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## Harvey's Cruise News



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## Possible cruise ship felony

11 December 2010

Have you ever done something you regret? For 44-year-old Rick Ehler the extent of his alcohol-induced stupidity is likely to be one of these things.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, November 27, 2010, as Holland America's cruise ship *MS Ryndam* was sailing the Gulf of Mexico, the inebriated passenger entered a restricted area, put on work gloves and released the ship's anchor. He then threw a life buoy overboard.

While *MS Ryndam* was not damaged, United States Coast Guard officials have stated that the anchor's free release could have caused significant damage to the ship's rudder or propeller. This, in turn, could have caused manoeuvrability problems or created a puncture, which could have led to severe flooding and possibly sunk the ship.

Rick Ehler has been charged with attempting to damage, destroy, disable or wreck a vessel and attempting to endanger safe navigation.

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