

# Brooks' Sentence: Life in Prison

HOUSTON (AP) — David Owen Brooks, 20, convicted of murder in the Houston mass sex-torture-murder case, was sentenced to life imprisonment Wednesday.

His parents and wife sat stony-faced as the court clerk read the jury's life sentence verdict. Brooks' father, Alton Brooks, said the conviction would be appealed and vowed "we'll continue to fight."

"My son said he never committed murder and I don't believe he did it," said the elder Brooks. Mrs. David Brooks was dry-eyed Wednesday, in contrast to her unrestrained crying on Tuesday when the guilty verdict was returned. Asked if she would continue to "stand beside David", she replied: "Yes, I will." Brooks and his wife, Bridgett, married a month before he was arrested. They have a young daughter.

Brooks' mother ignored news-pressing around her in the courtroom corridor and refused to make any comment. The young man's father, how-

ever, said he believes his son "will never get a fair trial."

"No elected judge will give him a fair trial," said the elder Brooks. "It was completely a farce."

Alton Brooks, echoing the words earlier of defense lawyer Jim Skelton, said a ruling by District Court Judge William H. Hatten permitted the state to present evidence on all of the mass murders. Brooks was on trial only in the death of William Ray Lawrence, 15.

The elder Brooks said "this judge didn't have the nerve" to make an unpopular ruling.

Testimony in the trial indicated that Brooks was aware of the mass killings, but the state never presented any evidence of Brooks taking an active role in the actual commission of the crimes.

In closing arguments, assistant district attorney Don Lambright said Brooks was "absolutely unprincipled . . . about taking a human life" and said the young man was without "any conscience at all."

Lambright asked the jury to "consider the nature of the animal" and give him either 99 years or life imprisonment.

Skelton, in his arguments, said that a different system of law was used in the Brooks trial than in an ordinary trial, which he said "was simply not fair."

"The only thing the state could prove is that he was an accessory, which carries a punishment of two years," said Skelton.

"What has happened in this case is wrong," he said. "I'll argue that to my dying day."

The jury retired to consider the punishment at 11:35 a.m. CDT. Thirty-eight minutes later they asked for information on the actual difference between a 99-year and a life sentence.

At 12:37 p.m. CDT, they knocked on the jury room door to announce they had reached a verdict.

In a hallway interview, Skelton said he would remain as Brooks' attorney and intended to file appeals. He said Brooks could also still be tried on the three other murder indictments he faces.

And once again he bitterly denounced Judge Hatten's ruling which permitted Lambright to present testimony and evidence on all the murders.

"It was a 13-man jury," said Skelton. "The 13th man was Judge Hatten. I don't see how the jury could have made any other decision."

Hatten, questioned about Skelton's statements, shrugged it off.

"Isn't it always the case that anybody who loses is treated unfairly," he said.

Evidence presented in the trial showed that Brooks developed a friendship with Dean Corll, an older man, when he, Brooks, was only 12.

About two years later, Corll paid Brooks to permit homosexual liberties.

Brooks said in a confession that he often went to Corll's home and found young, nude boys tied to a bed. Once he asked Corll what was going on, according to the statement, and quoted Corll as saying he was "having some fun."

Brooks, in the statement, said he later helped bury many of the victims, including some who were boyhood friends.

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## Campus briefs

**Spring Music Concert Friday**  
The Texas Aggie Concert Band will conduct a spring concert Friday night at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Center Auditorium. The band will present music by Henry Mancini, Hal David and Burt Bacharach. The proceeds from the concert will go to the scholarship fund of the Brazos County A&M Mothers' Club.

**Fish Camp Needs Counselors**  
The Student Y Association will be taking applications through Friday for those interested in serving as counselors at Fish Camp 1975. Applications may be picked up in Room 216 of the MSC and will not be accepted after Friday, March 7. Dates for Fish Camp are August 24 through 28.

**International Students Dinner**  
A dinner for Texas A&M's International Students will be held March 9 at 12:30 p.m. at the A&M Presbyterian Church. Dr. Clessen J. Martin, head of the Psychology Department, will speak on "Psychology, Science and Religion." Tickets are on sale now at the Foreign Student Office for \$1.00 and will be limited to 150 students.

**An Account of Accounting**  
The Accounting Honor Society of Texas A&M, Delta Iota, will sponsor an orientation session tonight at 7:30 in Room 415 of the Rudder Tower. Topics to be discussed include the curriculum at A&M, job placement, and different accounting careers that may be pursued after graduation.

**Lakeview**  
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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