

CAN IT BE WORTH , 4000 TO PINCH A GIRL'S BOTTOM?

A HOTEL guest who pinched a chambermaid's bottom and groped a receptionist has paid the price - £4000

A court fined Tony Brewer ,2000 for each offence of indecent assault.

Brewer, 32, a carpet firm boss, said yesterday: "I'm not complaining about the fine but I'd rather not say any more."

Receptionist Jacqueline Davies, 24, said: "The money won't bother him. But the embarrassment will."

Brewer, married with two children, pounced on the women after drinking at the hotel, where he was staying for a conference.

He tweaked the 22-year-old chambermaid's bottom as she tied up his room at 10am. "She fled to another room but Brewer followed and began chasing her around the bed," prosecutor Paul Latner said at Blackwood, South Wales.

"She was very distressed."

Ten minutes earlier Brewer, from Bromsgrove, Worcs, had asked Jacqueline to wake a friend of his in another room at Blackwood's Maes Manor hotel.

She said yesterday after the hearing: "I didn't know if he was genuine or if he wanted to get me into a bedroom.

"He was very persistent and harassing me. So I decided to get the house keeper, a lady in her fifties.

"He told me, 'It's got to be you.' I said, 'Forget it.' With that he made a grab for me, groping my bottom and trying to kiss me.

"I was in tears. He was doing his utmost

to make me feel cheap."

"I wet back to my desk, but even then he didn't stop. He was leaning over me and making lurid remarks about my breasts."

Brewer's lawyer Peter Mallia told the court: "It was more like a bedroom farce than a serious assault.

"He had been up since 3am with his colleagues and was in high spirits.

"There was a jovial atmosphere and he completely misread the situation.

Mr Brewer admits he put his arm around the receptionist's flank and touched the chambermaid's bottom. But it was horseplay.

"The incident could easily have involved someone younger and more naive."

Afford

She added: "The man was obviously well-to-do. But no one should be allowed to get away with that sort of behaviour."

The magistrates ruled that Brewer could afford to pay the maximum , 100 for each of the forty units he was fined -making a total of , 4000.

A spokeswoman for the Fawcett Society, which promotes equality between the sexes, said last night:

"In general women do not like having their bottoms pinched. It is about time men realised this."

QUESTIONS

1. Where did the event happen?
2. Where was the guest from?
3. Was he married?
4. Was he drunk?
5. What time was it?
6. Why was the guest at the hotel?
7. How many girls did the guest offend?
8. Tell thenews again in no more than 60 words.
9. Vocabulary: grab, grope, chambermaid, harass