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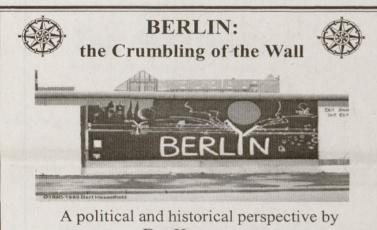
**World Wrestling Federation** Survivor Series - Pay-Per View Sunday, November 14, @ 7:00 p.m.



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Dr. Krammer Professor of History at Texas A&M University November 15, 1999 at 7:30p.m. Rudder 302

followed by a reception and photograph exhibition in the Jordan Conference Room (MSC 223J)

# Trial begins for final suspect in Byrd murd gy prosecuting attorney changes court strate inti

JASPER (AP) — Shawn Allen Berry was an active participant in the dragging death of a black East Texas man last year and may have been influenced by the racist beliefs of two other white men now on death row for the same killing, prosecutors said yesterday.

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"Maybe some of what they were saying rubbed off on him," Jasper County District Attorney Guy James Gray said as Berry's trial began. "Maybe he was a thrill seeker. ... Maybe he wanted to play with a rattlesnake and see what happened."

Berry, 24, faces life in prison or death by injection if found guilty of capital murder in the June 7, 1998, chaining and dragging of James Byrd Jr.

Byrd, 49, was walking along a Jasper County road after midnight when he was offered a ride by Berry, who had King and Brewer in his truck.

The four then drove to a remote area where a scuffle broke out. Byrd was attached to the truck with a 24 foot logging chain, then dragged nearly three miles along a bumpy country road in what authorities said was a racist hate crime.

Byrd's shredded and dismembered body was found after daybreak.

"I think by the end of the case, you're going to decide Shawn Berry is simply not the kind of guy that would do something like this," Joseph C. "Lum" Hawthorn, Berry's attorney, said in opening remarks to the jury

The trial began yesterday after State District Judge Joe Bob Golden denied a defense motion to move the trial from Jasper, about 125 miles northeast of Houston, because of intense media coverage and jury prejudice.

In the previous two trials, it was near the conclusion of the testimony when prosecutors showed jurors the logging chain and played a video that retraced the killing route.

Yesterday, however, Hawthorn played a copy of the video the first morning of testimony during cross examination of a police detective.

The defense attorney also gave jurors a look at the heavy chain, defusing a dramatic moment prosecutors had built in their cases against King and Brewer.

Bush disputes Byrd's classifier 990 came

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) spokesperson for Gov. George W. Bush yesterday disputed a claim by James Byrd Jr.'s family that he never telephoned his condolences or offered to attend the funeral after the Jasper man was dragged to

his death behind a pickup truck. "That's wrong," Bush said yesterday in South Carolina when asked about the family's claim. He said he called a member of the family and "has the evidence to prove it.

"You need to pay attention to. the chain because that's going to come up later and it will be relevant," Hawthorn said, but declined to elaborate.

"It's a pretty good move," Gray said of the chain's early entrance. We really didn't intend to rattle the chain in this one like we did in the first.

Attorneys for both sides agreed Berry lacked the same racist history as King and Brewer, known

Later in the da gan what show spokesperson Scott Nriod of cruise provided The Association S with a copy of the telepid yesterday. that shows a two-mir NTSB Chain from Bush's private phoving the first b governor's office on the pm June 10, 1998, to James corder, said t la Byrd's home telepiter the autop Jasper. e New York-to The Byrds contend thas what appo

the front-runner for the blled descent can presidential nomination about 19,000 er contacted the family. The recorder vard, and the

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for their white supren toos, writings and beliefs. King was sharing and with Berry at the time

der. Brewer, who ser time with King, had arm his home in Sulphur St northeast Texas about the earlier and was staying mal breakdo Grav said Byrd's blow mputer failur Gray said Byrd's bloc

Berry's clothing and s that Berry drove in his and "it is inevit, the chain was his.

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# Television stations broadcast false report of shoot

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Erroneous reports of a shooting at an elementary school alarmed parents and embarrassed broadcasters who later said they had relied on secondhand information.

The misunderstanding began when a janitor at Coker Elementary School told police Tuesday morning that six bullets had hit his car as he drove to work

Francisco Flores, who said he sustained minor injuries from shattered glass, filed the report after arriving at the campus.

Two television stations and at least one radio station, relying on information gleaned from monitoring police and emergency medical service radio transmissions, reported a shooting at the school. One report said up to 14 students had been hurt.

When you consider Columbine High School and the overenthusiasm [of local reporters], those elements went together to result in the wrong information," Victor Garcia, a spokesperson for the stomach just drops," Julie Sarsavera, ansure that this North East School District said.

"We believed we had confirmed the story, but we were wrong."

## - Jim Boyle **KSAT** news director

Dozens of parents who heard the reports rushed to the school, where they learned their children were safe.

'When you hear that there was a shooting at your daughter's school, you age 50 years and your

parents who pulled their children our ered as the last for the day said.

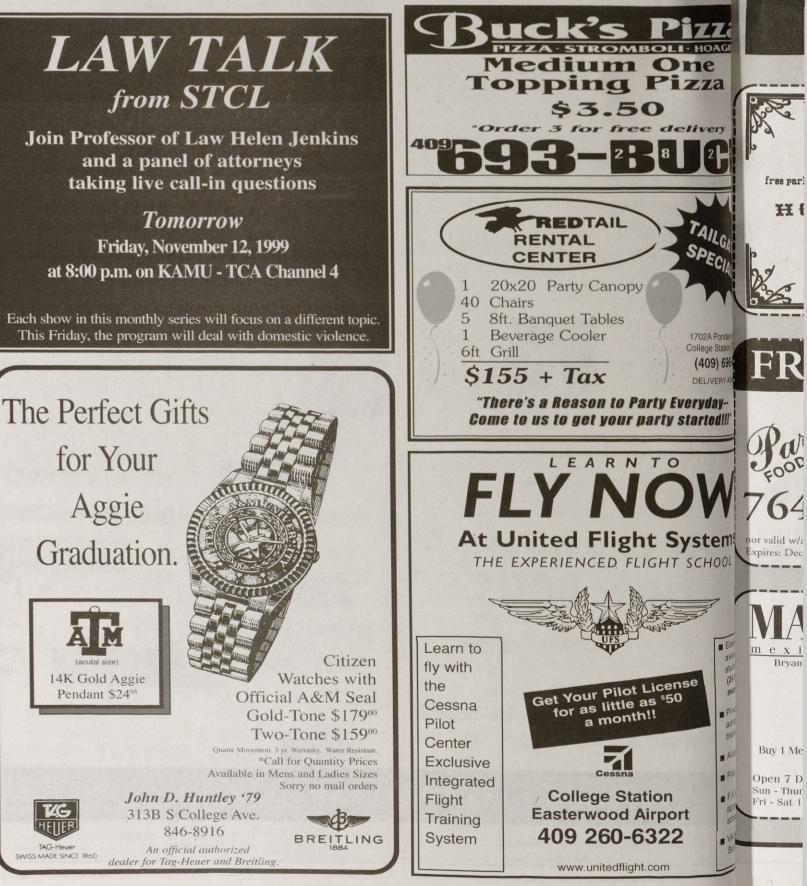
"I was freaking out thinking that **w**n minutes be ter had been hit or maybe killed," Russ said. "I was getting ready to got heard 14 kids had been hit by flyingga went to pieces.

Television stations KSAT and KENS, at radio station KTSA, took up to 15 minute rect the reports.

KSAT news director Jim Boyle said he thorized the report.

"We believed we had confirmed thes we were wrong," he said. "We need to a ter job double-checking our information KENS news director Nick Simonette

reporters wanted to give viewers accurate mation from police as quickly as possible



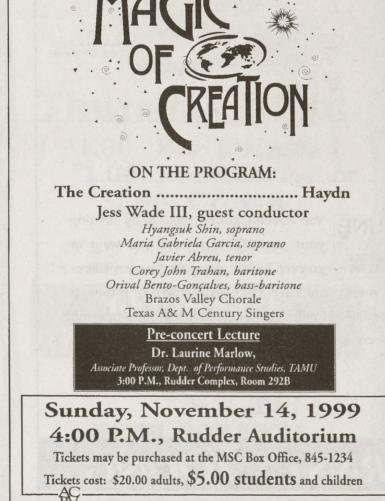


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Dr. Marcelo Bussiki, Music Director



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