

Texas officials allege cattlemans falsified tests from infected cows

NACOGDOCHES (AP) — An East Texas sale-barn owner allegedly agreed to buy four sick cattle from a state livestock inspector posing as a rancher trying to dispose of stock infected with brucellosis.

E.V. Hamby, owner of the Nacogdoches County Livestock Sale Barn, allegedly substituted blood samples of a healthy cow for an infected one and registered the sale under a fictitious name in the transaction last October, inspector Joe Kelsey said.

Kelsey had driven four cattle to

the sale barn and included one infected cow to see if it was possible to sell a cow with brucellosis, called a "banger," Kelsey said.

Hamby assured Kelsey that brucellosis-infected cattle could be sold without notifying the state and without quarantining the rest of his herd, as required by law, Kelsey said.

"They encouraged me to come back," Kelsey recalls. "They just said, 'Bring all your cows back, and we'll make sure the state does not know

you had any (bangers) or that they were your animals."

Officials allege that Hamby, his barn manager, Emmett Case and the veterinarian, Dr. Raymond Fowler, conspired to falsify blood tests from infected cattle.

Kelsey alleged that when he arrived at the arena, Hamby instructed an employee to register the cows under a fictitious owner's name, and when the blood tests were run, workers substituted blood from a healthy cow for the banger's sample.

Two weeks later, Kelsey picked up a \$1,000 check for the four cows, completing Texas' first undercover operation aimed at exposing an alleged brucellosis fraud conspiracy.

The Texas Animal Health Commission began the inquiry last summer, then the Texas attorney general's office, the state Board of Veterinary Medicine and the U.S. Department of Agriculture joined the probe.

Brucellosis, once a health threat to animals and humans, is mostly an economic menace to ranchers. People may contract the disease from unpasteurized milk or goat cheese, but face no risk eating meat from an infected cow.

Lawyers in the state attorney general's office went to court Jan. 21 to get a temporary injunction against the sale barn and veterinarian.

A trial on a permanent injunction against the sale barn is pending in Nacogdoches County, where the case was transferred.

Lawyers said Juanette Ellis, 42, Fowler's former assistant, volunteered to testify after realizing she had been infected with the human equivalent of brucellosis, apparently while testing cattle under Fowler's supervision.

Case and Fowler both denied being involved in a conspiracy.

Hamby said that on the day of Kelsey's sting there was an accident in the laboratory, and an employee substituted blood from a healthy cow for the cows Kelsey brought in.

A&M professor creates program to increase alcohol awareness

By George Watson
Staff Writer

In an effort to prevent minors from driving while intoxicated, a Texas A&M professor has helped develop an alcohol awareness program aimed at minors who have been arrested on alcohol-related charges.

Dr. Maurice Dennis, professor of industrial education and director of safety education, said he hopes the program makes an impact on the minors before they risk driving while intoxicated.

"We have statistics that show minors are more likely to be killed in alcohol related accidents than older drivers," Dennis said. "We're just trying to keep that from occurring."

In the five-hour class, emphasis is placed on identifying the effects of alcohol on the body, the reasons that an individual chooses to drink and the penalties associated with DWI and MIP (minor in possession) arrests.

Bob Wiatt, director of University Police, said he favored the program's goal of educating and rehabilitating minors to teach them the penalties of alcohol-related crimes, and said the program might become a requirement for convicted MIPs.

"I am not familiar with the content of the classes, but I have spoken with Dr. Dennis and a few judges about having the class become part of some sentences involving MIPs," he said.

Of 120 alcohol-related arrests made on campus between September 1986 and August 1987, Wiatt said, 26 were for DWI. Since last semester, the UPD has made 88 alcohol-related arrests — 27 for DWI, he said.

The College Station Police Department made 229 DWI and 257 MIP arrests in 1987. The Bryan Police Department arrested 491 people on DWI charges in 1987. The number of MIP charges was not available.

Registration for the alcohol education program is in the industrial education office in Harrington Tower.

Abuse

(Continued from page 1)

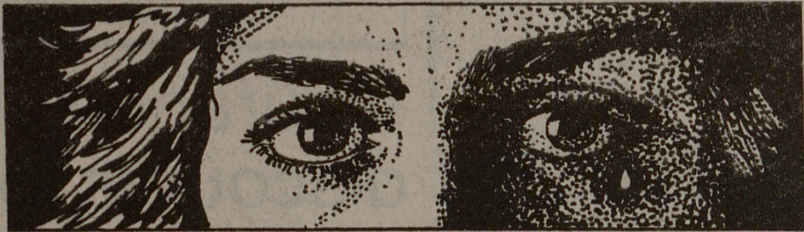
lice and press charges. These men, leads to an episode of violence and normally ends in a "honeymoon period," during which the man is apologetic for his behavior.

Keys and Tamburello plan to continue the program, which is now in its first 10-week session. In the future, they said they plan to start a program for women at A&M who are involved in violent relationships.

Keys said it isn't easy keeping the men in AVALE. "This is a treatment of choice for these men," he said. "It works best for the men who volunteer."

The graduate students said they hope for more voluntary participation in their next session, which will start sometime in June, but they said men referred to them by the local courts also will be involved in their counseling program.

Keys said the courts refer men to the program whose wives call the po-



Graphic by Carol Wells

probably will be reluctant to participate in the AVALE activities.

In addition to the weekly counseling sessions for abusive men, the children of the women who stay at Phoebe's Home are counseled each week by Dee Yates, a graduate student in educational psychology.

Yates said these children necessarily are not beaten by their fathers, but if they hear or witness the abuse of their mother, there is at least some psychological abuse.

"Not too many of these kids have been physically (abused), but psychologically (abused) by watching their mothers."

Yates conducts counseling sessions at the shelter in two groups. One of the groups is young children,

ranging in age from 3 to 8 years old, and the second group consists of pre-adolescent children.

Yates said the younger children participate in "play therapy."

"Playing is their natural mode of communication," she said. "Sometimes you see the anger and fear, one example is that they might draw monsters."

"(Play therapy) is a way that they can get in touch with these feelings. They do it (express themselves) when they're playing."

The counseling sessions with the older children concentrate more on discussion similar to the program the men go through. Yates said discussing family situations helps the children become more open and bet-

ter able to deal with memories of violence.

The only problem Yates said she sees in the program is that she only gets to work with most of the children one or two times because of the high turnover rate at Phoebe's Home.

She said she doesn't have high expectations because the program isn't a permanent form of counseling for the children. However, she said, "If

at least they're having one positive experience with someone in the helping profession, maybe it will help them."

Jackson said she is interested in getting more people involved with the children because Yates will be leaving in the summer. She said the children's program is something she would like to continue at Phoebe's Home, but eventually she wants to see more intense, long-term counseling.

"It (the counseling) makes them feel like they really count — that they're important enough to get counseling," Jackson said.

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