

Schedule revisions
Today last day for no record drop

Tax-simplification
GOP: budget cuts must come first

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Mistrial declared in Cuadra case

By DAINAH BULLARD
& SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

Brazos County Court-at-Law Judge Carolyn Ruffino declared a mistrial Monday afternoon in a case connected with the Aug. 30 death of Bruce Dean Goodrich.

Gabriel Cuadra, 21, of Houston, was being tried on a charge of tampering with evidence when the mistrial was declared. He had entered a plea of not guilty to the charges.

Cuadra was indicted Sept. 28 by a Brazos County Grand Jury on charges of tampering with evidence and hazing in connection with the death of cadet Goodrich. Goodrich collapsed and later died after participating in an off-hours exercise ses-

sion conducted by three junior members of his outfit, Company F-1.

Defense attorney Henry Paine asked for a mistrial after a reporter was seen talking to a juror. Ruffino, who issued a gag order after jury selection was completed, declared the mistrial on the basis of media contact with the jury. Ruffino also cited misconduct on the part of the jury and officials of the court.

"There is no way for the court to insure that injustice has not been done," Ruffino said.

The six-woman jury was selected Monday morning from about 85 prospective jurors. Those who said they had seen too much media coverage on the tampering with evidence charge were dismissed during

selection by County Attorney James Kuboviak.

The mistrial was declared after a five-minute break that followed the questioning of two witnesses. Bob Wiatt, director of security and University Police, and William Scott, a special investigator for University Police, testified for almost two hours about the early phases of the investigation into Goodrich's death.

Testimony centered on the search for Company F-1's exercise roster. Wiatt said the original roster, which was mentioned in statements from several cadets, was never found.

Wiatt said the roster would have been used to determine what exercises were required during the session and who had assigned them. Notes on the roster would have de-

termined if anyone had authorized moderation or embellishment of the exercises, he said.

Though the original roster was never found, Cuadra or Paine presented a reconstructed roster at the conclusion of the grand jury investigation, Wiatt said. However, the reconstructed roster could not be verified, and was not used during the University Police investigation, he said.

"It was of no value whatsoever," Wiatt said. "(It could have) self-serving statements, perhaps. (It could) contain anything a person wants to portray."

Wiatt said he instructed his staff, including Scott, who was assigned to the investigation, to conduct the matter as a criminal investigation.

The roster was requested at about 8 a.m. or 9 a.m. on Aug. 30, but was never produced, he said.

At the beginning of the trial, Kuboviak instructed the jury to determine whether or not Cuadra had destroyed the exercise documents, knowing the investigation was underway.

"We're not here to condemn Texas A&M, the Corps of Cadets or tradition," Kuboviak said during jury selection. "We're here to find out if one individual committed a crime."

However, Paine contradicted Kuboviak's statement.

"I believe the Corps of Cadets, Texas A&M and traditions are on trial here," he said.



Gabriel Cuadra

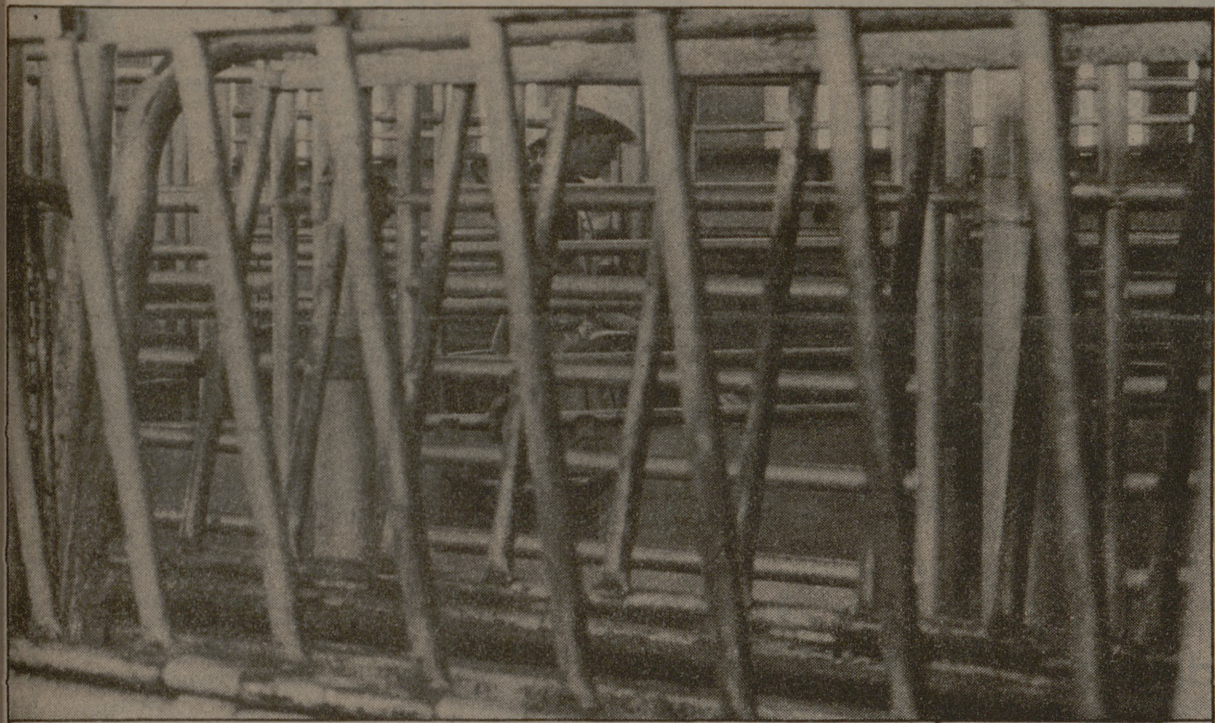


Photo by FRANK IRWIN

Behind Bars

Shain Chapman, a sophomore Animal Science major from Sherman, is almost hidden behind a maze of metal gates as he cleans a

holding pen at the Meat Science and Technology Center. Livestock are held in the pen until they are slaughtered.

MSC Council discusses budget, committee cuts

By CATHIE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

The Memorial Student Center Council cut committees and debated the role of the MSC presidency Tuesday night during its first meeting of the spring semester.

MSC Director Jim Reynolds, said a memo from President Frank Vandiver, requesting all department heads keep their budgets balanced, greeted him when the Spring semester started.

The Council saw the need to scrutinize its programming and decide if all committees were meeting the goals of the MSC since the University has no idea how much money the Legislature will appropriate, said

Lani Balaam, Executive Vice President for Programs.

Two committees, MSC Outdoor Recreation and MSC Basement, will be dissolved effective April 20. The Council found the two groups were unable to improve the quality of their programming, financial responsibility, or leadership skills.

Pat Wood, MSC President, said the Program Review Committee, which reviewed the committees' problems, handled the eliminations in a very sensitive manner.

"This decision was probably the most difficult I've seen in my four years here (on the Council)," Wood said, "and I feel that it was handled very adeptly."

MSC Nova, which has been a committee for four months, was put on probation, but the committee will not receive any allocation of the student service fee while their programming is examined over the next year. Nova is an offshoot of Outdoor Recreation.

A proposal by Brian Hay to use an open forum in the nominating process of the MSC president was rejected by the Council by a quorum of 10-6.

Hay said he felt students were removed from the selection of the MSC Council president. By helping in the nominating process, he said students would feel more a part of the MSC.

'Star Wars' program

Report questions value

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Strategic Defense Initiative proposed by President Reagan is "of questionable value and astounding cost," says a new study which forecasts that research alone will cost more than the entire proposed budget for such programs as the MX nuclear missile and the B-1 bomber.

"The goal of rendering strategic nuclear missiles obsolete implies developing a virtually perfect defense against nearly 1,400 land-based Soviet ICBMs containing over 6,000 independently targetable warheads," says the report by the Council of Economic Priorities.

The price tag for all this is impossible to say since the Strategic Defense Initiative program — popularly known as "Star Wars" — is barely in the research and development phase, the report says. But it adds:

"The total program could cost \$400 billion to \$800 billion if it goes directly into full-scale development after the current 5-year R&D phase."

Instead, the council is recommending a more limited

research effort aimed at exploring likely weak links in strategic defense systems.

Over the next five years, the report says, this is how Star Wars research money would be spent in four major technical areas:

- Surveillance, acquisition, tracking and kill assessment — the eyes and ears of a battle. \$10.5 billion.
- Directed Energy Weapons — research on four possible approaches to defense against missiles, including chemical lasers, neutron particle beams and nuclear X-ray lasers. \$5.9 billion.
- Kinetic energy weapons — "smart" weapons that could destroy a ballistic missile in flight, possibly by rockets fired from space-based hyper-velocity guns. \$5.9 billion.
- Systems Analysis and Battle Management — development of a responsive, reliable, survivable and cost-effective system to direct the defense and a second function termed a "sanity check" on the other layers. \$1.1 billion.

Oil ministers clash openly at OPEC emergency session

Associated Press

GENEVA, Switzerland — Oil ministers fought openly Monday as OPEC began an emergency session and discussed a pair of proposals that could cut the cartel's base price for only the second time in its history.

The 13 ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries met twice in closed session and

said no agreement was reached before adjourning the talks until today.

Less than an hour after the conference started, the oil minister of the United Arab Emirates walked out, complaining that Nigeria was "stabbing OPEC in the back" by exceeding its production quota.

Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Arabian oil minister, said later the incident was sparked by a "misun-

derstanding" between Mana Saeed Oteiba, the minister from the United Arab Emirates, and Tam David-West, Nigeria's oil minister.

With the outbreak of acrimony adding to existing doubts about OPEC's ability to halt sliding oil prices, petroleum traders in the United States sent prices of the top domestic crude briefly tumbling below \$25 a barrel.

Abortion gives women differing opinions

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

Abortion is a battle of emotions and words. The groups prefer to be known as pro-life and pro-choice rather than as anti-abortion and pro-abortion.

But, for the women who have had abortions, the decision is difficult and the memory haunting.

Shelley and Christine (not their real names) were both 19 and unmarried when they discovered they were pregnant. Both women had an abortion which left them with completely different conclusions about the procedure.

Shelley was a student at Southwest Texas State University when she became pregnant by her boyfriend.

"When I found out that I was pregnant out of wedlock, I went to the father of the child," Shelley says.

"He recommended an abortion, offering no assistance or other options."

"I went to the clinic at Southwest Texas State to talk to the nurses — they recommended an abortion at another clinic in Austin. I went in there and got a pregnancy test. They said the test was positive and they would take care of it in five minutes. They immediately ran me through an abortion. I was not told of the child's development or of the possibilities of complications."

Shelley says she received a dilation and curettage abortion when she was six weeks pregnant. She says she was not aware that she had received an abortion until several days after her clinic visit. She developed an infection from the procedure which left her unable to have children. Shelley charges the clinic did

not use a laproscope to see inside the womb because the special device was too expensive.

A former president of Planned Parenthood of Houston says the organization's policy is to administer the tests and schedule an abortion later if the patient requests one. Patients are counseled through their options and must make the decision themselves, he says.

"That didn't happen in a Planned Parenthood clinic, I'll guarantee it," he says. "They didn't make the diagnosis and do the abortion procedure on the same day. That laproscope is not used in a 'D and C' procedure because it is not appropriate for it."

Christine was a freshman at the University of Texas when she was raped by a former boyfriend. She says she also was six weeks pregnant

when she went to a clinic for a pregnancy test.

"Two weeks later I went to a Planned Parenthood clinic and had the tests," she says. "Those people were very nice. They knew it was an unwilling pregnancy. I was embarrassed because I was unmarried and pregnant."

Christine had a slightly different procedure from Shelley's. At an area hospital, Christine had a suction curettage abortion and remained there for four or five hours. She had no complications.

Both women say they frequently think about the child they might have had.

"We do not know the benefits of our sacrifices," Shelley says. Shelley says she would have been emotionally healthier if she had given birth.

Christine also wonders what

might have been, but is glad she terminated the pregnancy.

"A lot of times I'll see a little kid or a baby or a happy mother and wonder," Christine says. "I do wonder what it might have been like, but I want a baby when I can take care of her."

"I feel like I never would have been able to take care of it, though. It's terrible to say this, but I might have hated that baby. There's no way I would have been able to handle it."

Shelley now considers abortion murder and wants it outlawed, except in cases where the mother's life is threatened. In cases of rape or incest, Shelley believes, the mother should have the child.

"I would say that it is terribly wrong to punish, by death, a child for the sin of his father," Shelley

says. "Two wrongs never made a right." In cases where the mother's life is threatened, Shelley believes it should be the decision of the mother, the father and the physician.

But Christine argues many women would resort to dangerous, illegal abortions if legalized abortions were restricted.

"If you place restrictions on it, more women will go to seedy places in dark alleys to have it done," Christine says. "I might have gone the coathanger method or some other way if I couldn't have it done in a hospital where they knew what they were doing."

Neither Shelley nor Christine had sex education in high school and neither woman's parents would talk to them about the subject.