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Indecent exposure sighted by the Centeq Building

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MICHAEL LANDAUER: What does a minimum drinking age have to do with anything? It's not as if your twenty-first birthday makes you responsible enough to drink.

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THE BATTALION

WEDNESDAY

December 7, 1994

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“Serving Texas A&M since 1893”

NEWS BRIEFS

Clinton chooses new Treasury secretary

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton selected Robert Rubin, who amassed a multimillion-dollar fortune on Wall Street before joining the administration, to succeed Lloyd Bentsen as Treasury secretary Tuesday.

Bentsen's departure will deprive the administration of the Cabinet officer with the most experience and respect on Capitol Hill just as Republicans are taking control of Congress for the first time in 40 years.

But the change is expected to have little impact on policy since both men are pro-business Democrats.

Rubin, who took a \$26 million pay cut to leave the investment banking firm of Goldman Sachs & Co. to join the administration, won widespread praise as a self-effacing coordinator who made sure a coherent economic strategy was developed for a president often criticized for an inability to reach timely decisions.

Abortion doctor murderer to be executed

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — His usual bemused smile wiped off his face, Paul Hill listened with a bored look Tuesday as a judge sentenced him to the electric chair for blowing out the brains of an abortion doctor and his bodyguard.

"May God have mercy on your soul," Circuit Judge Frank Bell intoned. Moments later, an abortion foe shouted that Hill's blood would be on the hands of the judge, the jury and the people of Florida.

Shackled at his feet, the 40-year-old Hill stood impassively in his drab green jail jumpsuit as Bell explained to the former minister why he had rejected the only other sentencing option, life in prison without parole. Last month a jury unanimously recommended that Hill be executed.

Bell recounted the July 29 ambush outside a Pensacola abortion clinic, the second anti-abortion slaying in the Florida Panhandle city. He said Hill paused briefly in the parking lot of the Ladies Center to contemplate the carnage before throwing down his shotgun and calmly walking off.

Second execution in Huntsville this week

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Sandra Rodgers is hoping a more than 17-year ordeal ends for her family early Wednesday when an Amarillo meat cutter is executed for hacking to death her pregnant daughter in a frenzy of racial hatred.

"It's been such a long time," said Mrs. Rodgers, whose daughter, Abbe Hamilton, was killed May 3, 1977, by Samuel Hawkins in the Texas Panhandle community of Borger. "We're almost afraid to hope this could be the end."

Hawkins, also convicted of killing a 12-year-old girl and dubbed "the traveling rapist" because he was implicated in nearly 40 attacks in Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado, would be the second convicted killer put to death in Texas in as many days.

Over \$300,000 in computers stolen

DALLAS (AP) — Cyrix Corp. said Tuesday it will keep armed guards at its headquarters round-the-clock after a band of robbers stole hundreds of thousands of dollars in microprocessors from the Richardson-based chipmaker.

Some 2,786 of the 486DX2 microprocessors were stolen in the Sunday night heist, valued by Cyrix at \$359,360, Richardson police Capt. Larry Zacharias said Tuesday. Cyrix spokeswoman Katherin Dockerill said she couldn't confirm the amounts.

The number of chips stolen will not significantly harm business at Cyrix, which usually has tens of thousands of them on hand, Ms. Dockerill said.

"The value isn't going to be damaging. But certainly it concerns us, and certainly it concerns us that employees were jeopardized," she said.

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Hellriegel claims he was following policy

Non-existent catering company supplied A&M employees with alcohol

By Michele Brinkmann
THE BATTALION

A defense attorney for a Texas A&M professor accused of disguising alcohol purchases as purchases of food and soft drinks, said Tuesday the professor was a victim of an unwritten policy that has been followed by the University for years.

Dr. Don Hellriegel, a management professor, was the first of the eight employees charged or indicted in June on a Class A misdemeanor charge of tampering with government documents to go to trial.

The prosecution rested its case late Tuesday, and the trial is expected to close today. The defense will present its case beginning at 9:30 a.m. in Judge Claude Davis' County Court at Law #1.

Defense attorney Sam Rowland said Hellriegel was unfairly targeted by the prosecution and Texas Rangers for following a University procedure.

"Don Hellriegel is a victim of a flawed system," Rowland said. "The real thief in the night in this whole case is A&M's unwritten policy. It has snaked its way through every department on that campus."

"He was chosen because he was a longtime business friend of Bill Mobley."

Rowland said Hellriegel decided to go to trial because he would not allow himself to be falsely accused.

In opening arguments, Brazos County District Attorney Bill Turner said Hellriegel told Sabrina Saladino, an academic business administrator at A&M, to send false vouchers to A&M's fiscal department.

"She only did that at the direction of Don Hellriegel," Turner said.

Saladino testified Tuesday she used the Ruffino Catering invoices because Hellriegel told her that was the way it was done.

Ruffino Catering is a non-existent company in both a legal and practical sense, J.J. Ruffino, owner of J.J.'s Package Stores, said Tuesday.

Ruffino said A&M officials told him not to show on the Ruffino

Catering vouchers that alcohol was being purchased.

"I was not allowed to show it as alcohol," Ruffino said.

Ruffino said he would buy generic ticket books at an office supply store, put 'Ruffino Catering' at the top of the invoices and sent them to the University.

"If the University wanted to buy alcohol, this is how we did it," Ruffino said. "I never considered

she was a victim of unwritten A&M policy that was understood by employees.

The policy was to pay for alcohol with local accounts, use the voucher sent from Ruffino and disguise the purchase as food and drinks.

She said Hellriegel would never ask her to do anything illegal but did tell her to use the voucher. She has never tried to enforce policy because she thinks that is the faculty's responsibility.

"I've never looked at policy and then at a voucher to see if it follows policy," she said.

Hellriegel did not sign any of the vouchers sent to the fiscal department but his name was on one of them.

Saladino said she was told not to attach an itemized bill to the voucher but to wait until a second invoice arrived from Ruffino. The second bill stated that food, cups or ice were purchased.

"Don Hellriegel is a victim of a flawed system. The real thief in the night in this whole case is A&M's unwritten policy. It has snaked its way through every department on that campus."

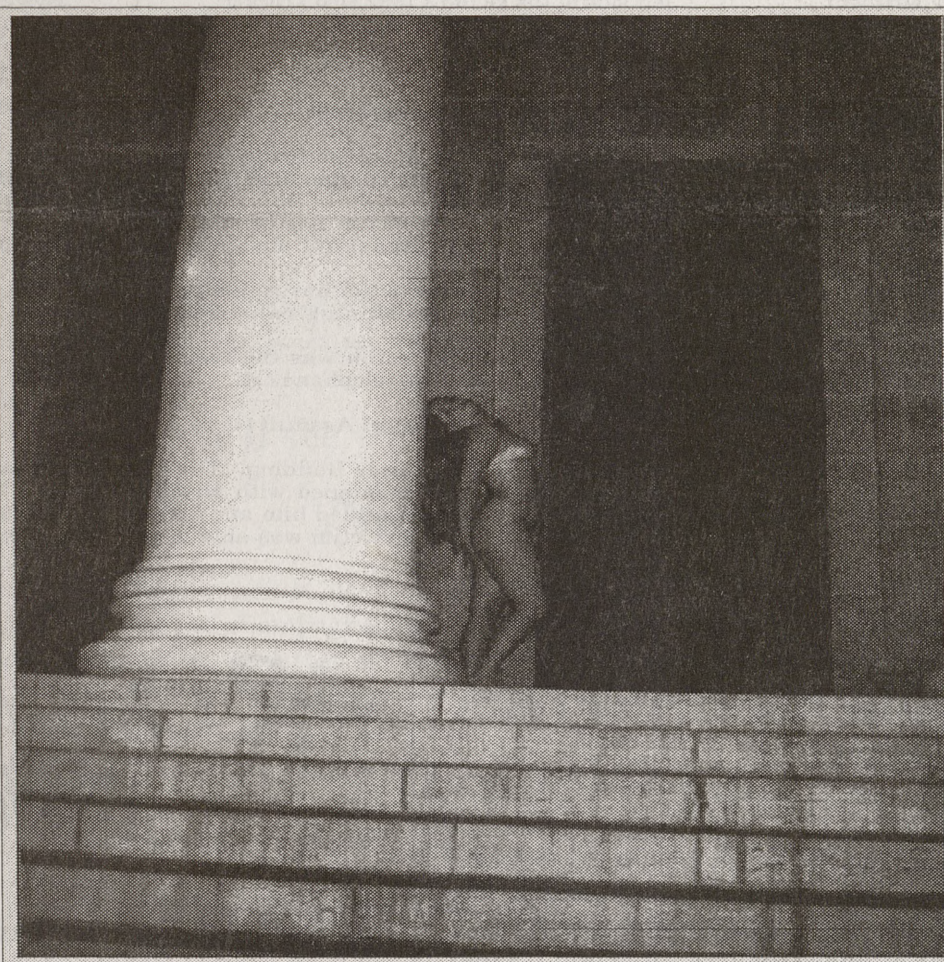
—Sam Rowland, defense attorney

it a misrepresentation. I was serving my customer."

Saladino said she never submitted a voucher to the fiscal department that said alcohol was purchased.

Saladino said she did not do anything wrong because she was just doing her job.

Saladino, like Hellriegel, said



Courtesy of InterNet

One of a dozen photos of a woman campus locations. These pictures posing in front of various Texas A&M were found on the InterNet system.

InterNet users see A&M in new light with nude photos

By Lisa Messer
THE BATTALION

InterNet users worldwide may recognize Texas A&M landmarks as the backdrop to about a dozen pictures of a nude woman posing on campus.

The pictures, which are available on the InterNet system, include one of the naked woman performing a yell practice "hump it" at the Administration Building and one of her laying across the Texas A&M University sign at the corner of FM 2818 and Raymond Stotzer Parkway.

The pictures, which are in a news group that the University subscribes to, can be accessed worldwide.

Dr. Don Tomlinson, associate professor of journalism and a communications law specialist, said the InterNet poses a complex problem because no laws specifically discuss the computer system.

"All existent laws apply to InterNet," Tomlinson said, "but it's a question of legal rights and responsibilities. No one owns InterNet. No one is in control of it. There's not a building somewhere with an InterNet sign on the top of it."

Tomlinson said any laws that could govern the use of InterNet would have to regulate the users, not the system.

"InterNet is a neutral transmission path like all communication media," Tomlinson said. "It isn't good or evil. It's all a matter of what someone puts on it. Some people wish to do good with it, and some wish to do bad."

"When you put this wonderful mode of communication in front of the world, you em-

power the immature at the same time you empower the mature. It's like putting a bowl of candy in front of a three-year-old and telling them not to take any. It takes a very mature three-year-old not to."

George Kemper, project director in Computing and Information Services, said pictures and text can not be forced on an unsuspecting computer user.

"With any information on InterNet," Kemper said, "you have to take deliberate steps to get it. It's not like you walk up and open a door and it's there hanging on a string."

"In regards to these pictures, even if someone sent you one by the way of E-mail, you'd have to take several steps to view it."

Kris Pate, a student who works in the graphics lab in the Teague building, said people can find any kind of information they want through InterNet, but they have to want access to it.

"There's a lot of data out there," Pate said, "but you don't just stumble into it."

Dee Melton, a student who works in the graphics lab, said that to view a picture, people would have to save the picture, download it onto their disk and have a viewer capable of reading the file.

Melton said most of the information available through InterNet is helpful, not abusive.

"All the benefits completely outweigh the people that use it badly," Melton said. "You can access a lot of information and pictures. You can get educational information or solutions for problems you're having with your computer. There are a lot more people who benefit from it than who abuse it."

Regulations on happy hour to go into effect this month

TABC aims at trying to make an impact on drunk driving and underage drinking

By Stephanie Dube
THE BATTALION

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) is attempting to crack down on underage drinking and intoxicated driving by changing the rules governing happy hour for clubs and bars across Texas.

These new regulations, which will take effect Dec. 20, were made after Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) requested changes to the happy hour rules.

Rolando Garza, spokesman for the TABC, said the amendment is an attempt to raise clubs' and bars' awareness of the number of drinks they are selling to their customers.

"A major point of this amendment is that the Commission recognizes its responsibility in this area," Garza said. "We will work with different groups to address their concerns."

The amendment states that

only one complimentary drink can be served to a customer during the business day and no more than two drinks can be served to an individual customer at one time.

This does not mean, however, that customers cannot buy a round of drinks for their friends. The rule is intended to prevent customers from buying several drinks at once so they can get the drinks before the happy hour specials end.

The amendment also states that a bar or club cannot charge a cover charge and sell discounted drinks. In addition, clubs and bars cannot have happy hours after 11 p.m. any day of the week.

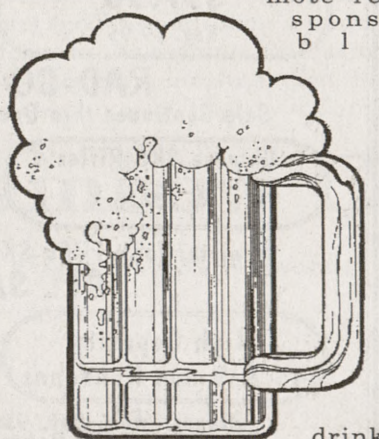
John Whittington, general manager for Hurricane Harry's, The Tap, JD Wells, and Xtreme, said he is excited about the new amendment.

"I was glad this passed so we don't have to have the ridiculous drink specials anymore," Whitting-

ton said. "We didn't make money on them. Now we can sell the atmosphere and service more."

Whittington said he has not been officially notified about the amendment yet, but he is anticipating the changes.

"We like to promote responsible drinking."



and we know the quarter drinks do not promote that at all," Whittington said. "However, we

will still sell the drinks at a reasonable and competitive price."

The amendment was established after the TABC investigated the happy hour regulations following MADD's request for a change. The TABC worked with different organizations, including the Texas Restaurant Association and various club and bar owners, to create the changes, Garza said.

Dr. Kirk Brown, member of the Texas MADD, said he opposes anything that leads to excessive drinking.

"When there are reduced prices, people will drink a lot to get their money's worth and once the special is over, they will leave," Brown said. "The specials induce drinking in excess for a limited period of time."

Brown said MADD had requested a total ban on happy hour, but he is glad the TABC made the change it did.

"We would have preferred a complete ban," Brown said. "This is a small step, but if it saves one life, it is worth it."

Brown said that once propri-

etors begin to try to find ways around the new amendment, MADD will make another request for a complete ban.

Garza said the TABC has received many calls concerning the new amendment.

"We've been getting calls daily," Garza said. "We're getting 15 to 20 calls a day from different members of the alcoholic beverage industry, restaurants, clubs and citizens wanting to know how this will affect them. Most of the calls are supportive."

Garza said he hopes the new happy hour rules will make citizens recognize the need for responsibility when consuming alcohol. The rule is expected to impact both underage drinking and intoxicated driving, he said.

"I would think that any effort would have an impact on drinking and driving," Garza said. "This will also definitely address the issue of underage drinking. It will create more focus and attention on the issue. Anything that casts light on these issues can't help but have an impact on reducing the rates."

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