

\$1 million — can your beer donate this?

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Naming the San Antonio Missions' new baseball stadium for a beer company may sound great to some citizens, but it's leaving a bad taste in the mouths of others.

Nearly 60 people have called Mayor Nelson Wolff's office urging that the City Council turn down a \$1 million donation from the Miller Brewing Co. to help cover construction costs in exchange for naming the stadium the Miller Lite Stadium.

Most callers said they objected to the message it sends young people, who are told not to drink alcoholic beverages.

San Antonian Bryce Vella, however, does not mind the beer name.

"I can understand why some people might be offended, but every major sport has alcohol ads and most people don't get mad," Vella said.

Dr. Harry Croft, a psychiatrist who specializes in treating addiction, echoed concerns about sending mixed messages. Children attending baseball games will know the stadium honors a beer company, he said.

Officials have said the word "lite" is being included to avoid identification with a local barbecue chain or any other company.

District Judge Carmen Kelsey, who oversees juvenile cases, said the young people in her court probably are not the ones who will go to Miller Lite Stadium.

But she said youths could be confused by the inconsistent message that they should not drink, but it is OK for the city to accept money from a brewery.

Councilman Howard Peak said the city is caught in a funding trap.

"We're a million bucks short, and these folks have offered to give us money," Peak said. "For anyone who goes to the stadium, this realistically won't be the first time they hear about beer."

Struggle

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wasn't superficial. It was not in Adam's nature to be selfish, his friends believe. Adam never expected anything, he just wanted to be a friend, Dawn says.

Ironically though, Adam was never comfortable with himself, says his good friend, John Scroggs. "Adam was always doing the old Jewish woman voice or singing in an Ethel Merman voice, always acting in other voices," says Scroggs, a former A&M student. "No one realized his own voice was also an act."

Another friend, Clay Kilpatrick, believes Adam was acting out what he wanted his life to be.

"He was lying to hide his insecurities and his shortcomings," explains Clay, a junior computer science major. "He wasn't lying to be malicious or to get anything for himself. He was good at it and I never had any reason to doubt him."

And with Adam, it wasn't easy to find out the truth.

"You had to read between the lines to really know what was going on," says Adam's cousin, Kimberly Lane.

At times when Adam was very depressed, Kimberly remembers, he would be honest about his own feelings and what was troubling him. Several times, Adam confided to Kimberly how uncomfortable he was being gay.

He felt disgusted with himself and ashamed," Kimberly says. "He would go back and

forth being straight and gay. He might have been bisexual... He considered that himself."

Adam told each of his friends only a little about his problems with his "adopted" and biological families, his financial difficulties and other traumatic occurrences in his life.

"I knew only a little bit, Kimberly only knew a little bit, everybody knew just enough not to be suspicious," Clay recalls.

"But, when you put all the pieces together, Adam was the classic suicide case."

From an early age Adam had to deal with a tremendous amount of pain — the loss of his grandfather and his biological father. In addition, his biological father molested him when he was very young. Adam had not fully come to terms with his father's abuse. His grandmother took him in because his mother was not financially able to support him. Adam tried several times to commit suicide as a teenager, Kimberly says.

Not many of his friends knew about this part of his past. But Adam was still optimistic, still looking for a family. He thought he had found them. He even started using their name, Harris, as his own. But, they really weren't his adopted parents, although Adam told many of friends they were. They had no legal authority over him, Kimberly points out.

"They never adopted him," she says. "They were good friends."

But, it was a friendship only to a certain point.

Coming out to his "adopted" family was difficult for Adam and the family. When the family's church found out, it didn't help

the relationship. The family withdrew from him and became less supportive, says Scroggs.

"The church questioned the parents supporting a gay son," he says.

Adam told his friends that his "adoptive" father went to Oregon in the fall of 1992 to help pass Ordinance 9 — which states that no federal or state money would be given to any organization supporting homosexuality. His father wanted to prove to the church that the family wasn't supporting Adam's homosexual lifestyle.

Adam became angered that his perfect, ideal family had turned against him.

"It destroyed what he felt was his foundation," Scroggs explains. But, this was not the only pain in Adam's life.

In the fall of 1990, Adam was gang-raped by several men near a gay bar in Houston. Adam told Kimberly he changed his name from Tex to Adam for that reason. They kept teasing him, calling out his name, Tex, while they were raping him, Kimberly says.

With all the problems Adam was dealing with, his friends finally came to realize why he killed himself. Why he had to leave. He decided long before that frigid night that he couldn't deal with his problems any longer, Clay believes. He had given most of his possessions to friends who wouldn't suspect, Ronald says. And he said goodbye to all the people he loved and cherished, his friends realized later.

Adam left Dec. 17, 1992... on a cold, clear night. A night Ronald, Scroggs, Jayson, Dawn, Clay, Kimberly and many others will never forget.

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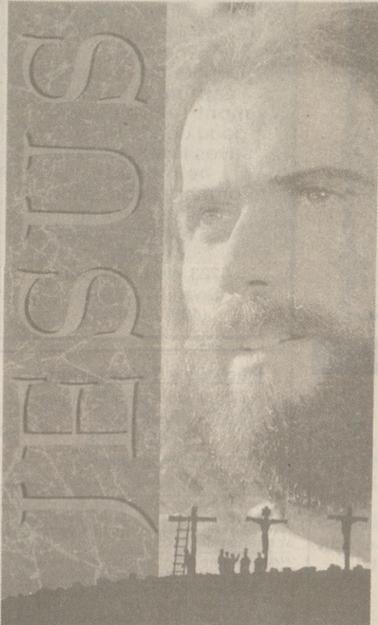
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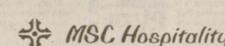
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