

# Texas committee findings: \$20 million needed for poor

United Press International

AUSTIN — The chairman of a legislative committee studying hunger in Texas vowed Wednesday to push for \$20 million in state funds to counter cuts in federal food subsidies.

Sen. Hugh Parmer, chairman of the Senate Interim Committee on Hunger and Nutrition, said the policies of President Ronald Reagan's administration are responsible for depriving thousands of Texans of needed food. He said at least 250,000 women and children in Texas routinely miss meals because they have no money to pay for food.

In addition, his committee's report states that another 100,000 elderly people go hungry, as do an undetermined number of "the new poor" — recently unemployed Texans.

"There is more hunger in Texas than meets the eye — more perhaps than most Texans would tolerate with an easy conscience," the Fort Worth Democrat said.

Parmer said \$75 million would be needed to expand existing

state and federal food assistance programs to assure that all Texans get enough to eat.

But he said state budget restraints will make it unfeasible to ask for more than \$20 million when the Legislature convenes in January.

He said his committee staff would search for \$20 million in budget cuts to offset proposed program expansions to provide more food assistance.

"There are things we are doing (in state government) that are not as important as seeing that hungry people get enough to eat," Parmer said. "The \$20 million will reach the people in most critical need, between one-quarter and one-third of the hungry people in Texas."

The report said that the number of requests for emergency food assistance in Texas grew 210 percent since 1979. It also said that churches and private organizations receive 70,000 requests for food each month, and that they must turn away 20,000 peo-

ple for lack of resources.

Parmer blamed the increase on Reagan administration policies, which he said too tightly restrict eligibility for the federal food stamp and school lunch programs.

"While their motives may have been the right ones, Reagan administration policies... in fact have resulted in people who need help not getting it," Parmer said.

He said a commission appointed by Reagan to study hunger in America, which concluded that hunger is not widespread, conducted "a very surface, cosmetic effort to look at the problem."

The committee's legislative recommendations included a \$12 million state supplement to federal programs that provide food for women and children, a \$3.5 million increase in a program that gives temporary food assistance to newly unemployed people, and a \$2.4 million increase to allow 22,000 additional elderly Texans to receive home-delivered meals.

# Pictorial evidence permitted

United Press International

RICHMOND — A state district judge Wednesday refused to grant a defense motion seeking to prohibit the showing of photographs in the trial of a man accused of killing four people and wounding a fifth.

Judge Charles Dickerson ruled prosecutors can show photographs to the jury during the trial of Charles Edward Goosby.

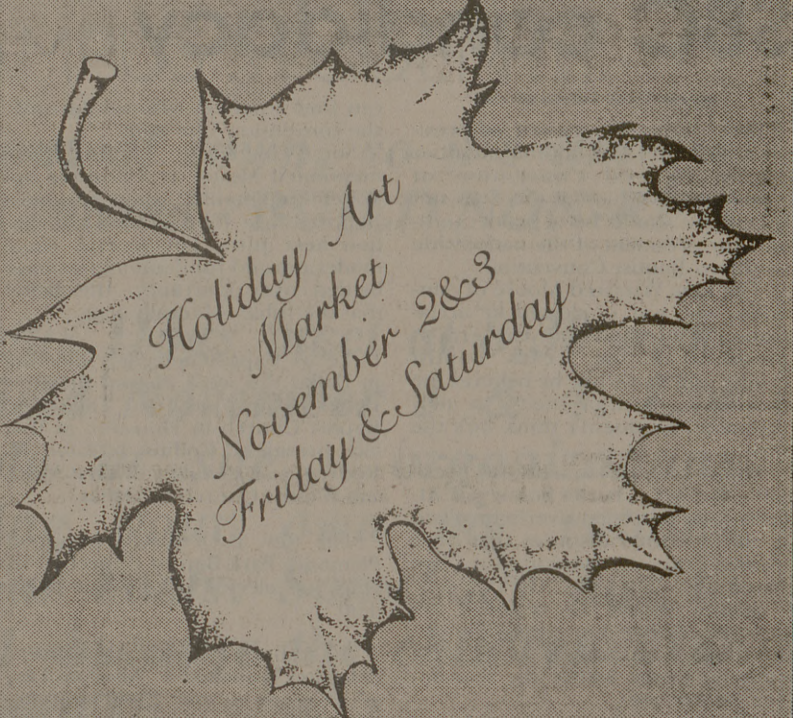
Goosby, 34, is charged with four counts of capital murder and one count of attempted capital murder in the Sept. 18 shootings in a southwest Houston home. One of the victims was a 3-year-old girl.

The surviving victim, Jesse James Lewis, 35, who has gunshot wounds to the head, has identified Goosby as the assailant.

Dickerson did grant a defense motion asking that the jury be told of any prosecution testimony given as a result of a plea bargain with the district attorney's office.

No trial date has been set for Goosby, who has pleaded not guilty.

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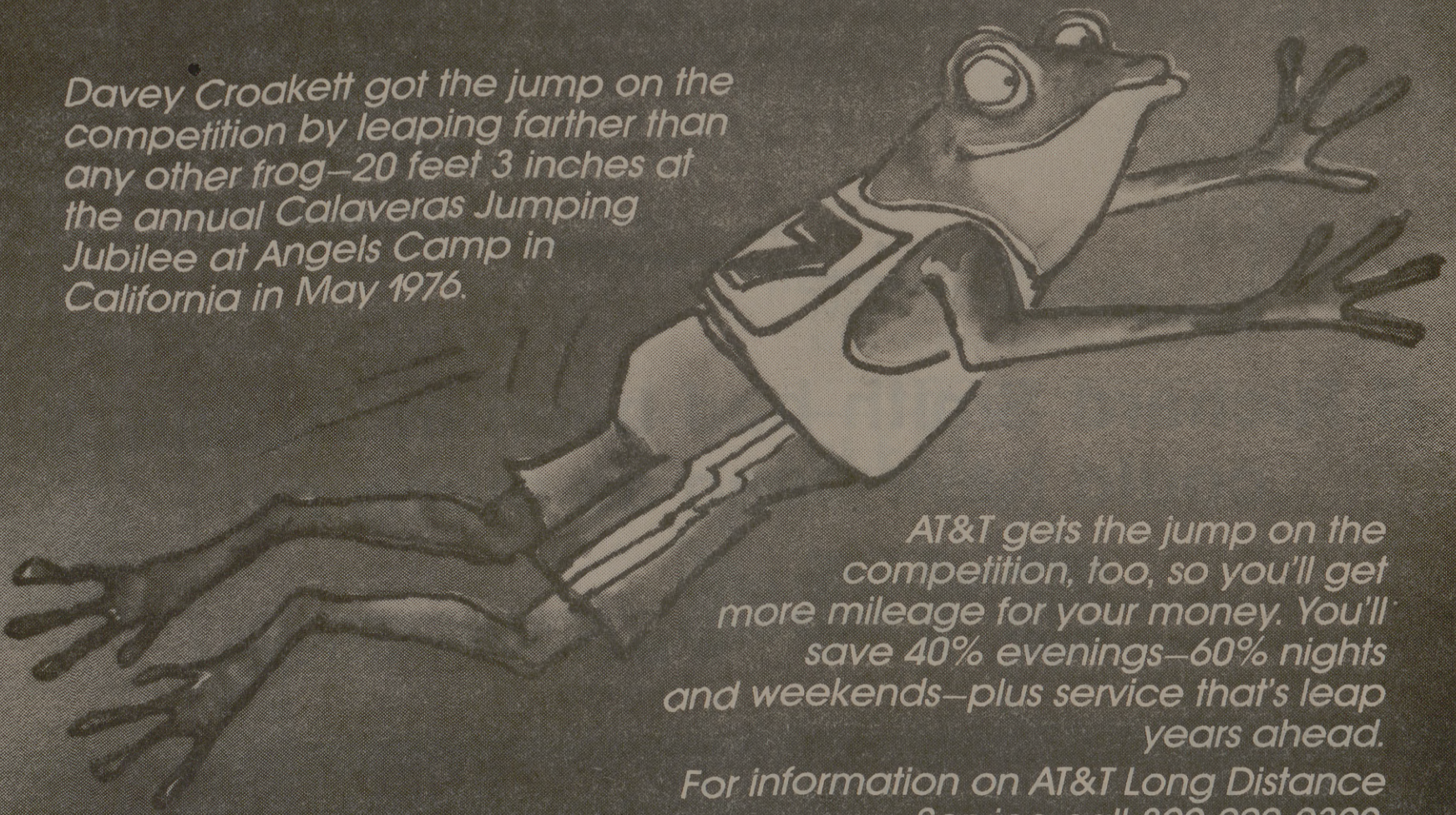
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