

Blum in a T-shirt that irks brewer

Miller Takes Offense to Mock Logotype

Doctors Ought to Care, a physicians group that spoofs the tobacco and liquor industries, is now on the wrong end of a copyright infringement suit filed by the Miller Brewing Co., which said the group's "Killer Lite" T-shirts too closely resemble Miller Lite's logo.

The group sold the shirts at a Miller-sponsored benefit for the Special Olympics. The front of the shirt showed an outline of the state of Texas and the Killer Lite name in a display that Miller says copies its own posters for the charity benefit. The shirt's back featured a picture of a man retching into a toilet and the slogan, "They're pushing a drug, we're grabbing a potty."

DOC's founder, Houston physician Allen Blum, says the aim of the suit is to intimidate and possibly bankrupt him rather than resolve a dispute. He points out that Miller is owned by Philip Morris Inc., whose cigarette advertising has been the group's primary target since the group was founded in 1977. Miller is seeking proceeds from the sale of the T-shirts and other items that it says might infringe on the company's logos.

Blum says his group sold the T-shirts, "part of our regurgitation series," as part of an effort to highlight what he sees as hypocrisy in liquor and cigarette companies' sponsorship of health-related charity events.

Greyhounds Held for Tests Are Freed

A coalition of animal rights groups in Marin County, Calif., last month reached an accord with the Army that led to the release of 19 greyhounds set to take part in a painful leg-breaking experiment to test a synthetic material designed to replace broken bones.

Just before a scheduled hearing before U.S. District Judge Robert F. Peck-

ham, the coalition persuaded the Army to halt the program for 30 days so the Army could comply with a California law requiring notification of former owners if an animal is scheduled for experimentation. But shortly after the agreement was reached, the Army decided to release the dogs to the coalition instead. The group included In Defense of Animals, the Marin County Humane Society and Rep. Barbara Boxer, a Democrat from Marin County.

An animal broker had sold the greyhounds, retirees from racetracks in Arizona, to the Army for \$300 apiece, allegedly without telling the dogs' previous owners that the animals might be hurt. Some owners had paid the broker a \$30 fee to ensure that the dogs would be adopted by families, according to a Humane Society spokesman.

The Army had planned to remove 3 inches of bone from a hind leg on each dog and to replace the bone with the new material. Experimenters intended to kill the dogs at the end of the tests and preserve their legs for further study.

AIDS Carrier Guilty of Attempted Murder

A superior court jury in Cobb County, Ga., has convicted a man carrying the AIDS virus of attempted murder for biting a police officer.

Judge Watson White sentenced Gregory Scott Scroggins to 10 years in prison. Scroggins bit an officer called during a fight between the defendant and his roommate, who was himself convicted of obstructing a police officer for trying to block the arrest. Scroggins' parents, who joined the melee, were convicted of obstruction as well.

The officer Scroggins bit has twice tested negative for the virus. There has been no documented case in which the immunodeficiency virus was transmitted through saliva.

Scroggins' lawyer, Greg Schroeder, has said he will appeal because the court gave him only one day to prepare for the trial. He also says the state failed to comply with a 1988 Georgia statute that requires officials to hold hearings before publicly disclosing the results of AIDS tests, as happened at the trial.

Judge Gives Convicts Sentences, Literally

A judge in Montgomery, Ala., has begun assigning take-home reading and book reports instead of jail sentences to

defendants convicted in his courtroom.

For example, in October, Isaac McQueen, 30, and his brother Henry, 31, got assignments to read and report on five novels apiece after they pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine before Circuit Judge John E. Rochester. The judge, who believes education is a better rehabilitation tool in drug processing cases than prison terms, gave the brothers a year in jail, then suspended the sentences on condition that they comply with a five-year probation term that included the required reading. The brothers must also keep diaries about their daily lives.

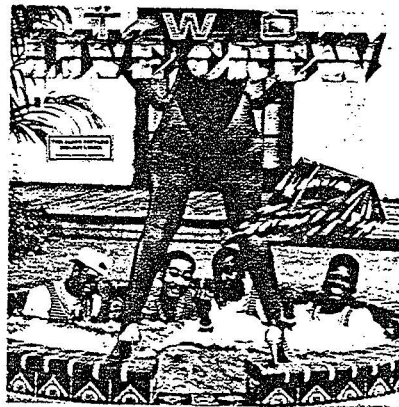
Rochester appears to be partial to American writers, particularly John Steinbeck and William Styron.

Record Store Owner to Fight Obscenity Law

An Alabama record store owner plans to challenge the constitutionality of a state obscenity statute at his criminal trial this month for selling a tape that a city judge found to be obscene.

Tommy Hammond, owner of Taking Home the Hits in Alexander City, was fined \$500 in August 1988 for selling the album "Move Somethin'" by the rap group Two Live Crew. Prosecutors said that "Move Somethin'" contains graphic descriptions of sadomasochism and other sexual perversions.

Hammond's lawyer, Elizabeth Johnson, concedes that many listeners may



"Move Somethin'" ruled obscene.

deem the tape disgusting but says obscenity laws are not properly applied to music lyrics because lyrics are only one aspect of a song's appeal. The decades-old obscenity law broadly bans all sexually explicit items designed "to appeal to the prurient interest."

— Monica Powell