

Prosecutors move from Zamora to Graham case

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Prosecutors who put former shipman Diane Zamora behind bars for the murder of a school romantic rival are now setting their sights on her boyfriend.

"We're only half done," lead prosecutor Mike Parrish said. "The one who pulled the trigger still needs to be brought to justice."

Robert Swofford, David Graham's attorney, said he will not accept a plea bargain offer by the state that would give his client a year sentence for allegedly killing a 16-year-old girl.

"That's out of the question," said Swofford. "We will go to trial with this case and you will see a very different trial than Diane Zamora's."

Graham. She said others — classmates and a former best friend — who testified that she also confessed to them were either mistaken or lying.

At the request of Jones' parents, prosecutors opted not to seek a death sentence in either case. Zamora is eligible for parole after 40 years.

Her father, Carlos Zamora said this morning on NBC's Today Show that Zamora was "doing well" although she was numbed by the guilty verdict.

"My Diane's not a murderer," he said.

Gloria Zamora said she was not surprised that her daughter did not display emotion in the courtroom Tuesday.

"I reacted in the same way that Diane reacted," Zamora said. "We're both real private and we were hurting inside both of us."

Defense attorney John Linebarger said on the program he would appeal Judge Joe Drago's admission of Graham's confession, and his refusal to allow jurors to consider the lesser charge of murder against Zamora.

"Diane said she faked a confession to take the blame for him, but what excuse does he have?"

Bill Lane
Fort Worth Attorney

Some observers said Graham's attorneys have an even more difficult task.

"He also has a confession that can be admitted as evidence," said Fort Worth attorney Bill Lane, who watched the Zamora trial.

"Diane said she faked a confession to take the blame for him, but what excuse does he have?"

A juror revealed Tuesday that it was Zamora's confession that sealed her fate.

"No matter how you look at it, Adrienne Jones would still be alive if not for Diane Zamora. That seemed obvious even though the specifics were sometimes cloudy," the juror told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Oprah producer says nothing was false about 'mad cow' show

AMARILLO, Texas (AP) — Oprah Winfrey's staff had no reason to doubt the truth of her talk show about "dangerous foods" and didn't set out to harm Texas cattlemen, the program's executive producer testified Wednesday.

Dianne Hudson flatly denied that there was anything false about Winfrey's April 16, 1996 show, which discussed whether U.S. cattle herds were at risk for the decade-long British epidemic of mad cow disease.



Winfrey

The cattlemen attribute a cattle market drop to the show and blame Winfrey, her production company and a vegetarian activist guest for \$12 million in losses.

"I'd never heard of those people or those companies and they were never referred to in the broadcast," said Hudson, referring to Paul Engler, Bill O'Brien and other plaintiffs suing her.

The defense began presenting testimony a day after the federal judge in the trial tossed out the part of the case filed under Texas' food defamation law.

However, U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson rejected a defense request to throw the case out entirely.

Jurors returned from a four-day break to hear the lawsuit as a common-law business disparagement case, which forces plaintiffs to prove not only that Winfrey's show was false but that she meant to hurt the beef industry.

"The mad cow segment of the show focused on a feeding practice done in portions of the beef industry, as we understood it, not all of the beef industry," Hudson said.

Cadet testifies comrade planned raid at Marine Military Academy

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A suspended military school student testified Wednesday that his roommate enlisted his help in attacking another student to "get even."

But Christopher Lee Boze said what began as a typical hazing ritual at the Marine Military Academy almost turned deadly when Jeremiah George Jensen cut the student's throat.

"Did you know you were going up there for a killing that night?" Assistant District Attorney John Blaylock asked Boze.

Jensen and Boze, both 17, are charged with attempted murder and aggravated assault in the Oct. 6, 1997, attack of Gabriel Cortez, 18, in the barracks of the Harlingen boarding school.

However, Boze agreed to plead guilty to a charge of deadly conduct in exchange for testifying against his former buddy. Defense attorneys contend he is lying and that Jensen was asleep during the pre-dawn attack.

Boze told jurors that the evening before the attack, Jensen asked him if he would "help him get even with Cortez." Boze acknowledged that both he and Jensen disliked the other cadet.

Boze said he agreed to help, believing they were going to "throw a blanket party," a hazing ritual in which a cadet is covered with a blanket and beaten with socks filled with either soap or padlocks.

Blanket parties are "fairly common" at MMA, he testified.

At 3 a.m. the next day, Boze testified, Jensen woke him and the two snuck down the hall and up the stairs of the Bravo Company barracks to Cortez's room.

As Boze stood watch, Jensen jumped the sleeping cadet, he testified. The roommates then ran back to their quarters as Cortez began screaming.

It was not until later, Boze testified, that he realized the extent of the attack. He said Jensen told him the following afternoon that he had gone to visit Cortez in the sick bay and was "surprised Cortez was not hurt worse because he'd applied a lot of pressure."

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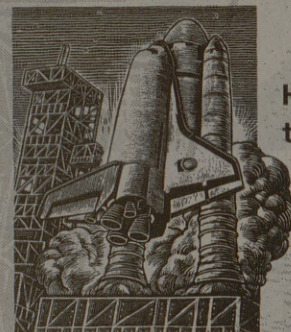


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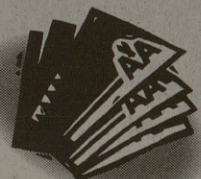


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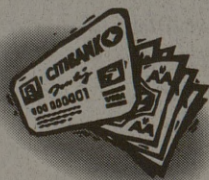
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