

## Slaying suspect held in Britain

HOUSTON (AP) — It could take months or years to return the lone suspect in the deaths of two Mormon missionaries to Texas from Britain so he can be retried using new DNA evidence, a Travis County assistant district attorney said.

Robert Elmer Kleasen, who narrowly avoided the electric chair 25 years ago, was behind bars in a British prison Wednesday at the request of U.S. authorities.

Officials at Scotland Yard said the 69-year-old Kleasen was ordered detained Monday on two extradition warrants related to

“We [knew Kleasen’s] sentence was going to be up.”

— Bryan Case  
assistant district attorney

the Oct. 28, 1974, robbery-slayings of Mormon missionaries Mark Fischer, 19, of Milwaukee, and Gary Smith Darley, 20, of Simi Valley, Calif.

Kleasen was nearing the end of a three-year British prison sentence.

“We knew he was there. We also knew his prison sentence was going to be up,” said Bryan Case, a Travis County assistant district attorney.

Case said prosecutors are prepared to try him using DNA results that detected blood of one of the missionaries on his pants.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Cocaine shipment seized at Texas border

HIDALGO (AP) — A hidden compartment in a vehicle crossing the border from Mexico yielded cocaine with an estimated street value of about \$3 million, according to federal agents who arrested the car’s driver.

U.S. Customs Service inspectors confiscated 75 pounds of cocaine from the vehicle crossing the McAllen-Hidalgo International Bridge.

The seizure was the largest of 18 drug busts made by U.S. Customs officials in South Texas during the past week, said Rick Pauza, a U.S. Customs spokesman.

He said a 32-year-old suspect was arrested and charged Friday by a federal court with importation and possession of a controlled substance with the intent to distribute.

Pauza said agents discovered the narcotic hidden in a compartment behind the back seat of a 1992 Grand Marquis being driven by Jose Pablo Rios-Ramirez, a Mexican citizen.

Law officers have confiscated 968 pounds of marijuana and 161 pounds of cocaine from area locations since Oct. 17.

## San Antonio resort plans may be halted

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — If environmentalists in Central Texas have their way, a developer’s plan to build a resort on the recharge zone of a massive underground water reservoir will be put on hold until a geological survey is done.

They are urging the San Antonio City Council not to approve a special tax district that would support the project over the Edwards Aquifer. San Antonio is the country’s largest metropolitan area that has relied solely on groundwater for its municipal needs.

The aquifer also supplies Texas’ largest springs, which contain federally endangered fish and other creatures.

Annalisa Peace, an environmentalist who has pushed for extra aquifer protection, said she would rather have council members vote the district down until city officials learn more about the property.

And state Rep. Art Reyna, D-San Antonio, who helped craft the law that allows the council to create the tax district, is now advising the coun-

cil not to approve the development and to instead approved to buy the land and turn it into a public park.

Reyna said he initially supported the legislation to make sure the city’s financial interests were protected. But he now believes it would be an environmental mistake.

“It was a project that, frankly, I did not know enough about at the time of the bill,” he told the *San Antonio Express-News* in Thursday’s editions.

The opposition comes as talks are under way between city staff and Lumberman’s Investment Corp. for the company to build up to three golf courses, two hotels and 3,000 homes, businesses and apartments on 2,855 acres it owns in northeastern Bexar County.

Lumberman’s says the resort is an environmentally friendly alternative to what it could do with the property. Under a plan filed 15 years ago, the company has the legal right to build up to 9,000 apartments, businesses or homes on 1,812 acres of the property.

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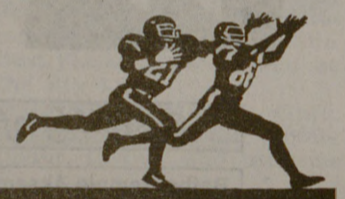
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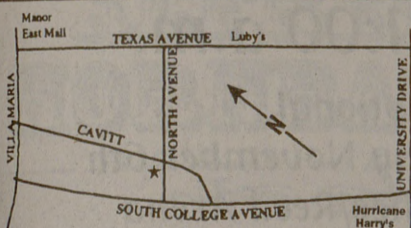
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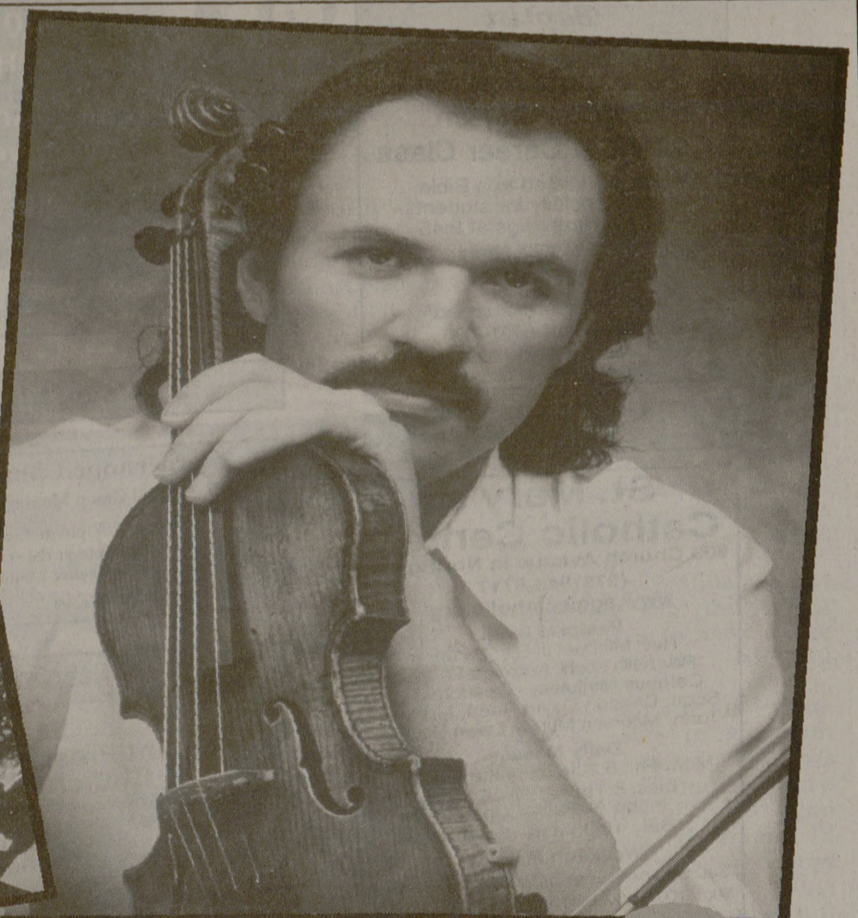
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