

Judge urges racial bias on jury selection to end

Associated Press

DALLAS — A Dallas County felony court judge says he will urge his colleagues to stop prosecutors from systematically striking minorities from trial juries.

State District Judge Ed Kinkeade said, "We took action to ensure there were minorities on the grand jury, and now I think we need to take action to see that the same thing happens with petit juries."

The judge said Monday after The Dallas Morning News published a report that almost 90 percent of eligible blacks were struck from juries by Dallas County prosecutors.

According to the newspaper's eight-month study, of the blacks struck by peremptory challenge, 92 percent were dismissed by prosecutors. In 73 of the 100 randomly selected trials examined, there were no black jurors, and 80 percent of black defendants were tried by all-white juries.

In Texas non-capital murder cases, prosecutors and defense attorneys are given 10 peremptory challenges, which allow them to dismiss jurors without explanation.

Kinkeade said he already has warned prosecutors not to strike potential jurors just because of race.

"We need to decide whether we are going to be part of the solution to this or are they going to let somebody else be part of the solution," he said.

Other states have tried to solve the problem by compelling lawyers to sometimes explain reasons for peremptory challenges.

In California, Florida, Massachusetts and New Mexico, lawyers can be forced to explain their use of peremptory challenges if they are suspected of racial bias.

Prosecutors argue that they select impartial juries by striking those whom they think are sympathetic to the defense's case, and that racial

bias has nothing to do with their peremptory challenges.

Kings County, N.Y., District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman, whose jurisdiction includes Brooklyn, dealt with the problem in 1981 by issuing an office policy prohibiting the use of peremptory challenges to exclude jurors on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

Bryan High student listed in satisfactory condition

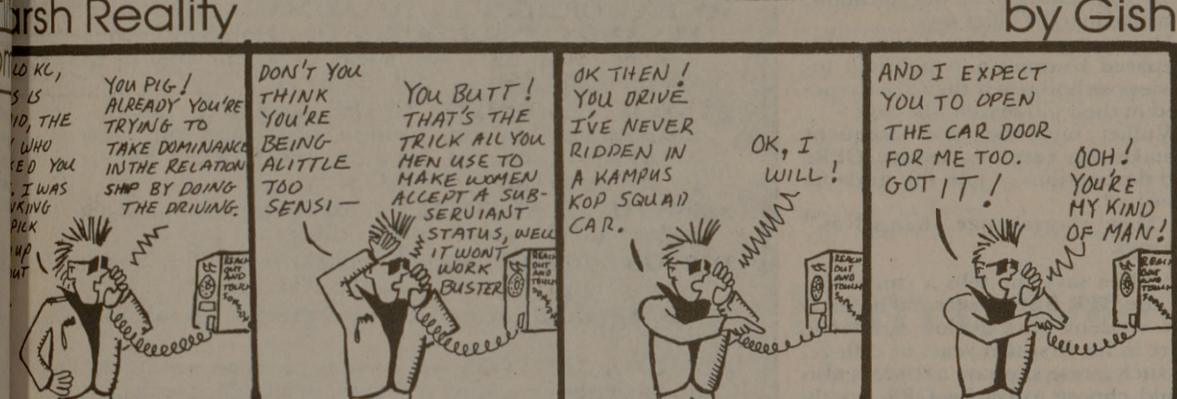
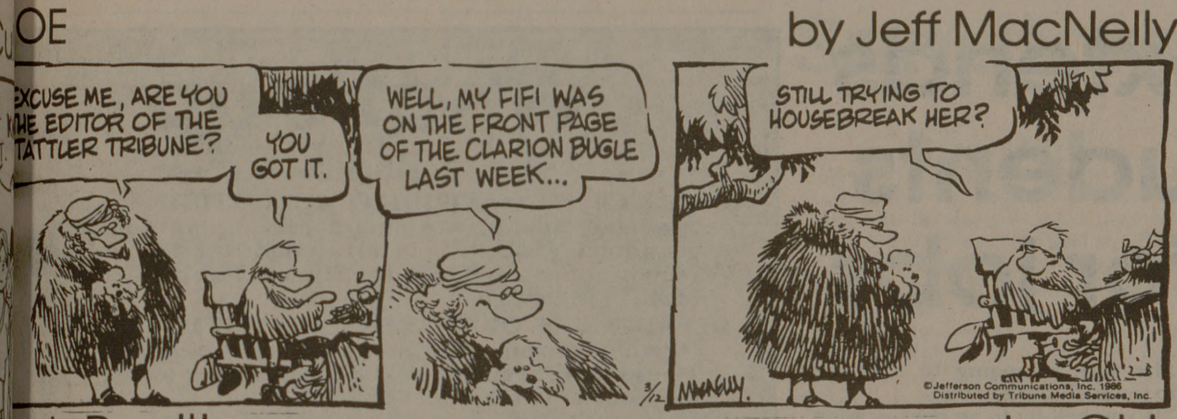
A Bryan High School student shot early Tuesday morning drove himself to school for help. Lt. Irvin Todd of the College Station Police Department said Tuesday.

Brian Allen Golan, 17, a junior at Bryan High School, was listed in satisfactory condition after he was shot in his side at about 7:45 a.m., Todd said.

Golan told the police he was on University Drive east near Texas Instruments lake when he was shot. He drove to the high school where he was given assistance until an ambulance came.

Golan described his assailant as a Mexican male between 25 and 28 years of age, about 6-feet tall with long black hair and a mustache. He said he drove a light blue Chevrolet.

Golan told Todd he was on his way to pick up a part for his truck at a junkyard before school. He told authorities he didn't know why he was shot or who the man was, Todd said.



Mexico to get \$400 million loan from World Bank

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico has arranged a \$400 million loan from the World Bank but need a total of \$6 billion to combat its financial problems, the Mexican government said.

The Treasury Department, in a statement released late Monday, reported that Treasury Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog and other officials held talks last week in Washington with U.S. government, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank about the country's financial needs.

The Treasury said the talks were aimed at analyzing several aspects of the economy; the Mexican government's economic projections, the country's total financing needs, possible sources of financing, and the conditions necessary for loans.

Mexico, badly battered by the recent sharp falls in oil prices, says it must have \$6 billion in fresh money this year to help stay current on its \$96.4 billion debt, the second highest in the developing world, after Brazil. Mexico is expected to pay roughly \$10 billion in interest on the debt, although that sum will probably be lower because of the recent reduction in U.S. interest rates.

Before the turmoil in the oil market, Mexico had planned to ask foreign bankers and international organizations for \$4 billion in new money this year. It is seeking an additional \$2 billion because of the oil price decline.

The Treasury statement said talks with commercial bankers about the debt were expected to begin shortly.

President Miguel de la Madrid said late in February that bankers will have to make sacrifices to help reduce the debt burden and the

Treasury Department has said Mexico wants lower interest rates on the debt.

U.S. Ambassador John Gavin, meanwhile, said he was "encouraged by the awareness of the Mexican debt situation" among U.S. government and banking officials. Gavin made his remarks in a statement released by the U.S. Embassy about the four days of talks he held in Washington and New York.

The Treasury said the World Bank had tentatively agreed to loan Mexico \$400 million to help it recover from the Sept. 19-20 earthquakes that badly damaged parts of the capital. The loan still must get final approval from top World Bank officials but the Treasury said it expected no problems.

It also said Mexican officials conducted intense negotiations with the World Bank on a \$500 million loan that would be used to help

the government liberalize its trade policies and promote exports.

The statement said that Petroleos Mexicanos, the government oil monopoly, had been given an extension from 90 days to 180 days in the terms of \$3 billion worth of bankers' acceptances.

Bank acceptances are equivalent to loans which are paid at some time in the future, when signed by the loan applicant. Payments of the acceptances are guaranteed by banks.

The extension, the statement said, will enable Pemex to continue using the credit line despite the sharp fall in oil prices. The oil monopoly announced last month that it would delay by an average of 30 days payments to its suppliers because of the loss of oil revenues.

Mexico earns about 70 percent of its foreign revenues from sales of its oil to overseas clients.



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