

County residents discuss indictment

By ELIZABETH SIMPSON
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Some McLennan County residents said they were relieved to see District Attorney Vic Feazell indicted on federal racketeering charges, but others think he's been framed.

Most residents interviewed at random throughout Waco said they are anxious for a trial to clear up the rumors that have been running rampant.

"Seems like there's been some strange things going on lately," said John R. Reese, 41. "I've heard a lot of rumors — under the table comments. I think if it's serious it should all be brought out in open court."

But some think Feazell is innocent of the charges. "I think they're trying to stick it to Vic," said Michael Jirasek, 25, of Waco.

"They've been investigating him for quite a long time and they have not found anything. And what they have right now is nothing," he added.

Jirasek, a McLennan Community College student, said he thought the indictment was politically motivated and it could indeed affect the Nov. 4 election for district attorney. "Some people will take this and think the worst," said Jirasek, who voted Republican in the primary. "But people who know anything about the case will see it for what it is."

Another MCC student put her remarks

more bluntly. "It's a witch hunt. And (Assistant U.S. Attorney) Jan Patterson is the Wicked Witch of the West," said the woman, who said she was afraid to give her name. "She might come after me."

But one man, who asked not to be identified, said the trial should clear up any doubts as to who is guilty of misconduct. "If Feazell is found guilty, he should be locked up. If he's innocent, let him go." But he said until Feazell is tried, someone else should be prosecuting cases.

"If some old boy steals a cow, do you think he'd want someone prosecuting him who might be guiltier than he is?" said the man, who has been a McLennan County resident for seven years.

Most people thought the indictment would not hurt or help Feazell in the November election.

"It will be divided just like it always has been," said one 29-year-old woman, who refused to be identified. "I think he'll still get elected."

McGregor resident Robena Seely agreed. "I believe he's innocent, and I like him," she said defiantly. "Anyone for him will stay with him."

Others reserved comment until after the trial. Millie Singleton said she was shocked to find out about the indictment.

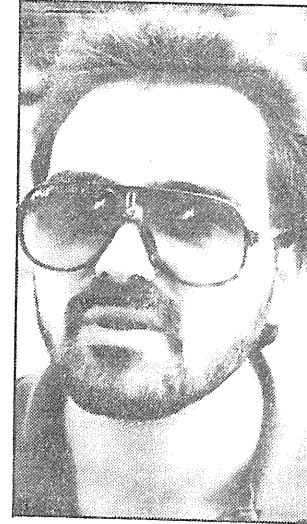
"I want to believe he's not guilty. But



John Reese



Millie Singleton



Michael Jirasek

I'm going to wait and see. Too many people jump to conclusions. I think it's being blown out of proportion. Because of the media, he's guilty before proven innocent instead of the other way around," she said.

John Davis, a Waco Transit System bus driver, said conversation has been thick with talk about Feazell since the arrest. "Some thought it was good, others think he'll get out of it," he said. "To be honest, I think he'll get out of it, too."