

Restaurants await Supreme Court decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — Can a taco and burrito fast-food restaurant chain prevent a copycat competitor from duplicating its design and the bright interior colors and neon-striped exteriors that add up to a festive, sun-splashed atmosphere?

That is the question the Supreme Court must decide in a Texas case that could have a broad impact beyond the Mexican food business. Experts say the high court's ruling could affect federal trademark law and intellectual property rights in areas such as

computer software. The court Tuesday heard oral arguments in a case pitting two Texas-based Mexican restaurant chains against each other — Taco Cabana International versus Two Pesos Inc. A ruling is expected by June.

Not in dispute is that Houston-based Two Pesos borrowed heavily from Taco Cabana in creating the layout and appearance of its restaurants. Taco Cabana, based in San Antonio, was first on the scene, starting in 1978.

Two Pesos was begun seven

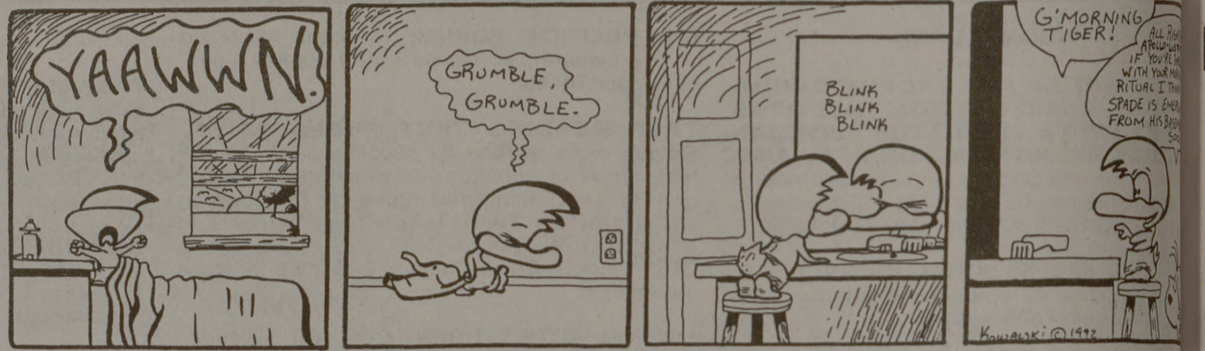
years later by the founder of the Chi-Chi's restaurant chain and a former Chi-Chi's executive. They expanded rapidly in and out of Texas — but not into the home turf of Taco Cabana.

The dueling food emporiums are competing head-to-head in several markets, including Houston, Dallas and El Paso.

Taco Cabana filed suit in district court in Houston in 1987, winning its claim that Two Pesos illegally copied its distinctive restaurant motif, legally known as "trade dress."

Spade Phillips, P.I.

by Matt Kowalski



(the story so far . . .)

by thomas deen



FISH OUT OF WATER

by GREGORY GOWAN



whoop

by William



Friend recalls story of classmate's last stand in Vietnam War battle

Continued from page 2

people and had quite an important job to do." Byron had already received several awards for his efforts to help the people of South Vietnam.

On Sunday, Aug. 23, 1964, The Birmingham News' front page headlined "Four Stood Ground, Died in Viet Ambush."

The following paragraphs are condensed from Peter Arnett's original Associated Press story:

The last time anyone remembers seeing him, Capt. Byron Stone was blasting a Browning automatic rifle into the coconut trees. First Lt. William D.H. Ragin had grabbed a machine gun from a dead Vietnamese crew and was firing point blank at about 60 advancing Viet Cong guerrillas who, a few minutes earlier, had been mistaken for government reinforcements.

Sgt. Tom Ward was facing destiny somewhere further away with a Ranger company he was advising. And First Lt. James Coyle was pumping bullets at the enemy with a carbine.

Then a bullet spun Coyle to the ground. Stone, who was nearby, appeared to be about to run to his aid.

The Viet Cong also started moving in and Coyle picked up his carbine again and started firing.

That was the last anyone could remember of four Americans caught Thursday evening in probably the bloodiest 60 minutes of fighting in South Vietnam this year.

They apparently stood their ground while death and confusion prevailed around them. But they too were to die in the Communist ambush that overwhelmed and routed a government Ranger and infantry unit and inflicted 206 casualties.

The last time Maj. James McKnight saw Stone was March 1964, when he left Quang-Tri, South Vietnam. In February 1965 McKnight, who had been Byron's commanding officer since March 1963, presented the Distinguished Service Cross — one of the nation's highest military honors — to Stone's parents.

The citation accompanying the medal reads: "Undaunted by extremely heavy enemy gunfire, Capt. Stone completely disregarding his own safety and bravely exposed himself to the full force of violent enemy attack to cover the withdrawal of friendly troops.

"He demonstrated fortitude

and perseverance by holding his position for one hour and 40 minutes while annihilating a great number of enemy troops. Despite the overwhelming onslaught, he covered the withdrawal of the friendly forces with outstanding effectiveness and continued his courageous efforts until mortally wounded.

"Capt. Stone's conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism actions are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the military service."

Stone's name is among those on the Vietnam Memorial in front of Duncan Dining Hall. The medals and medals of heroes are forgotten corners of our mind and attics.

Stone is listed among the men he died with — four names among more than 50,000 on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. His grave marker is one of many more thousands in Arlington Cemetery.

For many of us it takes a special day to recall these memories and the sacrifice made for our freedoms.

A day like Muster.

Do you love football, basketball, and volleyball?

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Applications are available in Room 013 of Reed McDonald.

Applications are due for summer and fall terms on April 22, at 5 p.m.

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