





DAVID WILLIAMS  
SHERIFF  
TARRANT COUNTY  
CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-2084

Officer Floyd Clark

**TARRANT COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU  
INTER OFFICE MEMO**

**DATE:** November 1, 1993  
**TO:** Officer Floyd Clark  
Corrections Center  
**FROM:** Hamp Scruggs  
Awards Committee Chairman

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**SUBJECT:** Annual Award

You have been selected to receive the Annual Award for Officer of the Year for the Tarrant County Corrections Center Facility. We congratulate and commend you for your outstanding achievement in the department. A copy of the nomination form along with this memo will be placed in your personnel folder.

We would like to encourage you and your family to attend our Awards Banquet so we can present you with this prestigious award at that time.

Best wishes and keep up the good work.

Cordially,

Hamp Scruggs  
Chairman  
Awards Committee

HS:jdjw



## *Brosky sentence gives sense of justice restored*

BY BOB MAHLBURG  
AND RACHEL GREENWALD  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

For many who had kept a vigil since the shotgun slaying of Donald Thomas in June 1991, a jury's swift sentencing of skinhead Christopher William Brosky to 40 years in prison brought a sense of justice, they said.

Family members spoke of relief, and so did those who had been enraged when an all-white jury at an earlier trial sentenced Brosky to probation. However, they said the effects of the Thomas' murder by three teen-aged white supremacists still linger.

"No amount of time will bring Donald Thomas back, but it's good to see that Brosky will be serving time," said Rose Jones, Thomas' sister-in-law. "It tells people that it's never OK to do what he did and go free."

A couple who live next-door to where Thomas was shot said that their lives will never be the same.

"The neighborhood has changed since the shooting," Austin Anderson said. "Kids don't play outside anymore — nobody plays outside anymore. I still have a hard time believing something like that could happen next-door."

Prosecutors sought criminal conspiracy charges against Brosky after a Tarrant County jury convicted Brosky of murder in March but sentenced him to 10 years' probation. The case thrust Fort Worth into the national spotlight after 10,000 people marched through downtown Fort Worth in protest.

"I'll take 40," said Deborah Peoples of the African-American Summit for Peace and Justice. "You know I had my doubts about this case and whether it was going to get thrown out with the double jeopardy and all, but I am elated."

Reactions of prominent community leaders ranged from elation to pragmatism.

"Overall, there is still some reason for people of color and reason and good will to be hopeful our court system has not gone completely under," said the Rev. Michael Bell, chairman of Tarrant County Clergy for Inter-ethnic Peace and Justice, a multicultural group formed in reaction to Brosky's original sentence.

Bell said all three youths should have been given life in prison for the racist crime, but he said Brosky's 40-year term was fair considering plea-bargain sentences given earlier to Brosky's two accomplices in the shooting death.

William Trey Roberts, the 16-year-old skinhead who pulled the trigger in the slaying, and the driver, Joshua Hendry, now 18, of Arlington, pleaded guilty to murder in return for sentences of 40 years and 15 years, respectively.

"We have to grade fairness in this case on a curve," Bell said. "Given the curve in this case and the particulars in this case and the plea bargains, the only thing we can say is the sentence was an equitable sentence compared to the other two."

Christopher Ave contributed to this report.



*Tarrant County  
Sheriff's Department*



*2nd Annual Awards Banquet*

*November 13, 1993*



*Tarrant County Sheriff's Department  
Awards Banquet*

NOVEMBER 13, 1993

6:30 P.M.

*The Tarrant County Sheriff's Department  
would like to thank the following sponsors  
for making this event a success.*

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INVOCATION

Lt. Joe Tims  
Chaplain

DINNER

WELCOME  
Introduction Of Special Guests

Lt. Joe Tims  
Master of Ceremonies

GUEST SPEAKER

Brad Wright  
News Anchor  
Channel 5 Television

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

SCOTTISH RITE - FORT WORTH  
Special Presentations

John Allen

REMARKS

David Williams  
Sheriff

CLOSING

Lt. Joe Tims  
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## Sheriff's Department "Officer of the Year"

The Sheriff's Department Second Annual Awards Banquet was held Saturday, November 13, 1993, at the Sokol Hall in Fort Worth. This banquet honors all award recipients, including those chosen as "Officer of the Year" in each Division of the Sheriff's Department, with one overall Deputy chosen. All nominees are recommended for the various awards by their co-workers. Once an individual has been recommended, the awards committee evaluates the nominee and votes on his/her eligibility and worthiness of the award. The plaques, decorations, and door prizes associated with the Awards Banquet are funded entirely by the generous citizens and business people of Tarrant County. Those receiving "Deputy of the year plaques for their respective divisions are:

Deputy of the Year	Investigator Glenn Diviney (Crim. Invest.)
Supervisor	Capt. John Pempsell
Confinement	Floyd Clark (Correctional Center)
Confinement	Toni Costanja (Cold Springs)
Confinement	Ray Luther (Green Bay)
Confinement	James Gray (Belknap)
Patrol	Kirby Humberson
Warrant Officer	J. T. Smith (Civil/Mental)
Warrant Officer	Paul Ortega (Criminal)
Training	Ray Grimes
Communications	Lt. Charles Manchester
Clerical/Support	Ruby Seals
Accounting	Marion Lawson
Community Relations	Don Crowell
Personnel/Recruitment	Charlie Couk
Bailiff	Allen Eaves
Security	Randy Walker
Professional Standards	Pat Byrnes
Reserves	Sarah Carruthers
Investigations	Glen Diviney

Additionally, Chaplain Bobby Cox and Reserve Deputy Martin Hochster were presented Lifetime Achievement Awards for exceptional service over a prolonged period of time.





Office (817) 884-1966  
Fax (817) 884-3040

**FLOYD F. CLARK**  
DEPUTY SHERIFF  
*"1993 DEPUTY OF THE YEAR"*

EMERGENCY 911

TARRANT COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
100 N. LAMAR  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76196-2084





November 15, 1993

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
100 EAST WEATHERFORD  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76196  
817/884-1470

Dear Member:

In order to continue to provide you with the lowest loan rates and highest savings rates possible and to offer you convenient financial services, we must constantly monitor our expenses. Insurance premiums have continued to rise over the years and have become a considerable expense to the Credit Union.

The Group Life Savings Insurance program is a program provided to you at no direct cost and provides term life insurance in the amount of your eligible savings deposits up to a maximum of \$1,000. In order to offset rising premiums, the practice of providing Group Savings Life Insurance to new members was discontinued in March, 1989. Unfortunately, our premium level has continued to rise and as a result, the Credit Union has found it necessary to discontinue the program entirely. Therefore, effective December 31, 1993, the Group Life Savings Insurance Policy is being cancelled.

Your coverage for existing insurable deposits will continue through the conversion period ending January 31, 1994. You may convert to a permanent policy of \$1,000 or less without evidence of insurability. The effective date of the converted policy would be February 2, 1994 and premiums would be based on your age on that date.

Please call CUNA Mutual at 1-800-356-6006 if you wish to convert. CUNA Mutual will provide you with the conversion application and premium rate for your age. The completed application and first premium payment must be received by CUNA Mutual by January 31, 1994, which is the final date for conversion.

Sincerely,

*Diane Blankenship*

Diane Blankenship  
President



# 2 women jailed in slayings

## Suspect described as 'wild'

*'She is different,' an ex-boyfriend says*

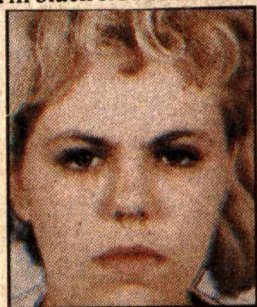
BY JACK Z. SMITH,  
ROBERT V. CAMUTO  
AND MARY MOEWE  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Brandi Michelle Cirelli's ex-boyfriend describes her as being "pretty wild," a bisexual whose personality can range from "real nice" to "cold and uncaring."

"She is *different*; that is just the best way to describe her," said the ex-boyfriend, Jack Durfey, who lives in southwest Fort Worth. "She was always doing something weird, like she got her eyebrows pierced just recently. She usually dressed in black clothes."

Cirelli, 20, and her roommate, Sherrie Lynn Sikes, 24, were jailed yesterday for investigation of soliciting the murder of Channing Freelove, who was a student at Texas Christian University, and Melanie Golchert, a student at Tarrant County Junior College. Police say in affidavits that they believe the slayings were sex- and drug-related.

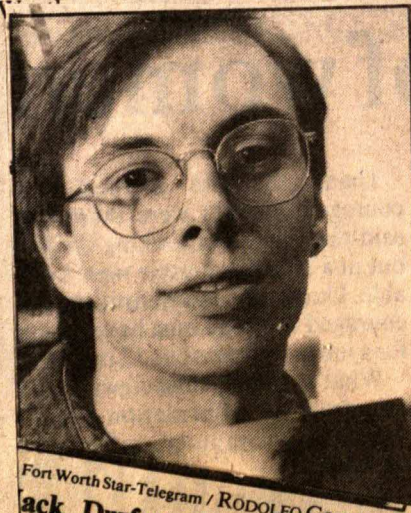
Durfey said Freelove and Cirelli had been lovers but broke up approximately two weeks ago. He said Cirelli and Sikes had become lovers and were living together at the Creekside apartments at 6751 Westcreek Drive in southwest Fort Worth.



Cirelli



Sikes



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RODOLFO GONZALEZ

Jack Durfey, 19, former boyfriend of Brandi Michelle Cirelli, holds a photograph of them together taken last Christmas.

"I think Channing was upset and a little bit jealous of Brandi and Sherrie," said Durfey, 19, a Crowley High School graduate who works at a burger restaurant at Hulen Mall in Fort Worth.

Neighbors at the Creekside apartments said that Cirelli had had a string of roommates at her apartment, as well as friends who included members of local gangs. Sikes, Cirelli, Freelove and

(More on SUSPECTS on Page 11)



other women in their circle were open about their bisexuality, said Peter Creech, a 21-year-old National Guardsman who lived next door.

"They all had relationships with each other; they made no secret about it," said Creech, who had been a dinner guest of the women and sometimes shared beer with them. "I wouldn't say they were lesbians, bisexual is more like it. . . . And they were all kind of jealous of each other."

Creech and another roommate who asked not to be identified said that the women were "New Wave" and frequented rock clubs and bars such as The HOP in Fort Worth.

Neighbors said they knew little about Sikes other than that she was from Louisiana, had attended a Catholic high school in Waco, and claimed to be an expert in tae kwon do, a Korean version of karate.

The woman at the arrest site described Sikes as a "butch" woman who despite her feminine appearance liked to talk tough and down quart bottles of malt liquor.

A woman who watched *Monday Night Football* at Cirelli's apartment said that Cirelli liked it when the football players got into fights.

Yesterday, Cirelli's grandmother heard about her granddaughter's arrest from a neighbor. The grandmother said her granddaughter could not have afforded to hire a killer.

"She doesn't have any money," the grandmother said. "I pay her rent; I pay for her car; I pay her insurance, everything."

She said she never gave her granddaughter cash to pay for things but instead wrote checks directly to the apartment complex or took Cirelli grocery shopping when she needed food.

When the family picked up Cirelli's 1993 Honda Civic from her apartment yesterday, two checks — the rent check and one written to a garage for an oil change — were inside uncashed.

The grandmother said she last talked to Cirelli around 10 p.m. Sunday. She said that Cirelli told her that she and Sikes had been out of town camping near Alvarado. "I asked her, 'Where are you?' She said she was at Sherrie's. I asked her if she knew they had been shot. She said, 'They've been shot?' She said, 'Grandmother what you're telling me is blowing my mind.'

"I don't believe she had anything to do with the shooting," the grandmother said.

Cirelli's parents divorced when she was about 2 years old, her grandmother said. "I had her every other weekend," she said.

She moved into her grandmother's home when she was almost 16, the grandmother said. Cirelli attended Castleberry High School until she dropped out her junior year. "She got her GED a few months after that," the grandmother said.

The grandmother said that she bought Cirelli a new car because she was fearful for her granddaughter's

safety. Cirelli, friends said, put a pot leaf sticker in the back window.

Cirelli's grandmother said she had an 800 toll-free telephone number installed so that her granddaughter could call her even if she doesn't have a quarter, the grandmother said.

Friends say that Cirelli's love for her grandmother, whom Cirelli called 'Nanna,' was apparent. "She did a lot of things for her," one

friend said.

Durfey said that Cirelli loved animals and had two Persian cats.

Until age 18, Cirelli was employed at the downtown Dillard's in various departments. She also did some teen modeling for the store. Since then, she has had several jobs, mostly in retailing, acquaintances said.

Friends say that Cirelli had a habit of letting people live with her.

"Brandi has always been for the underdog," her grandmother said. "She was always trying to take care of people. I told her to stop because, 'It's not you taking care of them, it's me.'"

Jackie Reardon, Durfey's mother, said Cirelli would not put up with much abuse.

"She's a very outspoken young woman," she said. "She's a very up-front young lady."

# Hired killers sought

BY M.C. MOEWE  
AND KATHY SANDERS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The arrests yesterday of two acquaintances of Channing Freelove and Melanie Golchert has produced an account of bisexuality, drug dealing, a killing-for-hire plot and a mysterious gang member whom the women were headed to meet the last time they were seen alive, police said.

Brandi Michelle Cirelli, 20, and Sherrie Lynn Sikes, 24, were arrested at 12:20 a.m. at their southwest Fort Worth apartment, police said. Cirelli was once Freelove's roommate.

Cirelli and Sikes are accused of soliciting the murder of Freelove, 19, and Golchert, 18, who were shot execution-style last week.

Cirelli and Sikes remained jailed last night on suspicion of solicitation of capital murder and unlawful possession of marijuana between 5 and 15 pounds. Cirelli was also being held on a theft-by-check warrant. Her bail is set at \$61,000; Sikes' bail is set at \$60,000.

But even with yesterday's arrests, police say they do not know why the women were killed, or by whom.

A police affidavit quotes an informant as saying that "Freelove, Golchert, Sikes, Cirelli and [a fifth woman] were lesbians and have had ongoing sexual relations with one another."

A fight between Freelove and the two accused women sparked talk of killing Freelove, according to police documents. An informant told police he overheard Cirelli say: "I'm sick of this high school game crap. If she ever comes around here again, I'll get rid of her my way."

At least one informant told police he had been approached to kill  
(More on ARRESTS on Page 10)



# Arrests

From Page 1

Freelove, and had refused.

A police source said that two other people believed to be the hit men are being sought.

All four women were involved in a lesbian relationship, according to police documents. But several friends said they do not think Golchert was a lesbian or bisexual, but was just in the wrong place when she was killed.

Friends say that Cirelli and Sikes became enraged with Freelove after a fight during which Freelove accused one of them of stealing her girlfriend.

The fight, friends said, resulted in the theft of a large amount of marijuana from Freelove's apartment.

Lt. Pat Kneblick, a police spokeswoman, said that while arresting Cirelli and Sikes, officers confiscated 4 pounds of marijuana.

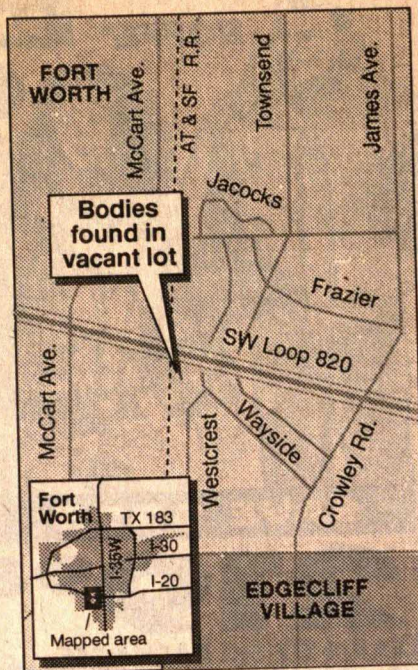
Freelove believed that her life was in danger because the theft had left her unable to pay \$6,000 she owed a drug dealer, police reports disclosed earlier this week.

The police source said that investigators have not determined how much money was paid or promised in exchange for the slayings.

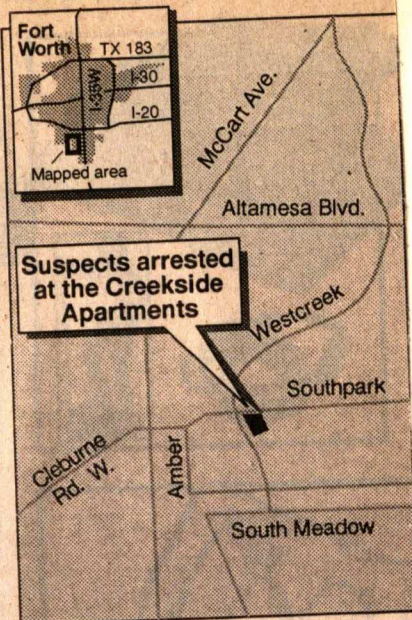
A passer-by found the bodies of Freelove and Golchert about 4 a.m. Saturday on opposite sides of a 1984 Oldsmobile that is registered to relatives of Freelove's. The car was in a vacant lot off Southwest Loop 820 (Interstate 20).

The bodies were fully clothed, and police said there was no sign of a struggle. Freelove was shot once in the neck and Golchert was shot numerous times in the head.

Police documents say that Freelove and Golchert told a roommate last week that they were going to sell a pound of marijuana to a 19-year-old gang member they had ar-



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / FRANK PONTARI



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / FRANK PONTARI

ranged to meet at an undisclosed location.

The roommate told police she became concerned because the gang member had bought only small amounts of marijuana from Freelove in the past, the documents say.

Police disclosed that they recovered 2½ pounds of a substance they said appeared to be marijuana, along with drug paraphernalia and \$1,100 in cash, at Golchert's apartment. Sources said that the drugs and money belonged to Freelove.

An informant told police that the gang member, who frequently dressed in the all-blue clothing favored by a large gang, was an associate of Cirelli and Sikes. He visited their apartment often, the affidavit says.

According to documents released after yesterday's arrests, however, the killings may have stemmed from Freelove's spurning Cirelli in favor of another woman. That woman's identity was deleted from the arrest affidavit.

Kneblick described the slain

women and the two suspects as friends who "had personal relationships." She declined to discuss details of the relationships.

The arrested women have made statements to detectives, but Kneblick said she could not disclose the contents.

The fight between Freelove and the two suspects was the pivotal point, friends said, at which the relationship deteriorated. Police said that the talk then turned to a killing-for-hire plot.

During the conversation about hiring someone to kill Freelove, the informant told police, Sikes "asked Cirelli what she would do after Channing was killed and Brandi said she would just go and stay for a while with her mother in Arkansas."

A friend of the three women, who requested anonymity, said that Sikes and Cirelli described the fight to her the following day. Freelove had gone to Cirelli's apartment and "had a bottle of wine, like she wanted to make up. Brandi told her to go away," the friend said.

Freelove was apparently looking for a woman whom she had broken up with several months ago, the



friend said. The woman was inside the apartment.

The women agreed to meet Freeloove at a convenience store nearby, the friend said. "They met her at the 7-Eleven; that is supposedly when Channing said, 'Take my gun and kill me,'" the friend said.

A teen-ager who said he was using a pay phone at the store around 10 p.m. Wednesday said he saw an argument between Cirelli, whom he knew, and two other women he did not recognize. "This one girl was screaming that she wanted her girlfriend," he said. "Brandi was trying to break it up. The girl got frustrated and tore off in the car."

The friend said the two suspects told her that Freeloove went back to Cirelli's apartment, where the confrontation got physical. "Sherri threw her on the ground," the friend said. "Brandi picked up a chair and threw it across the room twice."

Freeloove then threw herself down the apartment stairs and then attempted to fling herself over the balcony, the friend said. "She and Brandi both grabbed a part of her," the friend said.

Neighbors confirmed that Freeloove threatened to jump from the second-story landing.

"Channing was trying to jump off the balcony," said neighbor Dave Dischert, 26, a local restaurant cook who had socialized with the women. "She was crying and was pretty much hysterical," said one of Dischert's roommates who requested anonymity.

Sikes, Cirelli and an unidentified man prevented her from jumping, the neighbors said. The police informant, who family members said was

told by police to leave town for safety's sake, witnessed the fight, the affidavit says.

Officers who arrested Cirelli and Sikes early yesterday forced their way into the women's apartment and found Cirelli hiding in a bedroom closet and Sikes trying to hide in the kitchen, a police source said. Newspaper clippings about the Freeloove-Golchert slayings were scattered on the living room floor, the source said.

Two other people were in the apartment when the police arrived: a woman, 22, and a man, 23. They said that when police began banging on the front door with a sledgehammer, Cirelli ran to the bedroom and Sikes to the kitchen. "I don't think they knew it was the police," one said. "I think they thought someone was coming to kill them."

The two witnesses said they had been at Cirelli's apartment since about 9:30 p.m. Monday, watching football and smoking marijuana.

When the 10 o'clock news broadcast a report on the slayings, Sikes acted agitated while Cirelli was silent, the witnesses said.

"She [Sikes] was acting like it was a big deal to her, like she missed her [Freeloove] and like they knew who did it," the woman said. "She was making it seem like the guy Channing owed money to did it, and she knew who it was."

The female witness said Sikes told her that a drug dealer had threatened Freeloove, saying that she must come up with the money, act as his prostitute or die.

The relationship between the suspects and Freeloove was a tangled romance, friends said.

Cirelli met Freeloove about four months ago, acquaintances said. "She thought Brandi was pretty and wanted to meet her," the friend said. "From that point on, everything was free. She [Freeloove] would take Brandi out to eat all the time—I guess trying to buy her."

The friend said that the woman whom Freeloove wanted to talk to the night of the fight had dated Freeloove for two years.

Cirelli and Freeloove dated and lived together from mid-September to mid-October, the friend said. After they broke up, Freeloove began dating Sikes, the friend said.

"Sherri and Channing happened very, very recent. It ended right before this fight by just a few days. Channing was trying to get her back by taking her out to eat and stuff," the friend said.

The friend said she believes that Cirelli, Sikes and Freeloove's ex-girlfriend were upset with Freeloove. "They were all at Brandi's apartment," the friend said. "The people who were being played by her were talking. Maybe not that she loved them, but that they were the only ones."

But the friend said she does not believe that Cirelli and Sikes would conspire to kill Freeloove. "I don't know why they'd want to do this," the friend said.

The friend also said she wonders about the drug dealer whom Freeloove feared. Freeloove had come to her a week before, saying she was frightened and needed to get some money or get her marijuana back, the friend said.

"She was seriously scared," the friend said.



BY MIKE MENICHINI  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

**F**ORT WORTH — Melanie Golchert's life seems to have been like a hologram — changing its face and nature depending on what light was turned on it.

Before Friday night, when she was shot to death in the bloody end of what appeared to be a drug dispute, Golchert seemed to many to be a teen-ager filled with confidence and ability.

She was, according to some who knew her and worked with her, a stunning combination of good looks and charm, able to wear form-fitting clothes well and with a small tattoo of a flower on her ankle.

"She was the kind of girl that could wear a sack and a ball cap on backward and make you think that was the best-looking sack you'd ever seen," said one person who knew her for several years. "Part of it was her personality. Everybody liked her."

The person asked not to be identified out of concern over business repercussions.

That stance has become a common one as people move past the initial shock of learning that the beautiful 18-year-old they knew had apparently moved somehow into the darkness of the drug trade.

That shock, however, seems tempered by age. Students at Paschal High School say it was well-known that Golchert and Channing Freelove, who was killed in the shooting with her, were involved in drugs. Some say that Freelove was the more involved of the two, but it was in Golchert's apartment that police reported finding more than 2 pounds of marijuana and \$1,100.

Adults describe Golchert as a top student and a member of the girls' basketball team. She was on the All-City Academic Team as a senior and received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Fort Worth Girls Coaches Association.

She used that to attend Tarrant

# MELANIE Golchert

**Model student and  
part of the drug culture,  
strikingly beautiful  
and undistinguished:  
The descriptions add  
up to an enigma.**



County Junior College's South Campus. There she took three classes — American History to 1876, Composition 101 and Introduction to Mathematics. The three are standard fare for a college freshman, said Bill Lace, the college's director of information.

But things were not going well at TCJC, according to one of her professors.

James Cornelius, an associate professor of history, said Golchert started out the year by attending class regularly. But then her attendance and her grades started to lag. The grade on her first test was a B, but then she got an F and a series of D's, including one he would have returned to her last night.

In contrast to what others have said, Cornelius described her as quiet in class and not someone who stood out academically or physically.

She took the classes at night because during the day she had been working for Blockbuster Video stores for the past 10 months at stores on West Berry and Hulen streets.

Before that she worked at the TCBY Yogurt shop just across the street from Paschal on Forest Park Boulevard, along with Channing

Freelove and Mary Tuttle.

Freelove, 19, was killed in the shooting along with Golchert. Golchert shared Apartment 236 with Tuttle at the Park Gardens Apartments on Rogers Road, just off University Drive near the Trinity River.

Steve Pike, who manages the TCBY store where they worked, said the corporation's statement on the matter would only be that the "women in question had not worked here for more than a year."

Golchert's mother, Frances Blount Golchert, 41, recently moved to South Texas. She was issued a driver's license with a Corpus Christi address on Sept. 30. However, directory service does not list a telephone number for her.

Driver's license records also show a Kimberly Meghan Golchert, 21, living at the same address.

No family members could be reached.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office said Golchert's body was released to The Memorial Chapel in White Settlement. An employee of the funeral home on Cherry Lane declined to comment on any arrangements for services.

Staff writer Jennifer Briggs contributed to this report.



BY HOLLACE WEINER  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

She was a bundle of contradictions — a teen-ager who looked like a homecoming queen and walked like a street tough.

Smart, competitive and full of laughter among friends at Paschal High, she was "average" and sometimes sleepy at her after-school job.

She was also an All-District athlete with a weakness for chocolates and, apparently, drugs.

Channing Elizabeth Freelove, 19, a Texas Christian University freshman whose friends rarely saw her wearing anything but jeans and T-shirts, was buried yesterday in a white and pink sweater that matched the colors of her velvet-lined coffin.

At graveside, mourners mirrored Freelove's life: Half were dressed in upscale fashion wear, the other half wore leather and cropped New Wave haircuts.

Freelove and her close friend Melanie Golchert, 18, were shot to death early Saturday in a slaying that police have linked to lesbian love triangles and perhaps marijuana sales.

A native of Fort Worth, Freelove was the baby in a family with two older brothers, Kevin and Kenneth. Starting with kindergarten and into the ninth grade, she attended the private All Saints Episcopal School.

"She did have a flair for comedy," said Louis Hayden, headmaster at All Saints. "She had a good stage presence. She had leadership ability."

She apparently started using drugs while at All Saints, and that

## CHANNING Freelove

Comments by friends who knew her in high school reveal opposite images of the teen-ager after her violent death.



may have figured into her transfer to public school as a sophomore, said former Paschal soccer coach Vida Trevino.

"Both her parents and I had worked with her to help get her back on track," Trevino said. "I felt like by her senior year certainly she had her life turned around."

The Paschal yearbook reflects just that: Freelove made the Society for Academic Excellence; joined Panther Pride, a school spirit club; played JV basketball; captained the soccer team — and munched chocolate bars in class, a fellow student recalled.

Her senior yearbook picture presents a glamorous portrait, but friends say Freelove used little makeup, wore her hair in a ponytail and came to school in a skirt just once — "for an interview at TCU," said a teammate who stopped at a TCBY yogurt shop near Paschal during lunchtime yesterday.

"She looked really awkward when

she wore a skirt," a soccer teammate said. "For her senior picture, when she showed it to us, we said, 'Oh, my God. That's not you.'"

The yogurt shop was a place where Freelove worked and mingled during her high school years.

Across Berry Street at Wendy's and Taco Bell, other lunchtime student hangouts, two seniors described a gradual change in Freelove's appearance. "She used to be really pretty and she dressed nice," said a 17-year-old. "She gradually turned kind of masculine. She just kind of walked like she was tough."

In her casket, she more resembled her senior portrait than the disheveled teen many classmates recollected. Carrying the contrasts of her life to the grave, a teddy bear was propped along one side of Freelove's body and a metal peace symbol on the other.



*The Fort Worth slayings of two young women linked to narcotics highlight a reported resurgence of a drug many people associate with the '70s, in what some see as a*

# Marijuana flashback

BY PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Although the public may have been surprised that two female teenage honor students could be involved in dealing marijuana, the reality is that drug use pervades all levels of society.

In fact, among clients at the Tarrant Council for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, marijuana users tend to be upper-middle-class, educated people, said Linda King, case manager at the council.

And at NORML, the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws, most of the 5,000 members are blue-collar, working-class Anglos, said Richard Cowan, the group's national director.

Channing Freelove, 19, and Melanie Golchert, 18, were killed last weekend in a shooting that police say apparently had links to drug dealing. Police found 2.5 pounds of marijuana in Golchert's apartment after the deaths.

Marijuana usage, which has been prominently mentioned in music, movies and media reports over the past year, has never really declined, authorities across Tarrant County say.

"Marijuana use is real prevalent in the high schools. It was real prevalent in my high school in the '70s and it seems to have gone back to that," said Terri King, education specialist at the Tarrant Council for Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. "It's considered cool, and it's considered it's no big deal. It's [perceived to be] like smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol. They don't think there's any danger."

Daymon Grandberry, 17, a senior at O.D. Wyatt High School in Fort Worth, said he thinks marijuana had become more popular among teen-agers in the past year or two.

“  
[Marijuana use is] widespread ... It's some athletes, some popular people, some nerds, anybody.  
”

Daymon Grandberry  
O.D. Wyatt senior

"The word on the street is that crack sales are declining and [marijuana] is on the rise," said Grandberry, a three-sport athlete who said he had never tried the substance. "It's widespread throughout the school. It's not just certain types of people. It's some athletes, some popular people, some nerds, anybody."

James Hawthorne, school resource officer for Arlington High School, also said he thinks marijuana use is up among teens. He said that he hasn't made an unusual number of arrests this year but that he's more likely to hear teen-agers talking about using it than in years past.

Pot-leaf clothing, marijuana-themed music by artists such as Cypress Hill and Dr. Dre, and drug references in movies and television have helped marijuana become more socially acceptable — even fashionable, some authorities said.

Cowan of NORML disagrees.

"The media has been leading this charge people are smoking more because popular groups are singing about it," Cowan says. "They have it just backwards. People are singing

about pot because more people are doing it."

Statistics, however, only partially support the assertion that marijuana use is rising. Last year, marijuana usage rose slightly among young adults ages 19-29, after 10 years of steady decline, according to an annual survey conducted by the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research.

About 28 percent of those questioned said they had used marijuana at least once in the preceding year, according to the 1992 results. In the 1991 survey, 27 percent said they had tried the drug.

That compares, however, with a high of 51.3 percent in the 1981 survey.

Arrest records seem to support the assertion that marijuana use is growing, however. For example, Northeast Tarrant County drug seizure totals have risen sharply, from 338 pounds confiscated last year to 1,190 pounds confiscated from Jan. 1 to Oct. 31 this year.

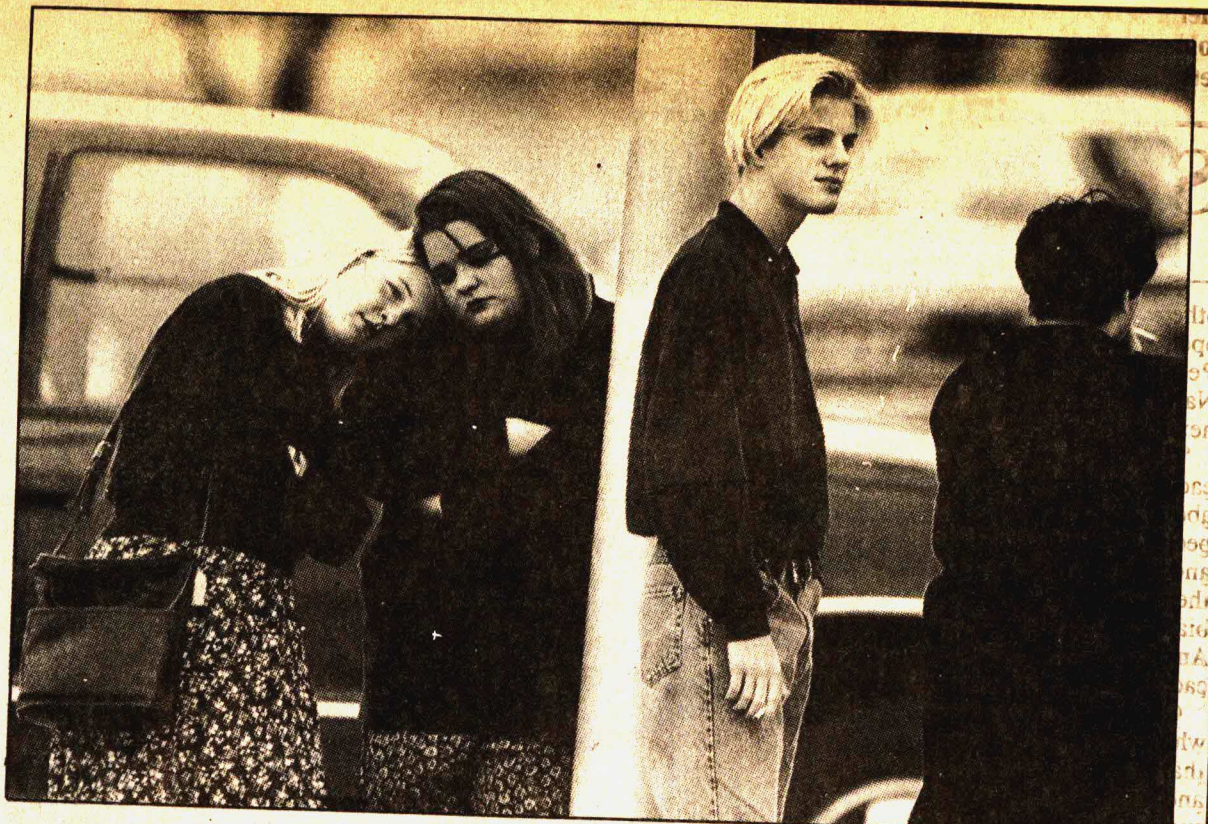
Nationally, the Drug Enforcement Agency made 9,364 arrests in 1991 in connection with domestic marijuana production, said James McGivney, a DEA spokesman in Washington. That compares with 12,639 arrests in 1992.

The DEA said it eradicated 139 million marijuana plants in 1991, compared with 272 million plants in 1992.

Even taking into account that '91 may have been a poor harvest and that DEA officials are getting more sophisticated at search and seizure, it is clear that production is up, McGivney said.

Staff writers Karen Auge, Yvonne Guzman and Domingo Ramirez Jr. contributed to this report.





Jill Pollard, left, and Andrea Palko lean on each other after Channing Freelove's funeral.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JERRY W. HOEFER

## Mourners face grief, shock

The victim of an execution-style slaying is remembered as a daughter, a sister and a friend.

BY TONY DEMARCO  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

They buried Channing Freelove yesterday, but not the questions surrounding her death.

A few hours before Freelove was eulogized at Calvary Cathedral and buried in Laurel Land Memorial Park, Fort Worth police arrested two women who they believe were lesbian lovers of Freelove and Melanie Golchert, on suspicion of solicitation of capital murder.

Word of the arrests only made the moment more devastating to Patrick Benshetler, a friend and former roommate of Freelove, who said he knew of the circumstances that led to Freelove's death.

"It shouldn't have come to this," Benshetler, 18, said. "Not over what it was over. It wasn't worth a life."

About 400 people, many of them teen-agers, and at least one wearing a Paschal High School letter jacket, came to mourn the loss. Freelove, who was captain of the Paschal soccer team last year, was buried in a white casket, a small white teddy bear beside her. In the casket, written in gold sparkles on strips of satin was a message from her family: "Dear Channing, You are the love of our lives."

"There's hope for this day, and his name is Jesus," Pastor Bob Nichols said. "... Life isn't

always fair. But God is."

Nichols also read a poem written by one of Freelove's two brothers, Kevin, which said her loss would be "forever a shadow in my heart."

The Rev. John Worrell, retired from All Saints Episcopal Church, the church that the Freelove family used to attend, spoke of the fond memories he had of Freelove and her two brothers as young children — a contrast to her brutal execution-style death in a vacant lot in southwest Fort Worth.

A long procession of cars wound its way through southwest Fort Worth on a 15-minute ride to the cemetery, where under a green canopy that blocked a chilling wind on a gray, rainy day, the two clergymen said their final words.

The Freelove family declined to speak to reporters. So did a few of Freelove's friends who made their way to the muddy cemetery grounds.

"The family is so brokenhearted," Nichols said. "What do you do? I have two daughters. I try to relate to it, but I can't."

After the burial ceremony, Benshetler stood with two friends, smoking a cigarette. He said that he talked to Freelove on the night before her death and that she predicted an attempt on her life.

"She told me she was going to be shot," Benshetler said. "That was the first time I saw her scared. She was fearful of her life. Then I saw her again on Friday. She was totally different. It was her birthday. We were supposed to get together later that night. I never made it. [Her killing] happened before that."





Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JERRY W. HOEFER

**F**riends of slain student Channing Freelove leave Calvary Cathedral after her funeral yesterday. Their grief was compounded by

news that two women had been arrested and accused of soliciting the killings of Freelove and Melanie Golchert.

STORY ON PAGE 10A



# Campus scene of today includes portraits of confused youth.

Welcome to the fast lane. College and high school students dealing marijuana and hard stuff amid the reborn drug counterculture. Young women, one ironically voted "Most Flirtatious" at her high school, ensnarled in what may have become deadly bisexual and lesbian romances.

If this is not your college in 1953 or mine in 1973, it is almost every college in 1993. Some "lessons" I learned after class on a college campus three months ago came back to mind yesterday.

Pot is back. "It's natural, like an herb," a sophomore woman said. "And it mellows out my monthly cycles. I don't gain weight. And nobody gets in fights like when



**Bud Kennedy**

COMMENTARY

you're drunk."

Bisexuality is chic. "I want to love everybody," a female freshman said. "I want to take care of everybody. I don't think it's right to

only love half the world."

Nothing bad can happen to you. If it does, blame it on a bad legal system or bad parents.

So I'm not surprised by what happened to two young women who grew up as sweet young girls.

They wound up like dozens of sweet young boys all over Fort Worth who thought they were smart. Until they swam too deep into the organized-crime drug underworld.

Meanwhile, according to police affidavits, Channing Freeloove also wound up like one of every three women slain in America: She is believed to have been targeted, not by some stranger, but by a jealous or

angry lover.

The crowd that gathered yesterday at Calvary Cathedral and Laurel Land Memorial Park didn't want to think about drug bootleggers and broken romances. They came to say goodbye to a star Paschal High student and athlete, to the Freeloove family's darling baby girl.

"In many, many years of doing this," pastor Bob Nichols said, "this is the first time I can only ask God to just help me and help you."

In a brother's poem, Nichols said Freeloove's "dream was to care for people."

Friends have said that her love for others also turned into "let me help

you get some pot," a near-essential fashion accessory in today's alternative music and entertainment culture.

Her team leadership, as always, made her a natural to go into sales.

And that is where everything goes wrong with the back-to-pot movement.

The problem with pot is who sells it. To buy pot, somebody has to deal with the underworld.

And like salesmen everywhere, drug dealers always "sell you up" to a more expensive and addictive product.

Channing Freeloove and Melanie Golchert were teen-agers in a very confused world. Marijuana triggers

less violence than alcohol, but booze has the fix in with politicians. Parents say, "Don't you ever smoke pot" while pouring a glass of wine or a beer.

Love and sex can be with anybody. To settle fights, you get a gun. Forget a picture-book life or honest job: The economy is bad. Nobody hires young people. The baby boomers make all the money.

No wonder two more good teen-agers lost their way. And left all of us very confused.

Bud Kennedy's column appears Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and in Star Time on Friday. Phone (817) 390-7538, fax (817) 390-7789, StarText ID 120087.



# Harassment complaint leads to arrest

## 2 men jailed in double killing

BY M.C. MOEWE  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Police arrested two men last night in the execution-style slayings of two Fort Worth college students who were found dead last weekend.

The men were being held in lieu of \$500,000 bail each in the slayings of Channing Freelove, 19, who was a student at Texas Christian University, and Melanie Golchert, 18, a

student at Tarrant County Junior College.

A 19-year-old suspect nicknamed "Boot" and another man, who police said is 21 or 22 years old, were arrested in a southwest Fort Worth grocery store parking lot after police received a complaint that they were harassing a store clerk, homicide Sgt. Paul Kratz said.

At least one of the men was an acquaintance of Brandi Cirelli, 20,

and her roommate, Sherrie Sikes, 24.

The two women, who police said in an affidavit were involved in a lesbian love triangle with Freelove, were arrested Tuesday morning in what police say was a killing-for-hire conspiracy that targeted Freelove.

No formal charges had been filed against Sikes or Cirelli last night.

Early in the investigation of the

slayings, an informant told police that on the night Freelove was killed, she was planning to sell a pound of marijuana to a gang member called "Boot," according to documents. Freelove was worried because the gang member had never purchased that much pot before.

An informant told police that he had met a stocky man with short curly hair and unusual eyes at Cirelli's apartment on one occasion, ac-

cording to an arrest warrant affidavit.

"He was a Crip [gang member] and had noted that each time he saw [him] he was wearing all blue: a blue bandanna, blue flannel shirt and blue T-shirt," the document states.

Sources say that description fits Boot.

Kratz said last night that both suspects are "known gang members" with long criminal records.

When the arrests were made about 8:30 p.m., the younger man was free on bail after being charged with attempted capital murder, police said, and the older suspect was free on bail on a weapons charge, police said.



Arrest warrants were being prepared for them when police arrested them in a store parking lot in the 3600 block of Alta Mesa Blvd.

"This was totally unplanned," Kratz said.

Police were interviewing the men late last night, Kratz said. He said they had only recently developed enough evidence to seek arrest warrants. "In the last 12 to 15 hours, enough probable cause developed to justify an arrest," he said.

Kratz declined to comment last night on a motive for the killings.

"We have a lot more information than a few days ago, but I'm not going to talk about motive right now," Kratz said.

Fran Golchert, mother of one of the victims, raised her right arm above her head in a gesture of victory and said, "Yes! Yes!" when she learned about the arrests. She praised detectives, saying they had been helpful and cooperative.

Jon Freelove, Channing Freelove's father, declined to comment last night.

Earlier yesterday, Fran Golchert said in her first public comments since her daughter's body was found Saturday that Melanie Golchert was an innocent victim.

The mother, who lives in Corpus Christi, said, "She had an undying loyalty to her friends, which was a strength, but it was also a weakness."

Fran Golchert and the teen's sister, former coach, high school teachers and friends gathered at a Fort Worth church last night to rebut allegations that the 18-year-old junior college student was involved in bisexual relationships and drug dealing.

Golchert, according to police, relatives and friends of the women, was not a drug dealer and was not involved in any lesbian relationships. Police say that the 2½ pounds of a substance believed to be marijuana found in Golchert's apartment belonged to Freelove.

A private funeral for Golchert was conducted yesterday at St. John's Episcopal Church.

"She was not bisexual. She was not a lesbian. She was not a drug dealer. She was not a pusher. At most she was a user," said Patrick Benshetler, a confidant of Freelove's who works locally as a cook. "She happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time."

Friends say that Freelove, a college freshman, had made plans in the days before her death to move back in with her parents and escape the world of drug dealing.

"It was getting to be too much," Benshetler said. "She told me she was going to give him [her supplier] all the money she could and get out."

In the hours before she and her friend Golchert were found shot to death in a vacant south Fort Worth field, friends of the Texas Christian University student say Freelove was frantically trying to get back 15 pounds of marijuana that she believed had been stolen.

Benshetler said Freelove told him she suspected that Cirelli and Sikes were responsible for the theft.

Freelove told a friend that she suspected that Cirelli and Sikes stole 8 pounds of marijuana shortly after a Nov. 4 burglary at her Park Hill Drive apartment, according to the 17-year-old friend. The friend said he introduced Freelove to Cirelli four months ago.

"She came over late that day and said everything was stolen. She asked me if I thought they would set [the burglary] up. I told her I thought they would."

Freelove told friends she also suspected that Sikes and Cirelli were responsible for a second burglary at her Park Hill apartment the day before she was killed, in which 7 additional pounds of marijuana was stolen, friends say.

After the first burglary, Freelove fearfully approached her supplier about the problem, said the 17-year-old, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"After she talked to the guy she got the weed from, she wasn't that worried," the friend said. "She wasn't scared; she was" angry.

The supplier then fronted Freelove 7 more pounds of marijuana and advised her to act casually with Cirelli and Sikes in hope of getting the drugs back, friends say Freelove told them. But the new marijuana soon disappeared in the same manner, they said.

The second burglary occurred while Freelove and Sikes were out eating breakfast, according to friends and police reports.

"Channing accused her of being the one who stole the substance. . . . Sherrie was making a big deal that she couldn't have done it because they were together," Benshetler said.

The friend said Freelove had often supplied Sikes and Cirelli with an ounce of marijuana here and there and that they continued to call her for drugs.

"They kept calling her for a bag," the friend said. "Brandi never had a lot of weed; she always had just enough."

Police confiscated 4 pounds of marijuana when Cirelli and Sikes were arrested Tuesday at their southwest Fort Worth apartment. Police have said that the pot was believed to have been taken from Freelove's apartment.

Benshetler said he spoke to Freelove's longtime lover, who apparently was not associated with the recent events, on the night before Freelove and Golchert were killed, and she said Freelove was going to "drop a pound off and she's coming back."

Golchert simply went along for the ride, the friends said. Neither friend heard from them again, they said.

Freelove's disastrous drug-dealing career was a short one, both friends of Freelove said. It wasn't until six months ago, one friend said, that she could obtain large quantities of marijuana.

Her clientele grew quickly, the 17-year-old said. "Within weeks, she was buying 4 or 5 pounds. She was good at everything she did."

She met Cirelli on the job when the 17-year-old introduced mutual friends in a drug deal four months ago, the friend said. "We met in a parking lot," he said. "I pulled up with Brandi and we got the stuff and left."

Later, the teen-ager mentioned Cirelli to Freelove and Freelove asked to meet her, the friend said, so he took Freelove to Cirelli's apartment one afternoon. "They hit it off pretty good right away," the friend said. "They went off together for about six hours. Me and another friend just hung around."

From mid-September to mid-October, Cirelli and Freelove lived together, the friend said. The relationship ended, the friend said, when Sikes, Cirelli's former lover, showed up.

"Channing told me that's when they started having their problems," the friend said.

Later, the friends said, Freelove had a whirlwind two-week romance with Sikes.

"They moved in together," he said. "It just happened."

Staff writers Kathy Sanders, Bob Mahlburg, Bill Hanna and Jennifer Briggs contributed to this report.





Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RODOLFO GONZALEZ

**Sgt. Paul Kratz, a homicide detective, speaks about the arrest of two suspects in the shooting deaths of Fort Worth students Channing Freelove and Melanie Golchert.**

## Disturbance prompts early arrest of suspects

BY KATHY SANDERS  
AND BILL HANNA  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Even as detectives were writing warrants for two gang members suspected of killing two college students, another twist in the bizarre case landed the accused killers in jail.

By happenstance — as police laid their plans to arrest the suspects last night — the suspects walked into a southwest Fort Worth Sack 'N Save grocery store and caused a disturbance, witnesses and police said.

"We received a call that three males were . . . harassing the clerk in the store," Sgt. Tim Ellis said. The call went to police at 7:58 p.m.

An unidentified employee at the store, 3451 Altamesa Blvd., said that the men entered the store and split up. One of them immediately began harassing the clerk in the deli.

The employee said that the suspect kept asking the deli clerk her name and saying that he was a gang member and that she should do what he said,

"He said most people do

what he says 'cause he's in a gang," said the employee. "He told her, 'You better do what I say, woman, you better do what I say.'"

The employee said that the men then began asking other employees the deli clerk's name and what kind of car she drove before the men left the store.

Then the men harassed people outside the store until the police arrived, the employee said.

Ellis said that when officers arrived, officer Don Hanlon "recognized one of the men as a suspect in the killing of the two girls."

Hanlon called detectives, who were busy writing capital murder arrest warrants on two of the men, and was told to take them to the detectives' office, Ellis said.

Homicide Sgt. Paul Kratz said that detectives completed the warrants just as the men arrived at the police station.

The third man, who has not been identified, is not believed to have been involved in the slayings.



# Events surrounding students' slayings spur media interest

BY TIM MADIGAN  
AND RUTH M. BOND  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The shoulders of Paschal High School Principal Anita Whiteside sagged as she sat in her office yesterday afternoon.

"I've been dragged through it," she said, gesturing toward a telephone message near her desk. "Now *Hard Copy* called."

The tabloid TV show was calling about Melanie Golchert and Channing Freelove, both first-year college students who were only six months removed from life at Paschal when their bodies, shot execution-style, were discovered early Saturday morning.

*Hard Copy* wasn't calling to inquire about  
(More on SLAYINGS on Page 18)

Golchert's and Freelove's academic achievements or prominence as athletes. Since the news was first reported, Whiteside has been inundated with request after request for interviews.

The first news reports cast the victims in a rather positive light — two bright, pretty women who died at the hands of an unknown killer.

Golchert was a student at Tarrant County Junior College; Freelove, a high school honor student, was attending Texas Christian University.

Then the reports changed. In the next few days, headlines reported that police believed that drugs played a part in the killings. Then police announced that they had arrested two women and arrest warrant affidavits said that the slayings were sex- and drug-related.

Investigators continued yesterday to sift through the accounts of the young women's lifestyles and activities in an attempt to find the killer or killers. Police declined to comment yesterday other than to say that no additional arrests have been made.

Two women who a police affidavit says were former lovers of Freelove's were arrested Tuesday morning. Sherrie Lynn Sikes, 24, and Brandi Michelle Cirelli, 20, each remained jailed on about \$60,000 bail.

They are accused of trying to hire an acquaintance to kill Freelove and of possession of marijuana. However, the women have not been charged in the slayings.

Additionally, Cirelli is being held on a hot check warrant and Sikes had more than \$300 in traffic fines placed against her yesterday.

At Paschal, the slayings and equally shocking aftermath have dominated conversation among students. Some instructors discussed the tragedy with the students in class, urging them to be cautious and to seek counseling if needed.

"Everybody's talking about it, teachers, principals, everybody," Mike Kelly, an 18-year-old senior, said yesterday. "It's really affected the school, because a lot of people

**Grief, then there's been shock, then back to grief, then anger that our school has been spread all over the news. What is this going to do to our school and what kind of negative pall is this going to have?**

Anita Whiteside  
Paschal principal

used to know those girls."

On Tuesday afternoon, students, teachers and administrators left the campus early to attend Freelove's funeral.

"Grief, then there's been shock, then back to grief, then anger that our school has been spread all over the news," Whiteside said of faculty reaction to this week's news. "What is this going to do to our school and what kind of negative pall is this going to have over our school?"

Whiteside, meanwhile, has seen newspaper, TV and radio reporters from across the Metroplex set up a minicamp of vans, cameras and other equipment across the street from the school.

The slayings and subsequent reports are "incredible Hollywood material," said TCU journalism Professor Anantha S. Babbili.

"Sex and money," said KXAS/Channel 5 News Director Dave Overton.

"Sex and drugs," said WFAA/Channel 8 News Director John Miller.

"We're looking into it," said a representative of *Hard Copy*, the syndicated news show. "Just as we do with any sensational story, where there could be more than meets the eye."

At least two book publishers are making inquiries about commissioning what Mark Hulme, chief executive officer of The Summit Group, a Fort Worth publisher, calls an "instant book."

"This is definitely a possibility for us," said Summit Managing Editor Mike Towle. "We've been discussing it informally since Tuesday morning." Since then, Towle said, the news has taken so many twists and turns that an intriguing story "is now becoming a super-intriguing story."

"Of course," Towle said, "I don't want to do anything to glorify what has gone on here."

Although Babbili agrees that this current case is "definitely a national story," he said that news of this sort does not necessarily result in journalism's finest moments.

"Stories of such a sensational nature should be accompanied by an analysis of society's agenda," Babbili said. "And that kind of analytical link is not always made."

Staff writers Kathy Sanders and Steven Cole Smith contributed to this report.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A time for privacy

Channing Freeloove and Melanie Golchert were the victims in a tragic homicide case. When lives end dramatically, a spotlight shines on all involved.

In this tragedy, we seem to have lost sight of any right to privacy the victims should have. All warts and seams are being explored in that media spotlight. This is a shame and a needless cruelty for those left behind. It was once the ethic that revealing information about victims was not bandied about unnecessarily.

Often, victims have some complicity in their deaths. Mistakes are made. But we all make mistakes. We forget to lock a door. We extend loyalty to friends who may not deserve it. We extend trust to those who do not merit trust. We love inappropriately. For most of us, the result is only chagrin, not a tragic death. But it could be.

Let us hope that if the spotlight of tragedy falls on us, our neighbors and the media will be more charitable about our foibles than in this case. That these young women made mistakes in no way diminishes the loss to our society that their deaths leave.

**Laurel Paulson**  
Arlington

### Number, please

By his own admission, Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams entered a personal criminal identification number into the department's computer "in the interest of efficiency." His excuse for this was to have a standby number in case he was arrested for any number of reasons, such as having an overcrowded jail or for contempt-of-court orders. Being an elected official, he felt he deserved an "express lane" in the booking process.

Tarrant County has never had a sheriff arrested for the overcrowded jail. The Tarrant County Jail has operated for several years under a variance from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards because of the overcrowded conditions. The commission is well aware that the Tarrant County government and taxpayers are working hard to relieve the problem.

If Williams is afraid of being arrested for contempt in disregarding a judge's court orders, he need only respect the order and

carry out his official duties. It is not his decision whether a judge is right or wrong.

The Texas Penal Code states that a false entry into our governmental records is against the law. Maybe District Attorney Tim Curry could give us a ruling to enlighten the taxpayers who foot the bill for county government.

We can only hope that Williams has not established a precedent or another loophole in our laws for the drug kingpins to have standby criminal identification numbers in order to get back to their line of work on our streets in "the interest of efficiency."

**Marilyn Lowrie**  
Fort Worth

### A salute to all

There comes the time when the words "a job well done" must be said.

For the past nine weeks, 33 bailiffs have attended the Tarrant County Sheriff's Training Center. During this period, the Tarrant County bailiffs, security officers, security deputies and all the jailers on loan to the courts have done an outstanding job. Every court has been covered in a professional manner.

I would also say a special thanks to members of the Tarrant County sheriff's training staff for their outstanding teaching in their usual studious way. Again, a job well done.

**Tony Wise**  
Chief bailiff/security  
Tarrant County Sheriff's Department



**Tarrant Tipoff**

# *Wife of George Lott victim running for appellate judge*

**BY MAX B. BAKER**  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Some of Betty Marshall's dreams died in a Tarrant County Courthouse on July 1, 1992. That's when George Lott gunned down her husband, Chris Marshall, in the 2nd Court of Appeals courtroom.

But Marshall is keeping one dream alive by running for the state Court of Criminal Appeals in 1994 against incumbent Judge Chuck Miller. Miller switched from the Democratic to the Republican Party this year.

"This is something he wanted to do," said Marshall, 47, the assistant chief in the Tarrant County district attorney's appellate division. "But that's not the reason I'm running. I'm qualified for the job."

Although Marshall has never run for office before, she said the Democratic Party approached her about seeking the bench. If she is elected, she said, she will be the first woman to serve on that court.



**Wilder**

**Wilder may turn in his badge:** Tom Wilder, the confidant of Sheriff David Williams who has been nicknamed the "Shadow Sheriff," is considering running for Tarrant County district clerk, sources said.

Wilder ran for Commissioners Court in 1984 and 1988 against Bob Hampton. The district clerk, fellow Republican Tom Hughes, is considering running for Texas state treasurer. Among the other Republicans considering the race is Clete McAlister, the operations manager in the district clerk's office.



# Slaying suspects may have killed others, police say

*Investigators see similarities in*

*unsolved drug-related deaths*



**Darron Curl**

**BY KATHY SANDERS  
AND MAX B. BAKER**  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Homicide investigators broadened their scrutiny yesterday of two capital murder suspects who they said may be responsible for at least three more unsolved killings in Fort Worth, officials said.

The suspects — Melvin James

“Boot” White II, 19, and Darron DeShone Curl, 22, both of Fort Worth — were acquaintances of two female college students found shot to death execution-style a week ago, police said.

White and Curl were arrested Thursday night in connection with the women’s deaths.

They also associated with two

women who were arrested this week and are accused in a separate incident of trying to hire someone to kill Channing Frelove, one of the slain women, police said.

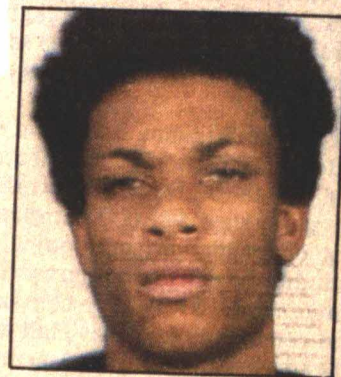
However, police said they do not have evidence that Curl and White were hired to kill Frelove and Melanie Golchert.

“The evidence [of a successful

murder-for-hire plot] at this point, is not there. At this point, they are not related,” said Lt. Pat Kneblick, a police spokeswoman, referring to the cases against the two women and the two men.

The thread that connected all six — the four suspects and two victims — was drugs. “All the people involved

(More on SUSPECTS on Page 5)



**’Melvin White II**



were acquaintances of each other regarding the narcotic involvement," Knebllick said.

White and Curl, whom police described as Crips gang members with long criminal records, remained jailed last night in the slayings of two high school friends: Freelove, a 19-year-old student at Texas Christian University, and Golchert, an 18-year-old part-time student at Tarrant County Junior College.

Bail on each man was set at \$500,000 pending formal charges, which authorities say they expect to be filed next week.

"It appears to be a pretty good case against the two gentlemen," Knebllick said.

However, officials would not release any details of the case, including a motive for the killings. State District Judge Sharen Wilson sealed documents outlining why the men were arrested.

At a news conference yesterday, Knebllick announced that the two men were also possible suspects in other slayings within the past year, based on similarities in the way the victims were killed.

Not all those slayings are drug-related, Knebllick said, but all involve victims who were shot in the head. Freelove was shot in the neck, and Golchert was shot in the head.

Knebllick declined to be more specific about which killings police were looking at. She said detectives are looking back "as far as almost a year ago, and more and more numbers are coming up." Officials had found three similar killings so far, she said.

Knebllick also stressed that the arrests of the two men were separate from the arrests Tuesday of Brandi Cirelli, 20, and her roommate, Sherrie Sikes, 24. Cirelli and Sikes were arrested on suspicion of trying to hire someone to kill Freelove, who was reported to be their former lover. No charges have been filed against Cirelli and Sikes.

Curl lived across the hall from Cirelli and Sikes at Creekside Apartments.

Arrest warrant affidavits for Cirelli and Sikes say that two other young men reported that the women tried to hire them to kill Freelove after a violent confrontation in which Freelove tried to jump from an apartment balcony and then pulled a gun on the other two women.

The affidavit also says that the gun was wrestled from Freelove, Sikes beat on her and Cirelli told her never to come back.

The arrests of White and Curl came as both were out on bail and awaiting trial on other charges — White on a charge of attempted capital murder in a convenience store robbery and Curl on a weapons charge.

White's record also shows arrests on charges of unlawfully carrying a weapon, sexual assault and evading arrest. He is awaiting trial on all the charges.

Curl has been convicted of theft between \$750 and \$20,000, burglary of a vehicle and filing a false alarm.

White lived off and on with his parents in a small house just south of Altamesa Boulevard, about a mile from the Creekside Apartments, where Curl lives with his mother and stepfather.

White's father, Melvin J. White, is an assembly line inspector at

Lockheed Fort Worth Co. who is scheduled to be laid off Monday. His mother, Caroline, is co-owner of a ceramic and collectable store on West Seminary Drive in Fort Worth.

"My son wouldn't kill anybody," Caroline White said yesterday. "My son gives money to people who don't have any money to eat."

Melvin White said his son got his nickname, "Boot," when he was 7 months old because he used to jump inside his father's boots and walk. It was a happy memory, but yesterday he found little to smile about when talking about his son, whom he described as bright but troubled.

Although the younger White scored high on aptitude tests, his father said, he dropped out of school in the ninth grade. The teen is good-hearted at home, his father said, but he added that he doesn't know how

his son acts "when he's out with the people he runs with."

"He claims he wasn't with no gang, but I got an inner feeling he is," the elder White said, shaking his head.

"I know he's been running with this group, and I told him to stay away from them. I told him over and over that if you run with a bad crowd that do the bad stuff, they are going to pick him up along with the crowd," he said.

The elder White said he has not talked to his son since his arrest. He learned about the accusations from one of the teen's girlfriends, who used to live with the family along with the baby she had with the teen.

"I don't think he'd be someone that would try to bump someone off," the father said.

Kimberlie Landers, one of the teen's girlfriends who works with

his mother in the ceramics store, said the younger White is a member of the Crips gang but that doesn't mean he would kill someone.

"He's got his good days and his bad days, but his bad days are never this bad," Landers said.

Another former girlfriend who asked to not be named for fear of other gang members said that the younger White and Curl would not commit violent crimes. "They talk a lot of stuff, but I don't think they'd do it," she said.

She described White initially as a "little nerdlike, a bookworm" in high school who later changed. "He was real good in school like with his grades and stuff. He read a lot," she said.

The Whites moved to Fort Worth from Corpus Christi in 1986, when the elder White retired from the Army.

Curl's mother, Mary Reed, 40, said she believes that her son is innocent.

"I don't feel my child would do something like that," Reed said. "I would say it's a matter of Darron picking the wrong friends."

Her son called her yesterday morning with the news of his arrest, she said.

"He was upset about it," Reed said. "He said he would cooperate with them in any way possible."

Curl attended Crowley High School but dropped out before graduation, she said. Although he didn't play school sports, he was an avid basketball fan. If her son was in a gang, she wasn't aware of it, she said.

"They know I didn't condone stuff like that," she said. "He knows I would pressure him."

Staff writers M.C. Moewe and Bob Mahlburg contributed to this report.



# One deal away from a new life

Channing Freelove told friends that she would deliver her last shipment of marijuana and then escape the dark world of drugs.

But the web she was caught in was escape-proof...and fatal.

**By Robert Camuto  
and Jack Z. Smith**  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

**F**ORT WORTH — Channing Freelove seemed to flower in the world of honor societies, girls soccer and the high school social scene.

She drowned, authorities say, in a world apart from the high achievers of Paschal High School, the corner yogurt shop and tony Forest Park.

Freelove, 19, was a Texas Christian University scholarship freshman whose body was found shot execution-style in a field in south Fort Worth eight days ago. The police investigation, and numerous interviews with friends, many of whom requested anonymity, is revealing that in recent months she made her final descent into a world of big-time drug dealing, loose bisexual liaisons and violence.

Perhaps the tragedy is made even more

poignant by what Freelove — known by her friends as “Chica” — told friends: She planned to turn her life around after one last deal.

She would settle her drug-dealing debts, she said. She’d move back home with her parents and complete her premed studies. Her dream was to get married, have children and settle into the picture-perfect “normal” life that had eluded her and her friends.

Patrick Benshetler, 18, a confidant of Freelove, said of his close friend, “When you’re 18 and on your own . . . [dealing] is addictive and it’s hard to say no and it’s scary to say no. Once you get in it’s hard to get out.”

And into that world Freelove took  
(More on WOMEN on Page 12)

Melanie Golchert, 18, another model student and athlete, who friends say had just gone along for the ride and never returned.

## Unraveling the web

As police worked to crack the case last week, they began unraveling a tangle of bizarre plots, bisexual jealousies and dangerous gang members.

Two women arrested Tuesday had sexual relationships with Freelove and are accused of trying to hire someone to take Freelove’s life for motives loosely described as involving sex and drugs, according to police affidavits.

Brandi Cirelli, 20, is a high school dropout who befriended members of a Crip gang, friends said. Sherrie Sikes is a tough 24-year-old who moved from job to job and wrote darkly of sex, drugs and death.

As Freelove moved deeper into the underworld of drug-dealing, friends said, she quickly found that its tug was much stronger than she. When her body was found last weekend, police found a .38-caliber gun in the waistband of her jeans.

The two men arrested late Thursday as prime suspects in the deaths are of another mold: gang members, according to police, who are under investigation in three other killings.

One of them, Melvin James White II, is a 19-year-old known as “Boot,” who was out on bail on a charge of attempted capital murder.

White was the man whom Freelove — full of naive confidence — had told friends just hours before she died she was going to meet to “drop off a pound” of marijuana.

The other suspect in the killings is

Darron Deshone Curl, 22, who lived in the same apartment complex where Freelove had once roomed with Cirelli.

Benshetler and other friends described Freelove as bisexual, Golchert as heterosexual.

“I don’t know how many times she [Freelove] told me she wanted to get married and have kids and have a normal life,” Benshetler recalled. “She wasn’t lesbian. She was bisexual. She told me the only reason why she was doing it was because she was young and wanted to experiment while she could.”

## Adventuresome experimentation

On the surface, Channing Freelove seemed to have it all: brains, athletic ability, great looks and a winning smile.

Whatever the source of her problems, she sought the temporary refuge of drugs.

“She tried it, and it was so much fun,” a friend said. “It was a release from everything.”

Friends described Freelove as an adventurous type in all aspects of her life, including drugs.

“She was not afraid to try anything new. . . . She’s the type who would have bungee-jumped,” a friend said.

Until the end of her life, one adult whom Freelove confided in was Paschal’s former soccer coach, Vida Trevino, who had explored Freelove’s drug use.

“Through her sophomore year and the summer and beginning of her junior year . . . both her parents and I had worked with her to help get her back on track,” Trevino said. “I felt like by her senior year certainly she had her life turned around.”

Her former high school classmates, however, tell a different story.

Freelove, current and former students say, was the girl on campus with connections.

“If you needed anything — acid, hemp, coke — you went to her,” said one Paschal senior.

Trevino said that the lure of drug-dealing for Freelove was money.

At home there were financial troubles. Freelove’s parents filed for bankruptcy in federal court last year, listing liabilities of \$466,585 and assets of only \$24,530. They completed bankruptcy proceedings in April.



Freelove's parents declined to be interviewed.

"Even though she was real smart and always made good grades, work always came before it, because she [Freelove] needed the money. . . . She never asked for money from her parents," said a former soccer teammate.

Two longtime friends of Freelove said they believe she lacked a strong emotional rapport with her parents.

"There wasn't any kind of closeness with her parents. . . . I just don't think there was any kind of relationship there," one friend said.

The friend said that Freelove's lack of closeness to her parents showed in many little ways: when she brought a friend to her house, she wouldn't bother to introduce her parents; or when Freelove had a change of plans, she wouldn't inform them.

### A fatal friendship

At Paschal, Golchert and Freelove became fast friends. They were both good students, athletic, popular and good-looking. And they liked to party.

"They were pretty close to inseparable," said the friend. "Melanie was more preppie. She wore cute little matching outfits and that kind of thing. Channing was more of a jeans kind of person."

Golchert was attending Tarrant County Junior College part time this fall and working full time at a Blockbuster video store. Friends say she was someone who loved to dance, attend rock concerts (U2, Sting and Elton John were favorite performers) or just converse with friends. She loved "any kind of animals," recalls one friend, Efren Caban Jr.

Golchert's sympathetic streak drew the two young women together.

Golchert "knew she [Freelove] really needed help mentally" and was sympathetic to her, said David Obadiah, a friend of Golchert.

Golchert's mother said that on one occasion, when she expressed concern to Melanie about her close association with Freelove, Melanie responded emphatically: "You can't stop me from being Channing's friend."

Even before her high school days were over, Freelove left home. She lived in a house near Berry Street with a group of friends including Benshetler and a former soccer teammate.

"It was hippie drugs: pot and acid," explained Benshetler of the parties there. "There was no dealing. Just friends hanging out being friends. Being cool. No crystal. No powders. Just hanging out and good times."

Sometime in the spring, the youths in the house dispersed: Freelove, her lover and Golchert to an apartment on Rogers Road.

About that same time, Benshetler said, the lure of fast money led Freelove deeper and deeper into

dealing drugs.

Benshetler said he did not know how Freelove met her dealer, but whoever it was, it was big-time. She got bigger and bigger and deeper and deeper. Within four months she was dealing pounds and pounds, Benshetler said.

About two months ago, Freelove and her longtime lover had a fight, and Freelove took up with Cirelli, whom she reportedly had known through her drug-dealing.

### Into the dark world

In Cirelli, Freelove found a young woman who apparently had several lovers, male and female. Visitors to the apartment on Westcreek Drive in southwest Fort Worth were frequent. One recent boyfriend left her apartment after a month, after a fight in which he admitted to bloodying her face.

It was also a place where men who purported to be gang members, with names like "Boot" and "Black" and "Old Man," gathered, drank malt liquor and smoked, said friends and neighbors of Cirelli and Sikes.

"They knew Brandi. They hung around her apartment," said one friend. "They thought she was a cool person."

Cirelli, a Burleson native, had also been a confused youth with problems dating back before high school. Her father was twice-divorced. She complained to friends about her unhappy home life and moved in with her grandmother at 16, friends and acquaintances said.

"She's had a really tough life," explained one longtime friend. "She's never really felt wanted by her family."

Castleberry High School teacher Pat Hardy remembers Cirelli when she was a 16-year-old student struggling to turn her life around.

said. "I think, if she'd get some counseling, she could be a real good girl."

Former employers in Fort Worth — including a TCU-area dog-grooming shop and the White Elephant Saloon, where she worked as a cocktail waitress — tell a story of a confused young woman who would show up for work red-eyed or not at all.

Darrell Hohman, a manager of the White Elephant, remembered the "wild stories" Sikes told of her adventures, including an incident when Sikes said she was shot.

"I really think she exaggerated things, always making herself out to be tough. Her mannerisms, everything. She wanted you to think 'I can handle myself. I can take care of myself.'"

### Messages of despair

Sikes poured the depths of her angst into poems that she left behind at the house of her 17-year-old friend. Although there are at least two handwriting styles in the papers, they cover similar themes, with titles like *Nothingness*, *Live and Die*, and *Be Home in Time for Hell*.

Sikes wrote in one passage: "Take my life I can't use it, always turns out that I abuse it."

Freelove's relationship with Sikes was like her relationship with Cirelli: stormy and short-lived. Freelove quickly grew jealous when she thought Sikes had turned her attention to another friend. It was shortly after that that Sikes and Cirelli moved in together, friends of Cirelli and Sikes said.

Early this month, according to police, Freelove went to Cirelli and Sikes' apartment. Overcome with jealousy, Freelove threatened to kill herself, brandishing a gun and threatening to jump off a balcony.

From there, Freelove's life went from bad to worse.

In two incidents — on Nov. 5 and again on the day before she died — Freelove's newly rented townhome in the Forest Park area was burglarized, according to police affidavits. A total of 15 pounds of marijuana were reportedly stolen, and she accused Sikes and Cirelli.

Friends said that the incidents left her more than \$11,000 in debt to her drug supplier. And in the last days of her life she openly expressed fears that he would kill her.



Friday, Nov. 12, was Frelove's 19th birthday. She went to her parents and made a confession. She told them that she had been selling drugs and owed a dealer \$6,000, according to police records.

Police have not said whether her parents agreed or refused to give her the money. Her mother did lend Frelove her 1984 Oldsmobile sedan.

About 10:30 p.m., according to reports, she left her longtime lover's apartment, saying that she had to deliver a pound of marijuana to the man known as Boot.

At 4 a.m. a bicyclist found the fully clothed bodies of Frelove and Golchert in a vacant lot off Loop 820 in southwest Fort Worth. Their bodies were face-down in the dirt on opposite sides of Frelove's mother's car. Frelove was shot once in the neck and Golchert several times in the head.

Fran Golchert, Melanie's mother, has been left to ponder questions about her daughter's life and death.

"We all have a million-dollar question," said Fran Golchert. "And that is, why did she go with Channing? We may never have that question answered."

Staff writers M.C. Moewe, Kathy Sanders, Thomas Korosec, Hollace Weiner and Bob Mahlburg contributed to this report.



**Channing Frelove:** Wanted to move home, friends say

"As I understand, she had gone to some kind of youth camp or church camp . . . trying to straighten her life up," Hardy recalls.

Although Cirelli "was not academically a good student . . . she had a good personality and . . . a sweetness about her," Hardy said. "She was a kind of Dolly Parton or Marilyn Monroe voluptuous-looking girl. She had very striking eyes, these big old eyes."

An acquaintance of Cirelli recalls a soft, human side. Early last summer, Cirelli was attempting to establish a closer relationship with her father, whom she had seen very little.

"She invited him over for dinner and was all excited about making him cheesecake. He came over and she said it was real nice," the acquaintance said.

### Shaky relationships

In their few weeks living together



**Melanie Golchert:** Reportedly was just along for the ride

this fall, Frelove and Cirelli had a tumultuous relationship.

According to Benshetler, Frelove became angry because she found herself giving Cirelli more money and drugs. "She started complaining that Brandi was using her," Benshetler said.

Frelove left the apartment and took up with Sikes.

Sikes, a graduate of Waco High School, had been another child from a broken home. Her stepfather and mother, who live in White Settlement, declined to comment for this report.

According to a 17-year-old and his father — both of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity — Sikes lived in their south Fort Worth home on and off for more than a year.

"It was more like she bummed here for one and a half years," the father said. "She'd show up and say, 'Hi, I need to crash.'"

"You feel so sorry for her," he



# Robbery was motive in killings of 2 college women, official says

BY KATHY SANDERS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — One of two gang members accused of shooting two college women to death talked frequently of killing one of the women because of the sizable amount of marijuana she was dealing, according to an arrest warrant affidavit released yesterday.

"The motive was robbery," Assistant District Attorney Terri

Moore said of the double homicide. "This was a dope ripoff."

Darron Deshone "Taz" Curl and Melvin James "Boot" White II have been charged with murder in the deaths of Channing Frelove and Melanie Golchert. Roommates Sherrie Sikes and Brandi Cirelli are accused of trying to hire two other people to kill Frelove.

Sikes and Cirelli told police that Curl "would always talk a lot about

An affidavit released yesterday indicates that a suspect had eyes on the large amount of marijuana that one of the victims was believed to have.

killing Channing" when he visited one of the women when she was alone, the affidavit says.

"On numerous occasions, Taz had confronted Sherrie about killing Channing. They related that Taz and Boot realized how much dope

Channing was dealing and would likely have in her possession," the affidavit says.

District Judge Sharen Wilson, acting on a motion from prosecutors, sealed the affidavits after Curl and White were arrested Nov. 18.

Yesterday, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* obtained a heavily edited copy from prosecutors.

Moore said that 11 of the 54 paragraphs in the affidavit were blacked out to protect the identity of a confidential informant. Among reasons cited for sealing the document were protecting the informant and limiting the publicity surrounding the case.

Both Curl and White remained in

the Tarrant County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bail each yesterday.

Frelove, a Texas Christian University premed scholarship student who turned 19 the day she was killed, and her high school friend Golchert, an 18-year-old Tarrant County Junior College student, were found dead about 3:30 a.m. Nov. 13 beside their car in a vacant lot.

(More on CHARGES on Page 6)



# Charges

From Page 1

An autopsy showed that Freelove had been shot once in the neck, severing her spinal cord, and Golchert had been shot at least twice in the head. The affidavit says that a .380-caliber handgun was probably the weapon.

Both White and Curl are Project Watts Crips gang members and have been arrested before with .380-caliber handguns in their possession, the affidavit says. White is a purported leader of the gang, it says.

Freelove and Golchert were last seen alive about 10:30 p.m. Nov. 12 as they were leaving Golchert's apartment. Golchert's roommate told police that the women were going to conduct a drug deal with a gang member named Boot.

The roommate told police that Freelove talked to White twice that night and "the last conversation [she] had with . . . Boot, he stated he did not care about the quality of the marijuana," the affidavit says.

Freelove, who had sold small amounts of marijuana to White before, was going to meet him that night to sell him a pound of marijuana, the affidavit says.

The roommate said she became concerned when Freelove and Golchert didn't return. She told investigators that when Freelove made drug deals, she was gone only about 45 minutes or would call to say why she was late, the affidavit says.

During the investigation, Detective Larry Steffler "received information from numerous sources naming Boot and Taz as the persons responsible for committing these offenses," the affidavit says. It provides no further details.

Police and friends said Freelove, Sikes, Cirelli and White all were acquaintances. Sikes and Cirelli both were reportedly ex-lovers of Freelove's and also were involved in drugs, police said, and White and Curl were frequent visitors at Sikes and Cirelli's apartment.

Sikes, 24, and Cirelli, 20, have been charged with solicitation of capital murder. They are accused of

trying to hire two different men to kill Freelove because they were tired of her "high school games" and believed she "was bad for [drug] business," those men told police.

Officials have stressed that the scheme Sikes and Cirelli are ac-

cused of plotting is separate from the actual killings and that Curl and White are not the two men the women are suspected of trying to hire for the killing.

Staff writer Thomas Korosec contributed to this report.



# Counties beg state for bailout as flood of inmates worsens

By MARY ANN ROSER  
AND BOB MAHLBURG  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

AUSTIN — County officials, saying their jails are in crisis, begged a Senate panel yesterday to remove state prisoners clogging their facilities — even if it means using the Texas National Guard to house and guard the inmates.

The pleas came during a Senate Criminal Justice Committee hearing at which the head of the state Criminal Justice Policy Council warned that Texas cannot meet a court deadline of Sept. 1, 1995, for removing its

prisoners from county jails.

Gov. Ann Richards threw cold water on the idea of calling out the Guard and said the state is doing all it can to cope with the inmate backlog.

In Tarrant County, 986 prisoners are sleeping on the floors. Of the jail's 5,157 inmates, 3,034 are felons waiting to be transferred. To cope with the backlog, Tarrant County commissioners voted yesterday to renovate two more barracks at the Cold Springs jail facility to house 96 inmates. The renovation will cost about \$70,000.

Officials of other counties told the committee that their jails have reached the breaking point and are growing more dangerous by the day.

"We've gone as far as we can," McLennan County Judge Jim Lewis testified. "... We need the relief today. We don't need to break ground in March 1995. We need to break ground today ... or we will have folks dying in our facilities."

Lewis said that his county's 431-bed jail is teeming with 700 inmates, 250 of whom are ready to be moved to state prisons. The problem is that the state cannot build prisons fast enough to accommodate the inmate explosion. More than 28,000 state inmates are in county jails awaiting transfer.

The state should immediately remove at least 300 inmates a day from county jails and activate the Texas National Guard facilities to hold the felons until new prison space opens up, said James P. Allison, general counsel to the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas.

"You're serious about this?" asked Sen. John Whitmire, the committee chairman.

"I'm dead serious," Allison responded.

Allison also said that the state should speed up construction of state prisons and jails, an idea that Whitmire also favors. If necessary, a special legislative session should be held to put the recommendations in place, Allison said.

"Overcrowding in county jails creates a dangerous situation," Allison said. "In the past two months, at least three violent disturbances have occurred in overcrowded jails. If action is not taken immediately, these incidents will likely increase with great risk to the safety of our county property, and more importantly, to our jail personnel."

Allison said that nearly 60 percent of the inmates in county jails are waiting to be moved to state prisons.

But Richards said the state is building state prisons as quickly as it can. "Unless we have some specific idea of what the County Judges and Commissioners Association believes the Texas National Guard can accomplish, when you consider that they are not trained to be prison guards, we are not going to call them in," she said in a statement. "Furthermore, we are not going to call a special session because it would serve no purpose."

Bexar County Judge Cyndi Krier said that using the National Guard "may be the least offensive alternative."

She told the committee that Bexar

County has cells the size of walk-in closets that were built for one inmate but now hold four. The cells have two bunks, and two mattresses on the floor underneath the bunks, she said.

In addition, she said, gang members are committing crimes so they can go to jail and be protected from rival gang members. The rivals, however, are now getting jailed to carry out "the hit," Krier said.

The Bexar County Jail has 2,397 inmates, 1,400 of whom are state prisoners, she said. The county is completing an annex this month for 782 inmates and an additional 300 inmates are being lodged in privately run facilities.

"If you had all of your inmates ... we would not have a problem," she told the committee.

Tony Fabelo, chief of the state's Criminal Justice Policy Council, said that the backlog resulted from stiffer sentences for a variety of crimes and more restrictive parole policies.

Parole releases have been almost halved, from 38,041 in fiscal 1990 to 20,794 in the 1993 budget year, Fabelo said.

"What they were doing was reaching into a population that did not really need to be considered for parole, much less released," Parole Board Chairman Jack Kyle said. "We've tried to get a handle on that since I came on board in 1991, and I think we have."

The changes mean more time behind bars for prisoners such as recently convicted killer Christopher Brosky, said Marvin Collins, one of the prosecutors in the Brosky case and a former U.S. attorney.

"I think it has dawned on them that the idea of releasing people early is a bankrupt idea," Collins said. "It's a very bad way to ease the prison overcrowding problem."

Fabelo predicted that the changes will not permit the state to meet a Sept. 1, 1995, deadline for removing inmates from county jails.

Sen. Jim Turner, D-Crockett, said that the state should start negotiating with county jails to keep state prisoners longer. Some counties are planning to build larger jails because the state pays counties for each inmate housed, Turner said.

But Whitmire, D-Houston, said that the state should speed up construction of state jails, which will hold prisoners for two years. New jails will also provide rehabilitation, which experts say keeps felons from becoming repeat offenders. Voters approved a \$1 billion bond issue last month for the new jails, and "the public would think we were nuts if we didn't spend it" quickly, Whitmire said.



# Jails

Skeptics have argued that although the state has the money to build jails, it does not have the funds to operate them. Whitmire said he is confident that the state can come up with the money despite financial constraints.

"It's the No. 1 concern of all Texans . . . that we do something about public safety," he said.

Whitmire and other panel members also questioned state officials about how they select state jail sites. The committee criticized counties that conduct bidding wars to land jails and lawmakers who use their influence to obtain jails in their districts for development purposes.

Staff writer Stefani G. Kopenc contributed to this report.

Thursday, December 2, 1993

# Transfer requested for Brosky

## Inmates harassing him in Tarrant jail, judge told

BY THOMAS KOROSEK  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Attorneys for convicted hate murderer Christopher Brosky asked a judge yesterday to transfer their client to an out-of-county jail because Tarrant County inmates have been pelting him with containers of urine, hot water and other liquids.

Brosky, convicted last month of organized crime and sentenced to 40 years in prison, has been held in a single cell in a Tarrant County jail since returning from Galveston, one of his defense attorneys said yesterday. His trial on charges of organized crime and conspiracy was moved to Galveston on a change of venue.

Brosky "is being subjected to constant threats, harassment and assaultive conduct by his fellow inmates because of the notoriety connected with his trial," defense attorney Ward Casey said in a motion filed with state District Judge Bill Burdock.

"The prisoners fill small containers with urine and other unidentified substances and throw them through

the bars," Casey said.

Brosky, who was convicted for his role in the hate-inspired drive-by murder of a black man in Arlington, was transferred to an undisclosed nearby county in late May to await trial in Galveston.

He was convicted of murder in the case in March, but the Tarrant County jury's sentence of probation sparked public protests and District Attorney Tim Curry's decision to pursue further charges.

Casey said yesterday that he asked Burdock whether his current request for a transfer could be handled informally, as it had been in May.

Burdock said that his court coordinator, Janice Pullam, had contacted the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office to ask for a transfer and was told that Brosky would be transferred only to the Texas prison system — a process that typically takes months.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Hank Pope, who oversees prisoner housing, said yesterday that he was unaware of the judge's request.

"We're charged with their care and custody," he said. "We have to maintain a safe and sanitary and healthy environment for them."

Casey said that he decided to make a formal request for a transfer after it appeared that informal efforts were not working.

In his motion, Casey said the urine-throwing and other treatment amount to cruel and unusual punishment.

Brosky has been made to wait several hours before being allowed to clean himself because jailers need to clear halls and isolate him for his own safety, Casey said.

The 19-year-old former Dallas resident is being confined in his cell 24 hours a day and not allowed to exercise, Casey said. Brosky "has not violated any jail rules and has not been disciplined, but he nonetheless suffers the same conditions of confinement as those prisoners being disciplined for violation of jail rules," Casey said in his motion.

The defense lawyer said he be-

lieves that Brosky's life is in danger and will continue to be as long as he is in the Tarrant County lockup.

In late May, Brosky was booked into a nearby county jail under a fictitious name and charge to remedy similar problems.

He was placed in an isolated cell and given different visiting hours than other prisoners to avoid being recognized. Brosky's lawyer and the district attorney's office supported the transfer.

Before that transfer, Brosky, a one-time member of several Dallas-area skinhead groups, had been the target of black inmates who expressed anger at his role in the 1991 slaying, officials said.

As the threats mounted, he was taken to a single-cell area, completely removed from other inmates, but the attempts proved futile, jail officials said at the time.

Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams said at that time that he supported moving Brosky because "his presence in our jail escalated the potential for violence."

The sheriff of the county to which Brosky had been moved said that his presence was kept quiet and that the county's mostly Anglo inmate population had caused no problems.



# Cirelli tells TV show she didn't order student's death

BY THOMAS KOROSEC  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A woman charged with soliciting the death of slain Texas Christian University student Channing Freelove says she asked a friend to keep Freelove away from her but never ordered her killed.

"I asked one person to keep her away from my apartment," Brandi Cirelli, 20, told a TV reporter in a recent jailhouse interview. "I said, 'Sit her down and talk to her.' He said, 'I can intimidate her that way.' And then I said: 'Don't kill her. She

doesn't deserve to die.' "

Cirelli and her roommate, Sherri Sikes, 24, have been charged with solicitation of capital murder, accused of asking two men to kill Freelove. Police have said the three women had been involved in a love triangle.

Prosecutors say the Nov. 18 execution-style slayings of Freelove, 19, and her friend Melanie Golchert, 18, were carried out independently of the alleged attempt to contract the killing. Two men have been charged with the killings.

Cirelli said in an interview with the TV

show *A Current Affair* that she and Sikes had a falling-out with Freelove over their intimate relationships.

But in a quiet, breathy voice, Cirelli said: "I don't think I had anything to do with her death. . . . I didn't have money to buy groceries or even cat food, much less give someone money to kill them. If I had that money, I would have used it for myself."

The interview, which is expected to be broadcast next week, was videotaped by the Tarrant County district attorney's office. The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* obtained a copy of the prosecutors' videotape yester-

day under the state Open Records Act.

During the wide-ranging interview, Cirelli appeared on camera in blue jail garb and wore handcuffs. Sobbing at times, she frequently let her voice drop so low that it was impossible to hear.

According to affidavits released two days after the slayings when Cirelli and Sikes were arrested, two informants said that the two women told them they were tired of Freelove's "high school games" and believed she "was bad for [the drug] business."

Cirelli, a high school dropout whose

apartment in southwest Fort Worth was reportedly the site of frequent drug parties, said she was raised "to be prim and proper." At age 15 or 16, she became, in her words, "very wild . . . in the manner of clubs. I partied. I got into drugs."

Although she said she did not hang out with gang members, she said knew "violent people" who would "beat each other up, shoot at each other. That's what they liked to do."

In the taped interview, Cirelli said that she and Freelove were involved intimately but that after about a month, "I didn't want an intimate relationship. That caused problems."

"If she didn't have someone to go out with, she'd get upset," Cirelli said. "She threw fits."

Freelove "played the role of an innocent college girl but she really wasn't," Cirelli said. "She wasn't a bad person but she put herself in the position to get in trouble."

The execution-style slaying of Freelove and Golchert in a south Fort Worth field "was just a drug deal gone bad," Cirelli said.

Curl and White were friends of Cirelli and Sikes, but authorities say their motive for the slayings was robbery.

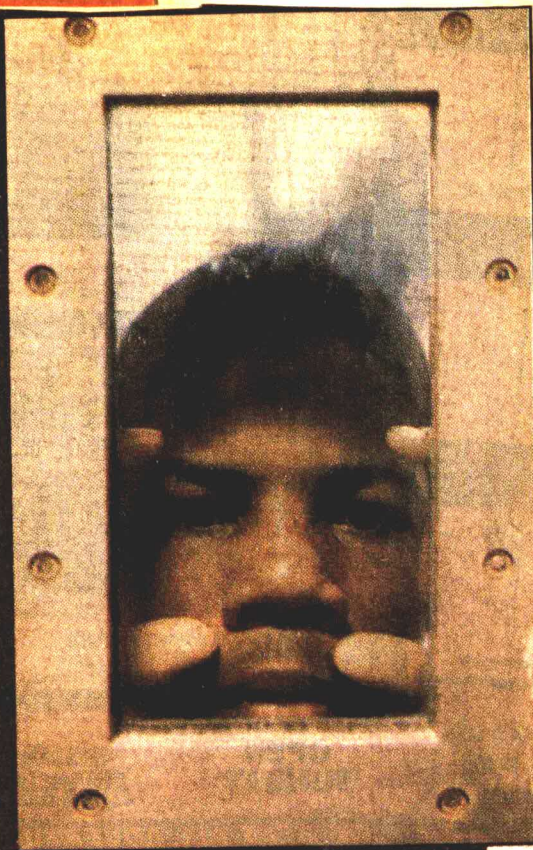
Asked if she wanted to tell Freelove's and Golchert's families anything, Cirelli said: "I want to tell them I'm sorry that they are gone. . . . I feel sorry for the families."

Without elaborating, Cirelli said, "Everybody I know, for their own selfish reasons, have pointed the finger at me."

"Everybody thinks I had her killed. I have a feeling no matter what I do, I am not going to change anybody's mind."



Many inmates belong to gangs when they enter the system. If they don't, they probably will before they leave.



Deandra Moore makes a gang sign through his cell window

# GANGING UP ON THE JAILS

BY M.C. MOEWE  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

From his vantage point in a Tarrant County jail cell, gang leader Carlos Johnson is a man with a mission.

"Before 1995, the jail will be run by the Crips," said Johnson, a Crips faction leader who goes by the nickname C-Los. "That's why we're recruiting. We're closer than anyone else."

Chief Deputy Hank Pope, who is in charge of inmate housing, doesn't hide his



Tattooed teardrops adorn the face of Terrance Hogan.

exasperation. "Jails are big recruiting grounds," he said. "It's a form of protection: 'This is our gang, join us while you're in jail and we'll make sure nothing happens to you.' We try to watch them. But we can't do much more than that."

As jail overcrowding drains county resources, the gang population is escalating and straining the system even more. Tarrant County officials say that gang members are more prone to violence and prey upon weaker inmates. Often, guards spend considerable time moving gang members from cell to cell to prevent fighting among rival members.

"Having to deal with gangs adds another element into a potentially volatile situation," Sheriff David Williams said.

Johnson said he is confident that his gang members behind bars will only get stronger.

"There's a lot of Crips in here," he said. "They know we're powerful. In the county, they just want to be down." *Being down* is slang for joining a gang.

Deputy William Farmer's job is to keep warring gang members out of the same cell, stop those in the same group from taking over a tank and attempt to slow down gang recruiting. It is an unenviable position. With jail overcrowding at its peak in Texas, it is difficult to find bunks for criminals, let alone safe ones.

"The problem is, we've run out of places to put these people," Farmer said. "We play continual rotation. We have guys who have been moved 30 or 40 times."

"I don't see things getting better," Farmer said. "I see it getting worse."

The jail is already running 120 percent over capacity, Pope said. On Friday, the jail held 5,102 prisoners, including 928 who were sleeping on the floor. The jail population began to soar in August, as fewer sentenced prisoners were allowed into the state system. Since then, the Belknap Street facility has averaged about 60 more physical confrontations per month, Pope said. Figures are not kept on how many are gang-related.

Farmer estimates that 20 percent to 25 percent of the county inmates are gang members. Most gang members in jail say that at least half are "banging," which is slang for belonging to a gang.

Authorities say that in jail, as in the streets, Crips members easily outnumber the other gangs. Add in some Bloods, Latin Kings, Aryan Brotherhood members and other samples of the 349 known gangs in the county, and clashes become inevitable.

Old Man, 17, is one of the few Bloods in the Tarrant County Jail. As every Crip's sworn enemy, he fears for his life daily. "Everybody in my tank was Crips," he said.



"They were threatening me and stuff. I wrote a kite [memo] to classification telling them I'm a Blood and y'all put me in a tank with a bunch of Crips. I don't ever go in to the gym. I just sit in my cell."

There's no changing who he is, Old Man said: Once in a gang, always in a gang. Gang experts said that people who join gangs for protection while in jail find it hard to quit when they get out.

"You can't go flipping flavors," Old Man said. "I could tell my mama goodbye. She's the closest thing to me. They would take care of it [harm his mother]."

Old Man, who asked that his real name not be used to ensure his safety, said he is happy in his single cell, where no one can get to him.

Pope said: "We have to keep them from killing each other. They're our wards. I've got a statutory obligation to protect them."

Pope also worries about the safety of the deputies who work in the jail. "It's an extremely difficult situation," Pope said. "We're doing the best we can."

Deputy S.C. Seabolt, a jailer for more than a year, hadn't thought much about gangs until May, when he took two rival gang members to a medical unit.

"They didn't know each other. But within two minutes, they were going at it," Seabolt said. "I stepped between them; why, I'll never know. I was able to back one to the door and call for help. That's when I started paying attention to the gang stuff. I carry a list of known gang members in my pocket. I don't want to get into that position again."

Farmer is the first to acknowledge that Seabolt's list is probably far from complete. Each time a prisoner who may be a gang member enters the jail, Farmer interviews the new inmate.

"For every one [gang member] I get, there are at least two that slipped through," Farmer said.

Most do not confess their gang affiliation easily, Farmer said. But after a week or so in the general

population, many send him a note saying that they are gang members and need help.

"The street gangs try to run the inside of the pods like they do the streets," Farmer said. "You get someone in and they have to be moved out the same day because they got someone from the world [outside the prison] in there who's a rival gang member."

In Los Angeles County, gangs in jail have been a recognized problem for more than a decade. Several approaches have been used to control the accompanying violence, said Lt. Mark Milburn, coordinator of that county's gang management program.

Milburn has 25 employees who, like Farmer, identify gang members and attempt to keep the peace.

In the early 1980s, Milburn said, gang members were segregated according to their affiliation. "You almost create your own hazardous situation, because you give them a power base," Milburn said. "There was a mob mentality; they began doing things that they wouldn't have done as individuals."

In 1986, Los Angeles County started incorporating the gang members back into the general population, and violence increased dramatically, Milburn said. Four months ago, his team began identifying the gang leaders and troublemakers. Now, those people are segregated according to gang affiliation. "All of these people are escorted everywhere they go and they're all handcuffed," Milburn said. "This seems to be working. I think we'll be doing this for a while."

Those who are not gang members when they are jailed have a good chance to be members by the time they get out. Johnson leads one of the Crips' many Fort Worth fac-

tions. He calls people who aren't in a gang "marks."

"He's [a mark] got no chance at all," Johnson said. "He's going to get his money took. He's going to

have to wash clothes. He might even get his manhood took. They're suckers."

Johnson was recently moved from a cell where 24 men were

housed in a facility built for 10, a common situation in the old jail, Pope said.

When several other Crips were moved into the tank, Johnson proudly said, they took over. "We got control. There wasn't no voting on what to watch on TV. We could eat [from] other people's trays. They're just marks."

When deputies learned of the situation, they moved Johnson and his friends to separate cells, Farmer said. Johnson is now the only Crip in a tank with older, more docile inmates.

Since coming in, he has recruited four people into his gang. Each was beaten by the other gang members as an initiation.

"We'll find a guy who's bloody from head to toe," Farmer said. "We'll ask him who beat him up. He says, 'What are you talking about? Nobody beat me up.' Within a week he's got tattoos and is wearing [gang] colors." The homemade tattoos are produced with ink or pencil lead punched into the skin. "Colors" are applied to clothes or shoes with felt-tip markers; some inmates tear strips from their blue mattress covers to use as headbands or bandannas.

Demil "Dice" Peoples, 20, who was jailed last month on a charge of involuntary manslaughter, said he is already running a tank with some of his "Locs" (fellow gang members) and has two recruitment possibilities.

"We don't have enough. We never have enough," Peoples said. "There's a lot of people who want to get down. Hopefully, I can get 10 or 15 in here. That's what I'm expecting."

Peoples drops his green prison jumpsuit and proudly shows off his new tattoo. "FO-TRE," the name of his Crips faction, is tattooed above his navel in neat Roman script. He throws up his set — makes his gang hand sign — for the camera. "I've been wanting an interview," he said. "This will help. I'm recruiting."

Ernest Anderson, 23, is in Peoples' cell. He said he is fighting the urge to join a gang. "It's pressure if you let it get to you," he said. "There's a lot of love and unity. But maybe this is my last trip here. Hopefully, I'll get out and start a business."

In cell 1-9D, plans for a new Fort Worth gang are being discussed. Anthony "Copperhead" Gunnell recruited Jerald "J.J." Berry, his 19-year-old cellmate, three weeks ago. "I put him down," said Gunnell, 22. "I have love for him now. I told him to go out recruiting for me."

Gunnell and his brother, both in jail, came from Las Vegas, where their gang faction was strong. Berry is due to get out any day. Gunnell decided that the 19-year-old would be a good soldier.

"When I go out into the world, I'm going to start recruiting," Berry said. "When he gets out, we'll have a little family. He's the O.G. [Original Gangster] over me."

Berry takes the recruiting assignment seriously. "I'm thinking I can get 10 or 15 [new recruits] in one week," he said. "I'm down to the dirt — I'm down 'til the casket drops."



Recruiting is difficult to stop, Pope said. Guards are taught what to look for: the hand signs and tattoos. But with one jailer per 65 inmates — the state recommends a 1-48 ratio — vigilance is not always possible.

Another hurdle, Pope said, is his current inability to punish prisoners. "When they violate rules or fight, they should be put into an isolation cell," Pope said. "I'm overcrowded; I don't have places to put them. If the state would take their 3,000 prisoners, then I'd have room." The county had 3,057 sentenced felons awaiting transfer to the state system as of Friday.

Officials have quashed obvious recruiting efforts, such as a recent fad that had members cutting their hair in a gang-identifying style, Pope said. Then inmates began drawing gang symbols on their white T-shirts, and jailers quickly confiscated the shirts.

But there are other ways to get the message out. Some gangs use hand-written materials to promote and explain their group.

"Memorize and then flush it!" is written at the top of a three-page recruiting handout confiscated by

jail officials. "A picture of the devil is also our emblem. It stands for you will follow your folks to hell and back if nessasary," explains the handout, which includes misspellings.

The letters are mailed from prisoner to prisoner. Each is painstakingly written in tiny script.

The jail, which has its own ZIP code, receives three bags of mail each day. All are checked for contraband. Writings in code are common. One confiscated key shows the alphabet letters next to their corresponding code symbols.

Other written handouts are used simply to keep jailed gang members informed about which factions are at war with their gang.

"Nuestra Raza is at war with M.M. and we don't — with Pistolerros," reads one handwritten 19-page handout for a Hispanic prison gang.

Farmer does his best to keep up with the ever-changing gang conflicts. Crips and Bloods will fight if put in the same cell, but a tentative alliance seems to be building between the Latin Kings and the Crips.

An Aryan Brotherhood member with a federal-prison background is hostile toward a Texas member because the Texas branch allows Hispanics to join. But then, Farmer says, it is best to keep all Aryan Brotherhood members out of open tanks.

One 24-year-old Aryan Brotherhood member, embellished with a swastika and other hate tattoos, nodded in agreement.

"I'm better off where I am," he said. "I don't want to go into an open tank. Farmer's smart enough to know that. I would have problems."

Then there are the imports, who have landed where they don't fit. Monie Jones is an Eastcoast 190 Crips gang member from around Los Angeles. He was recruited at age

8 as a TG (Tiny Gangster) and is now a 20-year-old YG (Young Gangster).

"I'm from the 'hood," Jones said. "I want to get back to the house [his communal gang home]. I wish I never would have come here."

Where Jones comes from, the Eastcoast 190 Crips are in a ferocious battle with the Five Deuce Hoover Crips, who are the most common Crips in Tarrant County. Few local Crips knew of the California-based hostilities.

"This kid came in and claimed to be a Hoover," Farmer said. "Monie was all over him. They busted it up but the kid didn't know what had happened. I had to take him aside and tell him how it is. The kid had no idea."

Jones will never go back into the general population. "He's had too many problems," Farmer said.

Other jailed gang members may envy Jones' position. Farmer listens to a gang member beg for relocation

and makes no promises. "They're threatening him," Farmer said. "But, right now, there's no place to move him. Word is, he's having trouble with Crips. If that's it, it's going to follow him everywhere."

Farmer gives it a second thought. "But it all depends on how big of a problem it is," he said. "I'll try to find a place to move him."

Up on the sixth floor, a guard tells Farmer about a suspect in a drive-by shooting who has just come in the back door. When Farmer pulls him out of the holding tank, he sees that the 17-year-old has the tattoos of a gang member, but like many entering the jail he denies the affiliation.

"Well, OK," Farmer said. "But you remember my name, and if you have any trouble let me know."

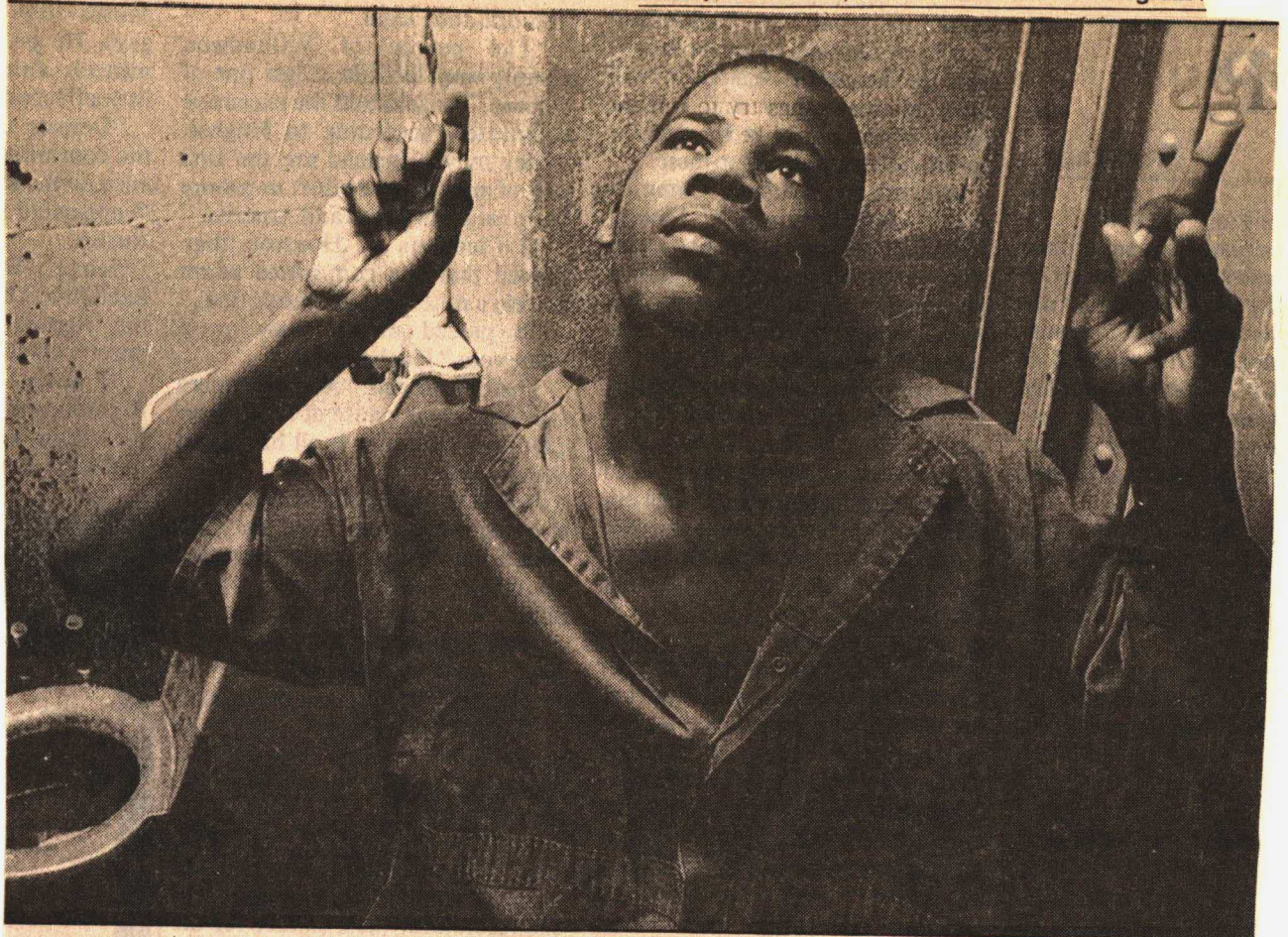
The thin Hispanic teen goes back to the concrete bench he was sleeping on. "He'll drop me a kite [memo] saying he's got enemies," Farmer said. "He'll be claiming his gang in a week."



Crips gang members Anthony "Copperhead" Gunnell, right, and Jerald "J.J." Berry display gun and "Blood Killer" hand signs.



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Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RC

**Deandra "Lil Twin" Moore, 17, displays his gang hand signs in his Tarrant County Jail cell.**



A RE-PRINT FROM THE  
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## Clark receives TCCC award

Floyd Clark, former Cleburne resident and Cleburne High School graduate, received the "1993 Deputy of the Year" Award for the Tarrant County Correctional Center at its annual award banquet.

Clark joined the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department in 1986, and has been consistently recognized for his ability and dedication to effective law enforcement.

As a certified peace officer, overseeing the release of individuals from custody, a position he has maintained for the past five years, he is greatly admired not only by his fellow officers (the basis of this prestigious award); but, is highly respected in law enforcement circles for his cooperation and proficiency.

Clark was also this year's elected representative of the newly constructed correctional facility, chosen by fellow officers as their spokesman with the current administration on matters pertaining to working conditions and morale within the department.

Along with daily releases of individuals from incarceration, Clark processes the release of parolees, as well as those being transported to pre-parole and other intermediate sanction facilities.

Prior to joining the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, Clark was a Senior Traffic Clerk at Montgomery Ward's Seventh



Floyd Clark

Street facility in Fort Worth.

When asked what factors have contributed most to his professional vocation, Clark is quick to respond, "Other than a genuine liking for people, a good education; especially the one received at the hands of my teachers when in Cleburne High School, and those instructors who have guided me in my law enforcement career."



# 2 Tarrant jailers arrested in beatings of inmates

By KATHY SANDERS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Two Tarrant County jailers have been arrested on suspicion of beating two inmates, one so severely that a warden did not recognize his bloody face as he lay handcuffed on the floor, according to officials and documents.

The arrests focused attention for the first time on the jail's Primary Emergency Response Team — composed of jailers who are trained to quell violence and deal with volatile inmates — because the two jailers

were assigned to the team when the beatings occurred.

The jailers — Todd Hamilton, 32, and Dale Motes, 44 — were escorted by their attorneys to the jail shortly after 4 p.m. Wednesday. The two were booked on suspicion of violating the inmates' civil rights, records show. Both were released on bail.

An internal investigation was aided by a videotape of an Oct. 21 beating and parts of a videotape showing the other, more severe beating, which took place Nov. 18. The case

(More on JAIL on Page 15)

has been turned over to the Tarrant County district attorney's office and state charges are expected to be filed today.

Hamilton's attorney, Mike Ware, said yesterday that he is in the midst of his own investigation and deferred further comment. Attorney Leonard Schilling is representing Motes. The attorneys were not allowing either jailer to comment.

Sheriff David Williams could not be reached for comment.

Authorities are seeking charges against Hamilton of violation of civil rights in both beatings. He was freed on \$10,000 bail. They are seeking a charge of civil-rights violation against Motes in the Nov. 18 beating. He posted \$5,000 bail.

A sergeant remains on leave with pay in connection with the case after witnesses said he didn't intervene when he saw one of the beatings, officials said.

Others may be disciplined as the investigation continues, officials said.

Hamilton and Motes were hired at the Sheriff's Department in November 1992 and have been on leave with pay since the investigation began about three weeks ago.

Sheriff's Department spokesman G.M. Hendrix said their status will remain unchanged until the case is concluded.

The jailers were members of the PERT team, which is trained to handle situations in which inmates refuse to comply with rules or are prone to violence.

When those situations arise at the Tarrant County Jail, Chief Deputy

Hank Pope said, team members "suit up" in protective clothing and go in as a group to subdue the inmates or force them to comply with orders.

To protect everyone's interests, one of the officers carries a video-camera to tape the incident when the team is activated, said Pope, who oversees the jail operation.

Hendrix said PERT members must also be large in order to handle the inmates. Motes is 6-foot-1 and weighs 195 pounds; Hamilton stands 6-foot-2 and weighs 220 pounds, records show.

In each of the two reported beat-

***"[PERT team members are] supposed to exhibit good judgment in these situations. . . . Every once in a while, you get people who carry this too far and when they do, this is the result."***

— G.M. Hendrix  
sheriff's department spokesman

ings, four to six team members were present, documents say.

"It's not a goon squad," Hendrix said. "They're supposed to exhibit good judgment in these situations. . . . Every once in a while, you get people who carry this too far and when they do, this is the result," he said, referring to the arrests.

Maj. John Smedley, the jail warden, discovered the Oct. 21 incident involving inmate Neal Sharkey, 40, when he reviewed a videotape of the Nov. 18 incident involving inmate

Tony Blacklock, an arrest warrant affidavit says.

Blacklock, a 28-year-old Houston man, has been in jail more than a year awaiting trial on two aggravated robbery charges. Smedley said in a statement that he came running when he was notified of a fight between an inmate and an officer.

When he saw Blacklock, his hands were cuffed behind his back, his bloody face was down on the floor with his eyes were swollen shut, the affidavit says.

Although Smedley knew Blacklock well, he told investigators that he didn't recognize the inmate that morning because he had been beaten so severely.

Smedley reviewed the tape of the incident after he saw Blacklock's injuries and at that time found the October incident on the tape. No complaint had been filed on that incident at the time.

Hendrix said that jail administrators "on the 20th or 21st of November . . . became aware through some sources and regular jail procedures of the alleged civil-rights violation of two inmates in the jail. We didn't try to cover up anything."

Arrest warrant affidavits detail the two beatings as recorded on videotape and by witnesses.



About 2:45 p.m. Oct. 21, the PERT jailers were gathered near Sharkey's cell, preparing to move him to another cell on another floor, the document says. It did not specify why Sharkey was being moved. He was in jail on a parole violation and was released Nov. 23.

Reports on the incident filed by a sergeant and a medical technician did not match what investigators saw in the videotape, the affidavit says.

The video shows that at first Shar-

key resisted efforts to remove him from his cell, but after handcuffs and leg irons were put on, he stopped, the affidavit says. Sharkey continued mouthing off, however, it says.

Other officers who were present during the incident told investigators that Hamilton slammed Sharkey into the elevator, kned him in the thigh, slapped him in the back of the head, used a kubtan — a small, metal expandable baton — to apply excessive pressure to a spot behind his ear, and kned him again, lifting him off the ground, the affidavit says.

Before putting Sharkey in his new cell, Hamilton threw Sharkey over

***"They beat him until he was bleeding. They threw him on the floor and sprayed him with some kind of gas that made it hard for him to breathe."***

— Monique Blacklock  
inmate's sister

the jailer's leg and onto the floor, one officer said in his statement. "From my vantage point, I could see no reason for Officer Hamilton to do this," the officer said in the affidavit.

The officers said a sergeant saw all this but made no effort to intervene, the affidavit says. The sergeant was later was placed on administrative leave.

"In the video, it is plain to see that the force used against the inmate is unnecessary and uncalled for," the investigators wrote in the affidavit.

The second incident, involving

Blacklock, occurred about 8 a.m. Nov. 18 after he was taken for a shower. When he returned, he found that Hamilton had "shook down his cell" and his belongings were scattered, the affidavit says.

Blacklock began yelling about his belongings and told investigators that the jailer grabbed him by the back of the neck and punched him in the face.

"Hamilton, according to Blacklock, began to choke him and that was when he, Blacklock, was trying to get free," the affidavit says. Another PERT member sprayed pepper self-defense spray on the inmate and Blacklock told detectives that he didn't see who was beating him after that.

A jailer in the area said she heard scuffling and notified supervisors of a fight between an inmate and an officer, and then saw Hamilton on Blacklock's back, punching the inmate as Motes held Blacklock's shoulder, the affidavit says.

Another officer at the scene said he held Blacklock while Hamilton punched him in the face and told investigators of seeing "Motes kicking Blacklock in the face and upper body" while the inmate was on the ground, the affidavit says.

The blows and kicks occurred before Smedley and other senior officers arrived, the document says.

The affidavit also details what appear to be several violations of PERT procedures during the incident and quotes an officer who said he overheard Hamilton, Motes and another officer talking about "getting their stories straight."

Blacklock's sister, Monique Blacklock, 29, of Houston, told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* yesterday that her brother was badly beaten two weeks ago in the jail.

"He called me and told me what happened," she said. "They beat him until he was bleeding. They threw him on the floor and sprayed him with some kind of gas that made it hard for him to breathe."

She said he told her that the beating began after he returned to his cell and found his possessions in disarray.

"They [jailers] had stepped on his soap and stepped on all his different things," she said. "He questioned them and they felt that was reason enough to beat him."

PERT is a concept introduced in the Tarrant County Jail two years ago and is "patterned after some people in Arizona and the West Coast," Pope said. He did not specify who those people are.

All county jailers are trained in PERT procedure, Pope said, and jailers are chosen at random for the team. It was not clear yesterday how often jailers rotate onto the team or how many are on the team at a time.

Although no such special team of jailers is used at the Dallas County Jail, one has been in operation for nearly four years at the Bexar County Jail in San Antonio, officials said.

In Dallas, jail-floor commanders are responsible for dispatching officers when trouble occurs, said Jim Ewell, spokesman for the Dallas County Sheriff's Department.

A 100-officer team at the Bexar County Jail is responsible for dealing with troublemakers, Cpl. Garfield McCulley said.

"We've really had very good success with ours," McCulley said. He said it was a "fantastic deterrent" for any of the jail's 4,000 prisoners who might otherwise cause trouble.

Staff writers M.C. Moewe, Bill Hanna and Jack Douglas Jr. contributed to this report.



# Sheriff calls attacks unjustified

## Inquiry prompted by tape of inmates' beating

BY KATHY SANDERS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Videotapes of jailers beating two inmates show no evidence to justify the attacks and "prisoner abuse is not something we will tolerate," Sheriff David Williams said today.

The videotapes, a normal procedure when members of a specially

trained jail squad attempt to quell disturbances or restrain unruly inmates, serve as a "further record of the entire episode in these cases," Williams said. "A picture is truly worth a thousand words."

Commenting for the first time since two jailers were arrested Wednesday and accused of violating the civil rights of the two in-

mates, the sheriff said the videotapes of the incidents prompted the internal investigation that led to the arrests of jailers Todd Hamilton, 32, and Dale Motes, 44.

"Obviously, this incident and what I think we're seeing (on the videotapes) is not acceptable," he said. "I don't think it's consistent (More on JAIL on Page 15)

## Jail

From Page 1

with the normal routine."

While prisoner abuse will not be tolerated, "at the same time we are not going to tolerate our staff being abused by the prisoners. But I don't think the prisoner was abusing" the jailers involved in the incidents, Williams said.

Formal charges were expected to be filed today against Hamilton and Motes, who are free on bond and on leave with pay pending disposition of the cases. A sheriff's sergeant who reportedly witnessed one of the incidents but did not intervene also has been put on leave with pay.

An internal investigation was aided by a videotape of an Oct. 21 beating and parts of a videotape showing the other, more severe beating Nov. 18.

Hamilton's attorney, Mike Ware, said yesterday that he is in the midst of his own investigation and declined further comment. He and attorney Leonard Schilling, who is representing Motes, would not allow either jailer to comment.

Others may be disciplined as the investigation continues, officials said.

The two jailers at the time of the beatings were assigned to Primary Emergency Response Team, a squad of jailers trained to quell violence and deal with volatile inmates.

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orders.

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When he saw Blacklock, his hands were cuffed behind his back, his bloody face was on the floor with his eyes were swollen shut, the affidavit says.

Although Smedley knew Blacklock well, he told investigators that he didn't recognize the inmate because he had been beaten so severely.

Smedley reviewed the tape of that incident after he saw Blacklock's injuries and at that time found the October incident on the tape. No complaint had been filed on that incident at the time.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, the PERT jailers were gathered near Sharkey's cell about 2:45



p.m. Oct. 21, preparing to move him to another cell on another floor. The document did not specify why Sharkey was being moved. He was in jail on a parole violation and was released Nov. 23.

Reports on the incident filed by a sergeant and a medical technician did not match what investigators saw in the videotape, the affidavit says.

The video shows that Sharkey initially resisted efforts to remove him from his cell, but after handcuffs and leg irons were put on, he stopped, the affidavit says. Sharkey continued mouthing off, however, it says.

Other officers present during the incident told investigators that Hamilton slammed Sharkey into the elevator, kned him in the thigh, slapped him in the back of the head, used a kubtan — a small, metal expandable baton — to apply excessive pressure to a spot behind his ear, and kned him again, lifting him off the ground, the affidavit says.

Before putting Sharkey in his new cell, Hamilton threw the inmate over the jailer's leg and onto the floor, one officer said in his statement.

"From my vantage point, I could see no reason for Officer Hamilton to do this," the officer said in the affidavit.

The officers said a sergeant witnessed the events but made no effort to intervene, the affidavit says.

"In the video, it is plain to see that the force used against the inmate is unnecessary and uncalled for," the investigators wrote in the affidavit.

The second incident, involving Blacklock, occurred about 8 a.m. Nov. 18 after he was taken for a shower. When he returned, he found that Hamilton had "shook

down his cell" and his belongings were scattered, the affidavit says.

Blacklock began yelling about his belongings and told investigators that the jailer grabbed him by the back of the neck and punched him in the face.

"Hamilton, according to Blacklock, began to choke him and that was when he, Blacklock, was trying to get free," the affidavit says. Another PERT member sprayed pepper self-defense spray on the inmate and Blacklock told detectives that he didn't see who was beating him after that.

A jailer in the area said she heard scuffling and notified supervisors of a fight between an inmate and an officer, and then saw Hamilton on Blacklock's back, punching the inmate as Motes held Blacklock's shoulder, the affidavit says.

Another officer at the scene said he held Blacklock while Hamilton punched him in the face and told investigators of seeing "Motes kicking Blacklock in the face and upper body" while the inmate was on the ground, the affidavit says.

The blows and kicks occurred before Smedley and other senior officers arrived, the document says.

The affidavit also details what appear to be several violations of PERT procedures during the incident and quotes an officer who said he overheard Hamilton, Motes and another officer talking about "getting their stories straight."

PERT is a concept introduced in the Tarrant County Jail two years ago and is "patterned after some people in Arizona and the West Coast," Pope said. He did not specify who those people are.

**Staff writers M.C. Moewe, Bill Hanna and Jack Douglas Jr. contributed to this report.**



# Tarrant County officers plan to intensify anti-gang efforts

BY DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.  
AND M.C. MOEWE  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Fort Worth and other Tarrant County police departments vowed yesterday to keep the heat on gang leaders and members in their cities after Dallas declared war against street gangs with the creation of an anti-gang strike force.

Fort Worth, Arlington and Northeast Tarrant County suburban police officials say they have had a zero-tolerance policy on gangs and gang task forces for years, but they still plan to intensify their focus on gangs in the coming months.

Dallas Police Chief Ben Click announced yesterday that the formation of a 60-officer gang task force will target leaders of the city's most violent gangs after a spate of drive-by and retaliatory gang shootings.

"The gang-related violence the city has experienced in recent weeks necessitates a strong response from law enforcement," Click said. "We intend to do everything possible to make the streets of Dallas safer from the threat of gang violence."

Dallas is pulling officers from its six operations bureaus and one street narcotics squad to beef up the gang task force, which earlier had 14 officers.

The task force hits the streets at 7 a.m. today, and will concentrate on areas such as schools and street corners where gangs are most common.

Dallas has more than 100 gangs, according to estimates, and police officials have said that 30 gangs are active at any one time.

Police spokesman Ed Spencer

said the task force will take a "zero-tolerance approach" with gang members and will ticket them for minor traffic violations such as expired license tags. The task force will also work to identify members and crack down on the most violent gangs, he said.

In June, Fort Worth police began a two-month intensive crackdown. Thirty officers were reassigned to a detail targeting gangs in the south and east areas of the city. The program included setting up driver's license checkpoints, beefing up gang intelligence efforts, using every legal reason to pull over drivers and interviewing people suspected of being involved in gangs.

Police Chief Thomas Windham has heralded his city's program as a success.

Within the first three weeks, serious crimes decreased 31 percent compared to the same period last year. During that time, officers in the three targeted zones arrested 191 people, issued 3,029 citations and confiscated 20 weapons.

"Any time you have a 31 percent decrease in area crimes you'd have to consider that a success," said Lt. Ed Daniels, who heads the Fort Worth gang unit.

Like Dallas, Fort Worth police started its program after a spurt of gang violence. In the week before the program was launched, eight people were injured in drive-by shootings — including a 7-year-old boy who was critically wounded when caught in the cross fire of warring gangs.

Fort Worth police are still using

zero-tolerance methods but not on such a grand scale, Daniels said.

"What we're doing now we consider a very scaled-down version," he said. "We're moving into small areas as the need arises."

Arlington police created their first gang suppression task force in spring 1992 after a spate of neighborhood shootings that residents attributed to gangs. It has since increased to a four-member gang unit. Detectives assigned to the unit maintain a database of information about the city's estimated 400 gang members, try to head off gang-related crimes and develop anti-gang programs for schools and community groups.

Grand Prairie police have operated a similar unit for about three years. This fall, a state gang unit grant began paying salaries and equipment allotments for three detectives and one sergeant. The Grand Prairie grant was worth \$158,000, police administrators said.

Grand Prairie gang unit detectives operate from an undisclosed site near gang territories. Officers have identified 200 to 300 gang members in the city.

During the past year, Irving and some Northeast Tarrant County police departments have enforced their own form of zero-tolerance.

And a proposed ordinance aimed at gangs is planned for next year in Haltom City.

Staff writers John Council and Kristin Sullivan contributed to this report.



# Sheriff says he won't tolerate inmate abuse

BY KATHY SANDERS  
AND BILL HANNA  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Sheriff David Williams said yesterday that he will not tolerate abuse of prisoners in the Tarrant County Jail and that he ordered the internal investigation that led to the arrest of two jailers this week on suspicion of beating inmates.

The jailers' actions as part of a special squad to subdue unruly inmates were recorded on videotape in separate incidents in October and November. Williams said he ordered the inquiry after seeing the videotape.

"Prisoner abuse is not something we will tolerate," Williams said.

A lawyer for one of the jailers said, however, that the deputy was

just doing his job.

The two jailers, Todd Hamilton, 32, and Dale Motes, 44, were arrested Wednesday and accused of violating the civil rights of two inmates, both of whom were beaten and kicked, investigators say.

Formal charges were not filed yesterday against Hamilton and Motes, who are free on bail and on leave  
(More on JAILERS on Page 9)

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## Jailers

From Page 1

with pay pending disposition of the cases.

Videotaping is considered a normal procedure when members of the Primary Emergency Response Team attempt to quell disturbances or restrain unruly inmates, and the tapes serve as a "further record of the entire episode in these type cases," Williams said. "A picture, in most cases, is truly worth a thousand words."

He said that when he first saw the videotape, "I was greatly disheartened and am always angry when an incident of excessive force exists in any law enforcement agency, especially my own. It's intolerable in my view."

"Obviously, this incident and what I think we're seeing [on the videotapes] is not acceptable," he said. "I don't think it's consistent with the normal routine."

Although prisoner abuse will not be tolerated, "at the same time, we are not going to tolerate our staff being abused by the prisoners. But I don't believe the prisoner was abusing" the jailers involved in the incidents, Williams said.

Hamilton's attorney, Mike Ware, said in a news release yesterday that his client was simply doing his job.

"I have reviewed the videotape, and it depicts some deputies performing an unpleasant job in an unpleasant place among unpleasant people, but there are no criminal violations depicted," Ware wrote.

The deputies' jobs require them to use force to stop disturbances, Ware said.

"Sometimes the use of force is not only necessary for the protection of the jailers, but for the protection of the other inmates and for orderly administration of jail business," Ware said. "It is just a daily fact of life in the jail."

Leonard Schilling, the attorney representing Motes, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

A sheriff's sergeant who reportedly witnessed one of the incidents but did not intervene has also been put on leave with pay. Others may be disciplined as the investigation continues, officials said.

Maj. John Smedley, the jail warden, discovered the Oct. 21 incident involving inmate Neal Sharkey, 40, while reviewing a videotape of the Nov. 18 incident involving inmate Tony Blacklock, an arrest warrant for the jailers says.

Blacklock, 28, of Houston, has been in jail more than a year awaiting trial on two aggravated robbery

charges. Smedley said in a statement that he came running when he was notified of a fight between an inmate and an officer.

When he saw Blacklock, his hands were cuffed behind his back and his bloody face was on the floor with his eyes swollen shut, the affidavit says.

Although Smedley knew Blacklock well, he told investigators that he didn't recognize the inmate because he had been beaten so severely.

Smedley reviewed the tape of that incident after he saw Blacklock's injuries and then found the October incident on the tape. No complaint had been filed on that incident at the time.

The tape shows that Sharkey initially resisted efforts to remove him from his cell, but after handcuffs and leg irons were put on, he stopped, the affidavit says. Sharkey continued mouthing off, however, it says.

Other officers who were present told investigators that Hamilton had slammed Sharkey into the elevator, kneed him in the thigh, slapped him in the back of the head, used a kubtan — a small, metal expandable baton — to apply excessive pressure to a spot behind his ear, and kneed him again, lifting him off the ground, the affidavit says.



# Captain, ex-lieutenant sue county and sheriff

BY STEFANI GAMMAGE KOPENEC  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A Sheriff's Department captain arrested on suspicion of drunken driving and a fired sheriff's lieutenant filed separate lawsuits yesterday against Tarrant County and Sheriff David Williams, alleging infringement of constitutional rights and wrongful termination, respectively.

The suit by Capt. George Campbell, who was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving in June but was never charged, was filed in federal court. The one by ex-Lt. Richard

Bivins, a former California law officer who worked for Tarrant County almost four months, was filed in state District Court.

Neither suit specified the amount of damages sought.

Williams said last night that he did not want to comment on the specific allegations because he had not seen the lawsuits and had not talked to legal counsel.

However, he called the lawsuits "politically generated attacks" and accused lawyers for Campbell of

(More on SUIT on Page 38)

## Suit

From Page 29

grandstanding.

"They've made dog-and-pony show events out of everything they could on it," he said.

Campbell alleges that his arrest was a setup by Lt. Ray Bell and that his Fourth Amendment right against unreasonable search and seizure and his 14th Amendment rights to due process and equal protection of the law were violated.

Bell is named as a defendant in Campbell's suit.

Bell followed Campbell's car from a golf tournament and told a deputy to pull him over because he was driving erratically, the arresting deputy said in an affidavit.

Campbell was suspended but reinstated three days later when the Tarrant County district attorney's office declined to charge him with driving while intoxicated.

Officials with the Texas Department of Public Safety have said they do not believe that the county had probable cause to stop Campbell or enough evidence to deem him drunk.

Neither Bell nor Campbell could be reached for comment.

However, Chief Deputy Pat Howell, who has come under fire by

Campbell's attorneys, said he talked to Bell, who declined to comment until he is represented by an attorney.

Campbell's attorneys previously have said that they understand Bell was in constant contact with Howell before Campbell's arrest.

Howell rejects allegations of a setup.

Campbell's attorney, Bill Ray, accused Williams and his administration of favoritism and inner-office dirty politics.

"They want to run off everybody they don't like and put their friends in there," Ray said. "We're going to put an end to it."

"This suit is more to punish the offender rather than make George Campbell rich," he said.

Campbell contends in the lawsuit that Williams knew or should have known that Bell set out to arrest Campbell and accuses Tarrant County of gross negligence in training and supervising Bell.

Williams said an internal investigation into the arrest has been completed but he would not release any details without first talking to his attorney.

In the other lawsuit, Bivins said he was part of the internal team investigating Campbell's DWI arrest and alleges that he was fired for reporting "a violation of the law to an appropriate law enforcement authority."

The sheriff says he did not fire Bivins for that reason, saying instead that Bivins was fired in September for not completing a six-month probationary period.

Bivins referred all questions to his attorney, Jim Lane, who was out of town and could not be reached.

Bivins says in court documents that he spoke to an FBI agent about his knowledge of activities by Bell and Howell and about his belief that Campbell's civil rights had been violated. Bivins also told the agent that Howell was targeting him for retaliation because of his "knowledge of his illegal acts relating to Campbell's arrest," the lawsuit states.

Bivins also says he told Williams that Howell was "dirty" in the Campbell arrest and that Howell set up Campbell, court papers state.

Bivins also is suing Williams for libel and slander, contending that the sheriff published accusations of alleged acts of sexual harassment by Bivins when he knew they were not true.

Bivins, who is not a civil service employee, was put on administrative leave with pay in September after two female deputies filed a complaint. No details of the complaint were disclosed.

He was reassigned earlier after news reports regarding his involvement in a California freeway shooting 18 years ago.



# Judge

From Page 31

## Ex-judge indicted on DWI

Third such charge prosecuted as felony

BY THOMAS KOROSK  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Former visiting Judge Franklin Douthitt was indicted yesterday on felony charges of drunken driving and has resigned from the bench, officials said.

Douthitt, 56, was indicted by a Tarrant County grand jury in connection with a minor auto accident on Aug. 27 involving a Fort Worth police car in a parking lot off Bryant Irvin Road, according to court and police records.

Douthitt recently informed Judge Clyde Ashworth, the administrative judge for Tarrant County, that he was giving up his judicial status this month and returning to practice law in Henrietta, Ashworth said yesterday.

Douthitt, who has presided over numerous felony trials in Tarrant County, could not be reached for comment.

"Judge Douthitt has valid defense to this indictment, both legally and factually," his attorney, Tim Evans, said yesterday. "We intend to present them in court and are optimistic about the result. That's all I can say now."

Douthitt had been freed on \$1,000 bail and had been restricted to hearing civil cases in the weeks following his arrest.

His latest DWI charge is being

(More on JUDGE on Page 36)

was serving two years' probation for a misdemeanor DWI conviction, a sentence assessed in February in County Criminal Court No. 2, court records show. In that case, Douthitt was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated in Arlington on June 13, 1991.

Travis County records show that Douthitt was arrested on a DWI charge there in October 1990 and placed on probation June 17, 1991 — four days after his arrest in Arlington.

Douthitt was discharged early from the Travis County probation, in October 1992, records show.

Joe Shearin, an assistant in the Dallas County district attorney's office, was appointed in the fall to serve as a special prosecutor in the current case. He declined to discuss the case except to say that he presented it to the grand jury, which returned the indictment the same day.

Shearin said that Douthitt's probation in the June 1991 DWI arrest in Arlington will continue until the latest case is resolved.

A probation revocation hearing that had been scheduled for Monday is likely to be postponed, Shearin said. If a judge revokes Douthitt's probation, he could be required to serve the 90-day sentence imposed in that case.

Douthitt was a longtime state district judge and former general counsel for the State Bar of Texas. He was among about 100 retired or former state judges who are assigned to help handle overburdened court dockets and to fill in for sick or vacationing jurists or those who have removed themselves from cases for ethical reasons.

Douthitt has been particularly popular with prosecutors for his law-and-order outlook. He presided over several high-profile criminal cases in Tarrant County in the past year, including the capital murder trial of Edward LaGrone last May.

A jury gave LaGrone the death penalty after convicting him of the slayings of a 10-year-old girl, who was pregnant with his child, and the girl's two elderly great-aunts.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1993

# Officer critically injured



Fort Worth crime scene officers investigate a wreck involving a Fort Worth officer this morning on Interstate 20. Star-T

## Car hits policeman aiding motorist stranded along I-20

By **BILL HANNA**  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A Fort Worth police officer helping a stranded motorist along Interstate 20 in south Fort Worth was seriously injured before dawn today by a possibly drunken driver.

Officer Alan Chick, a 12-year veteran of the department and father of two, was listed in critical condition this morning in the

intensive care unit at John Peter Smith Hospital. Chick, 34, had not regained consciousness this morning and had suffered lacerations to the head and broken facial bones but doctors had found no internal injuries.

Eugene Standerford, 55, of Dallas, the driver of the Cadillac that struck Chick was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving

(More on ACCIDENT on Page 4)





The car that hit the officer sits east of Oak Grove Road.

# Accident

From Page 1

and booked into the Tarrant County Jail, police said. A sample of the man's blood was taken at Harris Methodist Fort Worth but he refused medical treatment, said Lt. Pat Knebllick, Fort Worth Police Department spokeswoman.

Standerford has five DWI convictions, four of which were felonies, in Dallas County, according to a spokeswoman for the Dallas County District Attorney's Office.

The most recent was a DWI conviction in Dallas in 1984 and he was sentenced to three years in prison, the spokeswoman said.

Today's accident occurred about 3:55 a.m. when the white 1984 Cadillac struck Chick, who was standing along the shoulder of the freeway, in the 1400 block of Southeast Loop 820 (as the freeway's access roads are designated), according to the police report.

Chick had passed a set of jumper cables to a woman in the cab of a Chevrolet pickup that he had jump-started. The woman told police that was when Chick saw the car coming toward him.

"She said she saw a look of fear on his face and he started to yell," Knebllick said. "But he didn't have time to get out of the way. There was nowhere for him to move."

The Cadillac first clipped the rear of the pickup, knocking the truck into the front bumper of Chick's squad car, then hit Chick, knocking him to the ground, Knebllick said. The Cadillac went another 300 to 400 feet before stopping.

After the accident, the woman, 24, got out of her pickup and ran to Chick who was unconscious and bleeding.

She then went to Chick's cruiser and tried to call for help but she could not operate his car radio. She then ran to the driver of the Cadillac, who refused to help her, Knebllick said.

The woman then ran back to Chick and grabbed the officer's hand-held radio to frantically call for help.

"She was hysterical," said Sgt. V.L. Autrey. "She was yelling, 'He's down! He's down!'"

Another officer, who had left Chick minutes earlier to pull over a car for a traffic violation, raced back to the scene and found the officer.

Police this morning were crediting the stranded motorist for getting Chick help.

"The woman in the truck he assisted probably saved Officer Chick's life by getting him medical attention," Knebllick said.

The accident was similar to several other accidents in the last year and a half where officers were killed by drunken drivers.

In September 1992, Fort Worth officer Brent Wisdom, 22, was struck by a drunken driver while helping a motorist with a flat tire along Interstate 35W in south Fort Worth.

One month later, Arlington officer Terry Lewis and reserve officer Jerry Crocker were killed when the drunken driver of a flat bed truck smashed into the officers' police car on Collins Street in Arlington.

And last July in Irving, police officer Glenn Homs was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver on Texas Highway 114 near Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.

Chick works the midnight shift on the south division. His wife, Lisa Chick, is a Fort Worth police officer in the East Division. They have two children.

The stranded motorist had been shopping for Christmas cards with

her male passenger when her pickup warning lights went on and her battery died as she was driving east on I-20, Knebllick said. She pulled over on the shoulder of the road and had been stranded several hours when Chick stopped. Neither the woman nor her passenger were seriously injured in the accident.

The woman was listed in good condition at JPS.

Police Chief Thomas Windham said doctors are concerned because they don't know why Chick is still unconscious.

"He is on the bad side of critical," Windham.

But Windham remained hopeful.

"I'm pulling for the officer. He is a big, strong officer. He is a fighter and I believe he will make it."

Windham said the incident upset him.

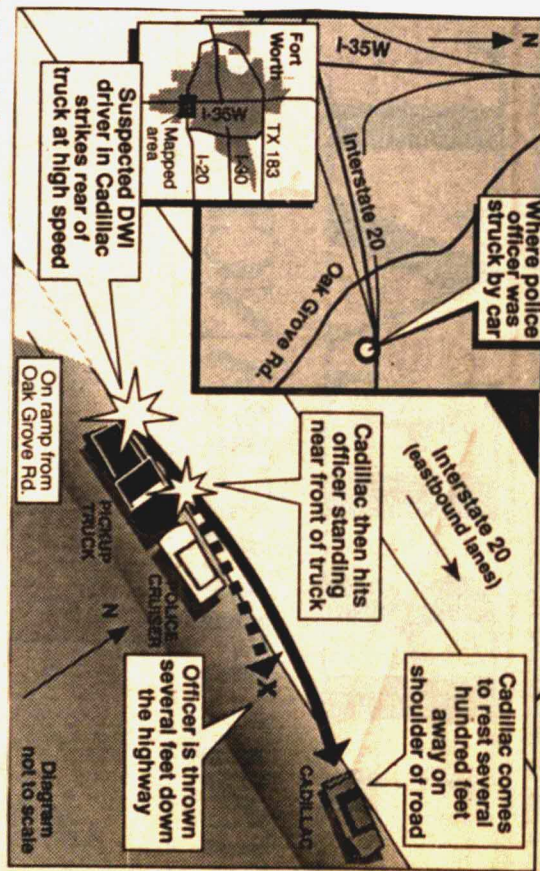
"I was very saddened by this. The fact that we have another Fort Worth police officer so critically injured by a drunk driver."

He also praised the woman.

"She had the presence of mind to get on the radio and push buttons."

Surgery is a strong possibility, Windham said, and a call has gone out for blood donors.

Staff writers Anita Baker and Stefani Gammage Kopenc contributed to this report.





# Officer's family keeps vigil

## Christmas to be brief respite for wife, children

By LOU CHAPMAN  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — After Fort Worth police officer Lisa Chick opens Christmas presents with her children and relatives at home this morning, she expects to spend the rest of the day doing exactly what she has done since early Wednesday.

She plans to continue her vigil at the hospital bed of her husband, of-

ficer Alan Chick, who was struck by a motorist along Interstate 20 before dawn Wednesday as he was helping another driver whose truck had broken down.

Tears trickled from swollen, red eyes, and the fatigue of only six hours' sleep in two days showed in her face as she talked of her husband, who remained unconscious yesterday.

He was suffering primarily from

fluid pressure on his brain, his wife said yesterday afternoon. By late last night, police sources indicated that his condition had deteriorated. Police Chief Thomas Windham was at John Peter Smith Hospital with Chick's family.

At an afternoon news conference at the hospital, 10-year police veteran Lisa Chick said her husband was "holding his own. His chances (More on CHICK on Page 24)



Wife Lisa Chick, cousin Karen Griffith and father Eugene Chick wait at the hospital where Fort Worth police officer Alan Chick is clinging to life after being struck by a motorist while helping another driver whose vehicle had stalled along Interstate 20.

remain at 50-50."

Their daughter, 8-year-old Jessica, had visited her father in the hospital, held his hand and told him that she loves him, her mother said.

Their youngest child, 2-year-old Jason, had not seen his injured father and knew only that he has been hurt, Chick said.

At home, the children have been watching video recordings of the family.

"We're keeping that image of him alive to them," Chick said.

Meanwhile, Alan Chick remained heavily sedated and was not in pain, she said.

Eugene Standerford, 55, of Dallas was arrested at the scene of the accident on suspicion of drunken driving.

He was released from Tarrant County Jail late Thursday night after posting \$10,000 bail.

Police said Standerford's blood-alcohol level was 0.15 percent at the time of the accident; state law says a level above 0.1 percent can constitute drunkenness.

Standerford could not be contacted for comment yesterday. According to police records, he has been convicted at least eight times of driving while intoxicated, most recently in 1984.

Chick's family and others have raised questions since the accident about the suspect's record and release on bail in the current case.

"We have laws in this state to prevent these people from driving, from getting their licenses back," said Lisa Chick, a community relations officer in the Police Department's Weed and Seed program. "We need judges to carry out the sentencing.

"He [Standerford] is at home now. He's at home with his family at Christmas... I just think it stinks," she said.

Judge Molly Jones, a Tarrant County criminal district court magistrate, explained that a standard recommended bail is \$500 bond in a first-offense DWI case and \$1,000 in a third-degree felony DWI case. "Those are very basic guidelines," Jones said.

Jones, who did not set Standerford's bail, said judges consider several things when setting bail, including the number of previous convictions, whether anyone was injured, and a possible future threat to society.

"Generally, a person has a right to a bond," Jones said. "The purpose of a bond is to secure someone's appearance in court, it's not supposed to be oppressive."

Alan Chick's father, Eugene Chick of Littleton, Colo., was in Texas for the holidays when the accident happened and had just visited Alan.

"It bothers me that the man who ran over him is out," Eugene Chick said, standing beside his daughter-in-law. "We need judges that will enforce the laws and not give these people light sentences.

"He [Standerford] could go to a party tonight and do the same thing again," Eugene Chick said. "And there's something about that that bothers me."



Julie Ann Wright, the driver Chick had stopped to help about 4 a.m. Wednesday, was similarly perplexed.

"I'm confused about how they could release him when we don't even know what's going to happen to the officer," she said yesterday. "How could they release him?"

Like the Chick family, Wright was grateful for the outpouring of support from friends and strangers since the accident.

On Thursday, Wright received a 1983 Ford pickup from Fort Worth used-car dealer Jeff Owings. She and her fiancé, who have a sign company, had spent their available cash only a month ago on the truck that was hit in the accident.

Because of financial problems, they had not insured the truck, Wright said. She acknowledged that that was a violation of state law.

In the bed of the donated pickup was a bicycle and a bag of wrapped gifts for her two children, Christopher Wright, 4, and Johnathon Serr, 15 months. The money for the gifts was apparently raised by a victims assistance program and individuals, she said.

"I intend to send thank-you cards to people I know who have helped," Wright said. "But saying thank you to the people that I don't even know, that I cannot send a thank-you card to, I want some way to say thank you very, very much."

Lisa Chick and Wright have not met. They may this afternoon.

"I'm going to visit him, visit the family again," Wright said yesterday.

Wright first visited Chick's family Thursday evening at John Peter Smith, and she brought a bouquet of flowers.

"They were like family to me when I got there," she said. "They are so loving and appreciative. It was a very overwhelming feeling."

She said the smashup happened so quickly that one moment Chick was standing beside her on the driver's side of the truck, then he suddenly looked to his right, the glare of headlights hit his face, and both her truck and the officer were struck.

Within moments of the accident, Wright had called for help on the hand-held police radio on Chick's belt.

"She's convinced Alan saved her life," Eugene Chick said yesterday. "But we are convinced she saved his, too."



Alan and Lisa Chick and their two children, Jason and Jessica, are shown in a family photograph.

## Injured FW policeman praised

/ Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Thursday, December 23, 1993

BY ANITA BAKER  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — While Fort Worth police officer Alan Chick remained unconscious and in critical condition this morning, his fellow officers were not surprised that he was injured while helping a stranded motorist.

"He is a very determined officer

### Officer big boost to his colleagues

and that's why he got hurt," police chaplain Terry Constant said yesterday afternoon. "He saw a person who needed help and got out to help them."

Chick, 34, was struck by a driver about 4 a.m. yesterday after the officer helped a woman start her stalled car on Interstate 20 near the Wichita Street exit. Police say the driver appeared to be drunk.

The driver, Eugene Standerford, 55, of Dallas was being held in the Tarrant County Jail this morning in

(More on CHICK on Page 2)

lieu of \$10,000 bail. According to court records, Standerford has at least five DWI convictions in Dallas County, four of them felonies.

Police said Standerford failed a field sobriety test after the accident yesterday. Though Standerford refused a Breathalyzer, police took a blood sample, over his objection, for analysis. That test showed Standerford had an alcohol level of .15, said Fort Worth police spokeswoman Lt. Pat Kneblick. A person is considered legally drunk if their alcohol level is .10.

Throughout yesterday, while Chick, a Burleson resident, lay unconscious from massive head injuries, officers filed in and out of the John Peter Smith Hospital emergency entrance to offer support and then headed to Carter Blood Center to donate blood on his behalf.

His wife, Lisa Chick, a neighborhood patrol officer for the near south side, remained by his side.

Although he is described as a dedicated police officer, duty has never put a damper on an outgoing personality, officers said.

"This man could make you laugh in a heartbeat," said a former partner, officer Woody Holman.



He is high-spirited and always has a good attitude, officer Chip Ferguson said. While working the day shift, Chick made friends with Ferguson's parents, who own a plumbing company on his beat. He often stopped by the shop for a cup of coffee and to talk.

Although he has spent most of his career working a midnight shift, Chick switched to days about a year ago, Holman said.

But he missed working nights, when the pace is faster, and he changed back a couple of months ago.

He has always been there for other officers, whether they needed help on a call or in their personal life, said Holman, who was introduced to golf by Chick.

The injured officer and his wife, parents of a 2-year-old son, Jason, met while on the force and married eight to nine years ago. Chick also has a daughter from a previous marriage.

Described as dedicated police officers, both often spend free time working with youth sports programs sponsored by the Police Department.

Chick often accompanied his wife to functions where she works as a neighborhood patrol officer in the Police Department's Weed and Seed program.

"Both of them are very serious and dedicated to what they are doing," said Beverly Dunn, Justice of the Peace Pct. 8 chief clerk, who is involved in neighborhood work with Lisa Chick. She said residents in the neighborhood started a prayer vigil yesterday for the injured officer.

Officers described the 6-foot-plus Chick as outgoing, polite, hard-working and professional, a man who isn't shy about speaking his mind.

"People kind of trust him," Constant said. "He is a good cop to have on the scene."

The 11-year veteran graduated from the police academy in 1983 in the top five of his class.

"He likes the streets and is very street-smart," said Lt. P.N. Jwanowski, who attended the police academy with Chick.

"He is just like a lot of officers — very committed to people and likes doing police work," another police officer said. Although the department "wants us to help people," officers don't have to stop to assist stranded motorists.

"He personifies what a lot of us do out there," the officer said. "He is a strong person and is in God's hands. I feel like he will be OK."

Chick was struck after he had jump started the car of Julie Wright, 24 of Fort Worth. He was handing a set of jumper cables to her when a white Cadillac struck the back of her pickup and then hit Chick.

Wright and her brother-in-law were stranded as they were returning home from a visit with a friend about 1 a.m. They waited in their pickup on the shoulder of the road nearly three hours until they flagged down Chick's patrol car.

Wright suffered bruises and whiplash when her face hit the windshield. Her brother-in-law, Larry G. Moore, 41, a Fort Worth carpenter was knocked unconscious. Neither was seriously injured.

After the impact, Wright ran to Chick, who she said was unconscious and bleeding. She then attempted to call for assistance from Chick's cruiser, but could not operate the radio. She then called for help on Chick's portable radio.

"I wanted to save these men. I just thank God I didn't pass out," Wright said. "I had to react."

"I was talking to the officer when he was on the ground. I would touch him and I would talk to him. I had a feeling like he knew I was there. I was taking his pulse, making sure I wasn't going to lose him when I heard somebody talk on the little walkie-talkie attached to his belt."

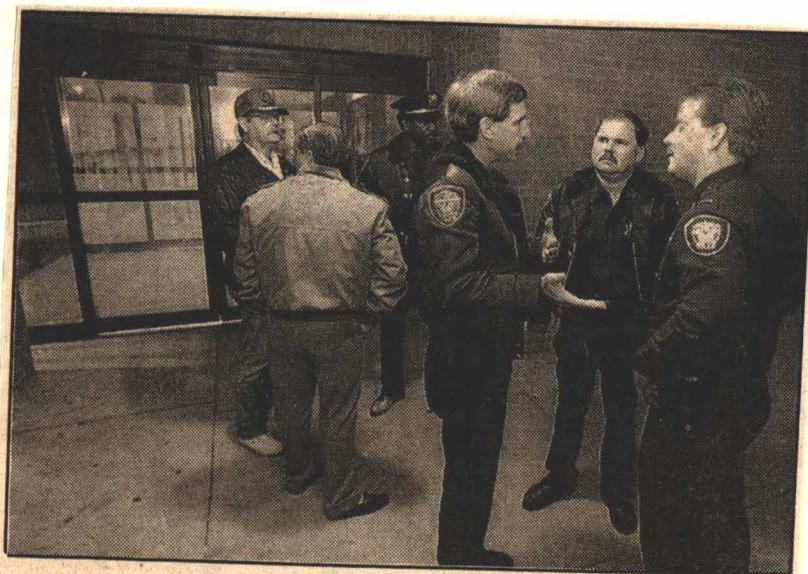
"I took it out of his belt very carefully, gently," said Wright, who credits her quick reaction to TV police shows such as *Rescue 911*. "I just started screaming in it and pushing those little buttons until one worked."

Police Sgt. V.L. Autrey, who heard her frantic call said: "She was hysterical. She was yelling, 'He's down! He's down!'"

Another officer who had left Chick minutes earlier to pull over a car for a traffic violation raced back to the scene at 4:05 a.m. The Cadillac had stopped 300 to 400 feet farther up the road, police said. Wright said she "never saw any brake lights, and the vehicle stopped only when the vehicle ceased running," according to a police report.

More than 150 officers donated blood for Chick yesterday. When they learned that the loss of Wright's pickup, which was totaled in the accident, would wipe out her sign business, they took up a collection in the hospital corridors to buy Christmas gifts for her two children.

"It's hard for me to accept this [kindness] from people," Wright said. "I don't know if I've really saved him or not."



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

Fort Worth police Capt. Greg Givens, center, gestures while describing to other officers arriving at John Peter Smith Hospital what happened during the accident that injured Alan Chick of Burleson.



# DWI record prompts

## complaints laws are too lenient

BY THOMAS KOROSEC  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The long drunken-driving record of the man accused in the death of Fort Worth police officer Alan Chick has stirred complaints that Texas' laws and attitudes about driving while intoxicated are far too lenient.

Police say tests show that Dallas resident Eugene Standerford, 55, was legally drunk early Wednesday when his car struck Chick as the officer helped a motorist at the edge of Interstate 20.

Standerford had been arrested 12 previous times on suspicion of DWI and convicted eight times, most recently in Dallas County in April 1985, according to state records. A warrant for his arrest was issued after Chick died, but he was not in custody last night.

Standerford had a valid Texas driver's license when Chick was struck, despite a record that included three trips to Texas prisons for felony DWI convictions.

"It's incredible," Police Chief Thomas Windham said yesterday after Chick's death. "This state has been very tolerant of alcohol and DWI. Sometime between the first conviction and the eighth conviction, something should have been done."

Said Paula Watson, president of the Tarrant County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving: "People see drinking and driving as socially acceptable. With the death of officer Alan Chick, people should see it is not socially acceptable."

Texas' DWI code has been stiffened several times in the years since Standerford's first arrest in the state, in January 1976, legal experts said.

Still, said Assistant District Attorney Steve Chaney, "people think these laws are more severe than they really are."

A person with repeated drunken-driving convictions can be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison, Chaney said.

"Because it is considered a nonviolent crime, they are going to be paroled at the top of the list," Chaney explained. "Even for the habitual offender, the penalties are fairly light."

Under state law, a judge can suspend a driver's license for no more than two years, Chaney added. "What you want to do is stop the guy from driving drunk, and that's very hard to do," he said.

Windham said that police plan to seek involuntary-manslaughter charges against Standerford; the charge is a third-degree felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Under criminal code changes that will

***"It's incredible. This state has been very tolerant of alcohol and DWI. Sometime between the first conviction and the eighth conviction, something should have been done."***

— Thomas Windham  
Fort Worth police chief

take effect in September, a drunken driver responsible for a traffic death can be charged with the new offense of intoxication manslaughter, a second-degree felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

The new code also creates the offense of intoxicated assault, a third-degree felony applying to offenders who seriously injure someone while operating a motor vehicle, aircraft or boat while intoxicated. Under current law, a first-offense drunken driver who injures someone can be charged with only a misdemeanor.

Standerford collected at least four driving-related charges in California and Illinois before moving to Texas. His history

of drunken-driving arrests in Texas began in Dallas County in January 1976.

In June 1976, he was sentenced to one year's probation. Less than a month later, he was arrested again on the same charge, police records show.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1993

## Driver's bail set at \$210,000 in FW officer's road death



Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

Eugene Lee Standerford arrives at Judge Sharen Wilson's courtroom yesterday afternoon.



# Prosecutors want a life sentence in DWI case

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Facing the possibility of a life prison sentence because of his drunken driving history, Eugene Lee Standerford remained in the Tarrant County Jail this morning under \$210,000 bail on two charges.

Standerford, 55 of Dallas, is accused of mortally injuring Fort Worth police officer Alan Chick Dec. 22 in what police say was a drunken-driving incident.

Standerford surrendered yesterday and was told that he, his home and his car will be wired with monitoring devices if he bonds out of jail again.

Standerford had been free after posting \$10,000 bail on the original DWI charge. Yesterday a charge of involuntary manslaughter and one of failure to stop and render aid were added.

Each is a felony and, in separate proceedings, two Tarrant County judges required \$105,000 bail on each charge.

Standerford's defense attorney, Randy Taylor of Dallas, described his client as an indigent but said that he was ready to post bail on the involuntary manslaughter charge.

Most bail bond operators require 20 percent of a recommended bail, which in Standerford's case would be more than \$40,000 on both charges.

Asked how Standerford could pay that, Taylor, who is not court-appointed, said, "Perhaps he has a rich uncle."

Taylor said that he was surprised by the second charge.

Prosecutors, meanwhile, said they can seek a life sentence because Standerford has been sent to prison three times for felony convictions of driving while intoxicated.

"There's not going to be any plea bargain in this case. The state will be seeking the maximum penalty," said Richard Alpert, Tarrant County assistant district attorney and chief prosecutor in the case.

If Standerford is released on bail in the death of 11-year police vet-

## Funeral information

Funeral for Fort Worth police officer Alan Chick will be at 2 p.m. tomorrow at First United Methodist Church in Burleson. Burial will be in Laurel Land Memorial Park in Fort Worth.

eran Chick, several county officials and his defense attorney conceded yesterday that elaborate monitoring equipment will not ensure that the suspect will not drink and drive again.

"We're not going to know [for sure] unless we go every step with him," said Deputy Chief Mike Culpepper, head of the Police Department's special services bureau.

Judge Robert Cortez, a Tarrant County Criminal District Court magistrate, arraigned Standerford last night on a charge of failure to stop and render aid.

Earlier in the day, state District Judge Sharen Wilson arraigned Standerford on a charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Culpepper and another high-ranking police official attended Standerford's first court appearance yesterday and expressed anger that the suspect — convicted eight previous times of drunken driving — still has a driver's license and stands a chance of getting out of jail again.

A court cannot suspend a license unless there's a conviction, Cortez said, adding, "not a prior conviction but a current case before the court."

As he prepared to surrender before Judge Wilson, Standerford repeatedly declined to respond to shouted questions from reporters. "Speak to my lawyer," he said, showing no emotion.

Officer Chick, the man Standerford is accused of running over, died Monday, ending a five-day struggle for survival that had attracted an around-the-clock vigil by hundreds of police officers.

Chick, the father of two, was hurt while helping a motorist in a stalled pickup in the 1400 block of Southeast Loop 820. Police have said that tests showed that Standerford's blood alcohol content was .15 when his Cadillac swerved onto the shoulder of the Loop, striking the truck and then the officer. In Texas, one is considered legally drunk with a blood alcohol content of .10.

The stranded motorist and a companion received minor injuries.

According to a police report, Standerford made no attempt to assist the wreck victims despite pleas for help.

Involuntary manslaughter and failing to stop and render aid are both third-degree felonies that — when accompanied by at least two previous felony convictions — can bring life prison sentences, Alpert said.

According to state records, Standerford has been arrested 12 previous times on suspicion of DWI and convicted in eight of those cases.

Most of the proceedings yesterday before Judge Wilson dealt with the "special conditions" set in the event that Standerford is freed on bail — with his driver's license still intact.

As conditions of a jail release, Wilson ordered that electronic devices be attached to Standerford's body and installed in his apartment in an attempt to monitor his activities.

An "interlock" device would also be attached to any car Standerford drives, Wilson said. The suspect would have to breathe into a tube, and if no alcohol is detected, the device would allow the vehicle to start, officials said.

But even Taylor agreed that the monitoring equipment is not foolproof. And Alpert said, "There are no guarantees."

## Fund established

A fund has been established for the family of Fort Worth police officer Alan Chick. Contributions may be sent to The Alan Chick Family Fund in care of Greg B. Wood, Prudential Securities/Fort Worth, 777 Taylor St., Fort Worth, Texas 76102.



# Life sentence possible

BY THOMAS KOROSEK  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Dallas resident Eugene Lee Standerford, 55, faces a possible life sentence if he is convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of a Fort Worth police officer, prosecutors said yesterday, because his previous DWI convictions subject him to Texas' repeat felony offender law.

The offense of involuntary manslaughter is normally a third-degree felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Under the Texas penal code, however, the sentence can range from 25 years to life in prison if the conviction comes on a third felony offense.

Standerford, who accumulated at least four driving-related charges in California and Illinois before moving to Texas, began his history of DWIs in Dallas County in January 1976, when he was arrested by Dallas police. That June, he was sentenced to one year's probation on the charge.

Less than a month later, he was arrested again on the same charge, and again in late September 1976, police records show. Those charges, handled together as misdemeanors, led to an eight-day jail sentence.

Then, a DWI arrest in March 1977 led to a 10-day jail sentence, court records show.

In all, Standerford has been arrested nine times in Dallas County on DWI charges, and sent to prison three times on felony convictions.

For two DWI arrests in Dallas in early 1978, he pleaded guilty in September 1978 and was sentenced to 18 months in prison, court records show. Arriving in prison in October 1978, he was paroled in May 1979.

Seventeen months later, in October 1980, he was arrested in Plano on DWI charges. While he was awaiting trial, he was arrested again in February 1981 on a DWI charge.

Under a plea bargain, he was sentenced to two years in prison for both of the offenses, records show, and served a year in prison.

In January 1984, he was arrested on another charge of driving while intoxicated, this time in the 6800 block of Skillman Street in Dallas. After a trial before a Dallas judge, Standerford was found guilty and sentenced to three years in prison. In April 1985, after losing an appeal, he began serving his sentence, and he was released in April 1986, according to court and prison records.

# in officer's death

In all, he has been arrested nine times in Dallas County on drunken-driving charges. The last three resulted in prison time.

In May 1978, he was sentenced to 18 months in prison; he began serving the sentence in October and was released in June 1979.

After an arrest in Plano in November 1980, he was sentenced to two years in prison in April 1981 and paroled a year later.

Finally, after a January 1984 arrest, Standerford was sentenced to three years in prison; he began serving that sentence in April 1985 and was released a year later.

"Twelve arrests; it's ridiculous," said Brenda Daniels, vice president of MADD's Tarrant County chapter. "Some of these judges need to be accountable. We have to ask them, 'Why don't you start giving the maximum?'"

Daniels said her organization's telephone has been "ringing off the hook" since Wednesday. "We've been beating our heads against the wall, but nobody

cares until it hurts someone in the public eye," she said.

Daniels said she and several other local MADD officers were in Dallas yesterday, trying to visit the four judges who presided over Standerford's trials.

She said that her group plans to follow Standerford's case in the Tarrant County courts as well.

Watson concurred. "If our judges treat this lightly, we're going to turn this city upside down; we're going to clean house," she said.

Others are not so confident that tougher laws are the answer to drunken drivers.

"They'll still be competing for prison beds with robbers, rapists, kidnappers and other serious criminals," Chaney said. "Punishment hasn't been the best deterrent; these people are still getting behind the wheel."

Windham said he often hears that DWI offenders go to the head of the line in the parole process, "as if these offenses aren't serious."

"I would argue that this case [the death of Chick] substantiates what I have said for a long time," Windham said. "A burglar will steal your goods but a drunk driver will kill you. It has to be dealt with in a more severe manner."



# Fort Worth officer buried



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RON JENKINS

**T**he coffin bearing Fort Worth police officer Alan Chick is carried past a flag at half-staff yesterday afternoon at Laurel Land Memorial

**Park. A car struck Chick, fatally injuring him Dec. 22 as he aided two people in a stalled pickup along Southeast Loop 820.**

STORY ON PAGE 19A





## FORT WORTH

## Community aids grieving officers in crisis

BY BILL TEETER  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The death of officer Alan Chick left behind a grieving Police Department, but it showed how far Fort Worth police have come in forging bonds with the civilians they serve, an official said last week.

Chick was a patrol officer whose wife, Lisa Chick, is a neighborhood patrol officer with the Weed And Seed program. The program operates in the Polytechnic Heights, near southeast and Stop Six neighborhoods of southeast Fort Worth.

Alan Chick was fatally injured when struck by a car in what police say was a drunken-driving accident Dec. 22. The driver of the car, Eugene Lee Standerford, has been

charged with involuntary manslaughter and failure to stop and render aid in the case.

Many in the neighborhoods are well acquainted with Lisa Chick, if not with her husband, said the Weed And Seed commander, Lt. J.C. Williams. Shortly after Alan Chick was injured in the car-pedestrian accident on Southeast Loop 820, southeast Fort Worth residents responded from their hearts, Williams said.

"In the 15 years I have been in the department I have never seen this; it's overwhelming," Williams said.

Folks from the neighborhood and Citizens on Patrol were immediately on hand to help. It was a given that Weed And Seed would already be short one officer with

Lisa Chick having to be at the hospital. Other officers would also have to help support her and be pursuing action related to the accident and ultimately Alan Chick's death on Dec. 27.

Although regular Weed And Seed officers were tied up dealing with the situation, files still got filed and telephones still got answered, Williams said.

"It's almost like there was a crisis team we had never discussed. They knew what was needed to staff us. They knew there would be disruptions," Williams said.

Rocky Collins, a 15-year-old law enforcement Explorer from Southwest High School, was one who sacrificed his time during Christmas break to help.

"Today I've been filing for Weed And Seed," Collins said Dec. 28. "I spent a lot of time at the hospital. I was escorting people to cars. I got ice, Cokes and food and whatever they needed," Collins said.

Collins, who knows Lisa Chick, explained what caused him to react.

"Lisa, she is real nice. I think she would do the same thing for me," Collins said. "I was out of school. Why not help?"

Ella Collins Nelson, who is president of Neighborhoods Organized for Substance Abuse Prevention, also acted to help.

"I knew they were going to be short-handed. I went to Weed And Seed to answer the phone," Nelson said.



## DWI case to be assigned special prosecutor

By MAX B. BAKER  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County District Attorney Tim Curry said he plans to appoint a special prosecutor to handle a driving-while-intoxicated case involving a former assistant district attorney and judicial candidate.

Lisa A. Ryan, 32, was charged with driving while intoxicated on New Year's Eve. Ryan worked for Curry from 1987 to 1990 and is the Republican candidate for the newly created County Criminal Court of Appeals.

She is free on a \$1,000 cash bail bond.

Although appointing the special prosecutor is not legally necessary because Ryan is no longer an employee, Curry said he believes it is wise because Ryan has so many friends who are still employed by the district attorney.

"She has a lot of friends in the office and there is a lot of uneasy feelings about it [the case] in the office," Curry said.

Curry's office has used special prosecutors for other assistant district attorneys who have been charged with driving while intoxicated.

A special prosecutor was also used to handle the prosecution of former Tarrant County Sheriff Don Carpenter, as well as Curry's son in a felony drug case.

Ryan had until yesterday to withdraw from the race. Her first court appearance on the misdemeanor charge is scheduled for March 16, after the March 8 primary, in which she has no Republican opposition.

Ryan was stopped while driving her black Chevrolet Suburban in the Stockyards area New Year's Eve. Police said she was swerving between lanes and had difficulty with parts of a field sobriety test.

The police officer who stopped her said she mentioned her former job and political aspirations and warned that an officer could get into trouble for arresting her.

# Suspect's bail status questioned

## Man charged in officer's traffic death still jailed

By THOMAS KOROSK  
AND JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — An attorney for a man accused of involuntary manslaughter in the traffic death of a Fort Worth police officer complained yesterday that a Tarrant County judge is "messing with" his client by not letting the man post bail.



# DWI death suspect let out of jail

## Strict rules given to man accused of killing officer

BY KATHY SANDERS  
AND M.C. MOEWE  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

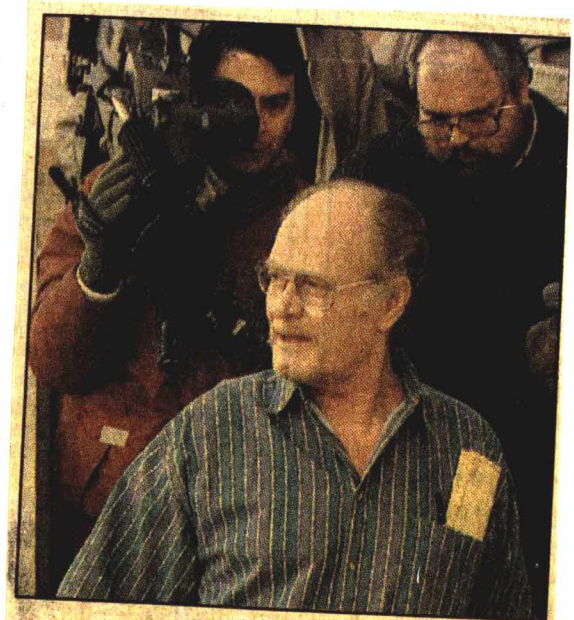
FORT WORTH — A Dallas man accused of killing a Fort Worth police officer in an alcohol-related traffic accident went home from jail yesterday under stringent stipulations that he abstain from alcohol and stay home except for occasional job or grocery excursions, officials said.

Eugene Lee Standerford, 55, was surrounded by probation officials about 9:30 a.m. yesterday as he walked out of the Tarrant County Jail coatless and in shirtsleeves in numbing cold winds. He repeatedly declined to answer questions, referring reporters to his attorney.

The unemployed man, who has served three prison sentences on drunken-driving convictions, was escorted to a waiting county car and then taken to his residence.

"He's being taken to his home, where electronic monitoring devices will be installed," said Don Smith, director of the probation division, which will monitor Standerford.

He will be required to wear a device on an ankle that will alert officials if he leaves his house without permission, Smith said. A machine equipped with a camera and breath analyzer was installed in Standerford's residence yesterday. A computer will phone his home randomly and he will be instructed to blow into the machine, which will then automatically take his photograph.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / DALE BLACKWELL

**Eugene Lee Standerford, 55, walks out of the Tarrant County Jail yesterday, surrounded by probation officials. He is accused in the death of a police officer in an alcohol-related traffic accident.**





Sherrie Lynn Sikes, left, and Brandi Michelle Cirelli leave the probation offices and head for home after making a plea bargain.

# Cirelli, Sikes freed from jail



# Women say little after case dropped

BY ROLAND S. MARTIN  
AND KATHY SANDERS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Ending two months of confinement, Brandi Michelle Cirelli and Sherrie Lynn Sikes walked out of Tarrant County Jail yesterday after prosecutors dropped charges that accused them of a murder-for-hire scheme.

They declined to talk with waiting reporters except for a parting expression of disgust over the coverage of the case, which involved the killings of two college women. "After what y'all said about us," said a visibly upset Sikes, "y'all can go to hell."

Sikes and Cirelli were released less than 24 hours after making a plea bargain in which prosecutors dropped charges of solicitation of capital murder. As part of the arrangement, they pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana stolen from slaying-victim Channing Freelove's apartment and re-

ceived 10 years' probation.

The two women had been in jail since Nov. 16, shortly after the slayings of Freelove and Melanie Golchert, two college students who were found shot to death in a vacant field in south Fort Worth.

Their arrests were based on the statements of two informants who told police that the women tried to hire them to kill Freelove. But Assistant District Attorney Terri Moore said that prosecutors dropped the case after the women passed polygraph tests and after interviews of witnesses showed the allegations to be untrue.

## Release

From Page 21

Sikes, 24, and Cirelli, 20, left the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department shortly after 11 a.m. after receiving the terms of their probation from department officials.

While walking through the doors to wait for relatives to pick them up, the two women lighted cigarettes and turned their backs on reporters seeking to interview them.

Responding to a comment from a reporter who said that the court-appointed defense attorney said that the two wanted to tell their side of the story, Sikes shot back, "Well, call him."

Cirelli, with her blond hair tucked beneath a brown hat and carrying a bag of items, said, "I don't want to talk."

The women, without coats or jackets, shivered in the cold for nearly 30 minutes while waiting for relatives to pick them up.

Cirelli's grandparents hugged her upon their arrival and whisked her away. Sikes was picked up by her stepfather.

Darron Deshone "Taz" Curl, 22, and Melvin James "Boot" White II,

19, reportedly gang members and friends of Cirelli and Sikes, were arrested Nov. 18 and charged with capital murder in the deaths of Freelove and Golchert.

Prosecutors have said from the start that the slayings were separate from allegations that Cirelli and Sikes attempted to contract the killing. Although Curl and White were friends of Cirelli and Sikes, authorities said that the men's motive for the slayings was robbery.

The terms of Cirelli's and Sikes' plea bargain do not require them to testify against the men.

Jim Sinclair, the county's assistant director for adult probation said that while on probation the women must:

- Pay probation fees.
- Have monthly visits with a probation officer.
- Perform 160 hours of community service.
- Submit to urinalysis and blood tests for controlled substances.
- Complete an adult education class or provide a high school diploma or its equivalent.

If Cirelli's or Sikes' tests indicate use of a controlled substance, the woman who tests positive will undergo more screening and counseling, Sinclair said.



## Tarrant jail escapee is captured while hiding under parents' home

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A Tarrant County Jail escapee was captured yesterday while hiding under his parents' north Fort Worth home, officials said.

Donny Franklin Zuniga, 24, sneaked out of the jail Jan. 5 with a group of visitors, said Lt. G.M. Hendrix, a Tarrant County sheriff's spokesman. He was apprehended about 3:40 p.m. at a home in the

2300 block of Gould Avenue.

Police received a call from a neighbor in the area who reported that someone was inside the house when no one was supposed to be there, Hendrix said. "Sheriff deputies were already there conducting surveillance," he said.

The deputies were told that Zuniga might be hiding in a crawl space under the house, Hendrix said.

(More on CAPTURE on Page 22)

## Capture

From Page 21

"There was some kind of door thing, and when they opened it, he was right there just four feet from them," Hendrix said.

Zuniga offered no resistance, Hendrix said. "They talked him right out," he said. Zuniga was waiting transfer to Parker County, where he's wanted in an aggravated assault and a probation violation when he escaped.



# Three locations in running for jail

## *North Grand Prairie industrial district included in possible sites*

BY MEDE NIX  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

GRAND PRAIRIE — Corrections Corporation of America, which recently dropped a proposed jail site in south Grand Prairie in the face of community opposition, has found three more possible sites in its bid to win the contract to build and run the state facility.

The sites are in a far north Grand Prairie, in Glenn Heights in far south Dallas County, and in Venus in Johnson County, company Vice President Robert Britton said.

The Grand Prairie site, along Roy Orr Boulevard near the Dallas-Tarrant county line and the West Fork of the Trinity River, is zoned light industrial and may not draw the same negative reaction as the earlier site, Britton said.

CCA wants to win the right to build a 2,000-bed, \$50 million state

jail that will house nonviolent Dallas County inmates. Britton said the facility would employ 700 people, with an annual payroll of about \$13 million.

If the site is in Grand Prairie, the city would receive about \$400,000 a year and the school district \$600,000 annually from CCA, in lieu of property taxes.

But CCA is competing with at least two other companies.

U.S. Corrections Corp., based in Louisville, Ky., wants to renovate a warehouse on Stemmons Freeway in Dallas, next door to the corporate headquarters of Mary Kay Cosmetics.

And a firm headed by former

Texas Criminal Justice Board Chairman Charles Terrell has secured a site in Hutchins, which will be home to another lockup to be operated by the state prison system.

Britton said his company is interested in Grand Prairie despite an outcry from 1,600 residents who attended a Jan. 10 public hearing on the south site. At the meeting, CCA announced that it had dropped plans for the site.

"I still think it will be good for Grand Prairie," Britton said. "Since that meeting, there have been a lot of people in Grand Prairie that have called and said they want it."

The north site would meet the county's requirement that the jail be at least 1,000 feet from a residence, Britton said. The nearest homes lie about 2,000 feet east in the River Ridge East Mobile Home Park. The Nottingham and Wildwood Oaks subdivisions are about a mile away and are separated from the site by the Trinity River.

A public hearing to discuss the site is set for Feb. 23 at Shady Grove Church, 1829 W. Shady Grove Road, Britton said. CCA will hold public hearings in Venus, on Feb. 21, and in Glenn Heights, on Feb. 22.

After proposals are received, the Dallas County Community Justice Council will recommend a site to the State Board of Criminal Justice, which will make the final selection.



## Editorials/Opinions

Pulitzer Prizes *Spot News Photography, 1981 Meritorious Public Service, 1985*

**Richard L. Connor** Publisher

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**Jack B. Tinsley** Senior Vice President/  
Editorial Chairman  
**Debbie M. Price** Executive Editor

*Amon Carter, Founder-Publisher, 1906-1955 Amon Carter Jr., Publisher, 1955-1982*

# Jail escape

## Only the people at risk didn't know

It may well be that we all owe a vote of thanks to Donny Franklin Zuniga.

Don't recognize the name? Well, he's the inmate who recently waltzed out of the Tarrant County Jail. You didn't read or hear much about his escape in the early days — because reporters didn't know about it until just before he was captured.

Zuniga, dressed in street clothes, slipped out of the jail Jan. 5 with a group of visitors. He had been arrested on an aggravated assault warrant issued in Parker County and was about to be transferred. He also has an armed robbery arrest on his record.

There are several reasons to be grateful.

First, we suppose, is that he appears to have behaved himself while he was out of jail. At least no one that we know of got hurt.

Second, his escape alerted the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department to a flaw in the system of handling prisoners for transfer that has now been corrected.

Third, Sheriff David Williams has ordered that the procedure for handling escapes from the jail now include notification of the public.

There's a natural and understandable tendency on the part of law enforcement agencies to keep escapes quiet. Part of it might be embarrassment, but a bigger part is the hope that they can capture the bad guy before he or she flees town.

The problem with that is, of course, that an inmate smart enough to escape is also smart enough to know that the cops are going to be out looking. He or she knows about the escape. The law officers know about the escape. The only people who don't know about the escape are members of the general public who might suffer harm.

Hank Pope, chief deputy of the Inmate Housing Division, says that one reason the escape wasn't announced was that the checklist of procedures followed in an escape did not call for disclosure. That was the old policy from the previous administration.

That's been changed. Williams' new policy includes such notification.

So thanks, Donny. You managed to serve the public, even if it wasn't intentional. And thanks, sheriff. We think the new policy is much better than the old one.



Monday, January 31, 1994 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

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*Amon Carter, Founder-Publisher, 1906-1955* *Amon Carter Jr., Publisher, 1955-1982*

# Sardines

## Alternative jail program needs money

Both the Tarrant County Jail and a program designed to ease jail overcrowding are filled beyond their capacities. Something has to give.

This week, the Tarrant County commissioners will consider funding two additional staff members within the Sheriff Department's Community Service Program, expanding its capacity from 1,000 to 1,500 participants.

They ought to do it.

County jail occupancy is about 20 percent higher than capacity, and the Community Service Program, established in late 1992 to divert some of the less violent, first-time offenders, has 1,150 participants.

The benefits of this alternative to jail are clear. A judge sentences eligible offenders to perform a certain number of days of public service within a specified number of months for nonprofit organizations or governmental agencies. An offender does the job or goes to jail.

Not only do participants ease jail overcrowding, but they also work for

free, giving back to society instead of costing \$30 per day to be locked away.

One stipulation of the program is that community service not interfere with a participant's job or home life, says Capt. James Moore, director of the community service program. That way, the participants remain contributing members of the community both through the taxes they pay and the services they provide.

"This is the most viable alternative to incarceration," Moore says. "It exposes the participants to the downside [of crime]. And the downside is incarceration."

The jail itself, located one floor above the program's offices at 300 Belknap St., is a salient reminder of the downside.

The next best thing to showing people the consequences of crime before they commit their first one is to reach them before they commit a second. The Community Service Program should be funded to reach as many nascent criminals as possible.



# Funeral Notices

Death Notices are provided to the Classified Advertising Department by funeral homes.  
Please call the funeral home for additional information.

★ Monday, February 7, 1994 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram

## Elon T. Rust

CLEBURNE — Elon Teresa Rust, a homemaker, died Friday at Cleburne hospital. She was 96.

Funeral will be at 2 p.m. today at Crosier-Pearson-Mayfield Funeral Home in Cleburne. Burial will be in Cleburne Memorial Cemetery.

Mrs. Rust was a member of College Heights Baptist Church in Cleburne.

She was the widow of Willie B. Rust.

Survivors: Son, Bob Rust; daughter, Jenell Lochausen of Mississippi; brother, Harvey Bell of Cleburne; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.



# Boot camp cautions suggested

**Mansfield facility needs to boost security, inform community of violent offenders, state official says.**

By LISA BLACK  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

MANSFIELD — Officials at the prison boot camp in Mansfield should consider beefing up security and alerting the community that violent offenders continue to be housed at the facility, said a spokesman from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

"If it is a circumstance that is a forerunner to major change, you need to indicate that you are redirecting your intentions," said Dick Lewis of the state's Community Justice Division, which completed an audit of the boot camp's so-called shock-incarceration program last month. The audit included a recommendation that boot camp officials remove 13 inmates whom the state regarded as violent offenders.

"Their original expression was that nonviolent offenders would be considered for placement in the facility," Lewis said. "The state does recognize the need for judges to make their placements appropriate according to individual case."

The audit, a routine investigation of the boot camp that was moved up in the wake of a sexual harassment controversy at the facility in the summer, said the community had been assured in public hearings before the facility opened in February 1992 that violent offenders would not be sent there.

Local officials who oversee the program disagree with the state's definition of violent offenders and say they see no need to follow the recommendations.

The officials are continuing discussions with state auditors and expect to resolve the dispute before state funding is determined in August.

The state provided nearly all the \$2 million required to operate the  
(More on CAMP on Page 16)

Monday, February 7, 1994

## Camp

From Page 9

program during fiscal 1993, records show.

The state agency prefers to negotiate compromises with local jurisdictions and has never withheld funding from a prison facility, Lewis said.

District Judge Don Leonard said the judges have the ultimate authority to decide which offenders will be sent to the boot camp.

"We get paid to give judgment, and we think we have it," said Leonard, one of 18 criminal court judges who monitor the boot camp through the Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department.

"We're not sending any mad killers or rapists out there," he said. "They were more marginal. I don't think we've sent anybody out there that is of such a violent danger that it would threaten the people around there or even the [boot camp] residents."

The state agency classified 13 of 120 boot camp inmates as violent offenders when conducting an audit of the program between June 28 and July 1.

Nine of the so-called violent offenders remain at the boot camp, and others have graduated from the program, boot camp administrator Ron King said.

One of the offenders was charged with robbery after snatching a purse, and another drove a getaway car after an accomplice held up a convenience store with a knife, King said. Others committed robberies without weapons or bodily injury, although there was a threat of violence in some cases, he said.

Boot camp administrators have never refused to accept an inmate with a history of violence or threat of violence, King said. None of the offenders targeted by the state have caused a problem at the boot camp, he said.

"The judges have been using real good judgment," he said. "We don't have anyone out here that has committed a heinous act."

The Tarrant County Community Supervision and Corrections Department is required to submit the boot camp's annual criminal justice plan to state officials April 1.

State officials suggested that the department include its intentions on housing violent offenders in the document.

Leonard said he doesn't see the need.

"Of course we're not going to say we're putting more violent offenders in there because we don't agree we have," he said.

Acting Mansfield Mayor Tom Fraser said he has not heard any complaints from residents about the boot camp, whose goal is to rehabilitate youthful offenders through military-style training and self-help classes.

"We as elected officials are always cognizant of the fact that that facility is there, and we try to maintain an awareness of who is placed there."



# Former boot camp worker gets year probation

BY LISA BLACK  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A former drill instructor at the prison boot camp in Mansfield pleaded no contest to a charge of public lewdness yesterday, receiving a year's probation in return for promising to stay away from three former inmates who accused him of sexual harassment.

Romalice Brumfield, 25, of Fort Worth will not have to report to probation officers as long as he avoids contact with the three women, one of whom engaged in sex with him while on work duty.

Prosecutors, through a plea bargain, dropped two felony charges of sexual ha-

arrassment against Brumfield and exchanged a third felony charge for the Class A misdemeanor of public lewdness, said Fred Rabalais, an assistant district attorney who led a three-month investigation of sexual harassment allegations at the boot camp during the summer.

"Our main goal with this investigation was to implement some changes at the boot camp," Rabalais said. "A lot of changes have occurred that are positive in nature. They built a girls dorm and hired a bunch of female drill instructors."

During yesterday's hearing in District Judge Bill Burdock's court, Brumfield con-

firmed that he had sex with an inmate on Aug. 17, 1992, when she was on work duty at Tarrant County's Pct. 1 garage in Mansfield.

The other two, Michelle Jacobs, 28, of Arlington and Sharla Prettyman, 29, of Azle said Brumfield propositioned them for sex and touched Prettyman on the breasts and buttocks. Jacobs, Prettyman and the third inmate have since been released from the program.

"I'm glad it's over with," said Jacobs, who with Prettyman made public their allegations of sexual misconduct during the summer. "But I think he deserves more. I

think *he* should have to go to the boot camp."

Brumfield, who was fired after being indicted, declined to comment yesterday.

A grand jury originally declined to indict two other employees at the Tarrant County Community Correctional Facility when allegations first surfaced. The employees, and six others, resigned or were fired after female inmates complained to the district attorney's office that they had been propositioned at the boot camp.

Female supervisors now oversee the female inmates, and the women and men live in separate quarters, officials said.



## Inmate who was found hanging in cell is hospitalized, officials say

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A 37-year-old inmate of the Tarrant County Jail was hospitalized on life support systems last night after jailers found him hanging by a sock in his cell, officials said.

The man, who was not identified pending notification of relatives, was found hanging at 5:09 p.m. in the old jail at 300 W. Belknap St. by officers making their evening meal rounds, said Lt. G.M. Hendrix, a spokesman for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

"He used a sock to hang himself and apparently broke his neck

jumping off the toilet," Hendrix said. "The officers had just made a check about 20 minutes before feeding time at 4:40 and he was fine."

The man was at John Peter Smith Hospital last night, Hendrix said. "The prisoner is on life support but has no brain waves," he said.

The prisoner was alone in a cell on "I Row," a high-security isolation area, Hendrix said. "He has been known to start fires before but had exhibited no suicidal tendencies prior to this event," Hendrix said.

The department's criminal investigation unit is investigating the incident, Hendrix said.



# Daughter arrested in Mansfield case.

By JESSAMY BROWN  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

MANSFIELD — Police arrested the daughter of a slain Mansfield man yesterday and said they plan to file a charge of conspiracy to commit capital murder against the 20-year-old woman tomorrow.

Jennifer Nicole Yesconis was being held last night at the Mansfield Law Enforcement Center in lieu of \$500,000 bail, said police Lt. Steve Noonkester. She was scheduled to be arraigned today, police said.

## Police plan charges against woman, 20, in slayings of couple

Allegations of Yesconis' involvement in the killings were detailed in a five-page arrest warrant affidavit that police released yesterday.

Nicole Yesconis' mother, Sue Shannon, said her daughter denies the allegations.

"She's telling me, no, she was not

involved. She did not help plan it," said Shannon, 44, of Arlington. "She's very upset. She feels like the police have tricked her."

No more arrests are expected, Noonkester said.

A co-worker of Aletha and Robert Yesconis discovered their bodies Jan. 31 at their home in a year-old Mansfield subdivision. They had been shot to death as they were preparing a pasta dinner for guests, police said.

Jeremiah Lee Wetmore, 18, and

(More on ARREST on Page 16)

Michael Heath, 17, were arrested Feb. 4 and charged with capital murder in the killings. According to the arrest affidavit, police and family members, Wetmore is Nicole Yesconis' boyfriend and lived with her in an Arlington apartment.

Wetmore and Heath are being held in Tarrant County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bail each.

Nicole Yesconis was arrested at the Mansfield police station yesterday afternoon.

According to the arrest affidavit, Wetmore told police that Nicole Yesconis began discussing her father's killing in December. Yesconis told Wetmore that if her father died before she turned 21, she would get about a quarter-million dollars, the affidavit says.

According to the affidavit, Yesconis told police that there had been a plan to rob the couple and that Wetmore had planned to torture them by poking out their eyes or cutting off their hands.

Yesconis told police that she knew Wetmore was on his way to her father and stepmother's house Jan. 29 with a gun, and said she decided not to go and did not try to contact them, the affidavit says. She said he later returned and told her that he had killed the couple, the affidavit says.

Nicole Yesconis told police that, two days later, she took Wetmore to Joe Pool Lake, where they threw out the 9mm gun used in the shootings, the affidavit says.

Police cited insurance money as a possible motive in the killings.

During a Feb. 4 search of Nicole Yesconis' apartment, police found a handwritten note containing directions to the Mansfield home and a floor plan, Noonkester said.

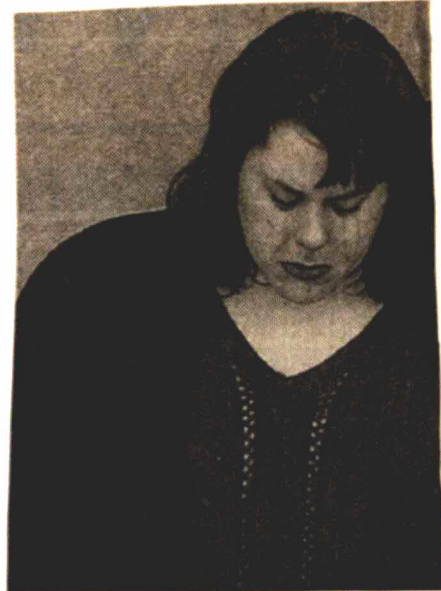
Police said the Yesconises had been preparing dinner for guests before they were killed. According to the affidavit, Wetmore arranged dinner with the Yesconises on the day of the killings, then told Nicole Yesconis that her father was "real gullible, that he had just invited to dinner the guys that were going to kill him."

Wetmore said that later that day, he and Nicole argued over how Wetmore would kill the couple, the affidavit says.

Shannon said her daughter told her last week that Robert Yesconis had sexually molested her during her childhood. Nicole Yesconis did not elaborate, her mother said.

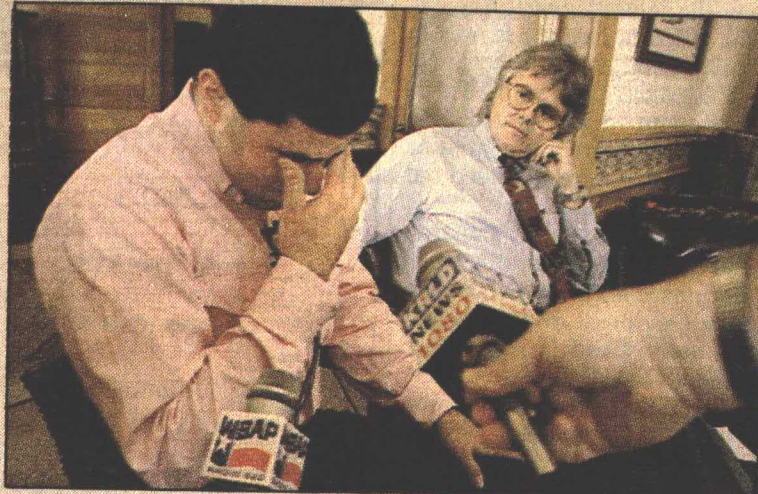
Robert Yesconis' brother said he was not surprised at the arrest but did not believe his niece's accusations of abuse.

"I can't believe that he would ever do something like that," said Steve Yesconis, 29, of Pennsylvania. "I think this is a bunch of games."



Nicole Yesconis





Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JERRY W. HOEFER

Officer Lee Sanders, left, with his attorney, Bill Lane.

## Mansfield officer indicted in collision

BY CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Mansfield police officer Lee Sanders was indicted by a Tarrant County grand jury yesterday on an involuntary manslaughter charge in the death of a Mansfield teen-ager whose car was broadsided by Sanders' police cruiser.

Sanders, who would face two to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000 if convicted, will be placed

on unpaid leave today pending resolution of the case, Mansfield Lt. Steve Noonkester said.

"I was not intending it to happen," Sanders told reporters at his attorney's office after the indictment was handed down. "My purpose was to save lives. . . . That's what I want to do."

Sanders ran a red light the night of Oct. 24, after telling a police dis-

(More on OFFICER on Page 8)



# Officer

From Page 1

patcher he was chasing a motorcycle driver he suspected of drunken driving, according to police records.

Sanders' squad car struck a 1977 Mercedes-Benz driven by Michael Brent Willingham, 16, a sophomore at Mansfield High School. The officer, 28, was using his emergency lights but not his siren, according to the accident report.

Willingham died at Harris Methodist Hospital after the collision, which occurred at Farm Road 157 and Debbie Lane in Arlington.

Sanders' attorney, Bill Lane of Fort Worth, called Willingham's death an accident and said his client is innocent of any criminal wrongdoing.

"I don't think there are facts to support this indictment," Lane said. "We don't indict people for accidents. . . . This grand jury has said officer Sanders recklessly caused the death of this young man, that he knew going through that intersection would kill that man."

Assistant District Attorney Fred Rabalais, who is handling the case,

did not return telephone messages left with his office.

Noonkester said the indictment surprised him. He said an internal investigation found that Sanders' actions were negligent, but added that he doesn't believe that the officer broke the law.

"The indictment as it came down was not what we expected, but as police officers, obviously, we believe in the judicial system," he said. "It's my belief Lee will end up being exonerated."

Sanders, who has been on restricted duty since the collision, is being suspended under city policy, he added.

Mike Willingham, the father of the victim, declined to comment on the indictment.

Pam Hammer, risk manager of the city of Mansfield, confirmed that she and the Willinghams were negotiating a cash settlement over the death. Mike Willingham previously said he would not sue Sanders or the city in connection with his son's death.

Mansfield police changed their pursuit policy after the fatal accident, imposing stricter and more specific rules for police chases and emergency responses. The new rules specify that lights and siren must be activated during such chases; the old policy did not clearly require

that both be activated.

Before being hired by Mansfield in 1991, Sanders was fired from the Cedar Hill Police Department in September 1990 for attending a bachelor party for a fellow officer while on duty.

Personnel records obtained by the *Star-Telegram* show that he was cited for speeding as a young adult and was put on probation and desig-

nated a "habitual offender" in December 1985. Sanders had a clean driving record in Mansfield, officials said.

Noonkester said the October 24 accident has been a nightmare for Mansfield police.

"It's taken an emotional toll on all of us, and has since the night of the incident — and it will continue to," he said.



## Tarrant gives green light for Chevy Camaros

BY BILL HANNA  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — There's nothing like a fast car to prevent a high-speed chase, according to Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams.

And with Tarrant County commissioners agreeing by a 3-2 vote yesterday to spend \$67,256 for four Chevrolet Camaros, the sheriff says his department has a new tool to stop speeders in their tracks.

Williams told commissioners yesterday that the sight of a Camaro patrol car will intimidate speeders and make them think twice about fleeing.

But County Commissioner Bob Hampton and County Judge Tom Vandergriff voted against the vehicles, expressing concerns that there will be an increase in high-speed chases.

Last year, the Sheriff's Department was involved in 21  
(More on CARS on Page 16)

# Daughter charged in two deaths

## Suspect is transferred in Mansfield killings

BY RACHEL GREENWALD  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

ARLINGTON — A 20-year-old Arlington woman was formally charged yesterday in the Jan. 29 shooting deaths in Mansfield of her father and stepmother, officials said.

Jennifer Nicole Yesconis was transferred from Mansfield to the Tarrant County Jail yesterday afternoon, where she was being held on a charge of conspiracy to commit capital murder. Bail has been set at \$500,000.

Yesconis' boyfriend, Jeremiah Lee Wetmore, and friend Michael Heath are charged with capital murder.

Yesconis, who is known as Nicole, declined to be interviewed this week, saying she preferred to wait until she is represented by an attorney. Nicole's mother, Sue Shannon, has said the family will need a court-appointed lawyer.

Robert and Aletha Yesconis were found shot to death in their Mansfield home on Jan. 31 when a worried co-worker stopped by to check on the couple.

## Cars

From Page 15

chases, including one that went from Denton to Benbrook and ended when Department of Public Safety troopers shot out the tires of a vehicle.

"We think most people won't avoid or flee from us when they see that kind of car," said Lt. Ray Bell, Sheriff's Department patrol commander.

"Because of [the Camaro's] ability to accelerate quickly, you have less chance of losing sight of a vehicle on these two-lane roads — and that's where they get the idea to run," he said.

The Sheriff's Department's current chase policy limits the number of vehicles involved to two and places a field supervisor in control, Bell said. If a deputy believes a chase is becoming dangerous, the deputy should end it, Bell said.

When delivered, the Camaros will be used primarily in four areas of Tarrant County where 68 percent of the 769 accidents investigated by

the sheriff's deputies occurred in 1993.

These areas are:

■ Farm Road 1187 west of the Mansfield city limit to the Fort Worth city limit at Oak Grove Road.

■ An area known as the five points, which includes U.S. 287 North, business U.S. 81 North and Farm Road 718.

■ Farm Road 1220 north of the Fort Worth city limit to Lake Country Estates.

■ U.S. 377 and Farm Road 1187 near Benbrook Lake.



# County to expand Green

## Bay jail facility

**The population has been running in excess of 5,100 prisoners a day for months, with about 800 inmates sleeping on the floor.**

BY BILL HANNA  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — With more than 800 Tarrant County inmates sleeping on the floor, county commissioners have agreed to spend more than \$3.2 million to expand the county's Green Bay facility by 672 inmates.

The expansion at Green Bay, which houses sentenced felons awaiting transfer to state prisons, will be completed in about seven months. After the new facility is built, the county will have no more land for further jail expansion.

But County Commissioner Dionne Bagsby, who voted for the plan, said Tuesday that it was a "Band-Aid" solution to overcrowd-

ing. And another commissioner said that the county must realize that the problem is not going away.

"We must plan better for the state's lack of planning," Commissioner Bob Hampton said. "In other words, we've got to come to some sort of agreement on our future needs."

The \$3,255,000 jail expansion, which was originally budgeted for \$4 million, was awarded to the lowest bidder, JBM Builders Inc. of Fort Worth, and is scheduled to take 210 days.

Facilities director Gary Kirby said that the county must also add a new kitchen to meet state regulations. The kitchen costs, which have not been formally presented to commissioners, could run as high as \$1.2 million, he said.

Tarrant County's jail population has been running in excess of 5,100 prisoners a day for the past several months, with about 800 inmates sleeping on the floor.

Lt. G.M. Hendrix, a Sheriff's Department spokesman, said the new

beds will help, "but it will not get all our inmates off of the floor."

Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams and Dallas County Sheriff Jim Bowles have lobbied Gov. Ann Richards for relief. While waiting for the new Green Bay space, Tarrant County sheriff's officials are hoping that the state will begin tak-

ing more inmates.

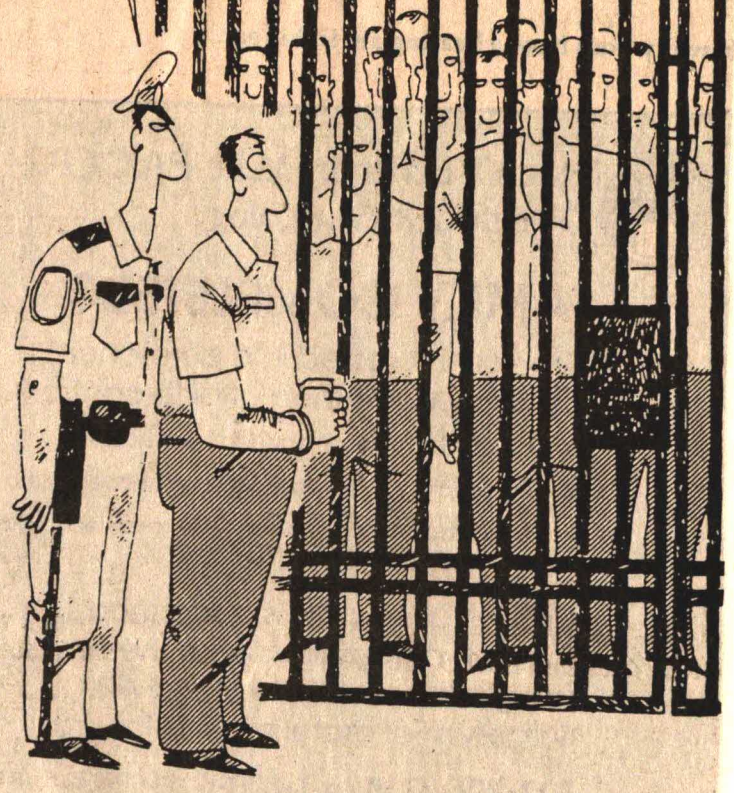
"When you've got 800-plus people on the floor, that's critical — it's a horrible concern," Hendrix said. "It used to be the state took 50 to 60 sentenced felons a month. We've been put down to 15 to 20 a month. That's our real concern. After this is built, we're out of room. There is nowhere else to expand."



THERE'S ONE BIG PROBLEM WITH "THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT!..



NOT ENOUGH ROOM IN THE DUGOUT.



### Jail smoke isn't pro-life

When Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams was campaigning for his office, I was mystified as to why he put forth "pro-life" views that did not at the time seem to be relevant to the position.

However, after finding out that some pregnant inmates and pregnant county jail employees have complained about the Class A carcinogen being allowed in three of the four county jail facilities, I believe that Williams has a "pro-life" duty to eliminate environmental tobacco smoke from the jails.

ETS contains many toxic and carcinogenic elements. Fetuses or unborn children certainly should not be exposed to such poisonous chemicals. Neither should the inmates and the jailers, especially those with asthma and chronic bronchitis.

And according to the U.S. surgeon general's 1986 report on ETS, there is no known threshold for the cancer-causing effect of tobacco smoke, so the only way to guarantee the protection of these innocent unborn children, their mothers and perhaps even their fathers is to completely eliminate ETS from the county jails.

I would hope that Williams would not concern himself with the money that would be lost at the jail commissary when cigarettes are no longer allowed to be sold there. "Pro-life" supporters have always condemned the selfishness and greed accompanying the decision to endanger the life of an unborn child.

If Williams does not immediately begin implementing a smoke-free jail policy, I would hope that the "pro-life" forces in the community would stage a protest at the three smoke-filled jails in defense of the unborn children who are being assaulted by a Class A carcinogen. If not, Williams and "pro-life" supporters should not be surprised when people choose to dismiss them merely as "anti-choice."

Diane G. Emery  
Colleyville



# Street peace

## Gang leaders put out call for truce

BY M.C. MOEWE  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Leaders of the Crips and Bloods, two of the city's largest warring gangs, called for a truce yesterday afternoon while city and county officials made promises to help find alternatives to their dangerous lifestyle.

"I'm here today to start a gang

truce between the Bloods and the Crips gangs, to stop all the shooting and killing, to help the little kids be raised right and not be scared to go outside thinking they're going to get shot because they wear blue or red," said one of about 10 gang members during the meeting, which was closed to the media but was broad-

(More on GANGS on Page 5)

cast over KHVN, a religious radio station.

The gang leaders, who represented six gang factions, selected the station and put the word on the street beforehand that the broadcast was going to take place, according to city and law enforcement officials who attended the meeting.

At a subsequent news conference that the gang members did not attend, community leaders pledged to work together to help gang members find alternatives to street violence.

Many of the leaders were part of a committee that included City Council members, local clergy and Chamber of Commerce officials, as well as members of the Fort Worth gang task force and the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

A mission statement the group released says, "We the citizens of Fort Worth are determined to provide viable responses and alternatives to gang members in exchange for not participating in violent gang activities."

Yesterday's announcement followed months of secret negotiations that initially involved only two Crips and Bloods members and law enforcement officials.

"I think this is the only way to reach our gang problem," said H.T. Young, a Fort Worth gang officer who participated in the talks, which began in November. "We can go out kicking in doors all day but until they change their way of thinking, the way they're going to live their lives, we're just defeating the purpose."

Young estimated that the truce could affect as many as 90 percent of Fort Worth's estimated 3,900 gang members.

Last year, 16 people were killed in gang-related incidents, according to police statistics. A total of 173 drive-by shootings were reported last year in Fort Worth — an average of three a week. Statistics for this year are not available.

"We are probably the first city in the nation to sit down with gang members and come up with a resource package to meet their

needs," said Luther Perry, the Police Department's community liaison.

Truce negotiations began after two rival gang leaders — one of whom was in Tarrant County Jail — approached Tarrant County sheriff's Deputy Bill Farmer twice and asked for help in stopping violence among rival gangs.

"They're the ones who initiated it," Farmer said. "They expressed that they would like to be able to talk to each other and I hooked them up."

Working with Young, Farmer arranged two meetings between a jailed Crips leader and a Bloods leader. At the encounter, they talked about the same hopes. A *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reporter attended the early negotiations on condition that they not be made public until a truce appeared possible.

The gang leaders talked about the losses on both sides. "We ain't going to have a chance — we're dying left

and right," the Crips leader said at the first meeting.

Several other meetings took place among law officers and gang members on the streets, including two meetings at a local coffee shop. After numerous discussions, the officers decided in late December to ask community leaders to help.

A 30-member committee was formed that included representatives from two churches, the Fort Worth City Council, the Tarrant County Crime Commission, the Fort Worth school board, Tarrant County Junior College, the Police Department, the Sheriff's Department and the State Board of Pardons and Parole.

A Bloods leader known as "Evil," who appealed to his fellow gang members to begin a truce during yesterday's radio broadcast, said after the announcement that he feels optimistic about success. "Some are going to listen," he said. "I feel like we'll get about 70 percent of them

back. As long as authorities come with the jobs."

To get the peace message out, the gang leader had a T-shirt made that depicts a Blood in red and a Crip in blue shaking hands. He has sold 100 and plans to have more made. "That's the only thing I could think of to get the word out."

One 20-year-old gang member with the street name "Clack" said his mother told him last night about the truce. The Five Deuce Hoover Crips member said that he was skeptical but will honor the truce if his leaders tell him to. "It's a lot of things they [the Bloods] have done that they ain't been paid back for," said the gang member, who has been shot twice in the past eight months in gang violence. "I don't want anybody to think I'm a punk."

Clack said his leaders — called "OGs" or Original Gangsters — are currently in jail but he still follows their orders.

Clack said he was going to discuss

the truce with his fellow gang members. "They're going to have a lot of questions," he said.

It's not uncommon to have gang leaders in jail still having power in the streets, Young said.

Officials at the jail have supplied gang leaders telephones to call members and ask them to abide by the truce.



# Officials offer help to gang members for truce

By JACK Z. SMITH  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — In exchange for gang members agreeing to seek a truce, government officials and private organizations are pledging support to help them turn their lives around.

Job training, help in finding jobs, after-school tutoring, pastoral counseling and recreational programs are among the types of assistance being offered.

With gang members showing good intentions by calling for a truce, it is now "incumbent" upon Fort Worth residents to reciprocate by offering them help, Mayor Kay Granger said.

"We've got . . . to do our part," she said. "If we follow through, I think it's quite possible the truce will last."

Asked whether gang members can transform themselves into productive citizens holding down jobs, Granger said: "I don't think it's pie in the sky. I think it's possible."

The Fort Worth Police Department estimates that nearly 3,900 active gang members live in the city.

These are examples of the pledges of help:

■ The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce said it will poll its more than 3,000 members to see what jobs they might provide.

■ The city promised to help through a year-round program,

**"We've got . . . to do our part. If we follow through, I think it's quite possible the truce will last."**

— Mayor Kay Granger

launched this month, that provides expanded recreational, social and educational opportunities for youngsters in afternoon, evening and late night hours at

"I feel that the majority at this table started it [the gang fighting]," a jailed Crips member nicknamed "Copperhead" said during yesterday's radio broadcast. "We talked to a lot of people last night and there are a lot of people" for the truce.

In Los Angeles County, a truce called among all gangs after the April 1992 riots had mixed results. Although most areas have seen the truce collapse, law officers said they believe that the effect was positive and that they would support it again.

"It was a flimsy one, a very short-time one," said South Los Angeles

Bureau Chief Mark Kroeker. The truce lasted only a few months in his section of the city, he said. "But you can't criticize it because it saved some lives."

In nearby Compton, the truce is believed to have caused a 30 percent drop in the city's overall homicide rate — 59 killings in 1992, compared with 87 in 1991.

Lt. Reggie Wright supervised the gang-homicide unit in Compton, which has a population of about 100,000, when the truce began. His department has documentation — either by arrests or interviews — of 7,500 gang members in the city.

The truce held for about a year in Compton, and Wright said he considers it a success.

Kroeker said that even though the truce was short-lived, it was worth it. "I'd try it again. There's got to be a way."

five multipurpose and recreational centers.

■ The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Fort Worth said it will help gang members find jobs and is considering a program to teach them entrepreneurial skills.

If gang members are going to reverse their lives, "we're going to have to look at education and economic opportunities," Mayor Pro Tem Virginia Nell Webber said.

She said gang members might get employment training with federal aid provided through the Job Training Partnership Act. Labor unions might also assist in providing training, she said.

City Councilman McKinley Jackson said some gang members just want a job, period.

"They're not looking for high-tech jobs," he said. "They're just looking for jobs to survive."

Some jobs might be short-term ones "like painting over graffiti . . . simple jobs, just temporary jobs to get started," he said.

Donna Parker, vice president

for urban development for the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, said that although it can't guarantee jobs to gang members, it has pledged to poll member businesses for job opportunities.

"We did not guarantee jobs," she said. "Nobody can guarantee jobs. But we did guarantee we will look for jobs for them."

Gang members will have to

**"We did not guarantee jobs. Nobody can guarantee jobs. But we did guarantee we will look for jobs for them."**

— Donna Parker

Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce

apply for jobs on an individual basis, she said.

"Somebody would be lying to them if we said we're going to hire every one of them tomorrow," she said. "And somebody would be lying to them if they told them it

would be easy."

Parker said a recent survey showed that, of the existing jobs in Fort Worth, only about 30 percent require education beyond high school.

Gang members might receive job training through funding from the Citizens Crime Commission of Tarrant County, Parker said.

Robert Young, director of special services for the Tarrant County Junior College South Campus, said he is seeking to determine "what the college can do to help these young people. . . . Right now, we're trying to find out what their needs are."

The Rev. Roosevelt Sutton, pastor of Maranatha Primitive Baptist Church in Fort Worth, said he wants to help gang members by providing them counseling and by assisting them in getting a General Educational Development certificate if they have not completed high school.

"These are our children," he said.



# Deputies' security drill alarms unsuspecting court workers

By **BILL HANNA**  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A Tarrant County Sheriff's Department training exercise went awry Tuesday night when deputies clad in camouflage startled unsuspecting court workers on their way out of the Tarrant County Justice Center.

It was the first time the Sheriff's Department's 6-month-old tactical team had used a county building for training.

It may be the last, said Lt. G.M. Hendrix, a Sheriff's Department spokesman.

## Camouflage-clad tactical team tests strategy for crises

"Unfortunately, there were some people who didn't know what was going on," Hendrix said, "and they were alarmed by the scenario."

A court reporter for the 153rd District Court was searched and briefly detained by the deputies, who were operating on the assumption that everyone in the building was participating in the drill. Hendrix said the department had re-

ceived complaints from some judges.

"We have apologized to her and told her we are truly sorry for any misunderstandings," Hendrix said. "Our perimeter people were told to maintain the perimeter so nobody could walk out of the building like George Lott."

Lott is the man who took a pistol into the 2nd Court of Appeals on July 1, 1992, and opened fire, killing two lawyers. He walked out of the court building undetected after police had scrambled to the scene.

(More on DRILL on Page 26)

## Drill

From Page 23

The practice session was planned about two weeks ago to be held in the Tarrant County Justice Center between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Sheriff's officials said they believed that all workers had left the building.

In the training scenario, a capital murder defendant takes a bailiff's gun and takes several court employ-

ees captive. It is similar to a March 8, 1991, incident in which capital murder defendant James Eugene Bigby unsuccessfully attempted to hold Judge Don Leonard hostage.

Several court employees contacted last night said they had not been told of the training exercise and had not heard about Tuesday night's incident.

But District Judge Michael Schattman, who presides in the building, applauded the exercise and said the problems such as those

created by Tuesday night's drill could be avoided through communication.

"I certainly wouldn't complain about them trying to improve courthouse security," Schattman said.

The 18-person tactical team was created six months ago, primarily to deal with dangerous situations in the county's courthouses and jails. The team has held previous training exercises with Fort Worth and North Richland Hills police.

About two weeks ago, team mem-

bers also traveled to Austin to work with the Travis County Sheriff's Department and Austin police learning how to deal with riots in overcrowded county jails.

"I think it was kind of a joint decision among all of the chief deputies that we can't always count on other people to bail us out," Hendrix said. "I think we need to be able to deal with these types of situations internally."

However, Hendrix acknowledged that the tactical team still needs more training for such scenarios.



# Threats prompt order to protect Brosky in prison

BY BILL HANNA  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A judge ordered state prison officials yesterday to take whatever steps are necessary to protect hate killer Christopher Brosky, who said he has received death threats and is afraid to be placed in the general prison population.

The emergency order signed by District Judge Bill Burdock requires prison officials at the French Robertson Unit in Abilene to safeguard Brosky until a decision can be made on how to protect him on a long-term basis.

"It's very similar to the problem we had in the Tarrant County Jail," Burdock said. "He's too infamous to be left in the general population."

Brosky, who was convicted along with two other white supremacists in the drive-by shooting of an African-American man in Arlington,

(More on BROSKY on Page 31)

## Brosky

From Page 29

was placed in a single cell in the Tarrant County Jail after his November conviction, but was pelted with containers of urine, hot water and other liquids. He was subsequently moved to the Wise County jail and then sent to the French Williams Unit several weeks ago.

In his motion, Brosky's lawyer, Ward Casey, told the judge that Brosky is a "marked man, and that

it has been publicly proclaimed that he should not be protected from fellow inmates."

Maj. William Stephens at the Abilene unit declined to discuss Brosky's situation.

In a March 2 letter addressed to Casey, Brosky said he feared for his life and that he had already been disciplined for refusing to accept a housing assignment in the prison's general population.

"People do recognize me, and there have been more death threats," he wrote. "Ward, I'm doing my best to do my time and keep out of trouble. But, like you

and I both know, trouble comes to me no matter what I do."

Brosky was convicted in November of organized crime and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

"It looks to me like it's going to be a long-term thing," Burdock said. "How long I don't know. He's got a 40-year sentence and I want him to serve all of it, but he's entitled to serve it without being harmed."

Brosky was convicted of murder a year ago in the 1991 drive-by slaying of Donald Thomas. Brosky was in the car with two other white supremacists, Joshua Hendry and

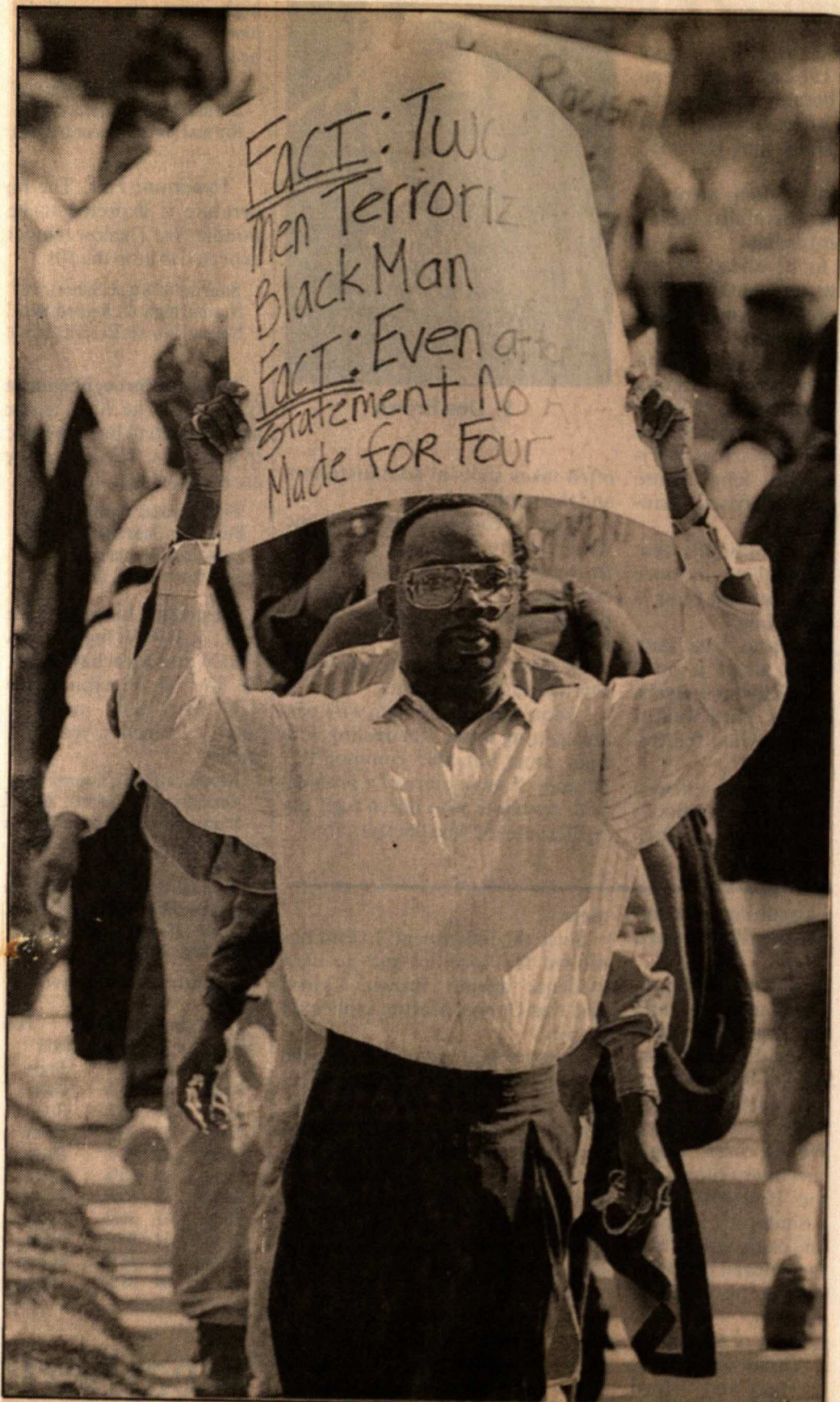
William George "Trey" Roberts, both of whom pleaded guilty.

A jury sentenced him to 10 years' probation, igniting outrage and protests. Hendry was given 15 years in prison and Roberts, the gunman, received a 40-year sentence.

Tarrant County prosecutors later tried him on organized criminal activity and conspiracy charges, and a Galveston County jury convicted him and sentenced him to the 40-year term.

Casey said yesterday that the threats have continued against his client since his conviction.





Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

**The Rev. Gregory Spencer leads a protest march in front of the Fort Worth Police Department headquarters yesterday morning.**



# Sheriff disputes account of attack

BY GRACIE BONDS STAPLES  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A witness who reported seeing two white men chase the Rev. Gregory Spencer, a prominent African-American mortician, this month told authorities that she did not see a gun being used in the incident, Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams said yesterday.

At a news conference, Williams said that the witness "made it very clear she didn't see a gun" and that she "did not hear anything that sounded like a gunshot."

After the news conference, Spencer said he is certain that he saw a gun. The Sheriff's Department has not identified the witness.

Spencer has accused the department of mishandling the case, in which he says two men shot at him March 2 as he drove on Farm Road 1187 near Rendon. Initially, deputies simply ticketed one man for failure to show proof of insurance. Eight days later, the two men were arrested on misdemeanor charges and released.

About 70 of Spencer's supporters, angry over the handling of the case, staged two two-hour protests yesterday outside the Sheriff's Department.

"I want Sheriff David Williams to make a public apology," Spencer said.

Williams said he has nothing to apologize for.

"I don't know that there is anything further we can say on the matter," he said. "I don't like what these two suspects did, and it's wrong. But I think we've done everything within our power to do and we handled this as we would any other similar event."

The Sheriff's Department arrested two Fort Worth men Thursday. Alfred Moore, 24, was charged with reckless driving, and Ronald Hochstine, 19, was charged with failure to identify himself to a peace officer and disorderly conduct.

Hochstine pleaded guilty to the charges against him and was fined \$400.

Williams said that information in the case was turned over yesterday to the FBI, which is trying to determine whether Spencer's civil rights were violated.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Afri-

can-American ministers' group said yesterday that they intend to seek assistance from the state attorney general's office and the U.S. Justice Department.

"We can't get justice in Tarrant County, so we're going to appeal to whomever we can," said the Rev. Michael Bell, spokesman for the ministers' group. "This is 1994. This is a slap in the face for every ethnic minority in the county, and we're going to be on this issue with the consistency of the Energizer bunny."

Spencer said that he and his supporters will picket until authorities charge the two men with aggravated assault.

Williams said no additional charges can be brought.

"According to the DA's office, this matter had been handled in a normal way and they could not find that we could've done anything else," he said.

Williams said the district attorney's office would not accept the aggravated assault charges.

"That's right," said Steve Chaney, senior staff attorney. "No deadly weapon was found, and the victim was not certain in his statement that a deadly weapon had been used."

Spencer disputed that.

"I never said I was not sure," he said.

Spencer and his supporters contend that the case would have been handled differently had he been white and the suspects African-American.

"Sheriff David Williams is the same sheriff that brought dogs out during the march in the [Christopher] Brosky case," said the Rev. LeRoy Haynes, a spokesman for the African-American Summit on Peace, Justice and Equality.

Members of Fort Worth's minority communities expressed outrage after learning that Williams had two drug-sniffing dogs inside the Tarrant County Courthouse during the march, which drew an estimated 10,000 people to downtown.

The marchers were protesting the probation given to an avowed white supremacist convicted in the murder of a black man in Arlington.

Williams later apologized for the dogs' presence.



# TARRANT COUNTY

## Interoffice Memo

DATE: March 15, 1994  
TO: All Personnel  
FROM: Hank Pope, Chief of Confinement - Housing  
SUBJECT: Daily Memo

An Advance Report Writing Class will be held March 23rd, 24th and 25th from 8 AM to 12 Noon at the Greenbay Training Room. The following are scheduled to attend:

W. Brito-Rodriguez	Jana Reed	Joseph Sullivan
Corliss Cashion	Delores Stewart	Robert Corley
Debbie Faulknor	Floyd Clark	Evelyn Hart
Eric Bales	Sandra Wise	Marvin Guthrie
Patsy Lerche	Joseph Null	Ennis Eakin
Leon Giles	Steve Henry	Eve Sears

\*\*\*\*\*  
Effective immediately, Sonya Aguilar is no longer employed with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office and is not allowed access into any Tarrant County Jail facility.  
\*\*\*\*\*

There will be a selection board for Classification Officer and a Corporal at 0930 hours, Thursday, March 17, 1994. The board will meet in the Conference Room in Jail Administration, 3rd level, Corrections Center. The following personnel will report to the board:

Lynn A. Boyd	Kyle A. Cox	Hayden Denison
Jim W. Glenn	Frank Inlow	Carol Moore
Norman Moreland	Cloyd Polk	David Stockton
Susan Vandigriff	Richard Ward	Kenneth Wilkins

\*\*\*\*\*

*Hank Pope*  
for Chief Hank Pope/Confinement - Housing  
Tarrant County Jail



# Brosky is moved to Huntsville

## Prisoner reported he received threats

BY LINDA PONCE CAMPBELL  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Christopher Brosky, who was convicted in the 1991 racially motivated killing of an Arlington man, has been moved to the state prison in Huntsville after he complained of receiving threats that made him fear for his life.

Brosky, 19, was moved from the French Robertson prison in Abilene on Friday, according to published reports.

Prison officials could not be reached last night to discuss the transfer. Brosky's attorney, Ward Casey, and trial Judge Bill Burdock both said they did not know about the transfer.

"I don't know anything about it," Casey said last night.

Huntsville will be the fourth facility to hold Brosky since his second conviction in the drive-by slaying of Donald Thomas.

Tarrant County jail officials put Brosky in a single cell after his November conviction in the Thomas killing, but other prisoners showered him with containers of urine, hot water and other liquids.

Authorities then moved Brosky to the Wise County Jail, and transferred him to French Robertson in February.

Although he was separated from other inmates in Abilene, Brosky wrote to Casey that he had gotten threatening notes and letters.

About two weeks ago, Burdock ordered the prison system to "safeguard" Brosky. The order did not specify a transfer to a different facility.

"He's too infamous to be left in the general population," Burdock said in the order.

Casey had sought Burdock's order with a motion that said Brosky is a "marked man."

Casey said last night that the threats appeared to be "just a bunch of hollering and screaming," but he took them seriously because Brosky had "never told me he's scared before."

The prison system may have moved more quickly in Brosky's case than was expected.

Casey said he received a copy of a letter yesterday in which Assistant Attorney Gen- (More on BROSKY on Page 19)

# Brosky

From Page 15

eral Bill Zapalac asked that Burdock's order to the prison system be put on hold until the Court of Criminal Appeals could decide whether he had authority to issue it.

Burdock said that he was "not going to fight over jurisdiction of

the case," but that he wants to make sure the law is followed and Brosky is kept safe.

"If they think they can protect him better down at Huntsville, then that's what they ought to do," he said.

Two other teen-age white supremacists who were with Brosky when Thomas was killed pleaded guilty. Joshua Hendry was sentenced to 15 years, and William George "Trey" Roberts was sen-

tenced to 40 years.

A Tarrant County jury found Brosky guilty but sentenced him to 10 years' probation, prompting a public outcry.

Tarrant County prosecutors then tried Brosky on charges of organized crime and conspiracy, and a Galveston County jury gave him a 40-year prison sentence.

This report contains material from The Associated Press.



# Two jailers are indicted in beatings

## Tarrant County guards accused in civil-rights case

BY THOMAS KOROSEC  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A Tarrant County grand jury has indicted two jailers on civil-rights charges, accusing them of unlawfully kicking and beating prisoners during jail scuffles last year.

The indictments, returned March 29, accuse Todd Hamilton, 32, and Dale Motes, 44, of the third-degree felony of intentionally and unlawfully inflicting bodily injury on a prisoner.

Motes is accused in a one-count indictment of striking inmate Tony Blacklock in the head with his hand and kicking him in the head during a Nov. 18 scuffle.

Hamilton is accused in a four-count indictment of striking Blacklock in the head with his hand and, in a separate Oct. 21 incident, striking inmate Neal Sharkey in the head with his hand, kneeling him in the leg and pressing a steel bar into Sharkey's neck.

The jailers, who face up to 10 years in prison if convicted, were arrested Dec. 8 and placed on leave with pay after an internal investigation by supervisors in the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department.

The jailers, both hired in November 1992, had been part of a special squad charged with subduing violent inmates.

"I'm surprised the grand jury indicted them," said attorney Michael Ware, Hamilton's attorney. "We will be asking for a speedy trial, and we anticipate an acquittal."

Ware said that he had viewed videotapes of the alleged offenses, tapes taken by other jailers as a routine matter.

"They show these men doing their job," Ware said. "There was a supervisor at the scene and he observed everything that went on and evidently approved everything that went on."

Leonard Schilling, Motes' attorney, called the indictments "ridiculous."

"I just can't believe it, to be honest with you," he said. "This never should have gone to the grand jury; this was an internal affairs matter that the current administration, due to its incompetence, handed off to a grand jury."

Tarrant County Sheriff David Williams could not be reached for comment and a Sheriff's Department spokesman did not return telephone calls.

Ware and Schilling said that their clients remained on administrative leave yesterday, but it was unclear whether that status will change because of the indictments.

In the backlogged courts, a typical case may not go to trial for one to two years.

The jailers' cases are being prosecuted by the Texas attorney general's office.

Tarrant County prosecutor Alan Levy said that his office asked state authorities to intervene to avoid a possible conflict of interest.

As a matter of law, the district attorney's office would be responsible for defending the Sheriff's Department if any civil lawsuits arise from the allegations, Levy said.

Ware, however, said he thought the district attorney "handed the ball off to the AG because it's such a weak case."



# Jail overflow to rough it at Greenbay

By KEN DILANIAN  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County will use \$1.3 million in state money to construct tents or barracks to house 336 jail inmates during the summer months at the county's Greenbay detention facility, officials said yesterday.

The money is the county's portion of a \$30 million emergency plan unveiled two weeks ago by state officials aimed at relieving jail overcrowding until new state prisons are completed in August. Statewide, counties will get \$25 million to temporarily house 6,300 inmates, said Steve Bresnen, general counsel to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock.

By August, the state expects to have 15,000 new prison beds available, Bresnen said.

As of two weeks ago, 850 inmates were sleeping on the floor at the Tarrant County

Jail, making it one of the state's most crowded.

County commissioners told their staff yesterday to locate the temporary beds at the 480-bed Greenbay facility, where a major expansion is under way. Commissioners rejected three other sites: the Mansfield boot-camp facility, the early-voting center adjacent to the new jail, and the Cold Spring detention facility.

"It looks to me like this would be the least hurdles to overcome in that time frame," County Judge Tom Vandergriff said of Greenbay, located at I-35W and East Loop 820.

To finish the project by June 1, the county plans to build the temporary jail facilities on an emergency basis, thereby foregoing the normally required bidding procedures, County Administrator G.K. Manius said.

The plan involves building either tents or

barracks, and additional fencing, Manius said.

Deputy Chief Savala Swanson, who supervises jail facilities for the Sheriff's Department, said he preferred the Greenbay site.

"It's going to present staffing problems, but we're going to get over that speed bump," Swanson said.

Sheriff David Williams said two weeks ago that the move would be especially welcome during the summer, when heat-aggravated tempers make jail overcrowding particularly dangerous.

The \$3.4 million, 672-bed expansion already under way at Greenbay is expected to be finished by Dec. 31.

By June, 35,000 people awaiting transfer to state prisons are expected to be housed in the state's county jails. Texas is under court order to relieve that backlog by Sept. 1, 1995.



# Lotto celebration brings incarceration for Fort Worth man

BY KATHY SANDERS  
AND JOHN GONZALEZ  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — In the realm of excuses, Garry Neil Robertson had a doozy when Fort Worth police stopped him early Thursday morning on suspicion of drunken driving.

"I won \$5 million on the lotto," Robertson told the officers, according to a police report. "I'm celebrating."

Robertson, 41, went to the Tarrant County Jail anyway and spent the better part of the night locked up before posting bail early Thursday. But he had plenty of consolation waiting.

Only hours before Robertson's arrest, he and his family had won \$5.2 million, having hit all six numbers in Wednesday's Lotto Texas jackpot drawing.

"He was telling people in the jail, he was telling everyone, that he'd won the lottery," said Lt. Pat Kneblick, a police spokeswoman.

Robertson's wife, Roberta, purchased the winning ticket at River Oaks Movie Rental, where she works as a

(More on LOTTERY on Page 16)



These are the Lotto Texas numbers drawn Wednesday night.

27 33 39  
40 44 50

Two tickets matched all six numbers picked Wednesday in the Lotto Texas drawing. Another 142 matched five numbers for prizes of \$1,818 apiece; 7,370 matched four for \$126 each and 148,421 had three for \$3 apiece.

## Lottery

From Page 1

clerk. The couple would not comment on the arrest yesterday during an Austin news conference held by lotto officials.

"I just don't want to discuss it until I consult an attorney," Garry Robertson said.

Robertson said he will buy a new car for his wife, and the couple also talked about buying a home for their family, which includes three children. They live in a small frame home in a working-class neighborhood of northwest Fort Worth.

"It's an answer to a prayer, I'll tell you," Roberta Robertson said. "It's a miracle."

The owner of a second winning ticket, also sold in Fort Worth, had not claimed the other half of the prize by late yesterday afternoon.

The Robertsons' total winnings amount to \$5,222,638.55. The family received a check for \$263,638 yesterday and will receive the balance in annual payments for 19 years.

Roberta Robertson, who may be



Garry and Roberta Robertson display winning smiles in Austin.

the first Lotto Texas winner to sell herself a winning ticket, bought two Quick Pick tickets Wednesday and three others with number combinations based on family birthdays and ages. When the winning numbers were flashed later that evening on television, Robertson sent her husband to a nearby lottery retailer to confirm that they had hit the jackpot.

Shortly afterward, Fort Worth police clocked a Yamaha motorcycle traveling at 68 mph in a 55 mph zone in the 4300 block of

the North Freeway. The motorcycle driver — whom Fort Worth police later identified as Garry Robertson — was not wearing a helmet and the motorcycle was weaving, according to police reports.

A passenger on the motorcycle, a Euless woman in her late 30s, told police that she and Robertson had been drinking at the Pink Poodle nightclub to celebrate the lottery win, the police report says.

Staff writer Tim Madigan contributed to this report.



# Deputies meet with commissioners over wage suit

BY KEN DILANIAN  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tucked away in a foot-thick stack of documents on file in the federal courthouse is the heart of the sheriff's deputies' labor lawsuit against Tarrant County, as they see it.

It's a statement that Capt. Jim Minter, the deputies' star witness, says he overheard then-Sheriff Don Carpenter make to County Commissioner J.D. Johnson.

"We're cheating my folks out of their money," Carpenter told Johnson, according to Minter's affidavit. That comment allegedly came during one of Carpenter's many reported efforts to pry more money for his department out of the commissioners, who oversee the budget.

Yesterday, Johnson said he didn't remember the conversation. "He made many goofy statements to me," the commissioner said of Carpenter. "I don't recall what all he said."

Carpenter's sentiment is shared by hun-

dreds of Sheriff's Department employees, who met en masse yesterday in closed-door settlement negotiations at the Tarrant County Convention Center with the defendants in the suit, the county commissioners and county judge.

The talks, ordered by federal Judge John McBryde, produced no deal but gave the commissioners an idea of what they are facing, according to people who were present. The plaintiffs outlined a claim for \$10 million in back wages and \$10 million in damages.

The class-action lawsuit, filed in January 1993, lists as plaintiffs more than 600 employees of the 1,400-person Sheriff's Department, according to court documents.

A similar dispute in 1988 led the county to pay thousands of dollars in back wages after a routine investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor found that more than 100 sheriff's employees, many of them jailers, had not been paid enough overtime.

The current suit alleges that the county knowingly violated a host of provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which sets minimum requirements for treatment of workers.

Among the ways the county and its sheriff are breaking the law, the plaintiffs allege, is not paying employees extra for overtime, making people work through meal times, and forcing workers to take compensatory time off rather than getting extra pay.

Gary Ingram, the county's labor attorney, declined to comment yesterday except to deny the allegations.

In a 52-page statement to which the county has not yet responded, the plaintiffs laid out evidence they say supports their case, including sworn statements from several high-ranking people in the Sheriff's Department.

Most prominent among the plaintiffs is Minter, who was acting sheriff from December 1991 until his much-publicized Jan. 1, 1993, midnight firing by incoming

Sheriff David Williams. Minter was later rehired as a captain, taking a \$17,000 annual pay cut.

"There exists a culture within the Sheriff's Department of not reporting overtime," the plaintiffs' statement says, quoting Minter. Minter said he worked more than 60 hours a week for years, but was ordered by Carpenter to never indicate more than 40 hours on his time sheet.

The plaintiffs allege that Carpenter said he was under pressure from the commissioners.

Margaret Salame, the county's DARE officer, said in an affidavit that Carpenter told her: "It ain't me who won't pay you more money, it's [county officials] across the street. I want to get you more money, but they won't approve it."

Judge McBryde has ordered a third settlement conference, which could be replaced by a session with mediator, attorneys in the case said. Barring a settlement, a trial is scheduled for May 16.



# Jail bunks creatively enhanced

**Tarrant commissioners come up with a plan to add 648 beds instead of 336 with a state emergency grant.**

BY KEN DILANIAN  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County commissioners approved a plan yesterday to add 648 bunk beds to cells in the county jail — a move commissioners say will cost a fraction of the \$1.3 million the county is getting under a state emergency overcrowding relief grant that was intended to fund only 336 new beds.

"It's one of these miraculous win-win situations that we rarely see," said Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay, just before the commissioners unanimously authorized staff members to pursue a contract with a Fort Worth sheet metal firm that quoted a price of \$244,000 for 648 beds.

Under a \$30 million state initiative to relieve county jail overcrowding in Texas during the summer months, Tarrant County got \$1.3 million to add at least 336 temporary beds by June 1.

But under the plan approved by the Commissioners Court yesterday, the county will add nearly twice that number of permanent beds at the Tarrant County Justice Center and have more than \$1 million of the state grant left over to pay for extra staffing and other jail needs, officials said.

County Administrator G.K. Manius said the Texas Commission on Jail Standards has agreed to grant the county a permanent variance for the additional bunks, which will be installed above existing bunks.

Commissioner J.D. Johnson said in an interview that the new bunks will not pose a hardship for prisoners and that such arrangements are common in county jails.

In deciding on the plan to add bunks to the jail, the commissioners abandoned the alternative they had discussed last week, which was to add temporary jail beds in tents or barracks at the county's Green Bay facility. Either option would have cost more than \$1.2 million, not including a security fence, county officials said yesterday.

In order to get the beds installed by June 1 as the state requires, commissioners will award the contract on an emergency basis, which means they will not require competitive bids. Unless plans change, the commissioners will award the contract next week to R.D. Sheet Metal Inc. of Fort Worth, which county officials said is owned by Ronald Witt and Peggy Hamilton.

About 850 inmates are sleeping on the floor in the Tarrant County Corrections Center, which is among the most crowded in the state.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Thursday, April 28, 1994

## Court upholds Lott's conviction

BY JOHN GONZALEZ  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upheld the capital murder convictions of two Tarrant County Death Row inmates yesterday, including that of George Lott in the 1992 courthouse shootings.

Also upheld was the conviction and death sentence of Steven Kenneth Staley, who took part in a four-state crime spree before a robbery-slaying at a Fort Worth Steak & Ale restaurant in October 1989.

Lott fatally shot two attorneys and wounded three other people in an appeals court in the Tarrant County Courthouse in July 1992.

The court found "no unassigned fundamental error" in Lott's trial. Lott was tried in Potter County because of extensive publicity about

the slayings of Assistant District Attorney Chris Marshall and Dallas attorney John Edwards.

Lott, who represented himself in the trial and appeal, did not file legal briefs in his own behalf, the court noted.

"The trial court fully admonished [Lott] of the dangers and disadvantages of self-representation prior to trial and prior to this appeal," the ruling says. It says that Lott, an inactive attorney, is not indigent.

Because Lott filed no brief, the ruling says, that "in the interest of justice" the court reviewed the entire trial record but found no cause to overturn the convictions.

The courthouse rampage, which was sparked by bitter divorce and child-custody proceedings, left three people wounded: 2nd Court of Appeals Judge John Hill, visiting

Judge Clyde Ashworth and Assistant District Attorney Steve Conder.

Staley's appeal was rejected in a 30-page decision that found no error in jury selection or other facets of his trial. He was charged with killing Steak & Ale manager Robert Read, who offered himself as a hostage in place of other employees as police arrived on the holdup scene. To

Read was beaten and fatally shot in a hijacked getaway vehicle, police said. In 1991, co-defendant Tracey Duke agreed to three consecutive life sentences to escape the death penalty in Read's murder. robbery

The court found sufficient evidence to support the conviction of Staley, whom prosecutors described as "cold and vicious" and the leader of the botched robbery.



# Teen on trial in '92 attack on parents

## Kristi Koslow accused in plot to kill father, stepmother

BY THOMAS KOROSK  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Kristi Koslow's sudden friendliness struck her father at the time as curious, but nothing more.

For several years, the troubled teen-ager had estranged herself from the former bank executive and his wealthy second wife, Caren Koslow. But in early 1992, Kristi Koslow made a point to personally deliver Jack Koslow's Valentine's Day card and to meet him for dinner on her 17th birthday, he later recalled in testimony.

Sunday, May 1, 1994 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram /

In late February, two weeks before such mundane details would take on the weight of evidence in a murder case, Kristi Koslow dropped by her father's house at the edge of Fort Worth's monied Rivercrest section for a brief visit. She brought her 19-year-old boyfriend, Brian Salter, whom her father had never met.

As Salter watched from his car, the pudgy teen-  
(More on TRIAL on Page 16)

**Kristi Koslow appears at a pretrial hearing last week with her attorney, Tim Evans. Jury selection for Koslow's capital murder trial will begin Tuesday.**

## THE KOSLOW MURDER TRIALS



SALTER DILLINGHAM

**JEFFREY DILLINGHAM** faces execution in the killing of Caren Koslow. **BRIAN SALTER** is serving a life term in the bloody assault, which wounded the prominent Fort Worth woman's husband, former banker Jack Koslow. This week, a trial begins to determine whether his daughter, **KRISTI KOSLOW**, masterminded the attack.





ager trotted across the lawn and kissed her father — a gesture that struck the 48-year-old ex-Vietnam helicopter pilot as odd.

It was during those weeks, authorities say, that Kristi was secretly plotting with Salter to have Jack and Caren Koslow killed.

While defense attorneys say Salter was at the heart of the crime, prosecutors contend that Kristi Koslow, acting out of resentment and greed, engineered the bloody attack on her father and stepmother in their second-story bedroom the early morning of March 12, 1992.

In statements, Salter and his friend Jeffrey Dillingham admitted to the assaults.

Salter and Dillingham parked their car at Kristi Koslow's home and walked several blocks to the Koslows' two-story house, according to arrest affidavits. It was about 3 a.m., Dillingham said, when he pried open the back door. As Salter entered the alarm code — which they said Kristi Koslow had given them — Dillingham ran up the stairs and kicked in the door of the bedroom, police said.

"Mrs. Koslow was lying in bed," Dillingham said. "Mr. Koslow was going for the closet. I told him to get back and lay on the floor. By that time, Brian was up there."

Then, Dillingham said, Salter told him, "Do it."

"I hit Mr. Koslow in the back of the head, on the neck with a pry bar. Then I hit Mrs. Koslow. I hit Mr. Koslow some more, and Mrs. Koslow started screaming," Dillingham said. "And then I hit Mrs. Koslow some more."

The assault, carried out with a pry bar and a knife, left 40-year-old Caren Koslow dead at the foot of her bed, her throat deeply cut and her larynx crushed from one of 27 blows to her head and neck.

Jack Koslow, who authorities say was also targeted for death, was hit in the head so many times that his vision was blurred for months. His throat was slashed, too, but he survived to summon help from a neighbor across tree-lined Clarke Avenue.

Kristi Koslow, Salter and Dillingham said, waited for word at her mother's home nearby.

Police initially suspected Jack Koslow, they said, but they learned two weeks after the attack that Salter and Dillingham, a 19-year-old video store clerk, had broken into the Koslow home. A friend entrusted with the murder weapon and some bloody clothing had turned them in.

Dillingham, who admitted to striking the blows with a pry bar, was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to death last August in a trial moved to Wichita Falls because of extensive publicity.

A month later, Salter pleaded guilty to capital murder in exchange for a life sentence. Agreeing to testify against Kristi Koslow, he provided a fresh 23-page statement detailing the planning and execution of the crime.

### Courtroom strategies

**K**RISTI KOSLOW'S TRIAL, the last and most anticipated chapter in the most highly publicized Fort Worth murder in a decade, will begin this week in the Tarrant County Justice Center. Testimony is expected to begin in June, after four to six weeks of jury selection.

Accused of being the mastermind of a murder-for-hire scheme, the young Koslow faces the possibility of a death sentence if convicted of capital murder.

Although she has no criminal record, prosecutors say the brutality of the crime makes this a death-penalty case.

As the two sides' strategies have begun to take shape, lead defense attorney Tim Evans has indicated that he will try to convince jurors that Salter, not Kristi, engineered the plot.

"I am not going to play my trial cards before I think it's proper to do so," Evans said. "But it doesn't take a lawyer to examine what's been reported in the media and see that you've got two guys caught doing something and one of them claims another person put 'em up to it."

"Anybody who has raised kids would know that that kind of claim must be taken with a huge grain of salt."

Prosecutors, promising to call a variety of witnesses, say that Salter's anticipated testimony is only part of their case.

"There is going to be significant evidence outside of Mr. Salter — very significant and convincing evidence — that his story is accurate," said Tarrant County prosecutor Alan Levy, chief of his office's criminal section.

"Nobody is saying Mr. Salter isn't involved," said Levy, who is 10-for-10 in death-penalty cases. "This

isn't an either-or proposition."

In addition to Salter's account, prosecutors plan to introduce a rambling tape-recorded statement by Kristi Koslow, taken by Fort Worth police Detective Curt Brannan the morning of her arrest.

"Now did you make such a request of Brian?" (to kill Caren and Jack Koslow), Brannan asks in a transcript of the tape.

"Yes," Kristi answers. "... I just told him it [sic] be easier if they were, if they were. . . . It be easier for me and my Mom both because they had both dealt with so much misery for the last nine or 10 years and I guess I meant it when I said it, but I didn't think it would, it would actually happen."

In the statement, Kristi said she expected to inherit money and told Salter, "If I got any money, they could have it." The term "they," she clarified, meant Salter and Dillingham.

Salter, she said, "wanted a car and all this other stuff."

For her, she said, "It wasn't about money, it was just about, about, about feeling horrible . . . about everything that I felt, everything they said to me and done to me."

She indicated that she had told Salter that her father and stepmother had \$10 million to \$15 million, and that she would get a portion of her father's money if both died.

Evans said he will attempt to suppress the statement at an upcoming hearing.

Evans — a defense attorney known for pricey, high-profile cases — was hired by Paula Koslow, Kristi's mother. In his last trial, Evans helped get a Branch Davidian cleared of murder and conspiracy charges in connection with a federal raid last year on the group's compound near Waco.

"I am anxious for the chance to reveal all the circumstances surrounding the taking of that purported statement, but that's something I look forward to doing in the courtroom," said Evans, who has succeeded at sealing from public view a number of pretrial motions and subpoenas that could reveal more about his defense.



### 'Do it quietly.'

**S**ALTER, A FORMER All Saints Episcopal School student and junior varsity tennis player, told Brannan in the statement taken the day of his arrest that Kristi Koslow brought up the idea of killing her father and stepmother. She aided in carrying out the crime by providing the security alarm code and a hand-drawn floor plan of the house, Salter said.

"At first it was brought up kinda just as conversation and joking, and then she said that she wanted it done," Salter told Brannan in the statement.

"She said she stood to gain a lot of money from them being dead; she told me to talk to Jeff about doing it," Salter continued. He told Brannan: "She just said do it quietly."

"Do it quietly? Did she make you understand that she wanted both of them dead?" Brannan asked.

"Yes, she did," Salter answered.

"And how did she do that?" Brannan asked.

"She said that if just one of them died, the other one would get the money, but if both died that she would get it."

The morning after the attack, Salter said in the statement, he called Kristi Koslow about 4:30.

"I called her that night and I said that we had been there, she ... asked if they were dead; I said, 'I do not know,'" Salter said, according to a transcript of his taped statement.

At a pretrial hearing in April, prosecutors indicated that they plan to call at least one jailhouse witness whom Kristi Koslow talked to during the two years she has been in custody. The defendant has been held in lieu of \$350,000 bail in a Tarrant County jail.

During two routine hearings last week, Kristi Koslow glanced back at her mother, who sat close by in the gallery. The two exchanged smiles and hugs.

Neither Paula, Kristi, nor Jack Koslow would comment about the trial.

The state has also subpoenaed television and newspaper reporters, including one from the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* who interviewed Koslow outside her father's home the day after the attack.

"We were as close as a stepdaughter and stepmother could be," Kristi Koslow told reporters as Salter stood nearby.

Interviews with friends and fellow students, and Jack Koslow's extensive testimony in Dillingham's trial at Wichita Falls, draw a portrait of an emotionally troubled young woman whose family relationships had all but disintegrated by the time of the attack.

Kristi was adopted by Jack Koslow and his first wife, Paula, four or five days after she was born. She grew into a teen who skipped in and out of private and public schools, cut classes and spurned her parents' attempts to reshape her life.

Kristi was 7 years old when Jack and Paula Koslow divorced, and 8 when Jack married Caren Courtney.

Courtney, an oil heiress, met Jack Koslow at Texas American Bank, where he worked as an executive vice president. Also a banker, Caren Koslow left her job shortly after their marriage and devoted herself to an array of charitable and social activities favored by the city's west-side gentry.

After the divorce, Jack Koslow testified, he maintained a close relationship with Kristi, who lived with Paula in a modest west Fort Worth home.

Caren "literally acted as Kristi's mother," taking her shopping, to the beauty parlor and visiting with her teachers at school, he testified.

### A problem child

**A**S KRISTI GOT OLDER, Koslow said, "she started harboring some bad feelings toward me, and our relationship more or less just kind of disintegrated over the years to practically no relationship before March of 1992," he told jurors.

The teen, described by her father as having an above-average IQ, bounced from Fort Worth Country Day School her freshman year to Arlington Heights High School her sophomore year. In her junior year, she enrolled at West Academy, a small, private school for students having trouble in traditional schools.

"I tried to convince her she needed to change the people she ran around with," Jack Koslow recalled during Dillingham's trial. "I don't think any of it stuck. She'd say 'Yes, yes, yes. I'm going to do well in school. I'm going to start keeping regular hours.' You'd turn around and she'd be doing just the opposite."

Paula Koslow indulged Kristi with a car for her 14th birthday, Jack Koslow said.

"She didn't recognize many of the things Kristi was doing," he added. "I think that if you ask most people, Kristi probably ruled the household she lived in with her mother."

On several occasions, Jack Koslow said, Kristi ran away from her mother's house. At least once, Paula Koslow had Kristi taken into custody by juvenile authorities, he said.

A source close to the family said Kristi also was made to attend sessions with a family therapist.

One 19-year-old girlfriend, who agreed to a recent interview on the condition that she not be named, said of Kristi: "She so easily would get her feelings hurt. She was more thin-skinned than anyone I know."

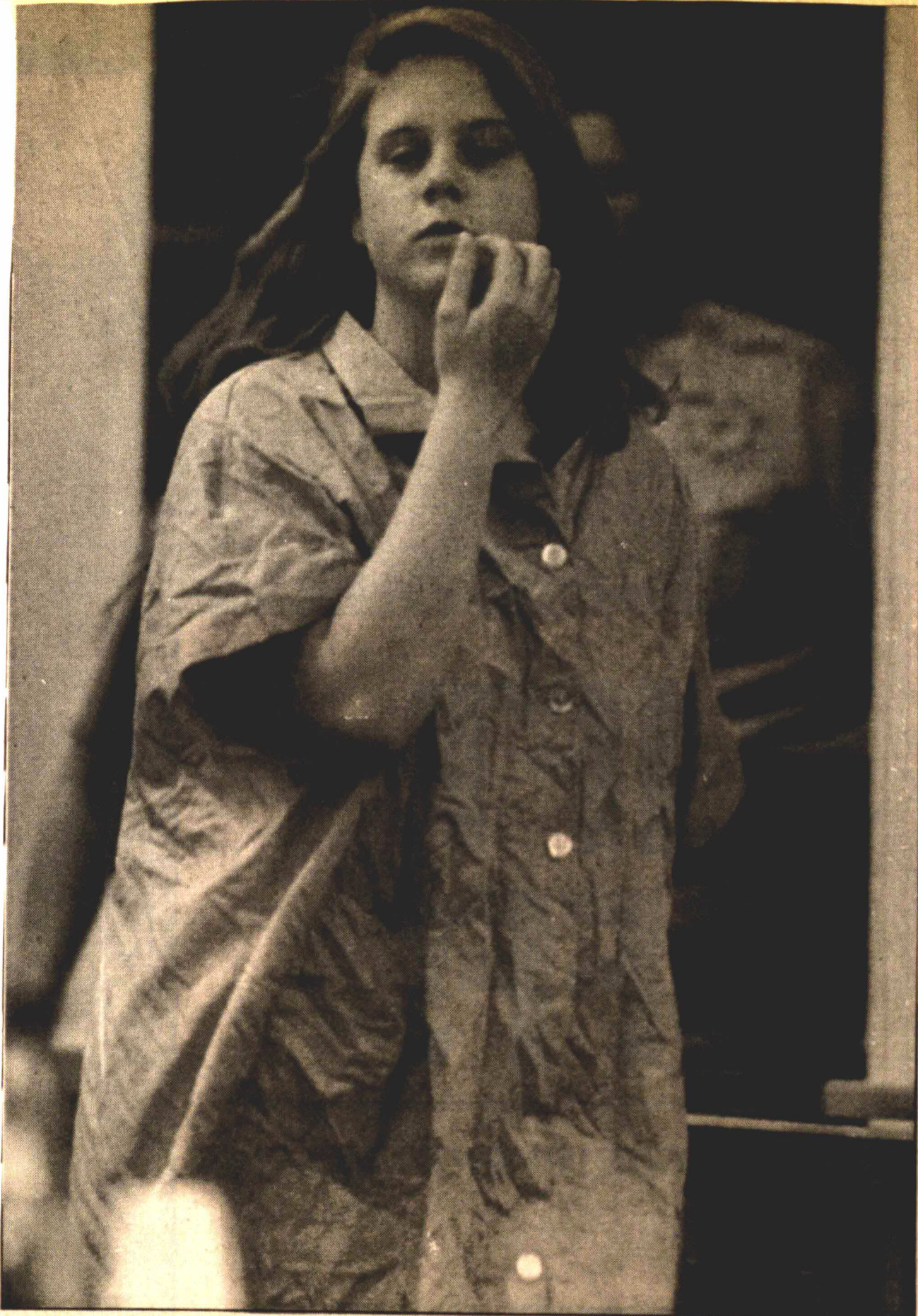
Another friend, 19-year-old Kendall Ray, said: "She had problems with her whole family. She would fly off the handle when her mother asked her to do anything; she would just go into a rage."

Ray and other friends said Kristi

often mentioned her dislike for her mother or her stepmother, Caren.

"In some ways, it seemed like the normal hostility between a stepmother and a stepdaughter," he said. "But I never thought she'd do anything drastic."





Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JERRY W. HOEFER

**Kristi Koslow is charged in a plot to kill her father and stepmother.**



# Deal offered to deputies

## Tarrant to pay \$2.3 million in wage dispute settlement

By KEN DILANIAN  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County officials have agreed to pay \$2.3 million and implement wage reforms to settle a federal labor lawsuit brought by 635 sheriff's deputies, the deputies' lawyer said yesterday.

The settlement was reached during a grueling six-hour conference Monday, according to Fort Worth City Councilman Jim Lane, the deputies' attorney. He said that a verbal settlement had been reached, although specifics were still under negotia-

“The employees are going to be paid for the hours they've worked.”

”  
Will Aitchison,  
lawyer for deputies

tion. Deputies and others who were present at the settlement conference also confirmed the agreement.

“I think that all county employees are going to benefit from this,” Lane said.

The settlement must be formally approved by commissioners, who declined to comment yesterday on whether a deal had  
(More on DEPUTIES on Page 13)

# Deputies

From Page 1

been struck. Attorneys for the county also declined to comment.

The deputies' suit alleges that the county knowingly violated federal labor law by pressuring deputies to underreport their hours and to work through meal times. The county is also accused of not allowing workers to take compensatory time off that they had earned.

The county disputed the allegations.

Under the settlement, the county will no longer be able to routinely prevent a deputy from taking off earned compensatory time, said Will Aitchison, an Oregon labor lawyer hired by Lane. Lane is also negotiating to set up a grievance procedure so that workers can complain to the county auditor if they believe that they are being pressured to lie on their time sheets, deputies said.

“This is going to fundamentally change the way the Sheriff's Department operates,” Aitchison

said. “The employees are going to be paid for the hours they've worked.”

Sheriff David Williams, who said he had not been briefed on the settlement, said his 17-month-old administration has always complied with federal labor laws.

“The actions that precipitated the [deputies'] lawsuit happened under the administration of Sheriff Don Carpenter and acting Sheriff Jim Minter,” he said.

Minter, who was acting sheriff from December 1991 until his much-publicized Jan. 1, 1993, midnight firing by the incoming Wil-

liams, was scheduled to be the deputies' star witness in the lawsuit. He testified last year in an affidavit that Carpenter ordered him to lie about the hours he worked. And when he took over the department, he repeatedly told the commissioners that the county was violating the law, court papers said.

Minter declined to talk about the case yesterday, except to say: “The sheriff's office has a lot of good, hard-working employees, and I'm glad to see they're getting what's coming to them.”

Originally filed in January 1993, the suit grew to include 635 of the

department's 1,400 deputies, who will collect an average of about \$2,400 each if the settlement is approved. Lane said the suit is not officially a class-action, so each of the plaintiffs will be allowed to decide whether to accept the deal.

Some deputies yesterday labeled the settlement a sellout and pledged to fight on with another lawyer. Others said they will grudgingly accept the deal but are not overjoyed by the amount they will collect.

“I think it could have been more,” said Deputy Jim Rumbaugh, who operates a metal detector at the county's Justice Center.

“But if it changes some of the pay policies, then we're ahead.”

Lane and Aitchison will get \$766,000 of the settlement, deputies said, plus \$170,000 for expenses.

In 1988, the U.S. Labor Department forced the county to pay thousands of dollars in back wages after a routine investigation found that sheriff's deputies weren't being paid overtime they were due.



# Tarrant reimburses deputies

## Commissioners settle lawsuit for \$2.3 million

By KEN DILANIAN  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — In a flurry of activity, Tarrant County commissioners approved a legal settlement yesterday that will cost the county money, a land sale that will earn it money and a contract award worth a great deal of money to a national firm and its local agents.

On the spending side, the commissioners formally approved a \$2.3 million payment to 635 sheriff's deputies who sued the county alleging violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

But although the settlement will take an unforeseen bite out of the county budget, the commissioners also learned that they will pick up more income than anticipated from the sale of a piece of land along an Arlington retail corridor. The highest of six bids opened yesterday was \$1.5 million — \$700,000 more than the anticipated earnings for the sale listed in the budget.

The commissioners also awarded one of the county's most lucrative contracts, the food and beverage concession at the Fort Worth/Tarrant County Convention Center. It went to Greenwich, Conn.-based Fine Host Corp. under terms considerably more favorable to taxpayers than the current arrangement.

The settlement with the sheriff's deputies sprang from a federal lawsuit filed in January 1993 alleging that the commissioners violated federal labor law by condoning a culture where deputies were forced to under-report their hours worked, were not allowed to take earned compensatory time off, and were forced to work through meals.

The county denied the allegations but made the \$2.3 million offer last week during a grueling, six-hour bargaining session.

A third of the money, plus \$180,000 in expenses, will go to the deputies' attorneys: Fort Worth City Councilman Jim Lane and Oregon labor lawyer Will Aitchison.

The rest will be distributed to individual plaintiffs as each signs the agreement relinquishing labor claims against the county. Each plaintiff will get an average of about \$2,400 each.

As part of the settlement, the county agreed to conduct labor law training sessions for supervisors in the Sheriff's Department and to set up a procedure so that deputies with wage disputes can appeal directly to the county personnel department.

With the land sale, the county will unload a 5.85-acre tract at Interstate 20 and Scots Legacy Drive, once home to a precinct garage, that is close to several restaurants and retail establishments. Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay, whose precinct includes the site, said she believes this is the best time to sell.

The winning bidder was Windstar Development, a group of local investors including physician Paul Scharf and businessman Bob Yonke. The firm owns 60 surrounding acres and will probably either develop the land or sell it to a commercial developer, Yonke said. He said the property is ideal for a restaurant or hotel.

Concessions at the convention center are expected to bring in more than \$2 million this year, according to the county budget office. Under the contract awarded to Fine Host Corp., the county will get 42.5 percent of that — higher than anything offered by the other four companies seeking the contract, officials said. Under the current arrangement, the county gets 35 percent of receipts.

The firm, which has the concession at the Arlington Convention Center, also agreed to make \$800,000 in capital improvements to the Tarrant County building.

Two African-American contractors have a 22 percent interest in the contract: Vernell Sturns, the former executive director of Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, and Norma Roby, chairwomen of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce.

The vote was 4-1, with Commissioner J.D. Johnson dissenting. Johnson declined to say which firm he preferred.





Cynthia and Isaac  
June 4, 1994



## Time for a curfew

If ever there was a time for Fort Worth to initiate a youth curfew, it is now.

The Vintage Flying Museum recently had a dance at its hangar at Meacham Airport to honor D-Day veterans. My Texas State Guard unit was called in to handle traffic and security. Being a Tarrant County deputy sheriff, I was assigned to guard the money. I figured that sore feet would be my only problem, but I was wrong.

As midnight approached, I found myself being sent to handle a teen-age gang member harassing the party and carloads of teens looking for a gang party. The teens were looking for fun when they should have been at home. The boys had a severe case of shyness when confronted by our troops. The girls were dressed in scanty clothing and had on garish makeup. They looked like prostitutes.

The good stuff happened after I left for home. I stopped at a gas station/convenience store near the Stockyards, and it was wall-to-wall teens — black, white and Latino youths smoking and drinking. One sedan pulled in after me. It held four boys, the oldest of whom could not have been more than 13 years old. I would like to know whose car they were in. Meanwhile, a couple next to me was busily trying to steal gasoline.

This is a regular sight on weekends. With juvenile crime on the rise, this city needs a curfew. This is nothing going on at night for youth. The only people on the streets that late are cops and criminals.

GARY M. SMITH  
Fort Worth







