

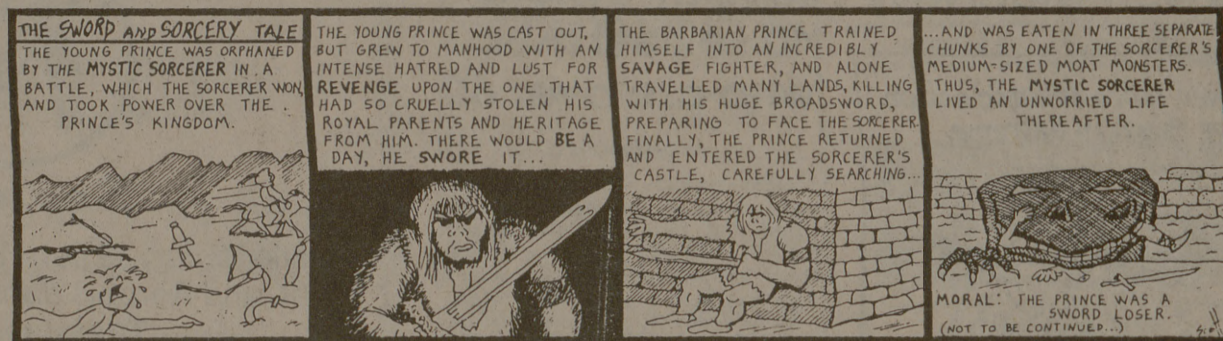
Dismembered bodies found near Houston

Associated Press
HOUSTON — Investigators said Monday they have no clues in the gruesome discovery of three trash bags filled with body parts along a rural road northeast Harris County. The discovery was made Sunday by a Houston motorist who saw a dog pulling what he thought was a dead animal.

"I stopped the truck, and when I looked, I saw it was a female head," Weldon Dobbs said. "When I saw the head, it made me sick. I covered it with a work shirt I had in the truck." J.F. Ebdon, an investigator for medical examiner said there were no new leads as of Monday. Ebdon said the torso and legs appeared to belong to a woman in her 20s. He had no estimate on the man's age. Detective Ronnie Phillips Sr. said the woman appeared to have been shot in the right cheek and near the right eye. An autopsy was scheduled for Monday, officials said. Phillips estimated that the bodies had been dumped less than 48 hours before they were found. He said the bags could have gone unnoticed because "this is a normal dumping area." A lack of blood at the scene suggested that the bodies were dismembered somewhere else and then dropped in the rural area, Sgt. Rickie Williams said. After finding the head, Dobbs flagged down another motorist and instructed the surprised but cooperative man to guard the grisly find while he called police. While waiting for police, Dobbs said he spotted several large, green trash bags lying near the head. He said he didn't touch them.

"I didn't want to mess with it," he said. "The head was enough for me." Ten deputies searched for almost four hours in a square mile area near the site for more body parts or weapons, but found nothing.

Warped



Inmate ready for execution

Rumbaugh: 'I was an accident waiting to happen'

Associated Press
HUNTSVILLE — The scars on convicted killer Charles Francis Rumbaugh serve as a reminder of a troubled youth that led to a cell on Texas death row — and a date with the executioner early Wednesday. Rumbaugh bears at least eight knife and bullet wounds. Some are camouflaged by cosmetic tattoos of the Grim Reaper, a dragon, a detonating pistol and his death row number — 555. On his back is the tattoo of a winged skull. His left eye is scarred and he was left legally blind from a penknife wound. "I was an accident waiting to happen," said Rumbaugh, who worked as a shoeshine boy in bars and nightclubs to help his financially strapped family. Rumbaugh, 28, admits his guilt and says he is prepared to die by a poison injection for the 1975 robbery and murder of Michael Fiorello, operator of a small jewelry store in Amarillo. He ordered his attorneys to halt any attempts to block his death date. "It's all a game I'm tired of playing," Rumbaugh said. "What am I supposed to do — just sit around for the rest of my life waiting. I've served a life sentence waiting for them to kill me. I'm tired of waiting. Time has to run out sometime." Rumbaugh's trouble with the law began at age 6, when he and an older brother skipped school and

"I got in so much trouble as a kid that all the juvenile officers knew me by my nickname — Chuckie," — convicted killer Charles Rumbaugh.

broke into an old building in their hometown of San Angelo. "I got in so much trouble as a kid that all the juvenile officers knew me by my nickname — Chuckie," he said. Eventually he was declared a juvenile delinquent and committed to the state school for boys. At age 12, Rumbaugh pulled off his first armed robbery, using a tire tool to rob a San Angelo gas station and making his getaway on a stolen bicycle. He would grow up in reform schools, jails and mental hospitals. On April 4, 1975, Rumbaugh's fate was sealed when he walked into a Fiorello's jewelry store, pulled a gun and demanded money. But Fiorello tried to grab a small pistol he kept handy after a string of holdups in the neighborhood. The 58-year-old businessman died in a struggle for the pistol, which Rumbaugh took with him when he left. "It was a situation of kill or be killed," the inmate said. "I can still

by Scott McCullar

Russell Long says he doesn't hate 'Kingfish's' killers

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Fifty years after the assassination of Huey 'Kingfish' Long, Sen. Russell B. Long harbors no hatred for those who wished his father dead or even had a hand in the deed. "I don't feel as unkindly as probably many think I should about those people who would engage in these plots," he says about those turbulent times. "I think you can see it more in perspective now than you did then. They had been convinced that he was a tyrant and everything else you could lay your tongue to in terms of one unworthy of a proper exercise of power. But they thought they were doing the right thing, or at least most of them did."

Long was getting ready to enter Louisiana State University on Sept. 8, 1935, when Uncle Gilman McConnell telephoned the family home in New Orleans. "He said my father had been shot and we all had better come to Baton Rouge," Long recalled in a recent interview. Long remembered seeing his father constantly surrounded by bodyguards. His mother lived in dread of just such a phone call. Just a month before Huey Long had charged on the Senate floor that, at a secret meeting in a New Orleans hotel, pals of "Roosevelt the Little," as he called President Franklin D. Roosevelt, had plotted his assassination with the assurance of a presidential pardon. Huey Long, Louisiana's mercurial governor and then U.S. senator, died 30 hours after he had been gunned down outside the governor's office. Huey Long's accused assailant, Dr. Carl Weiss, a professor at Tulane Medical School, confronted him from behind a pillar and was immediately killed in a fusillade of bullets from the ever present bodyguards.

Still, a half century later, the suspicion lingers in Louisiana that Weiss was not the assassin, and at the most fired only a punch and not a bullet, but that Huey was killed by his own bodyguards, either by mistake or intent. The family declined an autopsy, which fueled the rumors. Now Sen. Long is retiring from the Senate seat that had been held by his father and, after the assassination, by his mother, Rose McConnell Long. She served out Huey's unfinished term until Long was old enough to fill the seat. In 1948, a year before reaching the minimum age of 30, he was elected to the Senate and has been there ever since.

Huey was proposing his own solution to the Depression. He promised every family a radio, a car, a home, a steady worth \$5,000, a \$2,000 annual income and a \$30-a-month old-age pension, all of which the government would finance by confiscating through taxes all income over \$1 million a year and all inheritances over \$5 million. "From a conceptual point of view most of what he advocated has come about, but with this important exception," Sen. Long says. "We never have focused on distributing the wealth of this country in any fashion that we could be proud of." Long feels no resentment against current Gov. Edwin Edwards for eliminating his father's birthday as a state holiday: "I thought all along we had too many holidays in Louisiana, and those who want to commemorate Huey Long's birthday can do each in their own way." A few days ago, Long let it be known that he had sought out Dr. Carl A. Weiss Jr., son of his father's assailant, on July 25 and met with him in New York City for two hours. "Neither of us had the power to shape the events that happened on Sept. 8, 1935," he said in a statement, "although each of us in his own way paid a price for something he was powerless to control."

Former Cowboy on trial for assaulting police officer

Associated Press
DALLAS — A Dallas police officer testified Monday that she thought former Dallas Cowboy Ron Springs was going to toss her and another officer over a balcony when they tried to arrest him at a topless bar. Cpl. Vanessa Pitz was the first prosecution witness called in the running back's trial on charges of aggravated assault on a police officer. Attorneys picked through prospective jurors for four hours Monday, questioning them about their loyalty to the Dallas Cowboys. One woman was rejected after asking Springs, a six-year veteran

who was cut from the team last week, for his autograph. The final panel includes nine women and three men. Springs, 28, faces a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine if convicted of the third-degree felony. He was indicted Feb. 14. The charges stem from an attempt by Dallas police to eject Springs from a topless bar called the Million Dollar Saloon on Jan. 18. During jury selection, Springs' attorney, Richard Corbitt, listed 19 Cowboys who may testify in Springs' behalf. The trial is expected to continue through Thursday.

Pitz said Springs, who outweighs her by about 100 pounds, hit her in the face, kicked her in the shin, "body slammed" her against a bar and threw her over some bar stools when she tried to handcuff him. She told the jury she "latched" onto Springs' neck as the ballplayer held another officer, Cpl. James F. Hughes, in a headlock. She said Springs then began kicking her. "I did not let go and he began running forward toward the rail," she said. "I thought he was going to throw myself and Officer Hughes to the ground floor." Pitz also testified outside the presence of the jury that Springs tried to

bribe her and Hughes after he was arrested. She also said Springs threatened them. "He kept asking me if there wasn't some other way we could work this out," Pitz said. "I asked him to elaborate. He never did." Springs denied the accusations after the trial recessed for the day. "I didn't talk to the police officers," Springs said. "Except I asked one time would they ease the pressure on the handcuffs." State District Judge Michael Keasler said he would rule later on whether the jury will be allowed to hear testimony about the alleged bribe.

'Today' weatherman may get his own show

Associated Press
LAKE OZARK, Mo. — Willard Scott says if a television pilot he filmed over the weekend in the Ozarks becomes a hit, his days on the "Today" show may be over. "Great Scott," a half-hour pilot taped Saturday before an audience of about 100 people at a lodge, will spotlight good deeds done by Americans, the affable weatherman on NBC's "Today" show said. Network officials agreed to

take a look at the pilot, Scott said, and if NBC does not pick it up, producer Columbia Pictures hopes to sell it to other television executives, he said. "I'd like to say I would never leave the "Today" show," he said. "If this show is a complete disaster and never makes it, I'll stay on the "Today" show forever. "If, on the other hand, it's a success, there may be a time down the road when I'll have to leave the show."

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