

Convicted killer welcomes Easter execution

The Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — Richard Beavers speaks calmly, laughs easily and contends he's at peace with himself and with God.

And the convicted killer, seated in a small cage outside death row, says he's ready and looking forward to his execution Easter Sunday night for a murder in Houston in 1986.

"It's really a great day to die, to leave the body," Beavers, 38, said Wednesday. "I'm accepting responsibility for my actions, whatever the consequences may be."

"I think laying down my life is one way to apologize. I just hope the courts don't grant the rights to attorneys (to intervene)."

For the second time in recent months, the

Virginia native is set to die for killing a Houston restaurant manager during an abduction and robbery.

Last September, only a few hours before his scheduled voluntary execution, Beavers changed his mind and allowed attorneys for the Texas Resource Center to sign documents allowing appeals on his behalf. The center, which arranges legal help for condemned inmates, won a reprieve for him from the U.S. Supreme Court.

Beavers said his change of heart then was meant to better prepare his mother in Alexandria, Va., for his death.

"It's been a hard time making this decision," he said. "But over the last few months, I've prepared."

"I believe a man reaps what he sows. I feel I

have a debt to pay, a penalty for a crime. It is a hard pill to swallow."

Asked if he was looking forward to his lethal injection, he said: "I am. I know what to expect. I have no fear of death. I have life eternal. I know I'm going to have a new life."

Beavers said he wanted no attorneys pursuing appeals.

"I don't acknowledge them. They're trying to claim control," he said. "I just don't want lawyers going in there lying on my behalf. That's why I made my own motions to make myself known what my wishes are."

Beavers earlier this month told a Houston judge he wanted to die and to set his date as soon as possible. Judge Woody Densen set his death for April 4.

Sharp

Continued from Page 2

"There is only one difference between the Democrats and the Republicans," Sharp said. "They both will spend every dime in the treasury and the republicans feel bad about it."

Sharp said when the process of restructuring began he had a set of goals he was determined to accomplish.

"We stood up at the very beginning of this process and said we would be the first in the nation to abolish food stamps," Sharp said.

Under the new system, the low income population will still be fed, but at a lower cost to the country.

"Starting in September and October in Chambers County, food stamps will start to become nonexistent, and by Jan. 1996 they won't exist at all," he said.

The food stamp system has been abused for too long, he said.

"The new lone star card will be used only in grocery stores, and can only be used to purchase food, not cigarettes," Sharp said. "This will eliminate millions off the cost that never should have been there."

He said the food stamp system is a good example of what the other 961 recommendations are about.

"They still do everything that you expect or contract the government to do, but wind up costing a lot less in the process and make it

easier for people in the process to administer," Sharp said.

The lack of competition is a negative side of the government, he said.

"Government won't let you as a business operate a monopoly, but every time a government agency meets they create a monopoly," Sharp said.

When you poll veterans you understand how monopolies effect the population, he said.

"When veterans are polled they say the GI Bill was the best program ever created because we gave them vouchers and made every school compete for them," Sharp said.

"They consider the V.A. hospitals to be the most disappointing program they saw because it created a monopoly."

Korem

Continued from Page 1

you see visually will tell you to react emotionally," he said.

Korem said the toughest person to deceive is the person who likes to read.

"When you read a book, you can control how fast the information enters your mind and what images you have," he said. "When you watch television, it causes you to react emotionally without thinking."

Korem has interviewed gang

members in ten countries and found several traits they all share.

"Every youth I've interviewed, with the exception of very few, comes from a family with divorce, abuse or at least one dysfunctional parent," he said.

Korem said kids who come from broken families need to find an adult who they can call, day or night, when they need help.

"I encourage kids who come from that type of home and can't find an adult to go to a teacher, policeman or parish member to help them find an adult," he said.

Korem's parents divorced when

he was thirteen. He grew up in a broken home with a lot of abuse.

"I once ran away from home and spent two nights in the woods," he said.

Korem was raised in the Jewish faith and converted to Christianity when he was seventeen.

"The reason I became a Christian is because when I looked at the resurrection, I accepted it," he said.

Korem became an illusionist when he was a teenager. He said he studied the crucifixion and ruled out all possibilities of illusion.

"There was nobody I could call on but I could get on my knees and

call on God," he said. "When I called on him he never failed me."

Korem said the Institute of Social Research reported that students who had spiritual values important to them were the least likely to join gangs.

Korem has worked with 400 at-risk kids in the past six years and none of them has joined a gang.

He has spoken at six schools over three days. The profits from the shows will go to the community.

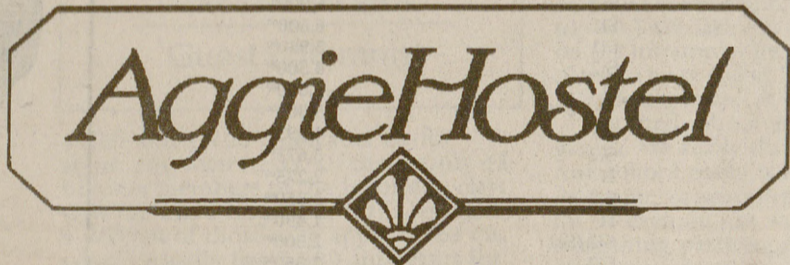
Korem gave the same presentation to Texas A&M students Monday night as part of Resurrection Week.

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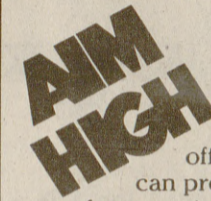
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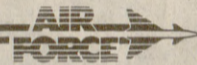
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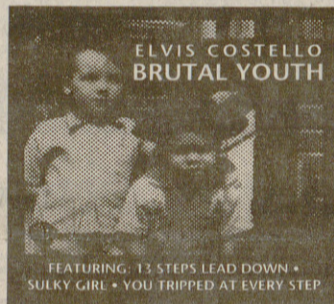
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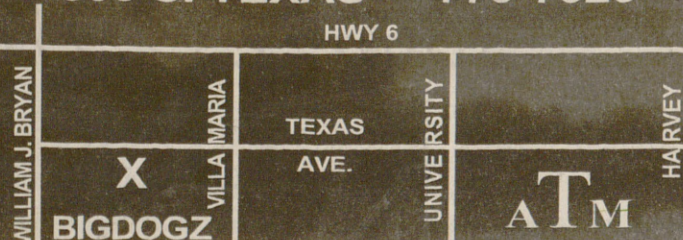
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