

### Spouses try to sue company for extramarital affair

AUSTIN (AP) — A boss and his secretary have an affair. Can their spurned spouses sue the company? The Texas Supreme Court said "no" in a Beaumont case. In its decision Thursday, the court said businesses cannot be sued for "negligent interference with the familial relationship."

The dispute stemmed from a 1991 extramarital affair between Joe Golias and Pam Snyder, according to court records.

Golias was vice president of Helena Laboratories Corp.; Ms. Snyder, his executive secretary. Golias and his wife Allison separated in March 1991, the court documents said. A month later, Golias and Ms. Snyder had an affair, which lasted about six weeks.

Ms. Snyder's husband, Robert, and Golias' wife, Allison, sued out about the affair and found Helena Laboratories, saying the company had a duty to prevent its employees from engaging in extramarital affairs.

Add into the mix that Joe's parents, Tipton and Ann Golias, were principals in the company. Tipton was the president and board chairman.

But company officials said they knew nothing about the affair between Joe and Pam.

A district court in Beaumont ruled in favor of Helena Laboratories, but the 9th Court of Appeals reversed that decision saying there were numerous questions that had to be resolved.

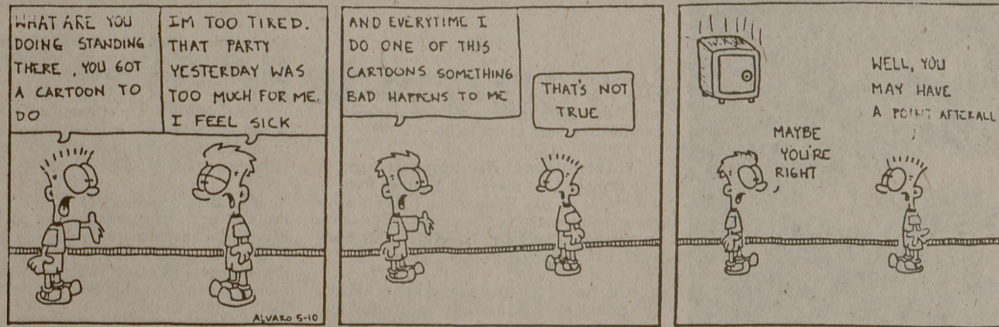
Those questions included: What were Joe and Pam doing on corporate property and corporate time? What did Tipton know about the relationship and when did he know it? And what should Tipton or Ann have done about it?

But the Texas Supreme Court overturned the appeals court and affirmed the trial court's summary judgment in favor of Helena Laboratories.

"This court has never recognized an independent cause of action for negligent interference with the familial relationship," the Supreme Court said in its opinion.

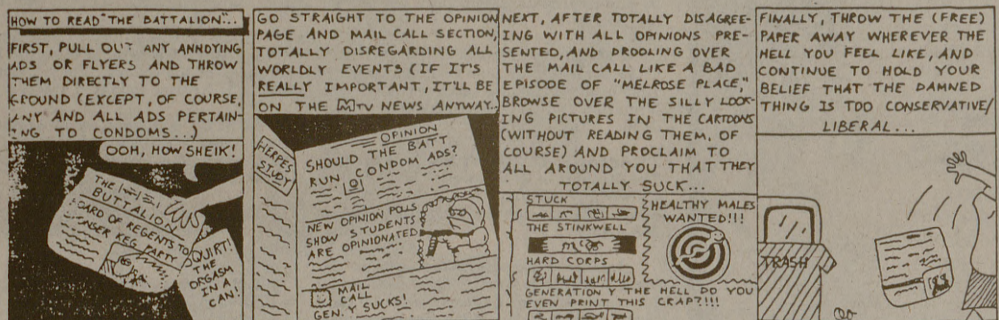
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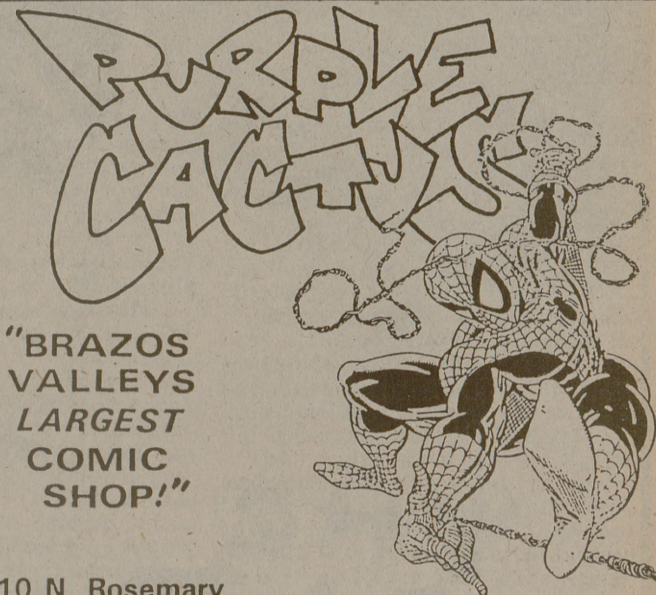
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Spring 1995

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07-23-66 - 11-04-94

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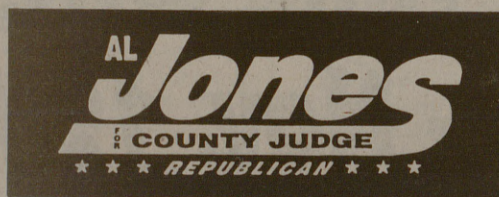
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- Euripides, circa 425 B.C.

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Class of '66

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