

Local

'Bottoms up' capped in A&M regs

By DENISE RICHTER

But rules remain toast of the town

Raising the minimum drinking age in Texas to 19 probably will have little effect on Texas A&M's policy regarding the use of alcohol on campus. But then, very little has been able to affect this policy. Traditionally, the University has talked dry and drunk wet. The official policy statement of the Texas A&M System Board of Regents concerning alcohol on campus is rough, tough and rigid: "Possession or use of intoxicating liquors on any property under the control of The Texas A&M University System is expressly prohibited. The chancellor is directed to enforce this policy."

Traditionally, the University has talked dry and drunk wet.

What this means in day-to-day drinking is that liquor can't be bought on campus or enjoyed on campus, unless done so in the right places. One right place that is clearly defined is the married student housing complex. The others aren't so clearly defined in the regulation, but, nevertheless, have been implied.

Among them: the president's residence; the residence of the vice president for student services and the suites in Kyle Field. The issue of drinking in dorm rooms is the most nebulous of all. Although the possession of alcohol is expressly prohibited in the official policy statement, the University hasn't gone on any bottle-breaking crusades.

"We will search a room only if there is a good cause," said Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president for student services. "A serious problem has to be reported before we will take action."

This means drinking is forbidden, but students who want to, and do, drink in their rooms are relatively safe.

Texas A&M has a long history of trying to legalize the sale of alcohol on campus. The most recent episode took place last fall when the Student Government voted down a bill that would have allowed beer and wine to be sold during certain weekend performances in the MSC Basement.

The bill was voted down 52-18 even though a Student Government telephone survey showed that the student body was about evenly divided on the issue.

Arguments made in favor of the bill said the increased revenue would enable the Basement to attract more and better shows and

leased or otherwise made available on a long-term basis to an individual or association."

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Arguments made in favor of the bill said the increased revenue would enable the Basement to attract more and better shows and

provide better service to the students, and that other schools selling alcohol on-campus have virtually no problems.

Arguments against the bill were that the on-campus sale of alcohol would hurt Texas A&M's conservative reputation, set a bad precedent and cause problems.

The Administration apparently agreed with these arguments. "I don't see that there is a need (for the on-campus sale of alcohol)," Koldus said. "We're surrounded by establishments, and if anyone wants to drink, there is a place to go."

"Secondly, most people who go to those places are looking for an environment as well as alcohol. We can't duplicate the Chicken or Lakeview (on the campus)."

"Thirdly, I don't care (for the University) to become involved

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with the problems involved with the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages, and any establishment that sells them does have problems."

While Koldus agreed that the

on-campus sale of alcohol would bring in extra revenue, he said there isn't a great need for these extra funds.

"We (the University) are not in the money-making business," Koldus said. "I would imagine that most businesses in the community are against us doing anything that infringes upon free enterprise. For example, the (off-campus) bookstores don't like the fact that A&M operates its own bookstore. The same principle would apply if we started selling alcohol on campus."

While it looks as if Texas A&M may never have alcohol sold on campus, many universities have sold alcohol on campus for several years.

The University of Texas has sold alcohol on its campus since 1975. It is sold in the Student Union, in the faculty center and in the Erwin Center.

Concerning the possession of alcohol in dorm rooms, the UT residence hall handbook states: "Alcoholic beverages may be consumed and stored in a resident's room by individuals of legal age." The only restriction is that the alcohol must be carried to and from the room in an opaque container, said Don Wisthuff, associate director of housing at UT.

Alcohol has been sold on the University of Houston campus since the early 1970s. It is sold in the Coffeehouse, a pub located in the student center.

UH students are allowed to have alcohol in their dormitory rooms as long as they do not drink in the public areas of the dorm (restrooms, general lobby), said Connie Wallace, assistant vice chancellor at UH.

Alcohol has been sold on the Rice University campus since 1976. It is sold in The Pub, which is located in the student center, and in Valhalla, a club operated by Rice's Graduate Student Association.

Rice has no specific policy concerning the on-campus possession of alcohol. Students are allowed to have alcohol everywhere except in the classrooms, Lynn Lednicki, Rice Student Association president, said.

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Judge orders recount for council Place 5

By BELINDA McCOY

District Judge Tom McDonald Tuesday morning issued an order requiring a recount of votes cast Saturday for Place 5 of the College Station City Council.

The order came as a result of a request by Jim Gardner, an urban planning professor at Texas A&M University, who had challenged incumbent Tony Jones for within the council seat. Gardner was defeated in the municipal election by a margin of 19 votes.

Jones received 1,316 votes, or 54 percent, and Gardner received 1,297 votes, or 49.6 percent of the vote.

Gardner said he requested the recount after some of his supporters urged him to do so.

"It'll satisfy the people who supported me," Gardner said. "By doing it, some may think I'm a bad loser. I'm not a bad loser. It's not just at all. ... It was just so close."

Gardner also said the accuracy of the computer's counting of the votes could be questioned because 28 more votes were cast for Jones in Place 5's race than in Place 5's recount. But voter error could account for the discrepancy, Gardner said. Some voters may have missed voting for some of the candidates because of their location on the ballot.

Jones, however, said the computer used in the counting is accurate within 0.001 percent, so he does not question its accuracy.

The recount was held at 10 this morning in College Station City Hall. The results of that recount, which was expected to take four

hours — were not available at press time.

The votes were to be counted manually, City Secretary Glenn Schroeder said, at a cost of almost \$40 — \$3 per hour for each of the three counters hired by the city.

The official canvassing of votes will be held at a 4 p.m. council workshop today. The swearing in of new council members will also be included in the workshop session.

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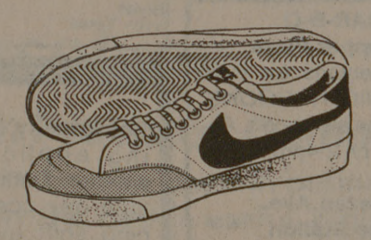
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