

Davis' 'buddy' testifies

United Press International
HOUSTON — A former drinking buddy of Fort Worth industrialist Cullen Davis Thursday told a judge he reported a multiple murder plot hatched by the playboy millionaire in order to avoid involvement in a crime.

David McCrory, a 10-year confidant of Davis, said the industrialist planned the abduction-slaying of several persons, including his own brother, Bill Davis, with whom he had fought for control of the family business.

"I didn't want to be mixed up in planning any murder," McCrory said.

"Cullen Davis wanted his brother killed. He wanted me to hire some people to kidnap him, take him to another state where he had been skin-diving and make it look like he drowned."

McCrory's testimony opened the fourth day of a pre-trial hearing in which Davis' defense team is seeking to block introduction of prosecution evidence in Davis solicitation of the capital murder trial scheduled to start Monday.

Davis is charged with soliciting the murder of Judge Joe Eidson of Fort Worth. At the time, Eidson — who was not harmed — was presiding over Davis' divorce from his wife, Priscilla.

Davis' attorney, Richard "Racehorse" Haynes, repeatedly sparred with McCrory over how he came to turn on a longtime friend and provide evidence for prosecutors.

McCrory consistently resisted Haynes' detailed questions with such responses as "I really don't remember" or "You'll have to clarify your question, Mr. Haynes."

Haynes was trying to erode McCrory's credibility by exposing inconsistencies between his testimony before State District Judge Wallace "Pete" Moore and testimony McCrory gave last month in Fort Worth bond hearing.

The defense lawyer, trying to stir suspicion that law enforcement authorities framed Davis, also questioned McCrory about how much money federal authorities were paying him.

McCrory currently receives \$950 a month for rent and food and has government sponsorship under provisions of the Federal Protection Act, which authorizes aid to witnesses in trials.

Haynes also asked whether McCrory had been promised immunity from prosecution in exchange for evidence against Davis.

McCrory said Assistant U.S. Attorney John Sweeney had told him he probably would not face trial.

McCrory stuck to testimony that he initiated contact with Fort Worth FBI agent Ron Jannings and detailed the bizarre plot to the agent and others.

"I told him I didn't want to be mixed up in planning any murder. I had never done anything like that. I voluntarily went to the FBI. I voluntarily came forward," McCrory said.

Now living in an undisclosed location, McCrory said he and his family had been threatened since Davis was arrested and charged with solicitation of the murder of the divorcee.

"I was in fear of my life. I have been threatened. My family had been threatened," McCrory said.

Haynes spent Wednesday tediously going over how McCrory and FBI agents used various recording devices to gather evidence against Davis, who says he had several conversations about the planned killings.

what's up?

Friday

MIDNIGHT YELL PRACTICE: For the Houston game will be held in the Astrodome parking lot in Houston at the Kirby Drive entrance (main entrance).

MIDNIGHT MOVIE: "Gumball Rally," about the most outrageous and maniacal marathon car race ever, where the contestants speed from New York to California in quest of first place honors and an outlandish trophy — a gumball machine — will be shown in Rudder Theater.

TAMU ROADRUNNERS: The first annual TAMU Roadrunners midnight run will be held tonight. Check in at G. Rollie White Coliseum at 11:30 p.m. Call Mike Fredx at 846-6601 for information.

TAMU RACQUETBALL CLUB: The doubles tournament begins at 6 p.m. in Deware Field House.

AGGIE CINEMA: Presents "Looking For Mr. Goodbar," a story of a woman who is torn between her teaching career and her miscellaneous nightlife, will be shown at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

Saturday

AGGIE CINEMA: "Looking For Mr. Goodbar" will be shown at 10:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

FOOTBALL: The Texas Aggies will play The University of Houston at the Astrodome in Houston at 7:30 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY: The women's team will travel to Carbondale, Ill., for the Southern Illinois Invitational.

A&M WHEELMEN: Registration for "Son of Half-Fast Hundred" Century race will be at 7:30 a.m. at Rudder Fountain.

BASEMENT COFFEEHOUSE: Will have live local entertainment 8-12 p.m.

Sunday

BRIDGE CLUB: A novice bridge tournament, designed for beginning bridge players, will be held at 1:45 p.m. in room 212, MSC.

Monday

POLITICAL FORUM: Hosts a "Mayors Panel: The Future of the Big Cities." The mayors of Houston, Austin and San Antonio will present a panel discussion of some of the problems facing the big cities. The panel includes Jim McConn (Houston), Carol McClellan (Austin), and Lila Cockrell (San Antonio). The panel will begin at noon in room 206, MSC.

TURKEY SALE: Members of Alpha Zeta will be selling smoked turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas to raise money for student scholarships and service projects. To order, call 845-5380 or 822-2088, Monday-Friday 7-11 p.m. from Oct. 12-Nov. 2. Members of Alpha Zeta will meet in room 305, Rudder Tower at 7:30 p.m.

FILM: The MSC Arts Committee presents "A Night of Fun and Animation," starring Mel Brooks, Bambi, and the Unbelievable Bugs of Malacapalcapoo to explore the world of experimental fantasy. The movie will be shown at 8 p.m. in the Basement Coffeehouse.

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Programs Office Conference Room in the MSC.

GOLF: The men's team will play at the Braswell Intercollegiate in Shreveport, La.

Machine can read aloud

United Press International
BOULDER, Colo. — A computerized reading machine for the blind that Colorado University recently bought is the most important breakthrough for sightless people since Braille was invented, a school official said this week.

Homer Page, director of the university's Office for Disabled Students, said the university began testing the machine last January and purchased it recently from Kurzweil Computer Products of Cambridge, Mass., through a \$20,000 grant provided by the Swan Foundation.

"It creates tremendous opportunities for blind people to have access to a truly equal education," said Page, who is blind.

"In five years, every university in the country will have one, and eventually they will be cheap enough to afford and small enough to fit in a briefcase, opening up career opportunities now impossible for blind people."

The television-sized reading machine scans a book or typed sheet line for line, turning it into spoken words. It has been programmed

with English grammar and pronunciations well as 3,000 exceptions to rules.

The machine can spell words, describe punctuation and tell the user, by voice, if the printed matter is upside-down or crooked. The pitch and rate of the voice are adjustable.

The reader originally was loaned to the university last January by the National Federation for the Blind in order to test the equipment. Officials said the school was the only university chosen for the pilot program, which involved five machines nationwide, because of its well-developed program for handicapped students.

Page said many blind students had found the machine invaluable since its arrival. The federation announced last June the reader would be sold to the highest bidder.

Page said the machine was "the most important breakthrough for blind people since the invention of Braille 150 years ago."

He said 10 to 12 university students use it every week as well as people from the Boulder community.



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- U MIKE WILLIAMS (PLUS TEN MINUTES LATE) — THURSDAY (OCT. 12)
- U CLINT BROWN — FRIDAY (OCT. 13)
- U STRANGE COUNTY STRING BAND — SATURDAY (OCT. 14)
- U JAM SESSION (8 P.M.) — SUNDAY
- U SUNDAY "42" TOURNAMENT (5 P.M.)
- U MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL (WITH 50c BEER)
- U LOUISIANA SEAFOOD GUMBO — TUESDAY
- U OPEN STAGE — WEDNESDAY