

# Dad confesses to poisoning his children; receives life

United Press International  
**COMANCHE** — A truck driver pleaded guilty Monday to poisoning his two children over a dispute with his ex-wife and was sentenced to two concurrent life sentences.

District Judge James Morgan spent the morning hearing pretrial motions before Delbert Black entered the guilty pleas in the June 10 cyanide poisonings of his 5-year-old son Richard and 8-year-old daughter Amy. The children died in the Hico, Texas, hospital where their mother, Sylvia Black, was employed. Prosecutors alleged

Black gave the children a cyanide-laced drink while they were visiting his mobile home.

The trial was moved to Comanche, 120 miles southwest of Dallas, due to pre-trial publicity.

During pretrial motions, the judge ruled a statement made by Black to police at the time of his arrest would not be allowed as evidence.

The judge did not state his reason for barring the statement, the contents of which were not released.

At the time he was arrested, Black was free on bond and charged with a February attempt to kill his wife, police said. The couple was divorced in May.

Black's employer, Jerry Johnson of Hico, said that two weeks before the poisonings, he had witnessed Black and his ex-wife arguing, and told authorities Black had returned threatening to kill the woman.

Johnson said he visited Black's home the night the children died, and saw the children drinking from a common glass

"When I look back on it now, I realize he just didn't want me there in case they started having some kind of reaction or something," Johnson said the day of the children's funeral.

as they watched television. He said Black ushered him outside to talk.

Police said the evening the children died, a man identified as Black dropped them off at a service station and told another driver they needed to be taken to hospital.

Hico police officer Randy Harrison said that same evening a man identifying himself as Black telephoned a neighbor and said he had poisoned himself and his children.

A search of Black's trailer turned up a can of cyanide-based ant poison and a glass containing a residue of the poison mixed with sugar and syrup, Harrison said.

Black was later arrested in a pasture in nearby Erath County, where he was jailed for six weeks.

# Hunt heir files lawsuit, claims court violation

United Press International  
**SHREVEPORT, La.** — A man who claims to be the son of a Louisiana woman and billionaire H.L. Hunt sued one of Hunt's sons Monday for \$7 million for violating a court settlement giving him part of the late oilman's fortune.

Hugh S. Hunt seeks the money from Ray Lee Hunt, one of Hunt's sons from his second recognized marriage and executor of the H.L. Hunt estate. Also named as a defendant is George Cunyus, attorney for the estate.

Hugh Hunt claims to be the son of Hunt and Frania Tye Lee, who sued Hunt in 1978 for support of herself and her four children. During the trial, Mrs. Lee agreed to a settlement that allegedly totaled \$7.5 million.

But the settlement left unanswered the question of

whether Mrs. Lee and Hunt ever married, as she claimed they did in 1925 while the late oilman still had another wife.

The suit claims Ray Lee Hunt and Cunyus violated the Master Settlement Agreement by naming Hunt and other beneficiaries of the settlement as "natural children" and "natural but not legitimate children" of Hunt, thereby subjecting them to higher Louisiana taxes than H.L. Hunt's other children must pay on their inheritance.

It claims Ray Lee Hunt also violated the agreement by commenting publicly in a Georgia court suit on a matter sealed by the court, failing to file annual reports on the status of H.L. Hunt bequests to the trust fund and not calculating and distributing the bequests as required by law.

"Such wrongs are committed with intent and in conspiracy, to violate the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the creation of public opinion and publicity calling into question the legitimacy of the marriage of Frania Tye Lee and H.L. Hunt," the suit says.

The suit seeks \$7 million for breach of the agreement, correction or retraction of statements made by Hunt, proper accounting and distribution of Hunt's estate and any other damages that might be assessed by a court.

In the suit, Hugh Hunt asks for an injunction permanently barring the defendant from further violations of the settlement agreement.

# Coke machines often make thirsty students take action

by Cathy Smith

Battalion Reporter

Walk up to a Coke machine. Fumble for some change. Deposit 45 cents. Push the button for a soft drink. Wait for the drink to roll down. Check the empty chute. Push the button again. Wait again. Check again. Make a fist. Punch the button. Wait again. Check again. Depress the coin return lever. Again. Again. Again-again-again-again. Kick the machine. Walk away thirsty.

Coke machines are the friends and foes of everyone at Texas A&M. Aggies play their own game of roulette whenever they use one of the more than

150 machines on campus.

If the thirsty Aggie wins, everything is fine. It's when the Coke machine wins that the trouble starts.

Hartzell Elkins of Coca-Cola in Bryan says that vandalism of Coke machines is a definite problem at Texas A&M. Broken glass, cut electrical cords and jammed coin slots are a few of the ways machines are damaged.

Coca-Cola is responsible for making all of the repairs on the machines.

Although all Coke machines are subject to vandalism, Elkins says that the machines in the dormitories are most frequently vandalized. He says that some machines have been thrown

from second-floor windows. Were they thrown by someone lost 45 cents maybe to get to the top? Who knows, but regardless, a Coke machine about \$2,500 to repair.

Does this problem affect other buildings and campus here?

Maj. Josephine Hester of the University Police Department says no. She says the machines are most frequently vandalized. The gate arms on the slots are broken, and the machines are set off from time to time. She says that this is a widespread problem with machines at Texas A&M, she says.

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**Tire slashes sought here**

Sometime after 1:30 Nov. 22, someone slashed tires in the parking lot of Huntington Apartments located just off of Harvey 1907 Dartmouth in College Station. The person responsible for this act of Felony Criminal Damage is unknown at this time.

If you have any information on the person responsible for this crime call Crime Stoppers 775-TIPS. If you call for information this week, leads to an arrest and a Jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you \$1,000. Your identity will remain anonymous, when you call, you are given a special coded name.

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