

Senator's indictments dismissed

Judge rules on technicalities

BEAUMONT — A state district judge Tuesday, for the second time, dismissed indictments accusing state Sen. Carl Parker of organized crime.

Parker, for the second time, had indictments dismissed on accusations of the promotion of obscene material and drug conspiracy.

Visiting Judge Perry Pickett of Midland dismissed charges against Parker and two other men "on the basis of the facts that there were unauthorized persons in the grand jury room," said Parker's attorney, Walter Sekaly.

Jefferson County District Attorney James McGrath said he probably would not seek a third investigation of Parker, a Port Arthur Democrat.

"My inclination is no," he said. "It's taken up too much time and money."

Sekaly said grand juror Nicholas Kinchen voted to indict Parker and two other defendants as part of the Jefferson County grand jury probe even though Kinchen was a resident of adjacent Hardin County.

In November, Pickett ruled the grand jury that indicted the senator two months earlier in 1984 was biased.

McGrath said he told Parker's attorney and the judge earlier that Kinchen, 30, had moved one mile inside Hardin County, and that neither objected.

"I wish I knew," he said, when asked why he

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thought the judge threw out the indictment. Parker, Daniel Jacob Lee, and David Earl Johnson were indicted March 22.

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Parker also was charged with the wholesale promotion of obscene material.

In a pretrial hearing Monday, two former members of the grand jury that indicted Parker said they believed officials tried to influence the panel's vote to secure the indictments.

Monday's testimony also showed that Jefferson County Sheriff R.E. Culbertson, Port Arthur Police Chief James Newsom, Port Arthur Police Capt. R.L. Lyons, Port Arthur Police Lt. Jerry Fontenot and Sheriff's Maj. Hal Shaw all testified before the grand jury that they believed "probable cause" existed to indict the three men.

Parker, a 21-year legislative veteran, is one of Texas' most powerful lawmakers.

He is serving as chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said he was delighted with Tuesday's "vindication" of Parker.

"He is a respected leader of the Texas Senate, a true friend of education, and a most able representative of his district," Hobby said.

Conviction on the criminal activity charge carried a maximum penalty of 99 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The obscenity charge could have netted up to 10 years and a \$5,000 fine.

The charges stemmed from the seizure of what police said were obscene video films found in a Beaumont home once owned jointly by Parker and Lee.

Parker said he was relieved by the judge's decision, but that he had mixed emotions.

"The whole thing took a lot out of me," he said. "I'm disappointed that lawyers who have taken an oath as lawyers — and some of them are my friends — can stand by and watch while this goes on."

Parker, who denied any wrongdoing, has accused a clique of law enforcement officers of spending three years to find people to testify against him.



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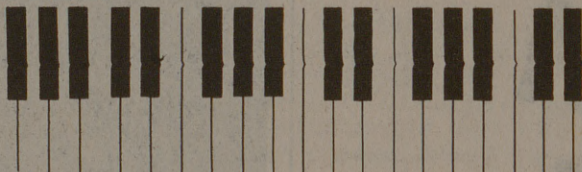
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We regret there will be no refunds or exchanges.

Around town

Registration is open for Life Beer Fun Run

Registration is open for the seventh annual **Life Beer Fun Run** to be held at the Bastrop State Park. It starts at 8:30 a.m. on June 8. Entry fee for the 5,000 meter run is \$7. All runners will receive a T-shirt and trophies will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in each age division. Proceeds will go to the Bastrop Opera House Association. Entry forms can be obtained by writing: Life Beer Fun Run, Bastrop Opera House Association, Box 691, Bastrop, Texas 78602.

Day camp to be offered in for area kids

The College Station Parks and Recreation Department and Community Education will be sponsoring Kids Summer Day Camp June 10 to July 3 and July 8 to August 2, for children six to 12 years old. Registration for camp will be held on May 21 at Oakwood School from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Concert will benefit Village of Hope

The Carter Creek Bluegrass Band will be featured at a Christian music concert benefiting the Village of Hope. The concert will be at 7:30 p.m., May 17 in the Aldersgate United Methodist Church auditorium. Del Way and the Freedom Band will also perform. Admission is free and love offerings will be accepted.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office at 216 Reed McDonald.

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