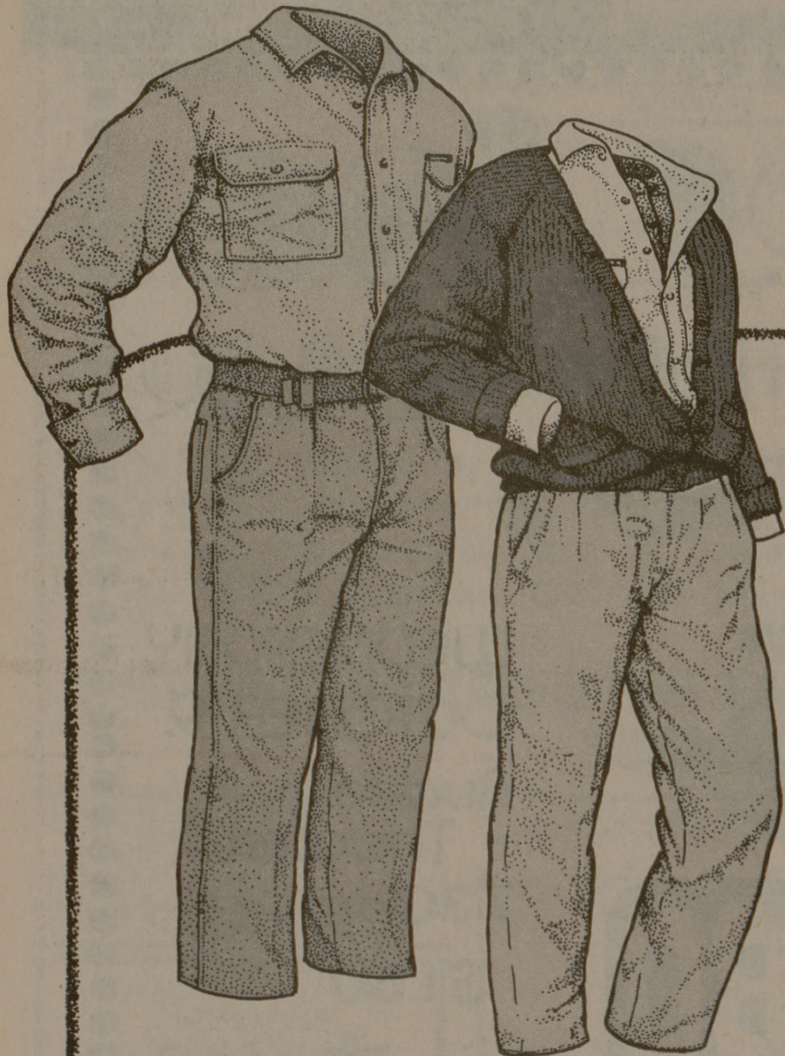


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Man who filed prison reform suit facing life sentence

Associated Press
 AUSTIN — An Austin woman testified Tuesday that the man who filed a landmark prison reform suit against the state of Texas sexually assaulted her at gunpoint during a robbery.

David Ruiz, 43, faces a possible life sentence if convicted of aggravated robbery in a September 1984 incident at an Austin apartment. Ruiz was the plaintiff in a 1971 federal lawsuit that led to major changes in Texas prisons.

"His moustache might be trimmed, his hair might be cut, but he's still the same man," the woman said as she identified Ruiz in the courtroom.

The woman and three men were in the apartment when Ruiz and two men barged in, she testified.

The other two men wore stockings over their heads, she said, but Ruiz initially had his ski mask on top of his head.

After pulling the mask over his face, Ruiz said, "Don't cry . . . or I'll kill you" and he stuck the gun in my mouth," according to the witness.

The woman, a 21-year-old mother of two, said Ruiz later sexually assaulted her while he held the gun "on top of my head." Another man also sexually assaulted her, she said.

The testimony opened a trial expected to last several weeks. Defense lawyer Bob Looney slowed the proceedings Tuesday with a series of objections during the prosecution's opening statement.

Looney has claimed Ruiz was at home, 18 miles from the northwest Austin crime scene, when the robbery took place. Looney says local police and prosecutors are out to get Ruiz in return for his efforts in overhauling state prisons.

Ruiz, who was paroled from a robbery sentence in 1981, is serving a 25-year sentence for aggravated perjury. Several other indictments are pending against Ruiz.

John Ruiz, David's nephew, has pleaded guilty to the robbery. The woman identified John Ruiz in the courtroom Tuesday as one of the robbers.

The third man implicated in the case was found shot to death several weeks after the crime. Prosecutors said a ring and a St. Christopher medal taken in the robbery were found in Ruiz's possession when he was arrested 10 days after the crime. A gun used in the robbery was found in Ruiz's car, Assistant Travis County District Attorney Brian Bishop told jurors.

"Guns and ammunition were scattered around (Ruiz's house) like Easter eggs," he said.

What's up

Wednesday

- WOMEN'S BONFIRE COMMITTEE:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in A-1 Lounge.
- AGGIE G.O.P.:** will have a reception for gubernatorial candidate Kent Hance at 6 p.m. in 145 MSC.
- CENTURY SINGERS:** is holding auditions for an accompanist (who is eligible for a \$250 scholarship) Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in 003 MSC.
- TAMU HUNGER RELIEF EFFORT:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 305 Rudder. T-shirt sales for "We Are the World" is being held in the MSC hallway 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through today.
- MICRO SOCIETY:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 113 Biological Sciences Building East.
- STUDENT Y BONFIRE COOKIE CREW:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 701 Rudder.
- AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 228 MSC.
- MESQUITE HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder.
- UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY:** will meet at 6 p.m. at All Presbyterian Church for an "Aggie Supper."
- AGGIE RED CROSS CLUB:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 109 Biological Sciences Building East.
- 1986 MISS TAMU SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT:** will have an informational meeting at 6 p.m. in 200 HECT.
- PRE-VET SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 230 VMA.
- CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST:** will meet at 7 p.m. in All Faiths Chapel.
- MSC POLITICAL FORUM:** The second program in the gubernatorial series will feature former Congressman Kent Hance at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder. FREE.
- STUDENT SENATE:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 204 HECT.
- ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN STUDENTS:** will meet at 6 p.m. in 305 Rudder.
- TAMU MICROBIOLOGY SOCIETY:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 113 Biological Sciences Building East.

Thursday

- 1986 MISS TAMU SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT:** Applications available in 216 MSC until October 18.
- TAMU ART FILM SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 100 Biological Sciences-Entomology Building.
- ENTOMOLOGY CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in Soil and Plant Sciences-Entomology Building.
- POLO CLUB:** will meet at 6 p.m. at the Dick Freeman Center on FM 2818.
- AGGIES' SPACE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 401 Rudder.
- INTRAMURALS:** Volleyball Team Captains meeting at 6 p.m. in 167 Read.
- MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE:** presents "The Final Countdown" at 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. at Rudder Theater. Admission is \$2.
- STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
- MSC MADRIGAL DINNER COMMITTEE:** will meet at 6 p.m. in 510 Rudder.
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
- TAMU TENNIS CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. at 1609 Todd Trail, College Station.
- MSC TRAVEL:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
- HAGGAI FELLOWSHIP:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 203 MSC.

Pilots file suit against Continental

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Air Line Pilots Association filed a federal racketeering lawsuit Monday against Continental Airlines, alleging the carrier improperly trained pilots replacing those who were on strike.

The pilots union alleges in its suit that Houston-based Continental improperly trained and certified new pilots "to gain an unfair and fraudulent bargaining advantage" against striking pilots.

Continental spokesman Mike Cinnelli, when asked about the lawsuit, said, "Pardon my laughter, but it's obvious that ALPA has more lawyers than they have sense."

"This suit will undoubtedly make the most entertaining reading yet of any legal document they filed," Cinnelli said.

ALPA struck Continental on Oct. 1, 1983, one week after the airline filed for court protection from its creditors under the federal bankruptcy code, slashed wages up to 50 percent and scaled down its operations.

In its suit, ALPA accuses Continental of administering a shortened "refresher" and retraining program to pilots who were hired or promoted to replace striking pilots. The replacement program, according to the suit, was designed by law to receive more comprehensive training.

The union also alleges that Continental allowed inadequately trained and fraudulently certified replacement pilots to certify the company's replacement pilots.

Ward coordinators for OCA strengthen ties with students

By STACEY ROBERTS
Reporter

Ward coordinators for Off-Campus Aggies, the student organization representing the more than 26,000 students living off campus, are helping to ease the communication problems associated with off-campus living.

The position of ward coordinator was created during the spring semester to aide OCA in communicating with the off-campus student.

A ward coordinator's duties are to aid the vice president in overseeing the apartment council presidents.

The apartment council president is in charge of off-campus poster distribution and helping to establish tenant/landlord relations.

Other duties of the apartment council president include attending special meetings and leadership workshops, active participation on one standing committee and reporting to their respective ward coordinator at least once a week.

The goal of the ward coordinator is to aid the apartment council president in establishing better communication between the residents and management.

"OCA does not have the luxury of captive members like the Residence Hall Association," says Michelle Davis, president of OCA.

"The complexes are so spread out that it's hard to know if anyone is receiving information."

Davis also says that there is not an effective feedback system.

OCA is in its seventh year and has been plagued from the beginning with the inability to reach out to the students, she says.

"RHA can control the amount of information put out and then check

to see if the flyers are still there," Davis says.

Membership in RHA is an easy number to calculate, she says, but with OCA the numbers vary from semester to semester.

Sharon McNealy, vice president of OCA, says, "Ward coordinators were established to help people become more involved with OCA and their positions."

So many people were just general members and not getting involved, she adds.

The initial plan for the new position was that the wards would follow the same geographical boundaries as those used by Student Government.

Davis says four wards need representation, but OCA received only two qualified applicants.

To compensate, the wards were split in half and the complexes were divided evenly between the two qualified applicants.

OCA is still considering applications for the new position, Davis says.

"The applicants must have at least one year's experience in living off-campus and be willing to go through an extensive interview process," she says.

Lauri Pogreba, a sophomore biomedical science major, sees her ward coordinator job as a middleman position.

"A lot of people get intimidated going to an executive officer," Pogreba says. "So, instead they can come to me."

Pogreba served as an apartment council president last year, which she says qualifies her as a person who knows the difficulties involved in off-campus communication.

"Last year as council president, I only knew a few of the other com-

plex presidents," Pogreba says. "So many (council presidents) come in, grab their positions and go."

"I want to help people become more involved with more than just a minimum — we have so much to offer."

Pogreba says OCA is an important organization that needs student support and that the apartment council presidents, the ward coordinators, OCA and the apartment council president get that needed recognition.

OCA's other ward coordinator, Johnny Lindsey, a sophomore business major, is in his third year with OCA and also serves as apartment council president.

"I wanted to get involved," Lindsey says. "The apartment council presidents need a person who can help them."

Lindsey and Pogreba say they have many plans for the apartment council presidents and are excited that the year with 38 complex presidents.

Davis says there is a possibility there will be more complex presidents in the future.

The only qualifications are that the person live off-campus and have an interest in OCA and fill out a petition.

The ward coordinators are currently working with the apartment council presidents on a ballot to be held Thursday to raise money for future activities.

Future plans include a manager's reception, Off-Campus an inter-complex play and fire activities.

Pogreba says, "This is going to try to get everyone involved with each other."

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