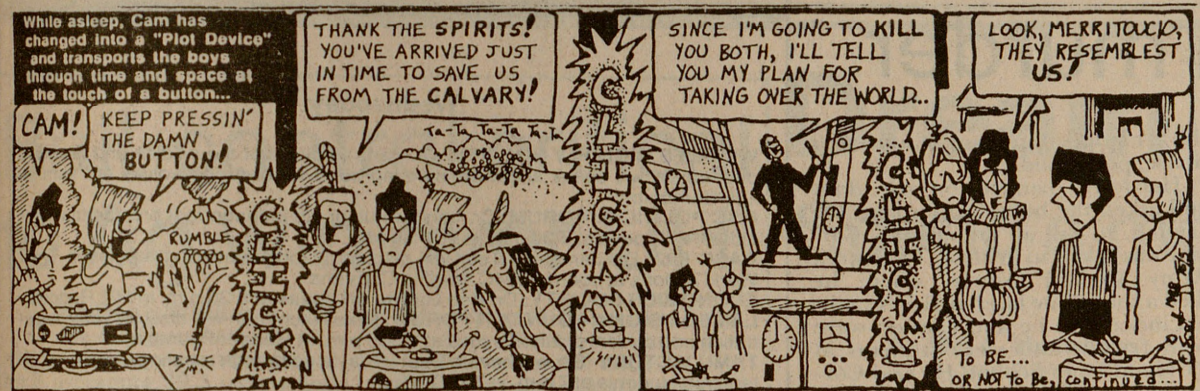


Warped

by Scott McCullar



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Jury convicts man for officer's murder

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A 27-year-old ex-convict who claimed he shot a Beaumont police officer in self-defense last spring was convicted of capital murder Tuesday.

The eight-woman, four-man deliberated less than two hours before returning the verdict against Michael Lee Lockhart, who was charged in the March 22 slaying of Beaumont patrolman Paul D. Hulsey Jr.

Lockhart, who also is wanted in slayings in Indiana and Florida, sat motionless as the verdict was read and his attorney, Charles Carver, declined to speak to reporters outside the Bexar County courthouse.

However, Jefferson County prosecutors said they were thrilled, but not surprised about the verdict.

"I'm absolutely pleased," said District Attorney Tom Maness. "The jury weighed it cautiously and came back with the proper verdict. The credit goes to a tremendous investigation on the part of many law enforcement agencies."

The sentencing phase will begin Thursday.

The trial was moved to San Antonio because of the extensive publicity in Beaumont. Lockhart's trial gained notoriety in San Antonio when he jumped out of a third-story window at the Bexar County Courthouse in an unsuccessful escape attempt.

He took the stand last week and said Hulsey provoked an attack that led to his death.

But Maness said in closing arguments Tuesday that it was Lockhart who provoked Hulsey, who was trying to track down the driver of a car involved earlier in a high-speed chase.

He also said Lockhart learned to

be cool and collected when committing crimes after spending time in the Wyoming penitentiary on burglary charges.

"He has no regard for any life except his own," Maness said of Lockhart. "If you believe him, then you give him a stamp of approval to kill a police officer. If this is the man you want to believe then put him out there on the street, in the mall with your daughter."

But Carver, a Port Arthur attorney, said Hulsey was too eager to make an arrest and did not follow police procedure, and that Lockhart was only protecting himself.

He also said police and prosecutors did not present all the evidence that might have vindicated his client.

"They want you to find Michael Lee Lockhart guilty and later kill him because they want to show this community that we are good law-abiding citizens," Carver said.

"They want you to sacrifice this man so the appetites of the police officers in Beaumont can be satisfied because they lost a friend," Carver said.

Hulsey, 29, was an eight-year veteran of the Beaumont Police Department. His father, Paul Hulsey Sr., was a former police chief in Galveston.

"My son worked all his adult life in the system. He believed injustice and I believe this day justice was carried out," Hulsey said after the verdict.

"I grieve very much at the loss of my son and I grieve at the loss of any police officer because when you kill a police officer you kill a piece of America," he said.

Authorities race to get adult trial in youths' case

HOUSTON (AP) — The first attempt by federal authorities in the Southern District of Texas to certify juveniles for trial as adults turned into a race against the clock, officials say.

Federal prosecutors were seeking to have two Colombian teen-agers certified to stand trial as adults under a little used federal law on charges they possessed more than \$2 million in cash and cocaine.

But speedy trial provisions in the statute meant the government could have to bring the youths to trial by Friday or risk dismissal of the charges.

It has become commonplace in state courts to certify juveniles as adults, but attorney John Lenoir said this is the first time federal authorities in the Southern District of Texas have attempted the procedure.

The youths, aged 15 and 16, were arrested last month, along with five other Colombians, and indicted on charges of felony possession of 50 kilos of cocaine. Authorities also seized \$1.3 million in cash.

Because of the large amount of money and narcotics involved, Lenoir said he believes he has no recourse except to hold the two accountable as adults.

"If we simply return these juveniles back to Colombia on deportation proceedings without criminal charges, we would be sending the wrong message to the cocaine traffickers," he said. "It wouldn't be long, we would be deluged with underage drug runners."

Under federal law, a person must be 18 or older to be charged with a felony.

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