

Mission trucker's guard says men tried to burn him

MISSION (AP) — A security guard for the truck driver in the Alton school bus tragedy said three men doused him with gasoline and tried to set him on fire early Monday.

Alexander Murillo said the men jumped him as he patrolled behind the home of Ruben Perez.

Perez was the driver of a soft drink truck that collided with a school bus in September, pushing the bus into a water-filled pit. Twenty-one students died, most from drowning.

Chief Deputy Cito Luna with the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Department said Murillo reported finding three men in Perez's yard apparently trying to set the house on fire.

"He said they had pistols and rifles, with masks on their faces," Luna said. "They gagged him with a pair of socks and tied his hands with shoelaces. They poured gasoline on him and tried to set him on fire."

But the matches would not light, Murillo told deputies.

"They were kneeling down trying to set him on fire," Luna said. "He kicked one and that one knocked another one down and the guard ran to the house. He woke up the family and told them to call police."

The assailants escaped by the time a nearby sheriff's deputy arrived, Luna said. Investigators have leads in the case, he said, but would not elaborate.

The 24-hour Wackenhut Corp. security guard protection was hired by Valley Coca-Cola, following reported threats of retaliation against Perez, a Coca-Cola

spokesman said.

"Shortly after the incident, upon the request of the family, we hired security for the family," Julie Smith, spokesman for McAllen-based Valley Coca-Cola, said Monday.

She said Perez, 25, remains on suspension from the company with pay, pending the outcome of an investigation of the bus tragedy. Perez said his brakes failed just before the crash at a rural intersection.

The 21 junior and senior high school students died

"They gagged him with a pair of socks and tied his hands with shoelaces. They poured gasoline on him and tried to set him on fire."

— Cito Luna, chief deputy

after the truck Perez was driving passed through a stop sign the morning of Sept. 21 and hit the Mission Consolidated Independent School District bus. The bus was knocked over a 40-foot cliff into a water-filled pit by the roadside.

Fifty-nine other students suffered various injuries on the bus. The bus driver, truck driver and truck driver's assistant also were injured.

Parapsychologists say they fall victims to Christian labeling

DALLAS (AP) — Purveyors of parapsychology are complaining that they are innocent victims of fundamentalist Christians, who have mounted an offensive against Satanic religions that has persuaded many school officials to drop or tone down Halloween celebrations.

A number of psychic fairs have been canceled nationwide recently under pressure from Christian groups, including one in Garland this past weekend and an earlier one in San Antonio.

"It belted up because we got calls from some Bible beaters who thought it was cult-related and Sa-

tanic," said John Lehman, owner of the North Dallas County Farmers Market, where the Garland fair was to have been held.

"I hated to buckle under to pressure, but every customer you lose is one that's lost for good," Lehman said. "It's probably not worth offending people."

Psychic fairs feature demonstrations by practitioners of parapsychological arts such as fortune telling, tarot card reading, and "aura audits."

In addition, a number of vendors show up to hawk materials relating to new age beliefs, such as quartz

crystals, music and books.

"There's been quite a few psychic fairs canceled lately," said Len Ponnath of Southwestern Parapsychology, Inc., who had planned to attend the show.

"Christians are saying psychics are Satanists, too, and we're all getting lumped in together," he said. "But it's not the same thing."

Al Burt, who sells books and jewelry oriented to new age beliefs that promote peace and worldwide harmony, said he thinks the oppression being suffered by many parapsychological practitioners will not diminish soon.

through this regular session and into the Senate, and when elected, to make sure that our young people have an opportunity for jobs," he said.

Smith called drug abuse a "serious problem" for the state of Texas. "Drug abuse is a national problem and it's particularly acute in our district," he said. "I caution those who see interdiction and stopping inflow of drugs from outside of our state not to put all hopes on that effort."

"We have got to deal in our families, in our schools and in our homes and our churches with fundamental problems of addiction to drugs to stop the demand," he said. "That has to start with the family, which I feel is the very fundamental value of the society."

Smith talked of the Brazos Valley as one community in which the students of Texas A&M are vital to the business interests of the area. He said that state funding of education is important because "if the University is cut back in funding, there's not enough (students to bring) money in the local economy to support local business."

When asked about his position on a state lottery, he said he would personally vote against it, but that he would support getting it on the ballot for a referendum so that the constituents can decide on it themselves.

Abortion, Smith said, is one of the most difficult political decisions that must be dealt with.

"As a man, frankly, it's very difficult for me to feel that I have the empathy with the problem that a

woman would," Smith said. "My position is that I oppose abortion on demand or for sex selection; I oppose public funding for abortions because there are people that feel very strongly against it and I don't think we in government should take their money against their will and use it for something they consider immoral."

"I think that we should have regulation of abortion clinics, which would have the same standards in abortion clinics that we do in other health care facilities."

Smith said he supported the possibility of having a student on the board of regents of state universities. This proposal, which present 5th District Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, Class of '71, sponsored during the regular session of the 71st Texas Legislature, favors having students' interests represented on state schools' governing boards through the use of a student representative.

"I would support an active role of student representation with the board of regents," Smith said.

Smith served as a Bryan city councilman from 1975-1978 and then as the Bryan mayor from 1978-1983. He has been a state representative since 1985. Smith served four years of active duty in the Air Force and later organized the Richard Smith Company, a real estate company that is presently known as Coldwell Banker/Richard Smith Realtors.

Smith has been married 31 years to his wife, Norma, and they have three daughters. The Smiths are members of First Baptist Church of Bryan.

Smith

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the imposition of such a tactic."

As sponsor of House Bill 1, which has led to the need for two special sessions of the state legislature so far, Smith has in-depth experience with the issue of workman's compensation reform. He said he is working to create more jobs in Texas by trying to decrease the cost of workman's compensation (insurance for employees to cover medical treatment for on-the-job injuries). Smith said this, in turn, would attract more industry to the state and provide more job opportunities for youngsters once they complete their education.

"There is a loss of tens-of-thousands of jobs in this state because of the crisis we have faced in workers' compensation insurance, in which plants are actually leaving the state or refusing to come to Texas and go into business because of the costs of workman's compensation," Smith said.

He said the cheaper costs of workman's compensation in other states is the reason for the loss of possible industry to the state. An example he cited was that apparel workers in North Carolina pay 84 cents per \$100 of payroll for the insurance while apparel workers in Texas pay \$8.11 per \$100 of payroll.

"I intend to continue the fight (for workman's compensation reform)

Coed

(Continued from page 3)

tion is that the winner brings recognition to her university, said Wendy Veczko, Miss Coed America Program spokesman. Miss Coed America represents her university while visiting other universities and participating in parades.

The competition is based on the overall impression the coed makes rather than a point system. Areas of judgment are beauty, communication skills, poise, talent, personality, charisma and college spirit.

State winners will meet in Los Angeles in February for the national pageant, Veczko said. The national winner goes on to represent the United States in the Miss World Coed competition in the Spring of

1991.

Applicants for statewide competition should call the program headquarters for an application, Veczko said. Applications are reviewed and coeds are interviewed over the phone.

"We pick a state winner from the applications and the interview," Veczko said.

The Miss Coed America Program is aimed at providing students interested in careers in communications, music, entertainment, dance, modeling, show business and television and movie production with valuable career experience and preparation, she said.

"The program really opens the right doors and allows them to meet people in their field," Veczko said.

The competition is open to all single undergraduates ages 18 to 24 who are enrolled in a college or university.

Program organizers are also searching for female bands, instrumental groups, singers, dance teams and cheering squads interested in performing at the national program.

Women interested in being crowned Miss Coed America or in performing in the program should call 904-448-6927 or write to Miss Coed Program, 8833 Coventry Court, Jacksonville, Fla. 32257.

Safety

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lookout for potentially harmful jokes, such as egg throwing, Kretzschmar said. Students can be arrested for that, he said.

"Halloween's a time for tricks and treats, but they're going to have to watch their tricks," he said. "The main thing is to look out for somebody else."

"You've got to watch out for kids in the neighborhood — you've got to," he said.

Kretzschmar said that although DWI arrests do not increase significantly during Halloween, alcohol does influence some tricks because it

increases boldness.

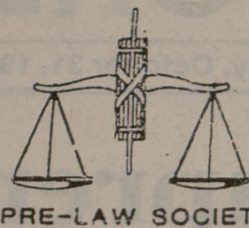
"Be responsible — that's the key word," Kretzschmar said. He suggested these safety measures for college students:

- Watch out for children and their parents.
- Be careful tricks do not hurt people or property.
- Do not drink and drive. Students should know their alcohol limit.

If students are not careful, Kretzschmar said, someone will get hurt.

"If I were them, I would go to a pre-planned adult party," he said. "You can have a good time without going out and getting drunk and hurting somebody."

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CINEMA THREE
315 College
693-2796

Look Who's Talkin' (PG-13)	7:30
	9:30
Worth Winning (PG-13)	7:15
	9:15
Parenthood (PG-13)	7:00
	9:20

POST OAK THREE
1500 Harvey Road
693-2796

Fat Man & Little Boy (PG-13)	7:00
	9:20
Sea of Love (R)	7:05
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MANOR EAST III
MANOR EAST MALL 823-8300

LAWRENCE OF ARABIA (70mm) # PG 7:45

AN INNOCENT MAN # R 7:10 9:35

THE BEAR # PG 7:20 9:30

PLAZA THREE
226 SOUTHWEST PKWY 693-2457

BLACK RAIN # R 7:00 9:30

GROSS ANATOMY # PG 7:20 9:40

NEXT OF KIN # R 7:05 9:35

SCHULMAN SIX
2000 E. 29TH STREET 775-2463

KILL ME AGAIN # R 7:25 9:50

OLD GRINGO # R 7:05 9:50

\$1 DOLLAR MOVIES \$1

UNCLE BUCK PG 7:20 9:45

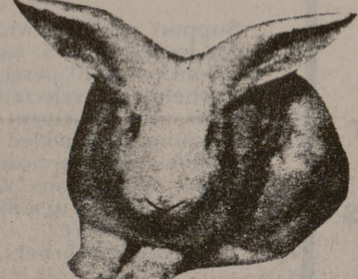
FIELD OF DREAMS PG 7:10 9:40

WEEKEND AT BERNES PG 7:15 9:30

BATMAN PG 7:15 9:35

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