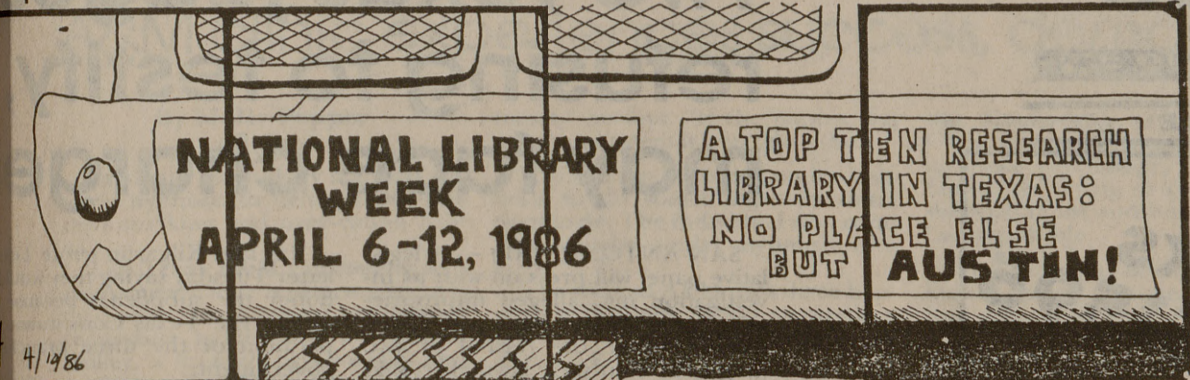


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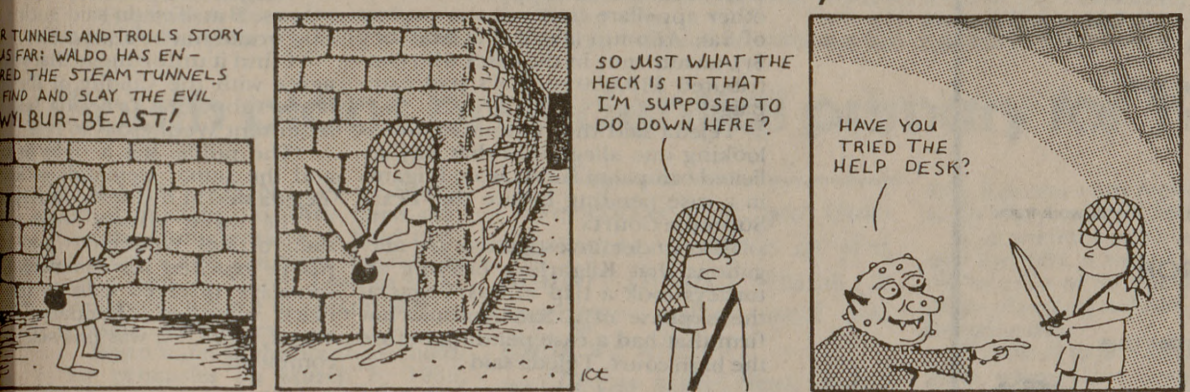
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'Holocaust Syndrome' ruling rejects self-defense appeal

AUSTIN (AP) — A Houston man grew up hearing stories of life and death in Nazi concentration camps cannot use the "Holocaust Syndrome" as part of his defense against a murder charge, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals ruled Wednesday.

Peter Alan Werner was sentenced to 10 years in prison for the April 1982 shooting death of Tarbell Griffin. Travis allegedly damaged property belonging to Werner's friend, chased Travis and killed him, according to court records.

Werner's lawyers sought to introduce evidence that the defendant was from "Holocaust Syndrome," which causes him to overreact in situations he perceives as self-defense. The testimony was barred as irrelevant by the trial judge. That decision was upheld by the Court of

Criminal Appeals in a majority opinion written by Presiding Judge John Onion.

"It did not establish that (Werner) did in fact act under the influence of the Holocaust on the night of the offense," Onion said.

Dr. Rudolph Roden, a psychiatrist who examined Werner, said Werner's father is a concentration camp survivor, and several other family members died in the camps.

Roden, himself a concentration camp survivor, is an expert in the effects of the Holocaust on survivors and their families.

His testimony was barred, but what Roden planned to say was that Werner "grew up with stories of concentration camps told to him by his father and grandmother, who related seeing people beaten to death who did not fight back."

Roden said that although Werner, then 21, was not thinking directly about the Holocaust when he pulled the trigger, it might have had a "subconscious effect on him."

Werner's dislike of injustice was colored by the concentration camp stories, according to Roden, and the act of the victim in "running into a car and leaving the scene was an unjust act . . . and he (Werner) sought to right the wrong by detaining (Travis) for the police," according to Roden.

"It was his state of mind to defend himself because he comes from a family that did not," he said.

Onion said, "All that can be inferred from this evidence is that (Werner) may have been more susceptible to actions in self-defense."

New Mexico declared refugee 'sanctuary'

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Gov. Jeffrey Anaya received a certificate of thanks from the New Mexico Conference of Churches Tuesday for declaring New Mexico a sanctuary for Central American refugees.

The Rev. Shirley Greene, conference president, said that while not all the organization's 600,000 members agreed with the Good Friday statement, there was a general consensus that it does represent a passionate response to a difficult human situation.

Anaya said Tuesday he was awaiting an official invitation before deciding whether to attend a meeting of the Austin City Council today.

The Austin council is considering a resolution similar to Anaya's.

Anaya said if Austin officials issue a formal invitation, he would attend the meeting, otherwise he would send a prepared statement to the council.

"We are double checking to make sure the city council and the mayor would welcome our appearance,"

Anaya said. "We don't want to force our views on anybody."

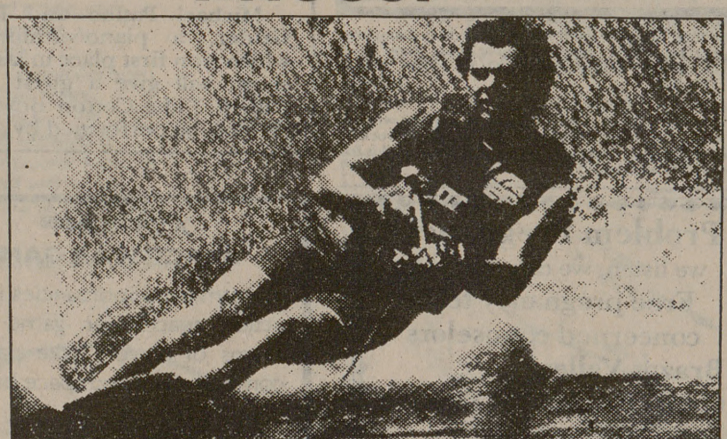
The proclamation has been criticized by U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service officials as a "cruel hoax" that will draw more illegal aliens to the state.

But the governor has said since the action was largely symbolic and offers no more legal protection than in other states, he believes it is unlikely that it will bring more aliens to New Mexico.

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