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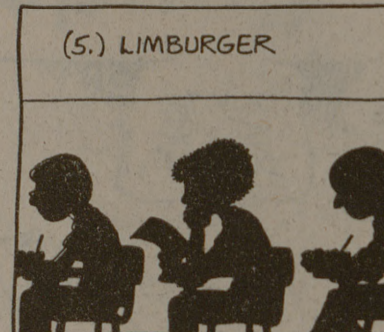
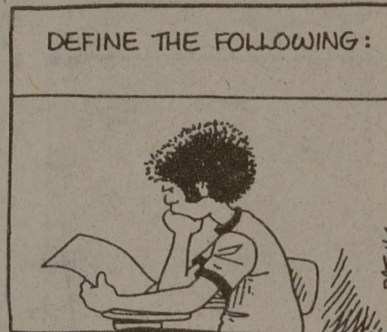
The Locker Room

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Funky Winkerbean

by Tom Batiuk



Copyrights

(continued from page 1)
ter, says a copyright notice is attached to all computer software the lab checks out. In addition, when checking out a copyrighted program, the user must sign a contract indicating he has read and understands the copyright law. Two copies of the contract are made. One is kept by the user and the other by the lab.
Because the program user can take the checked-out software off the premises, Strader says the lab employees can't monitor the user.
"It's up to the student to read the copyright law and abide by it," he says.
Since the LRD opened 2½ years ago, about 15 to 20 people have been caught copying, but Hall suspects most copiers are not caught.
John says, "Let me put it this way. Everybody who owns a computer here (Texas A&M) has about any program they want."
Bowles says, "I would be naive to say there wasn't any copying going on."
Strader says, "My gut feeling is

that there is a fair amount of copying going on (at Texas A&M), but I have no statistics to back it up. It's a personal opinion."
Mike, a graduate business student, says one LRD employee offered to make him a copy of a \$495 integrated spreadsheet program and a \$495 tax preparation package program for free.
Some copyrighted software is copy protected, which means its internal program is specialized so that it cannot be copied. Therefore, a person must use a special copy-breaking program to duplicate the software.
The copy breakers are legal programs that have legitimate purposes. For example, they can be used to make a second, or back-up copy of a program in case something happens to the original.
Hall says other computer software is stolen outright from the LRD by replacing the original disk with a blank one.
The more complex a program is, the more necessary programming

manuals are. Copying manuals also violates the copyright law.
Jack, a freshman electrical engineering major, says, "If you don't copy the manual, the program may not do you any good unless you're real familiar with the program."
Students cite high software prices as the reason they and most people they know copy.
"Normally, I wouldn't do it, but the programs are so expensive when they break the \$100 level," Jack says. "They're a little steep for anybody."
John says game programs are very popular but not expensive enough for him to worry about copying.
"If I wanted Zork or something, I'd go out and pay \$50 for that," he says. "But \$500 is a different story."
If software companies would lower prices, fewer people would steal copyrighted programs, Jack says. But because people do steal, companies raise their prices, more people steal and prices climb even higher.
"It's kind of a vicious cycle," he says.

Printer Month at Yes Computers!

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Big Event

(continued from page 1)
include visiting St. Joseph Hospital patients and Leisure Lodge residents, painting for the Red Cross, and working at Humana Hospital.
"We're doing a lot for the elderly this year — a lot of yard work and repair work," she said.
Members of Off-Campus Aggies will wash fire trucks for the city of Bryan as their project. OCA president Stacey Roberts said Briggs Hall

and Moore Hall also will help.
"It should be fun," Roberts said. "I can't wait — I haven't played with fire trucks since I was a kid."
Pena said project organizers get ideas for some activities by telephoning Bryan and College Station city councils, chambers of commerce and churches. While most of the ideas come from the organizers, some participants come up with their own project ideas.
"A&M is the first college to do a

service project of this size," Pena said.
The committee sent letters to all Southwest Conference schools telling them about the program, she said. As a result, Baylor University is holding its first "big event" in March.
After hearing about A&M's program at a conference, Pennsylvania State University also started a program which will premiere in March, Pena said.

TO HELP YOU HAVE A SAFE SPRING BREAK

Monday, March 4 **Wednesday, March 6**

Drug Awareness Speakers and Resource Tables.
Non-Alcoholic Beverage Bar.

Alcohol Awareness Speakers discussing legal issues.
Resource Tables with local beer distributors and community health agencies.

Where: MSC Lounge
When: Speakers noon - 1p.m.
Resource Tables 11a.m. - 2p.m.
Who: Sponsored by Student Government and Department of Student Affairs

SIGN UP NOW!
Sign up information and event details are now available at:

INTRAMURALS

Sign-ups for Mens, Womens, Co-Rec will take place:
PLACE: Intramural-Recreation Sports Office
DATE: Monday February 25, -Tuesday March 5
TIME 8:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m.

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