

Families seek aid after fire destroys homes

DALLAS (AP) — Families left homeless after a huge apartment blaze lined up at the Red Cross Monday for help in finding shelter.

Although only one man was injured in the five-alarm fire that swept through eight apartment units Sunday, 22 families fled their homes, some awakened by a passer-by's car horn.

"We have about 20 or 25 people in the waiting room right now," said Gail Barron, Red Cross spokesman. "We've already seen five families this morning." She said the chapter put the families in motels Sunday night, while firefighters investigated the blaze.

Only eight apartments were destroyed by the fire, while the others sustained some damage or power loss, Barron said.

Martin Barron, 23, unrelated to Gail Barron, was in serious condition Monday at Parkland Memorial Hospital with second-degree burns, a hospital spokesman who declined to give her name said.

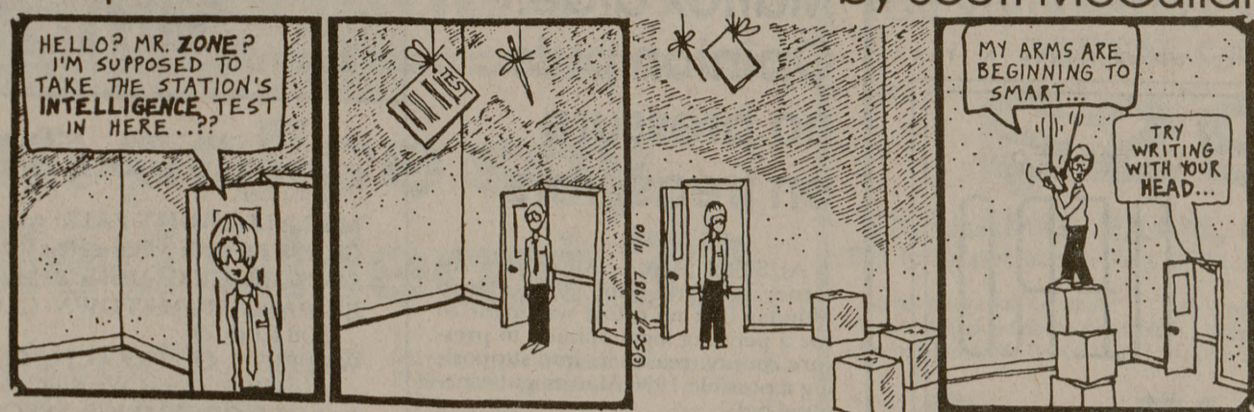
Fire Capt. David Coughran said Sunday the cause of the fire is under investigation, but he believes it was caused by children playing with a lighter or matches. Damage was estimated at \$220,000.

The morning fire, which was fought by about 100 firefighters, was extinguished after about half an hour, officials said.

Jason Parker, 21, who lived in the apartment next to the one where the fire began, said, "We were asleep and we heard somebody blowing his horn. I asked him why he was blowing his horn and he said there was a fire. Then I saw flames leaping out the window and I put my hand on the wall. I started grabbing clothes, and flames started coming in my closet."

Parker's two roommates also escaped.

Warped



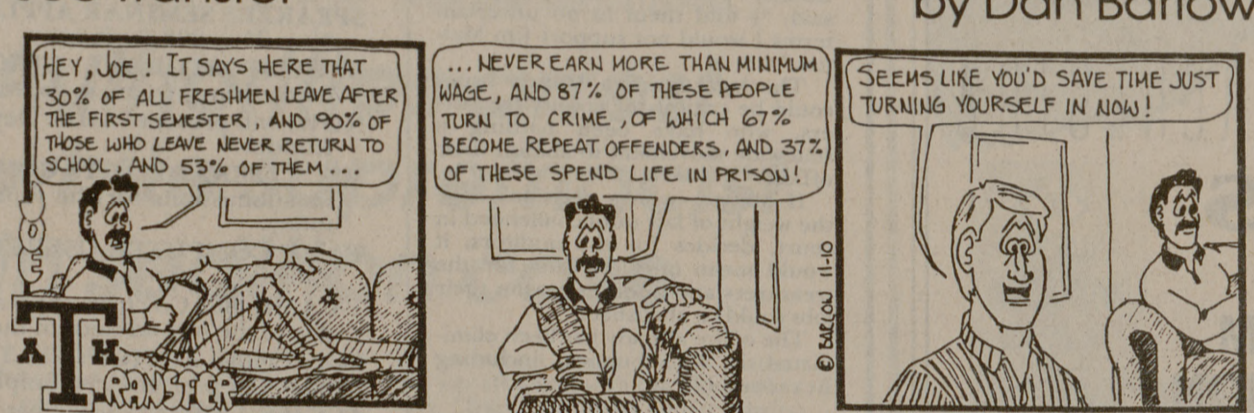
by Scott McCullar

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

Joe Transfer



by Dan Barlow

A&M students brew homemade beer to combat escalating prices in stores

By Shane Hall
Reporter

Dark liquid cascaded from the bottle into the glass. A foamy head rose to the rim of the glass, indicating good carbonation. Finally, after several weeks of fermentation and months of aging, the new batch of home-brewed beer is ready for drinking.

Perhaps the perfect glass of beer has been made; at least that's what two Aggie home brewers hope.

A good glass of beer has a hardy flavor, good carbonation and no bad aftertaste, says beer enthusiast and home brewer David Tumlin. David Weis, another home brewer, agrees, but adds that a good beer shouldn't taste too bitter.

Tumlin and Weis, both senior animal science majors, have been brewing beer as a hobby for two years. Weis says they took up home brewing because they like imported beer, but didn't always have the money to buy it.

"We had tastes for Chimay and Beck's, but pocketbooks for Schaefer and Milwaukee's Best," Tumlin says.

The first beer they made was a dark beer, which they say turned out well for their first try. Then they



Graphic by Robbyn L. Lister

made a lager, which was an improvement, they say.

Since then, the two have brewed their beer separately.

Tumlin has made a British-style ale and a stout ale, both of which turned out well, he says. Weis made a German-style lager, which also was a good brew, he says.

Tumlin and Weis say the beer they make compares favorably with their favorite imports. Tumlin says he likes British ales best, while Weis expresses a preference for German beers.

And the equipment essential to keep the suds flowing isn't a high-cost investment, they say.

Weis says the necessary equipment to start brewing costs about \$30 and consists of a six-gallon, food-grade plastic tub for fermenting, an airlock (CO₂), a pot for boiling the mixture and some rubber hose to help with the bottling, he says.

Tumlin says the ingredients for one batch of beer cost between \$10 and \$20. A batch is about 1½ to 2½ cases of beer, depending on the strength of the brew, he says. The ingredients include malt extract, dextrose sugar, yeast for converting sugar in the malt to alcohol and hops. Hops, Weis says, are what give beer its bitter flavor.

Tumlin and Weis say they buy their equipment and ingredients from wine- and beer-making stores in Fort Worth and San Antonio.

Recipes for brewing various types of beer can be found in books on home brewing and on the labels of the malt-extract cans. But Tumlin says personal taste determines the ultimate outcome of the beer.

"You take the recipe and add your own touches based on what you like," he says.

The first step to brewing beer, Weis says, is to boil malt extract with

hops, then add water and sugar. The next step is to let the mixture cool to room temperature and add yeast.

Tumlin says the next stage is the fermentation period, which varies according to the quality of the yeast and temperature of the storage area. Some beers may ferment in a week and others take two months, he says.

After fermentation, the beer is ready to bottle, Tumlin says. He and Weis get their bottles by the case from local bars, and he says long-neck bottles are the best kind to use.

Weis says that while in the bottles, the beer ages and develops flavor. The longer it ages, the better it tastes — to a point, he says. Tumlin says the aging time differs from one beer to the next. He says his stout ale aged for eight months before it developed a good flavor, while Weis says his German lager only took about a month to age.

Weis is working on a wheat beer, which he says is sweeter than most other kinds, while Tumlin is brewing a British pale ale.

Both Tumlin and Weis say they enjoy home brewing, but it takes good deal of patience.

"If your tastes end with Coors Light, home brewing is not for you," Tumlin says.

Woman offers place to bury aborted fetuses

HOUSTON (AP) — A funeral director who has been looking for a place to dispose of about 200 aborted fetuses says he may be able to bury them in a family-owned cemetery in Waller County.

Richard Herrin Jr., owner of Continental Cremation Services, said a woman has offered him the deed to the old cemetery, which is registered with the state. He refused to give her name or the location of the half-acre property at her request. "I will have a clear title as long as I cut the

grass and put up the fence," Herrin said Sunday.

Last week, Herrin complained that cemeteries would not allow him to bury fetuses he collects for a fee from Houston abortion clinics. If the deal for the Waller County property works out, Herrin plans to reduce his fee from \$445 to \$195 for disposing of the fetuses.

Until the paperwork is completed on the Waller County property, Herrin said, he may have a short-term storage solution for the fetuses he temporarily has been keeping in buckets.

Meanwhile, charges of operating a funeral home without a license are pending against Herrin, said Larry Farrow, director of the Texas Funeral Service Commission. Those charges involve the remains of three adults, Farrow said.

Herrin also is being investigated for failing to file death certificates on aborted fetuses in a timely manner. Herrin said he tried to file the death certificates but they were returned to him because of "nitpicky" regulations.

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