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Rumours

Snack bar to extend hours during finals

By FRANK SMITH
 Staff Writer

The Rumours snack bar in the southwest portion of the Memorial Student Center, will extend its hours during finals week in response to a Student Government request.

Lloyd H. Smith, assistant director of food services, said Student Government indicated an interest in extending the snack bar's hours so students could eat there while studying for final examinations.

Rumours is normally open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Smith said the snack bar will be open this Sunday from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Smith said Rumours re-opened for business Nov. 25 after being closed for renovations.

It was closed at the conclusion of the spring semester and the renovation project started near the end of June, he said.



"What happened is the mezzanine in there was changed — the location of it was changed," Smith said. "The snack bar underneath that mezzanine was also moved."

"The snack bar that was previously in there did not meet local health codes. So we had a lot more facilities for food preparation (and now have a bigger kitchen)."

To meet the health code, the mezzanine floor above the preparation area has been sealed, no dust can trickle down from the area from above, Smith said. A three-compartment sink was added for the snack bar, he said. He said the snack bar also was repainted and painted.

But Smith said that Rumours has television and a stage for performers.

Smith said the total cost of renovation project has not been completely tabulated. Part of the cost will be paid for by the Memorial Student Center and part will be by the Food Services Department, he said.

A&M prof uses meditation to build students' creativity

By SANDRA SUTPHEN
 Reporter

When students first encounter Rodney Hill's unique teaching method, their first question may be where they can go drop-add, Hill says.

Hill, a professor of environmental design at Texas A&M, uses a unique form of meditation called "centering" to stimulate creativity in his students.

"When you center yourself, it gives you access to your whole brain, you have access to all of your knowledge," Hill says. "It (centering) mainly calms you and opens your mind up; there are no limits; your mind is free to wander, to come up with images and connections."

Hill begins his first day of classes by bringing apples to class and giving one to each student. He asks the students to lie on the desks while he turns out the lights. The students talk about the apple; the smell, the feel, the taste of the apple.

The students are then asked to imagine they are the apple. They go back in time to where they are the blossom, the limb, the trunk; the roots and the water in the soil.

The student continues the 30-minute process with a regression from the water evaporating, becoming clouds, then rain; then regress to

"When you center yourself, it gives you access to your whole brain, you have access to all of your knowledge."

— Rodney Hill, a Texas A&M professor.

imagining they are the apple, Hill says.

Hill says he introduces the students to centering with the apple for a specific reason.

"They have something to hold on to," Hill says, "something concrete."

Hill says a few of his students have a difficult time accepting the "centering" exercise in the beginning.

"Usually by the end of the third week, if I get busy and miss a session, I get bitched at by the students, because it's really addictive," Hill says.

Hill says his goal with "centering" is to enhance creativity in his students.

"We get students in their freshman year," Hill says, "and we tell them their grade is going to be based on creativity, motivation and coming up with original ideas."

"For a lot of them, it's like beating

their head against a brick wall. They're trying to come up with ideas, and it's hard. They're trying to come up with ideas, and it's hard. They're trying to come up with ideas, and it's hard.

Unfortunately, Hill says professors inhibit creativity. "There are 10 times as many things you can do to inhibit creativity than you can do to enhance it," he says.

"Usually by the end of the semester, the students are in a meditative state, and they're able to do I do with all the ideas that come up. Which one should I pick? At the beginning they were saying, 'I come up with an idea!'"

Hill says this form of relaxation is not new, because people with high blood pressure or people who have had heart attacks use similar forms of relaxation about 10 years.

"You know just before you go to sleep at night, you get these ideas, and you can't go to sleep. It's all sort of flushes out; you're in a centering state," Hill says. "Your brain is open, and all the ideas you've been generating all day are there. You're not stressed or tense, you're relaxed."

Babysitter receives life for scalding child

Associated Press

DALLAS — A man who posed as a woman babysitter and plunged a 4-month-old baby into a pot of scalding water will serve at least 20 years of a life sentence handed down by a Dallas jury Thursday, prosecutors said.

Richard Arthur Gilbert, a 29-year-old transvestite, said he accidentally spilled hot water on the child. The jury, which deliberated less than an hour, fined him \$10,000 and convicted him of injury to a child.

Jurors and State District Judge Jack Hampton ruled that scalding water is a deadly weapon and ordered Gilbert to serve at least 20 years, or one-third of the sentence, Scott said. The baby later died of his injuries.

Gilbert's attorney, Russ Henrichs, said the verdict would be appealed.

The seven-man, five-woman jury found Gilbert guilty of holding the infant in scalding water at the home of Vera and Andrew Baker.

The Bakers have declined to comment on the trial's outcome.

Gilbert testified Wednesday that the scalding was not intentional, and said, sobbing, that he was "hysterical" after the child was hurt.

But prosecutors relied on the testimony of three doctors. They said forced-immersion burns, such as those on the Baker baby, look different from those of accidental splash burns.

Scott suggested in his final argument to the jury that the scalding

may have been prompted by Gilbert's desire to cover another child. He has been charged with sexually assaulting a 2-year-old while babysitting in East Dallas.

Investigators and the Dallas Police identified himself as "Richard Gilbert" and posed as a woman for the three months he worked at the Bakers' home.

What's up

Friday

PUERTO RICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: is meeting 7:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder.

MSC VARIETY SHOW: audition applications are now available in 216 MSC.

FOURAKER BREAKERS: Fish Camp is meeting at 6 p.m. at Mama's Pizza for a Christmas dinner.

CLASS OF '88: will sell class t-shirts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the MSC.

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS: will sell boxes in 216 Reed McDonald for 25 cents each to students who are moving. Call 845-3315 for more information.

How to Prevent...

"Ho-Ho-Ho-Oh-No-Crash-Boom"

- * Prior to a party designate a person to drive who will not be drinking.
- * Leave your keys with the host.
- * Decide how many alcoholic drinks you will have before going to a party.
- * Know your limit.
- * Call a friend or taxi if you've had too much to drink.
- * Show friends you care by taking away their keys if they drink too much.
- * Consider having non-alcoholic drinks after you've had a few alcoholic drinks.
- * If your hosting a party be sure to supply plenty of snacks.

