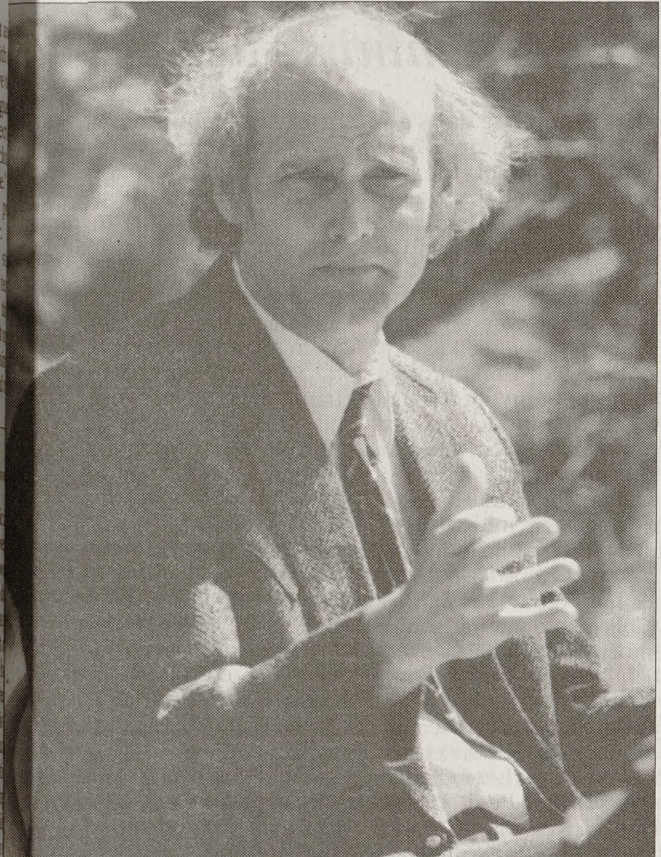


Separatists go on trial defiantly



FILE PHOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Separatist **Richard McLaren** was ordered out of the room Monday after claiming the court had no jurisdiction over him.

Jury selection resumes after McLaren's removal

ALPINE, Texas (AP) — Separatist Richard McLaren remained defiant Monday as he went on trial for engaging authorities in an armed standoff, refusing to participate in his own defense and bombarding the judge with objections.

The leader of the Republic of Texas movement was ordered out of the room after protesting that the court had no jurisdiction over him and repeatedly interrupting jury selection.

"The people of this country are fed up with this crap. It's lies, lies, lies," said McLaren, who believes that Texas was never legally annexed by the United States and remains an independent nation.

He said authorities are involved in a conspiracy along with the people he's accused of plotting to kidnap and that his case belongs before a federal court in Washington, D.C.

"I'm sorry. I can't proceed. We can't proceed. We have to object every five seconds," McLaren told state District Judge Kenneth DeHart before being removed for the second time.

The judge had given McLaren several warnings.

Robert Otto, McLaren's chief lieutenant and co-defendant, was also removed after telling DeHart he would have to continue with the "five-second objections" and proceeding to do so.

"That's fine," Otto said as he was ushered out. "I'm not going to participate in

fraud and under the color of law."

Both McLaren and Otto have court-appointed attorneys who were in the courtroom Monday, but they have decided to represent themselves.

McLaren and Otto are charged with engaging in organized criminal activity for allegedly plotting to kidnap two neighbors in the Davis Mountains Resort, a rural subdivision 175 miles southeast of El Paso.

The April 27 abduction, carried out by McLaren's Republic followers, sparked the weeklong standoff with nearly 300 state troopers and Texas Rangers who sealed off the resort to wait out McLaren.

The siege ended May 3 when the group agreed to lay down its weapons.

Two other group members will go on trial in December on the same charges. All could face five to 99 years or life in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted.

Jury selection continued Monday afternoon after the defendants' removal.

District Attorney Albert Valadez asked prospective jurors whether they had been influenced by media coverage of the standoff, which generated international attention, or had any firsthand knowledge of the siege.

He also told the jury pool that DeHart would impose sentencing if the defendants are convicted and asked if it would bother them that they wouldn't decide punishment.

'Malibu Grand Prix' killer talks

Kenneth Ray Ransom set to die Tuesday for grisly 1983 murder

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Even one of the men convicted of participating in one of Houston's worst single mass murders refers to the killing scene as grisly.

"I know that people hate me," Kenneth Ray Ransom says. "I understand that. I've had to deal with that for the past 14 years. There's nothing I can do about it."

Ransom was set to die Tuesday night for what became known as the Malibu Grand Prix killings. An accomplice, Richard Wilkerson, was executed four years ago. A third participant, James Randall, is serving a life prison sentence.

Ransom, now 34, was a 20-year-old parolee the night of July 21, 1983 when he, Wilkerson and Randall walked into the Malibu Grand Prix amusement center in southwest Houston just before closing. They robbed the place of about \$1,300 and killed four young men who worked there, stabbing each victim repeatedly.

"Every time I drive by that location, I think about what that scene looked like," J.C. Mosier, a former Houston homicide detective who worked the case, said Monday. "In that restroom, there was at least 2 inches of blood on that floor. It was like they had a water leak. I'll never forget that. It's the most blood I'd ever

seen at one location. It was awful."

Medical examiners had difficulty determining if the victims also had been shot because the bodies had been stabbed so many times and there was so much blood.

The victims were Anil Varughese, 18, night manager of the business and a college pre-med student, and three employees: Roddy Harris, 22, and brothers Arnold Pequeno, 19, and Joerene Pequeno, 18. Varughese's body was found in an office. The three others were in the rest room.

"I laid awake that next night thinking about those people," Mosier said. "They put them in the stalls in the rest room and took one out each time and killed them. I kept thinking about the people waiting inside waiting their turn and what horror it must have been."

"I'm not going to lie and say I don't want to live," Ransom, in his first comments about the case, said last week from inside a cage at the Texas death row visiting area. "Life and freedom go hand in hand. So if I have to die, I'm accepting it. I'm not afraid of dying. The one thing I say is that I'm afraid of what's beyond death. I don't know if I'm going to a better place or if I'm going to be banished to hell."

Ransom, who had previous prison terms for burglary and auto

theft, described himself as a "video freak" who accompanied Wilkerson and Randall to the arcade so Wilkerson, who had been fired two weeks earlier, could pick up his final paycheck.

"I didn't have any idea they were going to kill," Ransom said. "Every-

"I know that people hate me. I understand that. I've had to deal with it for the past 14 years. There's nothing I can do about it."

**KENNETH RAY RANSOM
SET TO DIE TUESDAY FOR 1983
'MALIBU GRAND PRIX' MURDERS**

thing is just — I want to say 'surreal.'

"I'm definitely sorry. I'm not sorry just for myself. I'm sorry for Richard Wilkerson and James Randall and their families and I'm definitely sorry for the victims and their families."

Testimony at his trial, however, showed Randall and Ransom took a butcher knife from a dish drainer at Ransom's girlfriend's house. The knife, broken in two, was found lat-

er near the murder scene. The girlfriend also described how the three split up the money and how Ransom was wearing a class ring and watch police determined belonged to Arnold Pequeno.

Ransom said he didn't even count the money he got, but bought a pair of shoes and some jeans to replace jeans that had been bloodied in the massacre. He didn't find out his share was just over \$300 until his trial.

"Three hundred dollars for four lives," he said. "That doesn't even come out to \$100 for each victim. That's what hurts."

"It's pretty evident I'm going to die," Ransom added. "But I told my lawyer from day one I wasn't guilty of capital murder. Maybe accessory or aiding and abetting but not capital murder."

While insisting he did not do the stabbings, Ransom blamed Wilkerson for forcing him to participate.

"Fear makes you do some stupid things," he said. "I know I held one (victim) down while Richard threatened my life."

"I was offered a life sentence from the first day to testify. I won't accept it and I didn't accept it. I might be wrong but I feel I'm right. You've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything. I stood my ground. I lost."

Cards Maxed Out?

Give Us A Shout!
Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS), a non-profit agency, can help you get out of debt. Services are completely free and confidential. We have an office at 3833 S. Texas in Bryan. To make an appointment to talk to a counselor, call:
1-800-873-2227
Visit us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.cccsintl.org>

AB _ DE _ GHI _ KL _
NOP _ RSTU _ WX _ Z

If you can fill in the blanks, you can work for the 1998 Aggieland.

The Aggieland yearbook is now hiring for the position of **INDEXER**

If you are a responsible, motivated person who knows the alphabet (heck, we don't even care if you have to sing it) pick up an application in Room 004 Reed McDonald today.

PAPA JOHN'S
Tuesday Nite: Beat the Clock
Time You Call is the Price You Pay!
(from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.)
On a Large 1 Topping Pizza
Tips are appreciated

College Station 764-PAPA (7272) 1100 Harvey Rd.	Bryan 268-PAPA (7272) 3414 East 29th St.
---	--

FEN-PHEN
REDUX-PONDIMIN-(DEX)FENFLURAMINE

**UNDISCLOSED DANGERS
SERIOUS HEALTH QUESTIONS
GET STRAIGHT ANSWERS**

800-447-6443
PEARSON & PEARSON, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW HOUSTON, TEXAS.

SOME CASES LIKELY REFERRED OR WORKED JOINTLY.
NOT CERTIFIED TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION.

LEARN TO FLY NOW AT UNITED FLIGHT SYSTEMS

We're now located at College Station Easterwood Airport. Learn to fly the Cessna Pilot Center Exclusive Integrated Flight Training System at United Flight Systems, *the experienced flight school.*

- Private thru advanced training
- Aircraft rental, Pilot Shop
- F.A.A. approved 141 school
- VA Eligible Benefits

United Flight Systems, Inc.
Easterwood Airport
College Station, TX
409 260-6322

Bonfire Reload Crew

Training session TWO

Featuring: *The Yell Leaders* Tuesday October 28th
MSC 226
7:00pm *T-shirts Available*

Zeta Tau Alpha and the Panhellenic Council extend this invitation to attend a Risk Management Forum

Please join us for a discussion concerning hazing, alcohol, risk management, and how to protect our members at social functions. There will also be guest speakers.

Date: Tuesday, October 28th
Place: Rudder, Room 300
Time: 7:00 p.m.

The Princeton Review MCAT Verbal Accelerator

Question: Students with what undergraduate major score highest on the MCAT?
A. Biological Sciences B. Physical Sciences C. Math/Statistics D. Humanities

Answer: D

In fact, Humanities majors score highest not only on the test as a whole, but on the Biological Sciences section as well.*

46,591 Only The Princeton Review offers
applicants **Verbal Accelerator**
- a course designed to hone these skills.

16,253 409 696 9099
positions* 800 2REVIEW

*data from 1995 test takers, applications for admission to US Med Schools for the 1995-96 academic year

A DECADE OF... JACKOPIERCE

Bids farewell to Texas A & M

THE FINAL SHOW

wednesday
November 5th
shadow canyon
one night only!

Brought to you by **CDP**

Tickets available at Marshall Squires, Squires' Bookstore and Steve Chikara (10-5). VIP tickets available at Marshall Squires only. Sold as a first come first serve basis. After a decade of recording and performing, JACKOPIERCE has graciously decided to part ways. From their early days at Canyon to their first years at Shadow Canyon, JACKOPIERCE has been one of the absolute biggest supporters of JACKOPIERCE. Gary Thorne and Jack O'Neil have decided to say thank you to their friends, the Aggie, with a very special show. On Nov 5th, in the intimate and rustic setting of Shadow Canyon, College Station will EXPERIENCE A DECADE OF JACKOPIERCE.

Popular Talent