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## Shooting victim returns to school

### Justin Laird comes back to life left behind after church shooting

WHITE SETTLEMENT, Texas (AP) — A bullet ended the football career of Brewer High School sophomore Justin Laird, but it did not keep him off the field for the team's season finale.

The 16-year-old made a pledge to himself Sept. 16, the day after a shooting rampage at Wedgwood Baptist Church that left him paralyzed from the waist down, to attend Brewer's final game against Saginaw.

On Friday, the former junior-varsity lineman — wearing his No. 55 jersey — was back on the field for the coin toss. Afterward, his father wheeled him back to his place in the south end zone.

"He's been looking forward to this night for a long time," his mother, Lori Laird, is quoted as saying in Sunday editions of *The Dallas Morning News*. "It's just good for him to be out of the rehab clinic and be out here to enjoy a night of Texas high school football. This was his goal when he started rehab, so now he's achieved that one."

His next goal, she said, is to be home in January and return to the Brewer campus for the next semester.

"It's not so much the school work that he misses," she said. "He just wants to get back here and hang out. Be a normal teen-ager."

Laird's parents have shielded the shy teen from the media. They want his life to be as normal as physically possible. But he has agreed to do one interview with the Channel One Network that will be aired nationwide in high schools.

Laird had just gotten his driver's license on Sept. 15 hours before making the regular Wednesday night visit to Fort Worth's Wedgwood Baptist Church. Then, one shot changed his life forever.

The Lairds realize how fortunate they are that he survived Larry Gene Ashbrook's rampage, which killed seven and injured six others.

"I don't think any of us have ever been angry," his mother said.

"We just cherish the every day that we spend. You never know how much life can change."

Justin's night ended with James Roller handling the game ball after Brewer won.

"I thought that was something to do, just give him a game ball without a lot of fanfare," said.

"It's been a long year. High School has been through a year with the lows of this one."

"We take it day by day," father, John Laird. "It's in our hands now."

## Mistrial declared in Dorsey murder trial

DALLAS (AP) — Prosecutors are to meet Wednesday with a judge who declared a mistrial in the capital murder trial of Leon David Dorsey, a man accused of killing two people at a video rental store in April 1994.

After two days of deliberations, jurors told state District Judge Manny Alvarez Saturday that they were split 11-1 for conviction.

"They were hopelessly deadlocked," Alvarez said. "It was disappointing to me that it happened. We spent a lot of time and money on this case."

"We'll have to start all over," he said. Prosecutors said they plan to retry Leon David Dorsey IV, 23.

He's charged in the robbery and fatal shooting of Blockbuster employee James Armstrong, 26, who was assistant manager of the store in Dallas' Casa Linda area. Another employee, Brad Lindsey, 20, also was killed.

Dorsey will remain at Lew Sterrett Justice Center until the case is resolved, said his attorney, Doug Parks. The suspect is serving a 60-year sentence for an unrelated murder of a convenience store owner in Ennis.

The seven-woman, five-man jury deliberated more than five hours Friday and said twice it was at an impasse.

After two hours on Saturday, jurors said they had no hope of reaching a verdict.

When Alvarez granted the defense motion for a mistrial, Lindsey's mother rushed out of the courtroom, saying she was too angry to talk about the case.

"It's real frustrating," lead prosecutor Toby Shook said. "It's been five and a half years since their boys were killed. My heart really goes out to them [the relatives]."

Jurors declined comment as they left the Frank Crowley Criminal Courts Building. Attorneys, who spoke with jurors about their deliberations, said they promised the judge that they wouldn't discuss why the panel deadlocked.

Parks said only that the juror who held out simply was not convinced by the prosecution that Dorsey was guilty.

The defense maintained that the prosecution had no physical evidence linking Dorsey to the crime: no fingerprints, no weapon and only a fuzzy tape from a store surveillance camera.

No charges were filed for four years after the slayings until the case was assigned to two veteran detectives who said Dorsey confessed after he was re-questioned about the case.

The judge said he and the lawyers in the case have other trials scheduled, so he did not expect to schedule a retrial before February.

## Southern Baptist book sparks protest in Houston

### More than 100 join city's Hindu leaders in picketing

HOUSTON (AP) — More than 100 people peacefully picketed one of the nation's largest churches yesterday over a booklet that calls upon Southern Baptists to pray for Hindus' deliverance from the "power of Satan."

"We want all people to understand that religious intolerance is rearing its head in this country," Houston attorney Amit Misra, a leader of the coalition of local Hindu groups who organized the protest said.

"Some people aren't aware of the type of hate that is being preached by mainstream churches."

The booklet, distributed recently to coincide with Diwali, the major Hindu festival of lights, said Hindus have no concept of sin or personal responsibility and "worship gods which are not God."

"Pray that the darkness and the power of Satan will be broken," the guide asks.

Similar guides have been published previously by the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board asking Baptists to pray for the conversion of Jews and Muslims. A booklet focusing on Buddhists is upcoming.

Second Baptist Church members said they were aware last week of the planned demonstration outside of the massive west Houston church complex.

"I think it is our God-given responsibility to pray for them to be converted," Second Baptist member Tara Imani said after speaking to one woman who was demonstrating.

"She asked me what I think about [the Hindu belief there are] many paths," Imani said. "I said that there is one path. If there were many paths, then [Christians] would be fools. If they were right, it would mean Jesus was a liar. God was a liar."

Imani added that she was at first enraged when she saw the picketers, carrying signs with messages such as "Religious intolerance is un-American." However, she noted that the protesters' presence could allow them to "see a little of Jesus in our eyes and hearts."

Misra said he has no problem with the Baptist belief in proselytization, but that the booklet is a hurtful example of carrying out the mission.

At least one leading Baptist agreed. "We believe we ought to preach the Gospel to everybody, too," Rev. Charles Wade, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington and executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas said. "But we don't agree

## Baptist view on W under group's scrutiny

FORT WORTH, (AP) — A group of moderate Texas Baptists meeting in El Paso may reject an amendment to the denomination's statement that some believe is eulphoric women's subservience.

The Rev. Clyde Glazener of Fort Worth, who is expected to be elected president of the 2.7 million-member of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, disapproved national leadership's dictum for them to submit to their husbands.

"We may affirm the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963, but we do not have that Neanderthalism," Glazener, the pastor of First Street Baptist Church, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The Texas convention, which meets through tomorrow at the El Paso Convention Center, is the largest state convention in the denomination's history. It has 15.7 million members nationwide. Southern Baptist Convention, but it has been distancing itself from the conservative national group.

During the 1998 Southern Baptist Convention in Salt Lake City, the group adopted an amendment to the denomination's statement of beliefs that outraged many Baptists.

The convention's statement of beliefs said wives should submit to their husbands and defined marriage in solely heterosexual terms. While it is not binding, pastors and other employees and others are expected to ascribe to it.

The article was the first change in 25 years to the Baptist Faith and Message.

with how they are doing it. It's like target on people and say, 'We're not you.' Nobody's converted like that."

The Houston protest coincided with protests to a weekend visit to India by John Paul II, who was burned in a week by Hindu nationalists. The protests out against violence against that Christian minority.

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