



Somebody wants me

staff photo by Rob Johnston

George Duytschaever, a graduate student in industrial engineering from Galveston, looks over the pink sheets at the placement center for prospective employers. Many students are undertaking similar job searches.

# Bomb hearing continues

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — More FBI agents testified Monday in an estimated weeklong pretrial hearing in the case of four Colorado residents accused of planting five bombs at a Gulf Oil Chemicals Co. plant in an alleged \$15 million extortion scheme.

In testimony Monday before U.S. District Judge Gabrielle McDonald, attorneys began presenting arguments on more than 40 pretrial motions which sought suppression of evidence, separate trials for the four defendants and dismissal of the indictments, among other things.

A Houston federal grand jury in October indicted former gun shop owner John McBride, 46; his common-law wife, Jill Renee Bird, 34; McBride's gun shop business partner Michael Allen Worth, 34; former college professor Theodore Duane McKinney, 45; all of the Durango, Colo. area, on charges of planting five bombs at Gulf's Cedar Bayou plant east of Houston in a 15 million extortion attempt.

None of the bombs exploded, and the payoff money never was delivered.

A fifth defendant, Timothy Justice, 30, pleaded guilty in the case and agreed to testify against his co-defendants. Prosecutors said Justice will be sentenced after his co-defendants are tried.

Gulf investigator Bob Quintana, the first witness to testify, said the company received a letter Sept. 28 from an unidentified group threatening to blow up the plant if Gulf refused to meet a demand for \$15 million.

Quintana read the extortion letter to the court and then identified a series of tape recordings of telephone calls between himself and a man who identified himself as one of the extortionists.

"We want your money. We do not want to hurt someone," the caller told Quintana.

"Right now, there's not a jury of 12 people who would convict us for doing something against Gulf Oil," the caller said.

In the final recording between Quintana and the suspect, FBI agents were heard shouting "Put your hands up" as they rushed to arrest Worth and McKinney at a phone booth at a shopping center in Apache Junction, Ariz.

FBI agent Douglas Hopkins said agents arrested the pair after tracing their movements as the pair led Quintana to a site to deliver the payoff money.

Defense attorneys claim their clients were arrested and charged as a result of illegal searches and seizures of their vehicles and homes.

But Hopkins testified McKinney and Worth were advised of their rights and McKinney voluntarily agreed to a search in which agents found weapons in his car.

Bird's attorney, Charles Szekely, has asked the court to

dismiss the indictment against his client on grounds of prosecutorial misconduct.

Szekely claimed Houston prosecutors violated an agreement with Colorado authorities who promised her immunity in return for her cooperation in the case.



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# Man's mercy-killing ruled 'act of love'

**United Press International**  
TYLER — A judge has dismissed murder charges against a man who killed his wife of 45 years to end her suffering, saying justice would not be served by forcing the man to stand trial.

"I found nothing would be gained in this case by further punishing this man," State District Judge Donald Carroll said after announcing his decision.

"Under the peculiar circumstances of this case, I found the interest of justice would not be served by putting this man on probation," Carroll said.

Harvey McClellan Shick, 64, burst into tears when Carroll announced his decision. Shick left the courtroom clinging to his son, Peter, and refused to comment on the decision.

Marie Louise Shick, 62, was shot twice in the head with a .22-caliber pistol last June 1 as she lay in her bed at the couple's home in the small east Texas community of Holiday Hills near Tyler, 100 miles east of Dallas.

Mrs. Shick had suffered from arteriosclerosis — a blockage of the arteries — since the late 1970s. Doctors were quoted in a report as saying she suffered severe pain in her lower legs.

Following his indictment by a Smith County grand jury, Shick pleaded guilty to murder on Nov. 15, but Carroll refused to accept the plea. Instead, the judge ordered a pre-sentence investigation by the county's adult probation office.

The investigative report presented to the judge showed the couple had no history of problems in the 45 years they had

been married and also indicated that Mrs. Shick's family was supportive of Shick.

Carroll said the report also showed, to his satisfaction, that Mrs. Shick was in extreme pain.

Shick, a retired machinist, referred reporters' questions to his attorney, Eric Jensen.

"This was an act motivated by

love," Jensen said. "She was in excruciating pain all the time."

"It was an impulsive act. He (Shick) was distressed at the sickness in that he wasn't able to do anything," Jensen said. He said treatment would have brought only a burdensome prolonging of Mrs. Shick's life.

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