

Jury selection resumes in Lucas murder trial

United Press International
 SAN ANGELO — It's impossible to predict how long attorneys might take to pick seven more jurors needed for the capital murder trial of Henry Lee Lucas, defense attorney Max Parker said.

"When we get to the ninth or 10th juror it's going to be pretty selective," Parker said of the selection process that includes naming two alternate jurors in addition to the 12-member panel.

Lucas, who has confessed to more than 150 slayings across the country, received a change of venue to stand trial for the strangulation of an unidentified woman hitchhiker near Georgetown.

The woman's body, clad only in orange socks, was found along Interstate 35 near Georgetown on Halloween night 1979. Lucas was indicted by a Williamson County grand jury of killing, sexually assaulting, robbing and kidnapping the woman.

Attorneys last week selected seven women as jurors while narrowing a list of potential jurors from 300 to about 100.

Warped

by Paul Dirmeje



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A&M glassblowers serve campus

By **KARL PALLMEYER**
 Reporter



A glassblower works on a project for the A&M chemistry department

In the basement of the chemistry building, there is a glassblowing shop where bottles, tubes, pipes or any other special glass devices needed for scientific experiments at Texas A&M are made.

Starting with raw materials like glass tubing, jars and stop cocks, the glass shop builds anything a research scientist needs. The shop fills anywhere from 100 to 300 orders a month, most of which are for glass equipment that will be used in experiments by the chemistry department or by agricultural research stations.

In the glass shop is a small lab that the glassblowers call the "lamp shop," which is cluttered with boxes of tubing, glass-cutting equipment and tables filled with all types of glassblowing equipment. It is in the "lamp shop" that all the glass blowing is done by hand.

Jack H. Shannon is the senior glassblower for the chemistry department. He works with two other glass blowers, one of whom is his brother Jerry. His son John is an apprentice. Shannon, who has been a glassblower for 33 years, came to Texas A&M in 1961 and set up the glass blowing shop.

"A glassblower is usually a jack-of-all-trades," Shannon says. "He must know mechanical and electrical sciences, he must be creative and artistic, and he must have the patience of Job." Shannon says a glassblower has to have high mechanical and engineering aptitudes since he usually assists in designing, as well as making, the equipment.

Shannon says he has been interested in glassblowing since he was a child. After he couldn't support a family on a teacher's salary, he got a job as a glassblower for the Dow Chemical Co. in Freeport. He worked for Dow for eight years, then went to Oklahoma State University to teach glassblowing.

Shannon now teaches a glassblowing course here which is open only to chemistry students. The class familiarizes students with glassblowing techniques and the design of glassware. Most of the students go into research, and know how to make their own equipment could save them time and money, he says.

Funding for the glassblowing comes from the chemistry department's operating budget. Shannon says, but the \$1,000 hour the glass shop charges its work replaces those funds.

"We're not here to make money," Shannon says. "We're here to service the people of campus-wide by saving them the piping charges and giving a turnaround."

In the 23 years he's been at Texas A&M, Shannon says he has built many strange things including roach traps, ant traps and a naval olive, a device used in the therapy of people with cleft pallets.

Shannon says glassblowing is not monetarily rewarding but gets satisfaction from building something that has never been built before. It is a challenge to make a functioning scientific device from a bunch of glass and a researcher's drawing, he says.



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Pet rat saves owner

United Press International

TOLEDO, Ohio — A pet rat awakened a Toledo woman whose mattress caught fire, saving her life, the rodent's owner said Sunday.

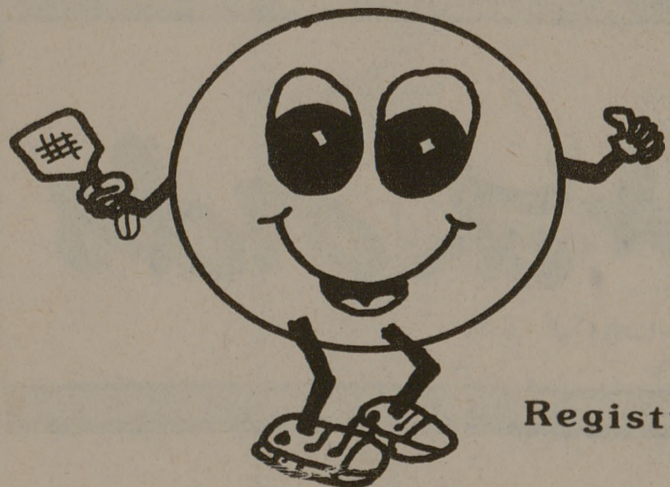
Vicky Downey said her pet — a black tame rat named Yentl — was sleeping with her when a short-circuit in an electrical blanket started the fire at 5:30 a.m. Saturday.

The rat was in bed with her owner because she had a respiratory ailment and needed warmth. She licked Downey's face until she awakened. Downey said she then grabbed Yentl, unplugged the blanket and called firefighters.

Downey was treated for smoke inhalation. Yentl was unharmed.

"She saved my life," Downey said. "I'm buying her a special dinner."

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