the dead pilot as Steven L. Morris, 34, of Killeen. His passenger, Gregory A. Arzola, 30, of Fort Hood, and the other pilot, Shannon A. Schunicht, 23, of Killeen, were critically injured.

Officials at Scott and White Hospital at Temple said Arzola and Schunicht were in critical condition early today in the intensive care unit of the hospital.

Kelley said that according to wit-

nesses the two single-engine Cessnas were making a final approach to the landing strip and one plane was flying slightly above the other.

The pilot of a third plane noticed the two aircraft were flying too close together and tried to radio them but received no response, Kelley said.

As the planes neared the ground, "their wings touched and they both went down," Kelley said.

"We don't know why they got so close. They might have been on each other's blind side," said Steve Klempa, Temple deputy police chief.

Morris and passenger Arzola were on board the Cessna 150, and the second aircraft, a Cessna 152, contained only the pilot, Kelley said.

Morris was pronounced dead at 5:30 p.m. at Scott and White Memorial Hospital in Temple, said hospital spokesman Donald Nelson.

The crash occurred 150 to 200 feet north of the airport runway, the officer said. He said officials had not determined the altitude of the planes at the time of the collision.

don't know why people don't want to wear them."

Demarest said the victim was riding a jetski in a cove near the Horseshoe Bay marina when he fell off about noon Saturday. He tried to swim toward the jetski, but went under before he reached it, Demarest said.

Demarest said the man was about 100 yards from shore when the accident happened.

## Drowning blamed on lack of life vest

A 41-year-old Travis County resident who drowned when he fell off a jetski in Lake LBJ would have survived if he had been wearing a life jacket, authorities said Sunday.

The victim was identified as Ronald Brown of Lake Travis. He had been identified by authorities earlier as Ronald Davis.

"That man would be alive today if he was wearing a life jacket," Llano County Justice of the Peace John Demarest said Sunday. "I

## Teachers brace for bonus fight with trustees

By Roxanne Evans  
American-Statesman Staff

Austin teachers are gearing up to battle Austin school board trustees tonight for career ladder bonuses for the estimated 800 district teachers who did not receive the money last month because the district is short of funds.

The 1,300 teachers who received \$1,500 bonus checks from the Austin Independent School District last month advanced to the second step of the four-step career ladder, a part of the education reform passed by lawmakers last summer.

Although the state allocated funds to districts for the bonuses, most large districts had to use local funds to ensure that qualified teachers received bonuses. Because the Austin district had a money shortage, it adopted standards stricter than the state guidelines to determine who got bonuses.

District officials have blamed money woes for the inability to provide the bonuses to all teachers who met the state standards. It would cost the district an estimated \$1.2 million to give bonuses to the other 800 teachers.

The district decision not to provide full funding has angered and disappointed many teachers. Those who felt that they were qualified but did not receive the bonus say they are bitter, and many who received bonuses say they are upset that similarly qualified colleagues were not rewarded.

Mary Kay Lamont, president of the Austin Federation of Teachers, said she and other teachers are

planning to picket in front of the district administration building at 4 p.m. today to garner support for teachers and to urge trustees to vote in favor of providing more funds for the bonuses. Lamont said she is convinced that the funds are available.

However, Lamont said the issue goes beyond dollars.

"The pay is irrelevant," she said. "This is a question of status. It is humiliating to qualified teachers that they will be behind for the rest of their careers."

Janie Ortega, president of the Association of Texas Professional Educators, agreed that the money is not at the heart of teacher grievances.

"It's not a matter of money — it's a matter of pride," she said.

Although Ortega said the district did the best it could under difficult circumstances, she said the only way to correct the inequity is to reward all qualified teachers.

Donna New, president of the Austin Association of Teachers, agreed with Ortega that teachers need trustee support on the issue.

"It would demonstrate a show of support for teachers," she said. "All other school districts in Texas have done so. AISD sticks out like a sore thumb. I think trustees underestimated the deterioration of morale that would accompany the career ladder decisions."

In addition to considering more funds for the career ladder, trustees will vote on a formal appeal process for teachers who want to challenge the decisions of the five-member career ladder committee.

## Austin police officer injured in accident at rodeo contest

An Austin police officer was injured Sunday when he was stepped on by a bull while competing in a statewide rodeo for law officers.

The injured officer was identified as Tommy Conner, police said.

Conner was injured about 4 p.m. after being thrown from a bull during the All Police Rodeo held at the Texas Exposition and Heritage

Center at Decker Lake. Police said the bull stepped on Conner's head.

Conner was knocked unconscious, and he was taken to Brackenridge Hospital by Emergency Medical Services, police said.

He was listed in stable condition in the intensive care unit late Sunday.