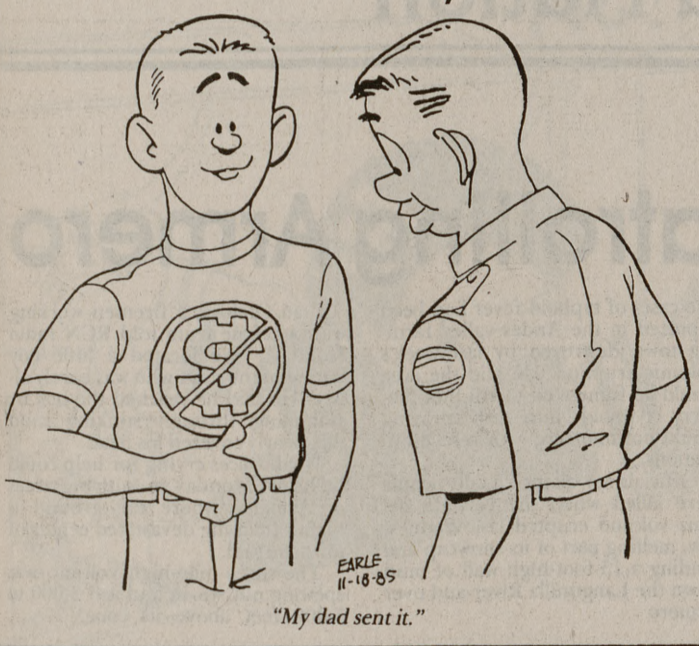


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"My dad sent it."

## Ruiz retrial starts with objections

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The retrial of prison reform activist David Ruiz began Monday after a judge denied, for the second time, defense claims that prosecutors triggered a mistrial last month because they wanted a new jury.

Meanwhile, defense attorney Bob Looney asked the 3rd Court of Appeals to stop the retrial until it decides an appeal arising out of the mistrial, which was caused by a drinking juror.

State District Judge C.C. "Kit" Cooke said testimony in the retrial would start Wednesday if a jury can be selected and there is no stay from the appellate court.

In the trial Ruiz, 43, who was the chief plaintiff in the suit that brought on the major changes in the state prison system, is accused of robbing of John Twidwell, one of four victims of an Austin apartment stickup in September 1984.

"Because my client's (Ruiz's) name has become known across the state because of his prison reform activities, there is no reason to put his life in double jeopardy, which the state is trying to do," Looney argued Monday.

"The state not only invited mistrial (in the first robbery trial) but actually forced it because of prosecutorial misconduct," Looney said.

Prosecutors argued that the defense was responsible for the mistrial.

"Mr. Looney was the one who asked for the mistrial, not us," said Assistant District Attorney Terry Keel. "The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that where several people are involved in a robbery, the trial of one charge does not prohibit trial on any of the other charges."

Cooke declared a mistrial on Oct. 15 after almost two weeks of testimony when he found that a juror had been drinking during recesses.

"My feeling is that we've got a new and distinct case here," Cooke said in overruling Looney's motion that charges against Ruiz be dismissed.

However, Cooke said he would allow time for Looney to take his appeal of the mistrial to the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin.

## MSC Council amends constitution's by-laws

By CRAIG RENFRO  
Staff Writer

The Memorial Student Center Council Monday night unanimously approved amending the by-laws of the MSC constitution.

The amended by-law will switch responsibilities of the executive vice president for marketing and personnel and the vice president for student development, said Executive Vice President for Administration Robert Hawkins.

Under the old constitution the executive vice president for marketing and personnel was in charge of the awards and awards system study committees, while the vice president for student development was in charge of the nominating committee.

The rationale for the amendment is that the executive vice president for marketing and personnel, as chief personnel officer in the MSC, should be in charge of the nominating committee for leadership selection, Hawkins said.

In other business:

• Speakers for the 31st Student Conference on National Affairs, "The Myriad Challenges of the Middle East," were approved.

Former President Richard M. Nixon and former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig will head the discussion of that region of the world.

• MSC Town Hall's request to bring musicians Dan Peek and Amy Grant to Texas A&M was approved.

The Dan Peek concert is scheduled for Feb. 7 and Amy Grant for April 2.

"Our goal is to have good public relations work and to bring programs that normally wouldn't be offered," said David Klosterboer, program review committee chairman.

• The budget for the 1986 MSC Variety Show, "You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet," was approved.

• Cepheid Variable and Aggie Cinema's spring movie series were approved.

The goal of Cepheid Variable and Aggie Cinema is to expose the student body to a variety of films, Klosterboer said.

## Brenham residents still shaken by murders

Associated Press

BRENHAM — On Aug. 11, things changed in Brenham.

The quiet town nestled in the rolling hills southeast of Austin saw its security shaken when teacher Kathy Coppedge, 36, and her 11-year-old son, Casey, were abducted in broad daylight by two men in the parking lot of their church.

Their bodies were later found in the trunk of Coppedge's car. Coppedge had been shot, and her son had suffocated from the 150-plus-degree heat in the trunk.

Now, despite the efforts of police, deputies and the Texas Rangers, and the lure of a \$17,000 reward,

the slayings are still unsolved.

Investigators are baffled. They lack clues, leads and even a motive.

In the town of 11,000 residents, best known as the home of Blue Bell Ice Cream, the people are horrified by the crime and stunned by the intrusion of such violence.

"I used to say, 'we don't have murders in Brenham,'" said Mayor Dorothy Flisowski. "I can't say that now."

Brenham, she says, has lost its innocence.

It had been a typically hot and muggy August Sunday for the 115 or so worshippers at Brenham Presbyterian Church. Coppedge and her

son, two of the congregation's newest members, were seated in a rear pew. Phil Coppedge, her husband, did not attend.

The Coppedges had moved to Brenham in November 1984 when Coppedge was transferred by his employer, Hughes Tool Co. He serviced the oil rigs in the oil fields surrounding Brenham.

Mrs. Coppedge had been hired to teach first grade at Brenham's elementary school.

According to one witness, a car carrying two men with a woman seated between them in the front seat sped out of the parking lot and south down Jackson Street after the church service.

## FALL PHOTO CONTEST '85

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MSC Camera Committee  
Nov. 23

• Prints accepted Nov 18-22 at MSC 1st floor tables 10:00 a.m.-2:00 a.m.

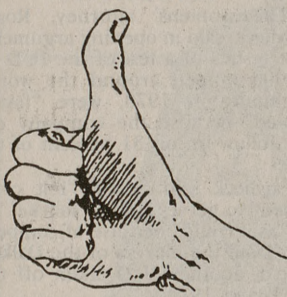
• Print size: 8x10 to 16x20 mounted on 11x14 to 16x20 board

• Entry fee: \$3<sup>00</sup> per print

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For more info. come by Camera Cubicle in SPO (MSC Rm 216) for rule or call 845-1515.

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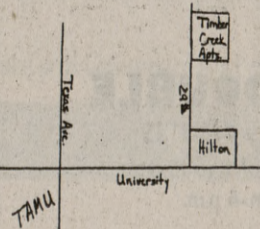
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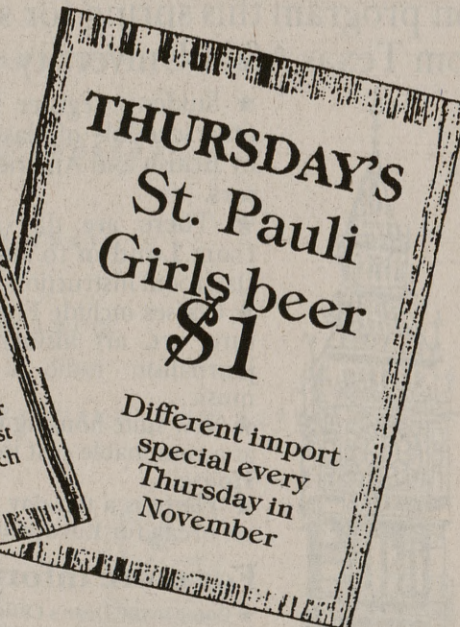
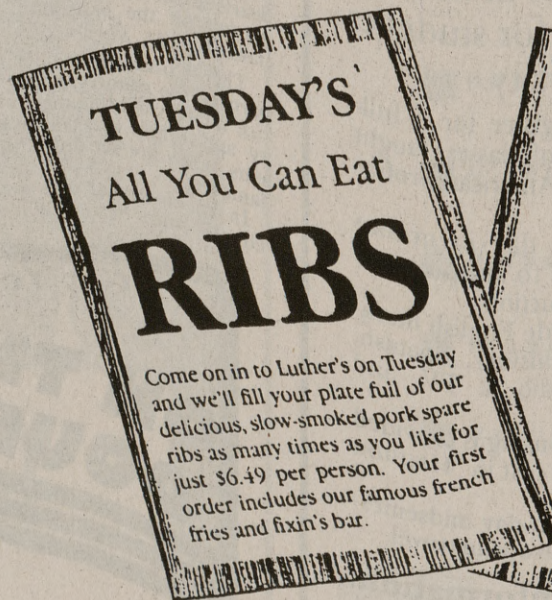
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