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State and Local

A&M former student chosen to speak

Muster to be broadcast worldwide

By TRACEY BABER
Reporter



A.W. Davis

Aggie Clubs around the world will be able to watch a live satellite broadcast of Muster '86.

A.W. "Head" Davis, Class of '45, 1983 president of the Association of Former Students and a local Bryan lawyer for Davis & Davis Attorneys, will speak at the annual Muster ceremony.

Rodger Lewis, program director for KAMU-TV, said, "This is really an exciting thing. When we went to the former students with the idea, they went bananas about it."

Lewis said he will know soon on what satellite and what channel the ceremony will be broadcast April 21.

The telecast will not take the place of the smaller ceremonies around the world, Lewis said.

"The telecast will be integrated into their local ceremony," Lewis said.

And Lewis doubts the campus ceremony will be broadcast locally. "We want to encourage people to attend the campus ceremony," Lewis said.

The broadcast will be sent from A&M on the new microwave trans-

mitter being installed by Western Union.

The signal will be sent by microwave to Houston or Dallas to be broadcast by satellite.

The Association of Former Students will sponsor the telecast unless another sponsor is found, Lewis said.

"Davis was real emotional when he was told about being selected," said Michael Alston, co-chairman of the Muster '86 Speaker Selection subcommittee.

Davis said, "After all the elation, surprise and excitement, you start

to wonder what you are going to say. It's a great thrill."

Alston said Davis was selected because he had the best recommendations from University administrators.

"Administrators told the committee he adds a little humor to his speeches," Alston said. "He keeps his speech positive and upbeat."

The Student Government Muster Committee began the speaker selection process last semester.

Susan Aycok, Muster committee chairman, said the committee gets a list of candidates from the administration and from the Former Students Association.

The committee narrows the list to 10 candidates and more research is done.

The committee talks to former students who knew the candidates while they were attending Texas A&M.

Committee members obtain as much information as they can, from such sources as the archives and old yearbooks.

The selection committee meets

with University officials such as A&M President Frank E. Vandiver, A&M Vice President for Student Services Dr. John Koldus III, Association of Former Students Executive Director Randy Matson, Association of Former Students Associate Executive Director Jim Jeter and others.

Aggie Muster is a worldwide celebration, with roll calls held in each Muster location.

During the ceremony, a friend or relative answers "here" for those who have died.

The name of the deceased Aggie is called at the Muster closest to where the Aggie lived.

The first Muster was held in 1883 as a social event for alumni to relive their college days.

Muster gained worldwide recognition in 1942 when 25 Aggies stationed at Corregidor Island in the Philippines held a Muster during intense Japanese fire.

The first campus ceremony was in 1943. The campus ceremony has always been the largest and the most elaborate Muster.

Jury continues deliberating in Fontenot trial

Associated Press

LIVINGSTON — A state district court jury resumed deliberations at 9 a.m. to decide whether a former junior high school principal killed a football coach out of jealousy over his relationship with a school secretary.

State District Judge John Martin sequestered the jurors Tuesday, but after three hours they adjourned.

Jurors began deliberations after prosecutor Peter Speers alleged that Hurley Fontenot asked coach Billy Mac Fleming for help, shot him twice in the back of the head and then drove around for nearly 10 hours to set up a phony alibi.

"Lies — that's what this case is all about. Lies," Speers said. "The truth

is Hurley Fontenot killed Billy Mac Fleming."

Fontenot, 48, former principal of Hull-Daisetta Junior High School, is charged with murder in the April 12 shooting death of Fleming.

Speers said Fontenot lured Fleming to his pickup truck, then shot him and drove to Houston, where he had told others that he was going to pick up his daughter and move some furniture back to Austin for her.

Speers said Fontenot drove to Houston, then to a racetrack in Louisiana, then to a densely forested area near Livingston and dumped Fleming's body off an isolated logging road.

But Fontenot's attorney, Dick DeGuerin, said prosecutors had not

proven Fontenot's guilt and whenever any evidence failed to prove the prosecution's case, they "destroyed it, misplaced it or simply swept it under the rug," DeGuerin said.

DeGuerin said investigators lost the victim's clothing that might have proved who last came in contact with the coach and failed to collect samples from the scene.

In earlier closing arguments, prosecutor David Walker told the jury contradictions existed between Fontenot's statement, given prior to the discovery of Fleming's body, and trial testimony.

"Nobody else brought in a written statement about what they were doing on April 12, 1985," he said. Fleming had dated Laura Nugent,

a 36-year-old school secretary, and they planned to marry last summer.

But prosecutors allege Fontenot, who earlier dated Nugent, was jealous of Fleming. Even after Nugent told him she was dating Fleming, Fontenot asked her for dates and offered her an engagement ring.

"Hurley Fontenot's interest in Mrs. Nugent — sexual or otherwise — never ended," Walker said.

DeGuerin said Fontenot's relationship with Nugent ended amicably four months before Fleming's death. He also said that Fontenot liked Fleming, respected him as a teacher and defended the coach at a school board meeting to get his contract renewed.

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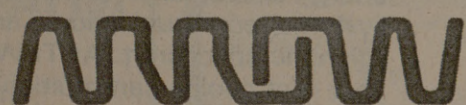
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