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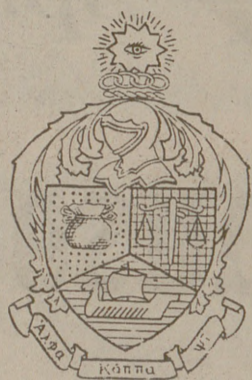
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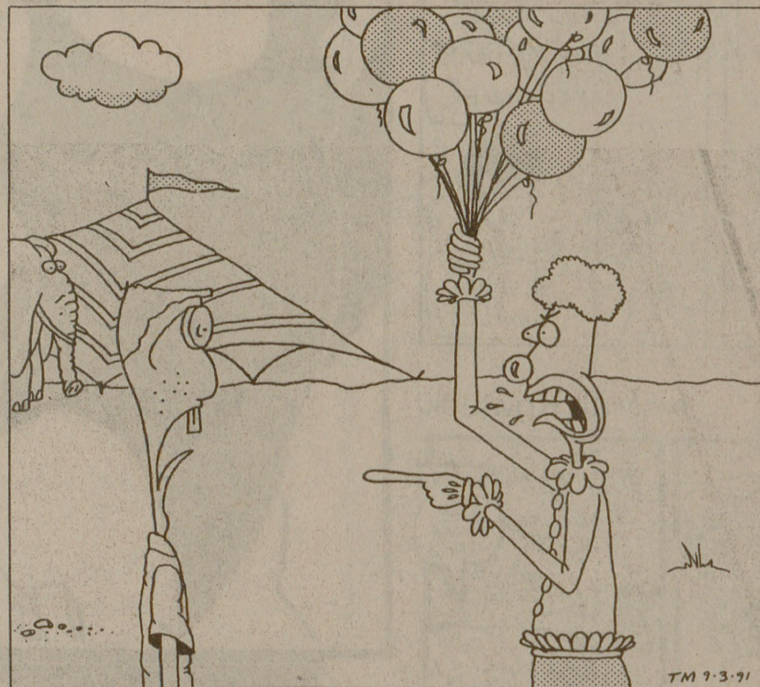
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Nerd House

by Tom A. Madison



"SOMETHING FUNNY?! HOW ABOUT 200 POUNDS OF PISSED-OFF CLOWN KICKING YOUR BUTT!!"

Fraternity pledge hospitalized

DENTON (AP) — A University of North Texas student has been hospitalized for alcohol intoxication after a suspected fraternity hazing incident, police said Monday.

Michael Brown, 20, was listed in stable condition Monday at Denton Community Hospital's in-

tensive care unit, a nursing supervisor said.

Brown, a freshman pledge at the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, began drinking Sunday at 2 p.m. and continued until 11 p.m., said Denton Police Sgt. Tom Woods.

Brown's percent blood alcohol content was .45.

Baltics continued from pg. 1

ers and Robert Strauss, his new ambassador to Moscow. Bush sent a cable to Gorbachev last Tuesday night alerting him of the impending announcement but expressing hope the Soviet Union would act on its own first to grant independence. Yet, the cable said in effect that "time is running out" and the United States would act by Friday, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

On Friday, a member of Gorbachev's staff called the White House and pleaded for more time. The aide told Ed Hewitt, senior Soviet specialist on the National Security staff, that "they needed more time, that the (Soviet) Parliament had not acted, President Gorbachev was still considering the situation, could they have more time before we announced it," the official said.

After checking with Bush, Hewitt called back and said the president would wait until Monday. On Sunday, Bush received a cable from Gorbachev, thanking the president for his support but making no mention of the Baltics.

Gorbachev indicated in a Sunday interview on Cable News Network that the Baltic states were free to leave the union if they wished.

The Baltic states were annexed in 1940 by the Soviet Union as a result of a secret pact with Stalin-Hitler pact on the eve of World War II. The United States never recognized their incorporation into the Soviet Union.

Budget continued from pg. 1

A&M University System to go back and formulate its budget for this fiscal year, and then to get it approved by the Texas A&M Board of Regents.

But Gage said there has still been no word from Austin as to the exact amount of money the riders will effect A&M's budget.

"We're still waiting on Austin," he said. "It may take several weeks or months."

In the meantime, A&M has set aside contingency funds to allow for the additional reductions caused by the law.

The University is presently operating on the same budget used during August. The Board of Regents passed an agenda item for A&M to function on this budget

through September to allow administrators time to formulate a new budget.

Gage said the details of the new budget have not been worked out yet.

A&M's budget for the next fiscal year usually is completed by May. But Gage said this year's workings in the legislature made planning for the new year impossible.

The new budget bill was signed Friday, and A&M began its new fiscal year Sunday.

"But we are grateful for every penny we got," he said. "The reductions could have been a lot greater."

University President William Mobley could not be reached for comment.

Coup continued from pg. 1

sovereign nations. If this is how things are going to be done, there is no need for a central authority," Gorbachev's chances for retaining power will remain slim even if the central government remains, he said.

"Since the coup, both Gorbachev and Yeltsin have said the national elections planned for 1992 will be held much sooner," Hatchett said. "If that happens, Gorbachev will be out. He is not liked by the liberals or the conservatives, and has no chance of putting together a majority. He will be replaced by Yeltsin and those who hold his views."

Hatchett said the further dissolution of the union is a far more likely scenario, however, and the role of the central government lessened or eliminated.

The break-up of the Soviet Union, especially in the Baltic states, could be greatly complicated by large Russian minorities living in republic, Hatchett said.

"Latvia and Estonia have minorities of ethnic Russians that make up about 30 percent of their populations," Hatchett said. "If these minorities are discriminated against by Latvians and Estonians, there could definitely be trouble."

Hatchett said Yeltsin and most of his most ardent followers are Russian nationalists, and might react harshly to discrimination against ethnic Russians.

"Yeltsin has alluded to a need to redraw borders to bring these minorities into the Russian republic," he said. "If that doesn't happen there could be a mass exodus of these minorities from the break-away republics."

Hatchett said the collapse of the Soviet Union could change the

complexion of a military threat to the United States, although the nuclear capability will remain.

"Lithuania and the other republics will not have Soviet nuclear weapons," he said. "The Soviet military is dominated by Russians, and Great Russia will retain control of the weapons, whatever happens." The threat of a conventional attack on Western Europe, however, has been eliminated, Hatchett said.

"Great Russia will inherit the military power of the Soviet Union," he said. "A surprise attack emanating from Eastern Europe is less likely, as the Russian republic is insulated not only by the one-time Warsaw Pact nations, but by the independent republics as well. The situation for Europe will become much more comfortable for the West. Even if the Russians had the intent to attack, their capability would be greatly decreased."

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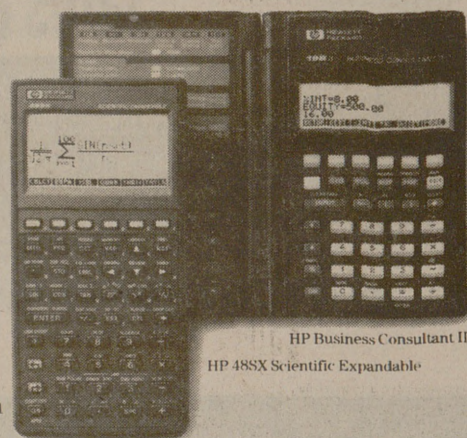
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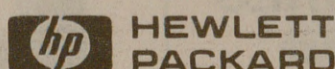
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