

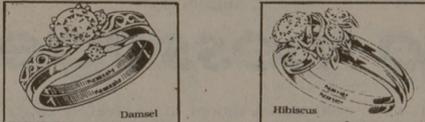
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Landry appears at Cowboy's trial

United Press International

MCKINNEY — Dallas Cowboys Coach Tom Landry made a surprise appearance Wednesday in the criminal assault trial of his star quarterback, and said he would have slugged the victim if similarly provoked.

"If he (a teenage motorist) put my child's life under that type of stressful situation as he did with Danny (White), I would react the same way."

White, the starting quarterback for the Cowboys, is charged with punching Jon Michael Clark, 17, in a heated traffic dispute.

Landry was called in response to prosecution attempts to portray White as a violent man.

"He (White) would not hit him (Clark) without provocation" Landry said.

White's reputation for truth and nonviolence was "outstanding," Landry said.

White, who faces a year in prison if convicted, admitted earlier that he threatened and slapped Clark — a 205-pound tightend who claims he was punched — when he felt Clark's driving on a rural North Texas road endangered White and his children.

"I felt unless I took some immediate action, he (Clark) would continue

following me and possibly get me and my kids killed," he testified.

White confronted Clark at a stop sign.

"My intention of getting out of the car was to see if there was any reason for him (Clark) to be driving that way," he said.

Clark's vehicle nearly pushed White's family van into a head-on collision while the two drivers sped along at up to 80 mph, White said.

"I felt I was in the presence of a man who I didn't feel was of sane mind," said White, who testified he slapped Clark when his concern did not seem to register on the youth.

"I did not know if I hurt him. I wouldn't call it a love tap," said White.

White was asked if the blow was delivered in self defense.

"Yes," White said, "because the importance of my comments directly related to the safety of my children."

Defense attorney Don Horton was overruled on his objection to the mention of professional football during White's cross-examination.

"Since football is a contact sport, it is inappropriate to be injected by the prosecutor," Horton said. "It places a false burden on Mr. White because he is a football player."

Testimony continues through Thursday.

State court upholds conviction of judge

United Press International

AUSTIN — A divided state appeals court Wednesday affirmed the bail-jumping conviction of former Texas Supreme Court Justice Donald B. Yarbrough, who spent 19 months on a far-flung Caribbean island to avoid imprisonment for perjury.

In a 2-1 opinion, the 3rd Court of Appeals rejected arguments that Yarbrough was not obligated to report in 1981 for a five-year prison sentence for perjury because the wording on his appeals bond was technically incorrect.

The court's majority, in an opinion written by Justice Jim Brady, also ruled that Yarbrough could not attack the validity of his perjury conviction in the appeal of his bail-jumping conviction.

Yarbrough was sentenced to seven years in prison last July after he pleaded guilty to charges of failing to appear in 1981 to begin serving the prior five-year sentence for aggravated perjury.

In a dissenting opinion, Chief Justice John C. Phillips said Yarbrough's perjury conviction should have been voided because of the trial judge improperly instructed the jury.

The justice said the trial judge was also technically incorrect in requiring Yarbrough to appear for "sentence after mandate" since Yar-

brough had been sentenced prior to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upholding his perjury conviction.

But the court's majority said despite the incorrect wording, the trial court's sole purpose was "to see that the judgment of the Court of Criminal Appeals was carried out."

Yarbrough, 42, fled to the Caribbean island nation of Grenada to avoid imprisonment on the perjury charge after his conviction was affirmed in May 1981.

But U.S. marshals arrested him on the nearby tiny independent island of St. Vincent on March 18, 1983 and state law enforcement officers returned him to Texas.

Yarbrough had been living with his wife and two children and studying medicine on Grenada, which at that time had no extradition treaty with the United States, for 19 months.

He was convicted in 1978 for lying to a grand jury that was investigating charges he planned to have a Victoria banker killed to keep him from testifying in civil lawsuits regarding Yarbrough's financial dealings, which included trading in gold and silver coins.

The bespectacled Houston lawyer capitalized on the similarity of his name and that of well-known former Sen. Ralph Yarborough, D-Texas, to win a surprise election to the high court in 1976.

Brownsville residents fear hexes

Police get voodoo complaints

United Press International

BROWNSVILLE — On a regular basis, Brownsville police have to deal with complaints from people who fear hexes were placed on them, find "voodoo dolls" on their premises or are concerned the evil eye or some other witchcraft may be working against them.

Texas' southernmost city — a melting pot of superstitions from Mexico, the Caribbean islands, South America and Europe — apparently has its own form of voodoo that one expert says may be based

more on the Hollywood "Tarzan" than anything else.

Dr. Leo Carrillo — an expert on curanderismo, a superstitious form of healing practiced throughout South Texas and Mexico — says true voodoo as practiced in Haiti is a form of witchcraft that originated in Nigeria and is based on the god of thunder "Shango" and several other voodoo deities.

He said true voodoo has little to do with dolls and pins because that concept of witchcraft originated in Europe and not in Africa.

"It's not at all like what Tarzan

movies say," said Carrillo, a professor of ethnic studies at Corpus Christi State University. "What has happened, Tarzan and Hollywood have worked into the dolls and pins. The popular belief comes more out of Tarzan."

Nevertheless, plain old curanderismo is strange enough without the Hollywood trappings.

Besides using herbs and spells and other folk medicine practices to chase away disease, a curandero (healer) usually practices a little "white magic" on the side to take care of a believer's psychological

well-being as well, Carrillo said.

Some of the faith healers claim they can do some magic and bring unfaithful husbands home or assure a "justo juez (just judge)" in criminal trials. One woman near Reynosa, Mexico, reportedly cashed in hard some during the Vietnam war by ensuring that young men who visited her from the Rio Grande Valley were not drafted into the Army, Carrillo said.

Some of the practitioners do use dolls and pins in a positive way, Carrillo said, by sticking the pins in a doll.

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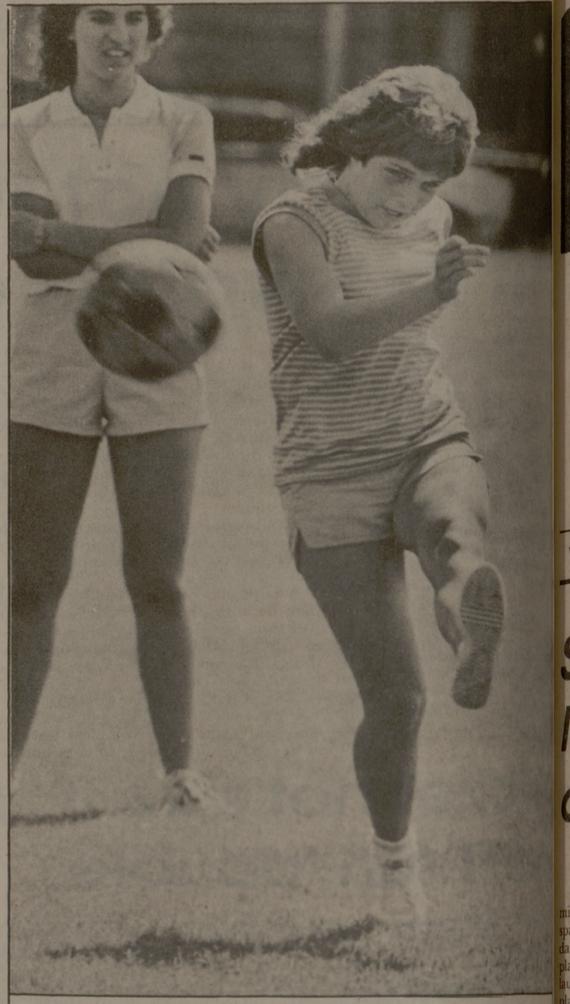


Photo by PETER ROGO

Fancy Footwork

Pam Razor of Irving kicks a soccer ball during games that are a part of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes summer camp. The camp will continue through Friday.

Homosexual avoids deportation from U.S.

United Press International

DALLAS — Differing appeals court rulings on immigration by homosexuals may allow a Briton, who recently lost a U.S. Supreme Court appeal for citizenship, to avoid being deported, his lawyer said.

If Richard John Longstaff, 44, had stayed in Dallas he most likely would have faced deportation proceedings by local Immigration and Naturalization Service agents, attorney Leonard Graff said Tuesday.

That likelihood stemmed from a ruling by the Supreme Court upholding a ruling by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Or-

leans that Longstaff, who owns clothing stores in Dallas and Houston, may be denied citizenship because he is a homosexual.

However, the high court did not address the question of whether homosexuals, generally, can be denied citizenship, Graff said.

The question has divided the Orleans court and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in California with the West Coast panel ruling in 1983 that homosexuality is insufficient reason for denying citizenship.

As a result of the loophole, Longstaff will move to San Francisco where local INS agents observe a ruling more favorable to him.

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