

... and he wins by a nose



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

The driver of Mirage (near lane) moves neck and neck to pass the driver of Cole Blood during competition at the Southern Drag Boat Association race Saturday at Lake Bryan. This weekend of racing marked the first in a four-year deal the SDBA made with the city of Bryan.

Dow Chemical Co. plans to fire 40 people

Review of email accounts revealed company policy violations

HOUSTON (AP) — Dow Chemical Co. plans to fire about 40 employees in Freeport for allegedly violating the company's email policy through circulation of violent or sexually explicit material, according to the Houston Chronicle.

Dow, the largest employer in the Brazosport area, says the employees are being fired after a review of 6,000 email accounts that turned up material that violated company policies on Internet email and sexual harassment.

Other employees face suspensions or reprimands, Dow spokeswoman Kanina Blanchard told the newspaper Tuesday.

Dow officials began reviewing employees' email after one worker complained.

A similar review this year at Dow's corporate headquarters in Midland, Mich., led to 50 firings.

"One person was harassed, so they downloaded everybody's email," said Charlie Singletary, business manager for International Union of Operating Engineers Local 564. "I think Dow wanted to make a statement. I think they wanted to terminate people."

Singletary said most of the material

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— Charlie Singletary
business manager

was off-color jokes, nude pictures and photos of car wrecks.

Some who received and sent the material were unaware of Dow's policies, while others did not take the policies seriously, he said.

"It's a small number of employees that saved, collected and shared this information," Blanchard said. "Our primary focus is to ensure a harassment-free workplace."

Dow established its email policy in 1994 and sent employees a brochure explaining the company's sexual harassment policies within the past year, Blanchard said.

The chemical company will also periodically audit its email servers to identify inappropriate types of materials, but it will not monitor individual employee email.

Former state employee charged with felony, theft

AUSTIN (AP) — A former worker in the Texas Comptroller's Office has been charged with second-degree felony theft for allegedly stealing money from the state.

A prosecutor in the case said Monday that another suspect is out of the country and that the total amount of money stolen may exceed \$200,000. A newspaper is reporting it may be closer to \$500,000.

Emmanuel Ololade, 46, was arrested Aug. 14 and was terminated almost simultaneously with his arrest, said comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander. She would not say how much money had been stolen but people charged with second-degree felonies are accused of taking between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

He is being held in the Harris County Jail under \$1 million bond.

Harris County District Attorney John B. Holmes Jr., who is prosecuting the case, said the loss to the state could be even larger.

"I think when the smoke clears, I think we are looking at a bigger loss than that," Holmes said.

The Austin American-Statesman reported Tuesday that Ololade is accused of stealing about \$500,000 and routing it through bogus bank accounts he and an accomplice set up.

The newspaper, citing a search warrant issued last week by a Travis County judge, said the second person is Olu Benga Adejoke. According to the warrant, the two men stole the

money by illegally applying for fuel tax refunds, the newspaper said.

Rylander said she had wanted to tell the public about the alleged theft when Ololade was arrested, but was asked by the Harris County District Attorney's office to delay the announcement.

Because she waited, Rylander said, investigators have recovered a "substantial amount of money, number of warrants and property purchased as a result of this alleged activity."

Rylander would not say how much money or property had been recovered because she said she did not want to interfere with the investigation.

Neither Rylander nor Holmes would say why Harris County was handling the case since Ololade worked in the Austin office. The Statesman reported that the money was routed through Houston.

Rylander and Holmes also would not give the dates that the alleged crimes took place.

Rylander said she disclosed the case only after a number of calls about the incident.

"The system worked," Rylander said. "I am outraged. If even \$1 was allegedly stolen, for the people of Texas I am outraged."

Ololade was hired in October 1995 and had been working as an account examiner in the revenue refunds division of the agency processing fuel tax refunds.

"I am outraged. If even \$1 was allegedly stolen, for the people of Texas I am outraged."

— Carole Keeton Rylander
Texas state comptroller

FRESHMAN

Continued from Page 1

Rahn said that exercise is an important part of a student's life.

"Students should try to work regular exercise into their schedules," Rahn said. "We have an awesome Rec Center here."

There are a number of free activities offered at the Rec Center, said DeAun Woosley, fitness director for Rec Center.

"We have indoor group cycling — a Monday-Wednesday-Friday class — which actually burns more calories than a regular aerobics class," Woosley said.

Woosley also said the Rec Center offers strength classes Monday through Friday that exercise the upper body as well as legs and back.

Woosley added that the Rec Center will offer a new class

called Pilates.

"It is a strength class almost like yoga but more strength-based; it's very popular on the West Coast," Woosley said.

Pilates, as well as the cardiovascular and strength classes, is free.

Rahn added the Freshman 15 depends on the individual. Students can avoid weight gain if they maintain healthy lifestyles.

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