



# T T E X A S TARRANT

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1992

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

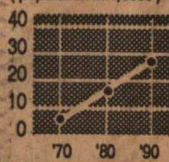
## REGIONAL BRIEFLY

### FORT WORTH

### FORT WORTH

#### StarFacts

Hood County  
(population in 1,000s)



1990 Census

A pretrial hearing scheduled today for indicted Tarrant County Sheriff Don Carpenter has been postponed because the special prosecutor is still recovering from an automobile accident this month.

Rockwall District Attorney Galen Sumrow faxed a motion to 371st District Judge Bill Burdock yesterday afternoon asking for a continuance. In the

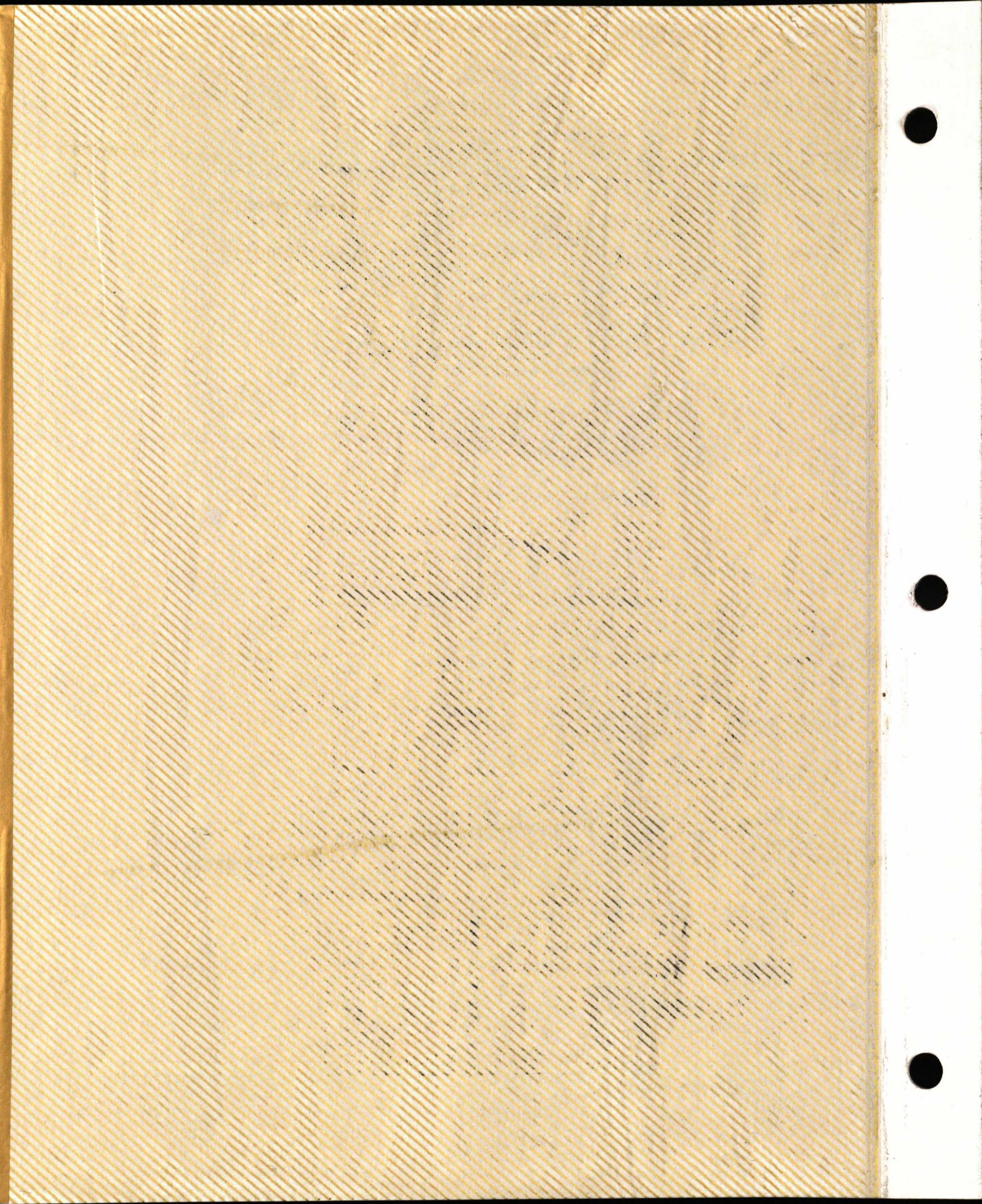
motion, Sumrow said a doctor had ordered him to stop working for three weeks and undergo physical therapy.

Burdock said he will not delay Carpenter's June 8 trial unless he receives a formal request from Sumrow.

Carpenter, 60, has been on paid leave of absence since January. He was indicted that month on six charges that accuse him of taking confiscated weapons and falsifying property-room records.

Last week, two more indictments were returned against Carpenter, accusing him of perjury in his testimony before a grand jury and of taking another confiscated gun from the property room.







## FUNERAL NOTICES

Death Notices are provided by funeral homes to the Classified Advertising Department. Please call the funeral home for additional information.

### KEARNEY

**WINFRED BRYAN KEARNEY**, of Weatherford, born August 16, 1900 in Coryell County. Moved to Comanche at the age of 12. Mr. Kearney moved to Fort Worth in 1934 and in 1936 joined the Fort Worth Police Department. For three years he was assigned to the Police Force at Casa Manana during the Texas Centennial Celebration. He retired from the Police Force as a Detective in 1964 and for eight years was a Deputy with the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department. After retirement, he moved to Tolar, where he lived until 1987 when he moved to Weatherford to live with his daughter. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Ruby Banner Kearney. He was a member of Polytechnic Masonic Lodge 925 and the Fort Worth Police Officers Association. Survivors: Daughter and son-in-law, Janis and James Saunders, Weatherford; granddaughters and husbands, Karen and David Silverthorn, Plano and Dinana and Tom Kern, Fort Worth; great grandsons, Bryan James and Steven Thomas Kern, Fort Worth; numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at White's Funeral Home, Weatherford. Burial will be at Tolar Cemetery. Arrangements: White's Funeral Home, Weatherford, 817-594-3811

### Winfred Bryan Kearney

**WEATHERFORD** — Winfred Bryan Kearney, a retired Fort Worth police detective and Tarrant County sheriff's deputy, died Thursday at his Weatherford home. He was 91.



1965 photograph

Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at White's Funeral Home in Weatherford. Burial will be in Tolar Cemetery in Tolar.

Mr. Kearney was born in Coryell County and lived in Comanche until 1934, when he moved to Fort Worth.

Mr. Kearney joined the Fort Worth Police Department in 1936 and for three years was assigned to the police force at Casa Manana during the Texas centennial.

He retired from the police force as a detective in 1964 and joined the Sheriff's Department, where he served eight years.

After retiring from the Sheriff's Department in 1972, Mr. Kearney moved to Tolar. He had lived in Weatherford since 1987.

He was a member of Polytechnic Masonic Lodge No. 925 and the Fort Worth Police Officers Association. He was a Methodist.

Mr. Kearney's wife, Ruby Banner Kearney, died in 1981.

Survivors: Daughter, Janis Saunders of Weatherford; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

### Virgil Bruce Lee

**KELLER** — Virgil Bruce Lee, a retired constable for the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, died Wednesday at his Keller home. He was 79.

Funeral was Friday at Keller Church of Christ, where he was a member. Burial was in Elizabeth Cemetery near Roanoke. J.E. Foust & Son Funeral Directors in Grapevine was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Lee was born in Justin and lived in Keller most of his life.

He was a former mayor of Keller.

His wife, Lela Pearl Lee, died in 1990.

Survivors: Son, Bill Bedwell of Keller; sister, Juanita Morris of Grand Prairie; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



## *\$3.8 million jail food deal*

BY FRANK PERKINS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — County commissioners agreed yesterday to one of their largest contracts with a minority-owned business, a \$3.8 million contract to feed Tarrant County Jail prisoners for the next three years.

Cantu Systems won the contract on its bid to provide three meals a day in the jail at a cost of just under 78 cents per meal.

"We can't say for sure it is the highest-dollar county contract awarded a minority-owned business, but it certainly is one of the highest," said county Purchasing Agent Sharan Gunn.

The second-high bidder, Szabo Correctional Foods, bid 78.5 cents per meal, and the current jail food vendor, Mid States Services, bid just over 85 cents per meal.

Cantu originally bid 98 cents per meal in the first round of bidding three weeks ago, placing third. But commissioners scrapped those bids and ordered the bids re-advertised because the low bidder withdrew.

The next week, Mid-States owner Jack Madeira asked the county to give the bid to him on the basis of his status as second-low bidder, but Assistant District Attorney Ray Rike ruled there was no precedent for that action.

Only Cantu, Mid States and Szabo stayed

## *goes to minority firm*

in the bidding. Their third and last bids were opened last week.

Cantu Systems is owned by Richard Cantu of Dallas, a former Army chief warrant officer and food service officer with the 1st Infantry Division who said he got into the catering business in 1951 when he was drafted into the Army and assigned as a cook.

He said he will move his business from Dallas to Fort Worth and hire 40 new employees to handle the contract.

The losing bidders questioned the firm's lack of experience — this will be its first food service contract for a jail — and the

nutritional value of its menu.

But Gunn said that the county dietitian is satisfied with the Cantu menus, which include baked turkey, ham, chicken-fried steaks, meatloaf and a variety of vegetables.

Gary Burris, Cantu's operations manager, told commissioners that he and Cantu shaved \$880,000 from their earlier bid, but not at the expense of either the menu or the quality of the provisions.

"We made a better deal on underwriting the performance bonds and similar areas to reach our new bid. I can assure you that our menus meet or exceed the caloric and nutritional requirements in the specifications," he said.



# Star PEOPLE

A judge postpones the June 8 trial of Sheriff Don Carpenter because the prosecutor is undergoing therapy for injuries suffered in a wreck.  
Page 19A

## Sheriff's trial delayed until lawyer well

BY BILL HANNA  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A judge yesterday indefinitely postponed the scheduled June 8 trial of Sheriff Don Carpenter because the special prosecutor in the case is undergoing physical therapy for injuries suffered in a wreck.

In asking for a continuance, Rockwall District Attorney Galen Sumrow wrote that a doctor had ordered him to undergo physical therapy for three more weeks.

"I have injuries to my back and neck causing severe headaches, which impair my ability to concentrate," said Sumrow, who did not attend the hearing.

District Judge Bill Burdock granted the delay but said he will not set a new trial date until a doctor clears Sumrow to work.

Carpenter, 60, did not attend the hearing. He is accused of taking confiscated guns from the Sheriff's Department property room, falsifying property room records and perjuring himself before a grand jury. He has been on a paid leave of absence since January.

One of Carpenter's attorneys, Don Gandy, attended the hearing but did not oppose the delay. He said that Carpenter was anxious for a trial but understood why it was being postponed.

"Obviously he's looking forward to a trial to clear his name," Gandy said. "However, he understands that under the circumstances it is not fair to oppose a continuance."

The sheriff's lawyers informed him last week that a delay was possible after Sumrow could not attend a hearing because of his therapy. When a new trial date is set, Gandy said, he plans to file motions challenging the allegations against the sheriff.



# FUNERAL NOTICES

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## EASTER

**LLOYD EARL EASTER**, 62, passed away Thursday. He was a retired USAF Tech Sgt., veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam, lived in area since 1968. Member of the Sheriff's Association. Survivors: Wife, Alice N. Easter, Saginaw; daughter, Pat Norrlis, Watauga; son, Lloyd D. Easter; grandchildren, Brad Norrlis, Ashley Norrlis and Lloyd Eric Easter. Services 9:30 a.m. Monday Greenwood Chapel, Chaplain Bob Cox officiating. Entombment Greenwood Mausoleum. Arrangements

**GREENWOOD**  
3100 White Settlement  
at University Drive  
336-0584

THE FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM  
30 May 1992

## Sheriff's trial delayed because prosecutor hurt

BY BILL HANNA  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A judge today indefinitely postponed the June 8 trial of Sheriff Don Carpenter because the special prosecutor is undergoing physical therapy for injuries suffered in a wreck.

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"I have injuries to my back and neck causing severe headaches, which impair my ability to concentrate," said Sumrow, who did not attend the hearing.

District Judge Bill Burdock granted the delay but said he will not set a new trial date until Sumrow has been cleared by a doctor.

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"Obviously he's looking forward to a trial to clear his name," Gandy said.





Fort Worth  
Greenwood Funeral Home

## In Memory

In Memory Of  
*T/ Sgt. Lloyd E. Easter*  
Who Departed This Life  
*May 28, 1992*  
Memorial Services  
*9:30 a. m. Monday*  
*June 1, 1992*  
*Greenwood Chapel*  
Officiating  
*Chaplain Bob Cox*  
*Tarrant County Sheriff's Department*  
Entombment  
*Greenwood Mausoleum*

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
He leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the  
paths of righteousness for his name's sake . . .  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of  
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff  
they comfort me. Thou preparest a table  
before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup  
runneth over . . . Surely goodness and  
mercy shall follow me all the days  
of my life: and I will dwell in the  
house of the Lord for ever . . .*



## No major surprises found in sheriff's audit

BY FRANK PERKINS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — There are no major surprises in a new four-volume, \$12,500 report on the management of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, according to County Commissioner Bob Hampton.

"The overall theme of the report, which was complimentary in some areas, was the need for standard operating procedures throughout the department, and that certainly came as no surprise," Hampton said.

Hampton has long assailed the lack of uniformity in the department's management and budget.

The report is the result of a management audit performed by the National Association of Sheriffs in Alexandria, Va. The county requested the report after the indictment of Sheriff Don Carpenter. The group's representatives looked at every aspect of the department.

County commissioners will officially receive the report today and will discuss it at future work sessions, said County Administrator G.K. Maenius.

Acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter has been in charge of the department since Carpenter took a paid leave of absence until his trial. Minter said yesterday that he had not seen the audit.

"I will get mine tomorrow when

the commissioners officially receive theirs," he said.

Hampton said he is disappointed with some aspects of the audit, particularly those sections that address staffing levels.

"I thought that the audit's points on overstaffing at the administrative level and the blurring of staff functions was on the mark, but I felt the auditors simply passed along the department's wish list for new hires without really evaluating either the position or the need for that job," Hampton said.

Hampton also said the staffing increases are recommended without any concern for the budget.

"When you hire people, that affects budget. But this document is not clear in expressing those impacts," he said.

Hampton also said he is disappointed that the association's auditors give no real comparison of the Tarrant County sheriff's operation with national standards.

"There was a lot of talk about what we should be doing, but a lot of what the auditors reported could fit any sheriff's office, not ours in particular," he said.

The audit was requested in February after Carpenter was indicted on six felony counts of taking guns from his property room and falsifying records to cover their absence. Two additional indictments were returned against him in May.



# FUNERAL NOTICES

Saturday, June 6, 1992 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram

## Charles R. Stewart

STEPHENVILLE — Charles Roy Stewart, a Somervell County sheriff's deputy, died Thursday at his Stephenville home. He was 51.



Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at First Baptist Church in Lipan. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery in Lipan. Martin's Funeral Home in Lipan is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Stewart, a native of Moran, was a former law officer in the Fort Worth area. He was a police chief of Azle from 1976 to 1979 and served with the Bedford Police Department. He was also a polygraph operator in San Antonio.

Mr. Stewart was also a former deputy sheriff in Erath, Hood, Parker and Tarrant counties. He was a former president of the Texas Police Officers Association.

Erath County sheriff's Deputy Kevin Fincher said that Mr. Stewart was the kindest man he had ever worked with.

"He always had a smile for everyone," Fincher said. "He was the kindest and most likable man I ever knew. Everybody liked him, even the inmates in the jail."

Mr. Stewart was a bluegrass musician and played banjo and guitar with various groups for several years. He was a charter member of the Double Mountain Boys Bluegrass Band.

Survivors: Wife, Julie Stewart of Stephenville; three sons, Mason Stewart of Stephenville, Robin Stewart of Eastland and Davey Stewart of Fort Worth; two daughters, Shanon Johnson of Richland Hills and Laura Shaw of Azle; and three sisters, Helen Francis of Lubbock and Betty "Susie" Power of Midland and Wanda Stewart.

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:*

*He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake . . .*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:*

*for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff*

*they comfort me. Thou preparest a table*

*before me in the presence of mine enemies:*

*thou anointest my head with oil; my cup*

*runneth over . . . Surely goodness and*

*mercy shall follow me all the days*

*of my life: and I will dwell in the*

*house of the Lord for ever . . .*



**Fort Worth Star-Telegram**

# Editorials/Opinions

*Amon Carter, Founder-Publisher, 1906-1955 Amon Carter Jr., Publisher, 1955-1982*

## ***Establish prison tent standards now***

Texas Attorney General Dan Morales has issued a legal opinion clearing the way for counties to use tents to incarcerate prisoners backed up in county jails.

To do that, the counties will need guidance from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, which must establish rules and regulations for use of tents and other alternative facilities. Also, counties must set up contingency plans for them — just in case they decide to use them.

This is a welcome decision.

Some counties, especially urban counties such as Tarrant, have experienced jail crowding and so have built new jails.

If jail overpopulation continues, counties must be in position to use alternative facilities such as tents.

As quickly as possible, the commission should set rules for them and counties should make plans for them. Tents won't be the complete answer, but they can be an important part of it.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1992

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

# Rap song angers police

## 2 officers' groups plan Time Warner boycott

BY FRANK PERKINS  
AND DAVE FERMAN  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A song by rap star Ice-T that law officers say advocates killing police has the Tarrant County Deputy Sheriffs Association joining with a statewide police group that plans to boycott Warner Records and its parent, Time Warner Inc.

"We are calling for a boycott of Time Warner and the record because of its contents and inflammatory lyrics," said Mack West, president of the deputies group. "We are asking for a voluntary ban on playing Ice-T's song *Cop Killer* by local radio stations because we do not need any more unnecessary violence in this world."

West said yesterday that plans are to include all of Time Warner's holdings in the boycott, which include Six Flags Over Texas, one of its six affiliated theme parks, as well as its popular Time Life Books series.

The Austin-based Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas, which has 12,000 members, is leading the boycott effort and will announce what shape it will take at a news conference Thursday, association President Ron DeLord said.

"We want to educate the public that there is a trashy side to the company that owns their squeaky-clean theme park," DeLord said.

"Time Warner Inc. obviously is a company with no sense of social justice. We want to do whatever we can to bring pressure on them to pull the song and keep radio stations from playing it."

Six Flags Over Texas spokesman Bruce Neal said the theme park has no connection with Warner Records.

"Six Flags has no connection whatsoever with Warner Record Company. We were unaware of the recording in question until today. Our business is strictly family entertainment," Neal said yesterday.

Anne Brackbill, a spokeswoman for Time Warner, said the two entities — recording artists and amusement parks — are not related.

"The bottom line is that I don't



think anyone can interpret anything that Six Flags does as anything but wholesome, family entertainment," she said.

Six Flags theme parks became affiliates of Time Warner in December. However, Six Flags Over Texas is privately owned and is managed by Six Flags Corp., which owns and operates six other theme parks across the country.

The song was issued March 27 on an album titled *Body Count* featuring Ice-T and the group Body Count, said Warner Records spokesman Bob Merlis.

*Cop Killer* contains these lyrics, as reprinted in the Dallas Police Association's May 29 newsletter:

*I've got my 12-gauge sawed-off.*

*I've got my headlights turned off.*

*I'm 'bout to bust some shots off.*

*I'm 'bout to dust some cops off.*

A chorus repeats the refrain: "Die, die, die pig, die. — the police."

Other lyrics include the phrase "I'm a — cop-killer."

George Hinojosa, Ice-T's long-time manager, responded angrily to the proposed boycott.

"The way I look at it is I'm not a strong supporter of book burning or witch hunts," he said yesterday. "That's what I'd call what they're doing. If people don't like us, sorry. That's tough. If they want to work on something, they ought to work on the police being more honest and less brutal."

*Cop Killer*, Hinojosa said, is like all of Ice-T's material. "All his songs are movies and . . . he takes different roles in his songs. In *Cop Killer*, he's a kid who's been victimized by police more than once and he's tired of it. And that's the sentiment felt in his community — which is who he writes for."

Howard Klein, who is general manager of Ice-T's record company, Sire Records, and is executive producer of *Body Count*, said yesterday that he had not heard of a boycott, and he defended the song as being protected by the Constitution.

Police officers, he said, should try to "put themselves in the shoes of young black men growing up in America."

"Ice-T didn't shoot a policeman or beat one into the hospital. The LA police force is very badly led. Something's rotten in the LA police force and that's the police force Ice-T and Body Count grew up with. It's a police force that views them differently than they do white people."

The song protests the beating of black Los Angeles motorist Rodney King by several white Los Angeles police officers, who were acquitted last month of charges involving the beating. The verdict triggered some of the worst race riots in U.S. history.

Ice-T could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The president of the Fort Worth Police Association, David Manning, said he is certain his organization will join the boycott.

"I haven't heard the song myself, but if the words to it are like those I heard it contains, I think it is appalling that a major record company would put its label on trash like that," he said. "The FWPOA is dead set against anything that calls for killing police."

DeLord said he is hoping to expand the boycott nationwide. He has contacted the 130,000-member National Association of Police Officers and the smaller but equally powerful Fraternal Order of Police for their support.

"They will be meeting to decide what help they can give us in the next few weeks," DeLord said. "We've already gotten letters of support from many, many police departments and from many members of the public who want to join us in any action we take."

Arlington Police Association President Darrell Chumley said he is helping organize Thursday's news conference for CLEAT because Arlington is centrally located and because of the proximity of Six Flags.

"I believe Six Flags Over Texas will be the focal point at this point," Chumley said.

He said a CLEAT representative read the words to the song to him yesterday morning.

"I think they'll find a lot of police officers are going to be shocked," Chumley said, referring to Time Warner.

West, of the Tarrant deputies group, said the beating of King was deplorable but said Ice-T's song is not the way to calm the still-tense relations between the police and the public.

DeLord contends that the record company issued the song to capitalize on the public anger from the King beating and the resulting riot.

"We want to show them that if they make market decisions like this, then there is a definite economic downside to that process," DeLord said.

Bob Merlis, a spokesman for Warner Records, said DeLord's comment is untrue.

"The record predates the California riot. As the rappers say, 'We didn't cause it; we telegraphed it,' in the sense that they foretold the violence that was coming," he said.

KJMZ/100.3 FM, one of the leading rap and heavy-metal stations in the area, will not air the song, said Warren Brooks, operations manager of the station's parent, KHVN/97 AM in Dallas.

"It has not played on our air, nor will it," Brooks said. "It's language is a little too rough for us."

Ice-T and Body Count performed *Cop Killer* when Lollapalooza stopped at Dallas' Starplex Amphitheater in August, and again in March when the band headlined a show at Dallas' Deep Ellum Live nightclub.

Klein also said he doesn't anticipate the recording being pulled from stores or the song being deleted from future pressings of the CD.

"If it's my decision to make, no Ice-T song will be edited or pulled out of stores," he said.

Staff writer Ellen O'Brien contributed to this report.



# Warner Bros. can't beat this

Wednesday P.M., June 10, 1992 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram

## rap: Get with the cops!

*Body Count*, the album by rapper Ice-T, starts with a little section — we can't exactly call it a song — titled *Smoked Pork*.

Smoked pork, for the uninitiated, is ghet-to slang for cooked pig or killed cop.

You hear the voice of Ice-T summoning a police officer on the pretext of needing help. You hear the footsteps of the officer and his inquiry. And then you hear the gunshot.

These bad dudes have just smoked themselves some pork. You don't have to be street-smart to get the message.

But just in case you didn't, there is *Cop Killer*, another ditty in which the singer is "... 'bout to bust some shots off ... 'bout to dust some cops off."

And this, Howard Klein, general manager of Ice-T's record company, Sire Records, says is what the framers of the Constitution had in mind when they drafted the First Amendment.

"Someone was looking into 1992 and thinking, 'Who do we have to protect?'" Klein said. "Ice-T is representing a lot of people who are very angry and very frustrated."

I'll give you that one, Howie.

Ice-T has every First Amendment right in

and all Time Warner holdings, including Six Flags Over Texas. Klein and the suits at Warner Bros. Records say a boycott is unfair and smacks of book burning. They just don't see the law enforcement officers' point.

It is hard to see through a dollar bill.

"Absolutely, this does not encourage people to shoot the police," Klein says. "I had a friend in college who heard something in a Bob Dylan record that was completely different from what I got out of it. . . . Anyone could interpret anything anyway they want."

Call me a square white girl, but I have a hard time finding hidden meaning in "Die, die, die pig, die. — the police."

Keep in mind that Warner Bros. Records "absolutely" does not endorse these lyrics. That is what spokesman Bob Merlis said.

I have a little trouble understanding how a company can put a record out under its label and not endorse the product, but Merlis says this happens all the time because Warner Bros. Records does not want to impinge upon its artists' creative freedom.

In fact, Warner Bros. Records only "gives

expression on the order of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*.

*Body Count* is no great shakes as an album. Radio stations are reluctant to play it because of the FCC fine-inspiring language and because musically, it stinks.

You can argue that Ice-T and the other rappers are telling it like it is in the ghetto. But to sing "die, die, die pig, die" only exploits the violence.

When Warner Bros. Records puts its label on *Body Count*, the great corporation is telling the world these lyrics are OK.

They are not. Police have a tough enough job without big business promoting work that glorifies blowing them away. Songs encouraging violence do no one any good.

Ice-T is pushing the envelope, and that's his prerogative. Shock sells.

But make no mistake. When the entertainment industry puts out songs like *Cop Killer*, it contributes to the climate of violence in this country — whether the moral eunuchs in the \$2,000 suits admit it or not.

Go, boycott.

Debbie M. Price's column appears Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.



Debbie M. Price

the world to say what he says and sing what he sings.

And yes, rap is the urban CNN. And yes, there are messages in the music that Mainstream America better pay attention to. And yes, there is anger and violence and injustice in the ghetto.

And yes, Ice-T and the other rappers were right on when they predicted that Los Angeles would burn.

But that is not what we're talking about here.

What we are talking about is an album that advocates killing the police.

This time, Ice-T has gone too far.

Texas police officers are upset.

The Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas (CLEAT), which is 12,000 strong, has called for a boycott of Warner Bros. Records, the label on *Body Count*,

guidance" to its artists, Merlis says, when there are possible "commercial limitations."

"Our policy is saying that if you want to do this, we will, but there may be problems getting it sold or whatever," Merlis said.

Right. And record companies never reject album covers.

But let's take Merlis at his word.

Warner Bros. Records doesn't care what its "artists" say as long as it sells.

Go to it, CLEAT. Hit them where they live.

Boycotts are a handy way of getting the attention of people whose social conscience is in their wallets. And in this case, I'm all for it. With one exception.

Six Flags is an innocent bystander.

A boycott against the theme park makes as much sense as killing the healthy puppy of a rabid dog. It will only hurt a local organization that supports the police and employs 2,500 kids for the summer.

Warner Bros. Records is the bad guy here, and what really fries my okra is that the entertainment moguls have the temerity to wrap this piece of commercial dreck in the First Amendment and paint it as political



# Police group unites against Ice T song

BY FRANK PERKINS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

ARLINGTON — More than 100 police officers from throughout Tarrant County and the state formed a wall of blue against Ice-T and his *Cop Killer* song this morning at the Arlington Convention Center.

Ron DeLord, president of the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas, told the officers his organization and others from across the country will call upon Time Warner Inc. stockholders to withdraw the record and apologize to the police officers at the company's annual stockholders' meeting July 16 in Burbank, Calif.

DeLord said that if the company fails to either divest itself of the song or apologize to police and families of officers killed in the line of duty, the association will call for a nationwide boycott of all Time Warner holdings, including magazines, cable television entertainment offerings and affiliated theme parks, which could include Six Flags Over Texas.

"We want them to understand there is an economic downside to urging people to kill police," DeLord said.

The profanity-laden song *Cop Killer* depicts an imaginary slaying  
(More on SONG on Page 30)

## Song

From Page 23

of a police officer and has such lyrics as, "I'm gonna get some shots off, I'm gonna dust some cops off," among others.

DeLord told the group that representatives of Time Warner Record Co. told him the song was protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"This has nothing to do with Ice-T's right to write that song or to perform it," DeLord said. "What it has to do with is the economic boycott of a company with little or no moral sense."

DeLord said there are "no plans at this time" for police to boycott Six Flags Over Texas, which like several other theme parks, is affiliated with the giant corporation.

"The police officers of Texas have had a long and pleasant relationship with Six Flags and its corporate owners locally," he said. "I talked with them yesterday and they were appalled at the contents of the song."

Arlington Mayor Richard Greene, who attended this morning's news conference, said he was "expressing my support for the men and women who stand in the gap between criminals and the rest of us."



# Sheriff's Department study on target, acting head says

BY FRANK PERKINS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Crammed into four thick volumes bristling with highly technical details, the \$11,900 National Sheriffs' Association management study of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department is a valuable document that has the answers to increase efficiency, Acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter said yesterday.

Minter said that he has just begun looking into the findings and that what he has seen so far has convinced him that the document is on the mark.

"What I have seen confirms what I felt about the questions they asked and the information they asked to see while they were here," he said.

"Basically, they said we were understaffed and needed more pay equity, which is no surprise," Minter said.

"We have finished a staffing study that addresses the staffing question and the county's job evaluation committee is examining our pay gradings."

Minter said Bubby Mosier, executive director of the sheriffs association based in Alexandria, Va., headed a four-person team that spent four days with his deputies, looking into everything from fire-hose lengths to promotion practices.

"They worked several midnight shifts so that they got a complete feeling for the entire operation, not just the 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. portions," Minter said.

The report noted that overall, the department's organizational form and structure was effective, but it cited the lack of departmentwide standard operating procedures and overall policy manual as a weakness.

Jail operations, from inmate meals to overall cleanliness, drew high praise.

"The people of Tarrant County should be very proud of what they have done there in the way of a confinement team," said Dean Moser, one of the association auditors who reviewed the department.

"The facilities are in full compliance with the Texas jail standards, are clean and well-maintained. There were no major glitches there or anywhere else in the department," he said.

The report also suggested that the department increase its participation in crime prevention and community relations, focus on efficient use of personnel, and strengthen its management structure by addressing a top-heavy rank structure.

Minter will be in the commissioners courtroom July 1 when Mosier and his team explain their findings to county commissioners.

County Administrator G.K. Maenius said he doesn't expect the report to languish unopened in the county archives.

"I think you will find the commissioners turning to the county staff and Acting Sheriff Minter and saying, 'OK, now take these recommendations and make them work,'" Maenius said yesterday. "The county got its money's worth on this one."

Only one commissioner, Bob Hampton, says he has read the four-volume report. Hampton said he stayed up nights to read it as soon as it was delivered to him last week.

In an earlier interview, he said the document contained "no surprises," and he said he thought its sections on staffing levels and pay grades are "wish lists" unrelated to budget realities.

"Nowhere in the four volumes does it tell us what all these deputies and equipment will cost the taxpayer," he said.

The other commissioners said that they are digging into the volumes and that they will be ready to talk turkey July 1.

Commissioners set the wheels for the study in motion in February, after Sheriff Don Carpenter was indicted on charges that he took guns from his property room and falsified documents to cover property room discrepancies.

Grand jury foreman Jerry Partlow called for the management audit when he returned the indictments to Criminal District Judge Bill Burdock.

Partlow said yesterday that he had not seen the finished study, nor does he expect to.

"Our responsibilities as a grand jury in that matter have been fulfilled, and even if I looked at the study, neither I or the other grand jurors could do anything about it because we have been dismissed," he said.

Carpenter took paid leave after the indictments were returned and District Attorney Tim Curry appointed Minter as acting chief deputy. Carpenter's trial was set for this week but has been delayed indefinitely after the special prosecutor was injured in a traffic accident.

Last month, another grand jury returned two more indictments against Carpenter, accusing him of perjury and theft.



## County's new parking garage going through growing pains

By FRANK PERKINS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The new 8-story county parking garage has been in use a week now and already some bugs have surfaced, said Gary Kirby, the county's facilities manager.

"Basically, the bugs are traffic congestion on Taylor Street and cars too large for the assigned parking spaces," he said yesterday.

Kirby said the Fort Worth Police Department has assigned some traffic officers to help with the traffic congestion problem from the Tandy lot.

Only county employees are allowed to park in the \$8 million, 761-space facility. They pay either \$25 a month for covered parking or \$15 a month for open-air spaces. The parking fees generated considerable

grumbling from the county employees who wanted one of the paid downtown parking spaces. They said the fee amounted to a \$300 a year pay cut in some cases.

There also were grumbles from county officials who drive county cars but still must pay to park in the county garage. A few of them have a new complaint, Kirby said: Damaged whip antennas from low parking garage ramps and roofs.

"That's a space assignment problem," he said. "We can find folks with large antennas spots where they won't be damaged by low overheads."

There have also been complaints from county employees who drive large vans, pickups or cars.

"There were a lot more large Suburbans and Cadillacs than we expected," he said.



## Union chief calls song by rapper 'vile'

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police Protective League union leader Bill Violante said yesterday that rap star Ice-T's song *Cop Killer* is "vile trash" that inflames anti-police sentiment and urged that it be banned.

"This song does nothing but arouse the passions of the criminal element who make the streets of Los Angeles unsafe," the Protective League president said in a news release.

"This is not an issue of free speech, this is a matter of social conscience and responsibilities."

Other police groups denounced the lyrics, which include, "Die, die, die pig, die — the police" and "I'm 'bout to dust some cops off." The song is in the *Body Count* album by Ice-T and the group Body Count.

The Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, based in Austin, accused the company of being callous. The group said it will picket the Time Warner's stockholders meeting in New York in July.

Ice-T has said the song reflects the reality of blacks' relationship with the police.

"I mean, a cop has never done anything for me in my life but try to put me in jail. I mean point-blank, I don't like them," he said earlier.

Time Warner said in a statement Thursday that banning the song wouldn't make violence and rage disappear.

The National Black Police Officers Association said the officers' protest may make tensions worse.

Violante said the Los Angeles officers union supported City Councilwoman Joan Milke-Flores' motion urging Time Warner to pull the record.

"The publication of such vile trash is unconscionable," Violante's news release said. "This song offends every decent citizen of Los Angeles, especially at a time when Los Angeles police officers are trying to renew their relations with all segments of the community."

The police union urged Los Angeles radio stations not to play the song and called on Time Warner "to stop the selling, marketing, or playing of *Cop Killer*."



# Jail food contract canceled

**A Tarrant County official says Cantu Systems didn't correct problems of quality.**

BY INDIRA A.R. LAKSHMANAN  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Just two weeks after awarding one of the county's largest contracts with a minority-owned business, commissioners voted yesterday to cancel the \$3.8 million deal with Cantu Systems to feed Tarrant County Jail inmates for the next three years.

The vote was cast in an emergency meeting, called because the quality and portions of the food were not as promised, said Terry Grisham, executive administrator to County Judge Tom Vandergriff.

"With 4,000 prisoners, bad, unacceptable food is one of the worst things you can have. It can create riots and endanger your personnel," Grisham said, who added that he regretted that the deal had not worked out since Cantu took over June 3.

"We have been meeting with them continually, asking them to correct the problems, but over time there were no substantial improvements. They have realized they cannot perform the contract and have agreed to step aside," Grisham said. "They will serve their last supper tonight."

Randy Cantu, vice president of corporate development for Cantu Systems, said his company had given notice to the county Thursday but had agreed to carry out its food service duties until Sept. 30 as stated in the contract.

"It should have worked and it could have worked," Cantu said, describing the dispute with the county as a "misunderstanding as to specifications."

"We had addressed an interpreta-

## Contract

From previous page

tion of some of those specifications, and that's how it was understood not only by us, but by a number of contractors," Cantu said.

The commissioners did not vote yesterday, however, to take legal action against Cantu Systems, an option that Grisham said was open to them. Ray Rike, legal adviser to the county, would not say yesterday whether litigation might be pursued in the future.

"As of now, there is no order to sue anyone," Rike said.

Vandergriff and Commissioner Dionne Bagsby were not present for yesterday's vote.

One county official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the breakdown of the deal was particularly unfortunate because Cantu had

the support of the commissioners and the minority business community.

Bagsby, who was in Washington, D.C., yesterday, said the incident would not diminish her commitment to provide equal opportunities to minority businesses.

"The entire court was pleased to be able to provide them an opportunity to succeed or fail," Bagsby said, making her statement through her assistant, Roy Brooks.

"Unfortunately, they were not successful in this particular case. This should not be viewed as a black eye for the entire minority community, any more than if a majority contractor had failed would it be considered a black eye for the majority community," she said.

The commissioners also voted to award a temporary food contract, effective today, to Mid States Services, the company that has served the jail for the last few years. In so

doing, commissioners passed over another vendor, Szabo Correctional Foods, the second-lowest bidder after Cantu.

On Monday, Szabo will receive in writing the reasons they were denied the contract, and the company will be given a chance Tuesday to respond, Rike said.

This is the commissioners' third attempt since April to award the jail food contract.

The first deal fell through when the lowest bidder, Chicago-based Canteen Services Inc., withdrew because it could not put up the collateral for a performance bond.

At that time, Mid States was the second-lowest bidder, and company owner Jack Madeira asked that he be given the contract. Rike told commissioners, however, that there was no legal precedent for passing a contract on to the next lowest bidder and that they would be "treading on dangerous water" to do so.



# Tarrant seeking bids again for food contract at jail

BY FRANK PERKINS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The question of who will win a \$4 million, four-year contract to feed Tarrant County's 4,000-plus jail prisoners is back up for grabs.

The bid was first awarded last month, but it had to be canceled after the apparent winner backed out because of expensive premiums on the required performance bond.

On the second round of bids, Cantu Services Inc. of Dallas won the contract and took over the jail stoves June 4. But eight days later, the company was out of a job.

The company asked to be let out of the contract Sept. 1 because of misunderstandings over the use of inmate labor, sabotaged equipment and arguments with jail personnel over portion sizes and quality.

"We had been told we could use inmate labor during a walk-through of the kitchen during the bidding process, and we based our bid on that fact," said Randy Cantu, the firm's vice president. "We couldn't make it on our 77 cents-per-meal bid without the prisoner help and asked to be let out of our contract on Sept. 1. I had no idea we would be gone that day [Friday]. We've lost

about \$25,000 in this deal."

Cantu said yesterday that he personally weighed food portions that some jail officers thought were short and proved to them that the prisoners were getting full measure.

County commissioners met in emergency session Friday afternoon, immediately canceled Cantu's contract and hired Mid States Services Inc. on an emergency basis to provide the 13,000 jail meals a day.

Yesterday, after three hours in closed session, commissioners canceled all bids and ordered the purchasing office to rebid the contract strictly according to specifications, which include not using inmates to prepare and serve the food. Inmates can be used for cleanup work.

Jail authorities mistakenly promised inmate labor to some bidders when they visited the jail before making their bids, County Judge Tom Vandergriff said.

Commissioners agreed to pay Mid States \$9,500 a day to continue feeding the prisoners through July 21, when the new contract should be awarded.

At 89 cents per meal, Mid States was the third-lowest bidder on the contract won by Cantu. Mid States

had provided jail meals under contract from October 1991 to April 1992.

Jail officials hinted that they were concerned about inmates' complaints about the food and its delivery.

"We had a number of complaints, and we take those seriously," said acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter. "You don't mess around with jail food too much."

Commissioner J.D. Johnson agreed.

"We had us a true emergency over that jail food," he said yesterday. "I was a mess sergeant in the Army, and I went over to the jail Thursday to see the operation for myself. It was chaotic, and we would have had big problems with prisoners in that jail if we hadn't taken emergency action when we did to get good food served at the proper time over there."

Cantu said warming ovens and some large baking ovens in the jail kitchen were damaged, apparently by disgruntled inmates upset at losing their kitchen jobs.

Minter confirmed that report: "Yeah, we found some equipment where the power wires had been pulled loose or removed. We sus-

pect that was done by inmates when they figured out they were losing their kitchen jobs."

The vote to seek new bids was 2-1, with Johnson voting no. Commissioners Dionne Bagsby and Bob Hampton were absent.

Johnson said he felt the county should have awarded the contract rather than seek bids again.

"We've rebid and rebid enough, I think," he said. "We had two good bidders; we just need to pick one."

But Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay said commissioners didn't have that option.

"We were told by our legal adviser to cancel and rebid, and that is what we had to do," she said.

Commissioners said yesterday that they passed over the second-lowest bidder, Szabo Correctional Services, on Friday because jail records show that the company was late several times in delivering food to the Greenbay jail facility in 1990 and 1991.

But William Barratt, Szabo's president, told commissioners yesterday that the delivery problems were caused by ARA Vending Service, which had the delivery responsibility.

"As second-low bidder, we would have saved the county \$1.3 million over the life of the contract," Barratt said. "Please consider us for this contract."

Barratt said he was so certain that his firm would get the nod after Cantu withdrew that he flew in 11 food service experts from all over the country to be ready to start cooking Friday night.

"That cost us about \$5,000," he said.

Commissioners also authorized the use of inmate labor to prepare and serve the food during a 14-day transition period.

"They'll be gone from the kitchen except as cleanup help after that day," Minter said.



# In a prison of the mind

## Tarrant jail 'pod' designed to aid mentally ill

By LOU CHAPMAN  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — On the ninth floor of the new Tarrant County Jail, a murder suspect suffers a mental disorder spawned by a chemical imbalance in the brain, while another, charged with illegal drug possession, endures chronic schizophrenia.

Experts estimate that mental illness afflicts anywhere from 10 percent to 15 percent of the jail's 3,800 to 4,000 prisoners, or as many as 600 inmates every day.

What is different about the murder and drug suspects visited yesterday in the new Corrections Center downtown is that they live in a special, 48-bed "mental-health pod," a project of social service agencies, county departments and advocacy groups.

Some describe the effort as a major turning point in the way the local court and jail system handles its mentally ill.

"It's sort of a model, and I really think more focus in the prison system has to be on mental health," John Horner, president of the National Mental Health Association, said yesterday after touring the pod.

He said the program represents the sort of "coalition-building" needed to deal with many pressing social problems.

The pod, which opened Jan. 21, was spurred by Mental Health-Mental Retardation Services, the Mental Health Association and the Tarrant Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

So far, officials have received more than 2,230 referrals from jail staff members, from families of prisoners, from lawyers and from others. By the end of May, MH-MR doctors and caseworkers had seen more than 789 inmates and provided services to nearly 700. The pod's 48 cells are continuously full.

The project encourages identification of mentally ill prisoners, offers less restrictive and less isolated housing than mentally ill inmates previously occupied, and provides them with counseling and supervised medical treatment.

"I think it's still new for criminal justice and mental health to work together," said Wendy Edwards, program manager for the county's MH-MR division.

Jail officials conceded that they have traditionally ignored the stark reality and prevalence of mental illness among inmates.

"When all of this started, the talk about the pod, we didn't want to admit we had any mentally ill patients in the jail," said Chief Deputy John Pempsell. "It was against the law, for one thing. And we had no one to deal with it, for another."

And there was the violence.

Lt. James Moore, the Sheriff Department's new mental-health program director, recalls the old jail's cellblock 111, where the most violent mentally disturbed patients were confined.

"It was something out of the 1800s," he said. "We fed them as best we could three times a day and attempted to bathe them three times a week. That is the word there, though — attempted."

That cellblock has been closed. But about 20 mentally ill patients remain in single cells in the old jail, too unstable for the almost community-living approach offered in the mental health pod, Moore said.

Others who refuse medication or can't be treated are referred to John Peter Smith Hospital, to a sort of holding area on the new jail's fifth floor, or elsewhere in the state's criminal justice network.

Some are referred to part of the new jail where they can await entrance to the mental health pod, if they take their medication and can live in a less restrictive setting.

At its most basic level, the new project offers intervention by mental-health advocates and professionals who deal with mentally ill prisoners as they enter the criminal justice system.

With minor offenses, say, when a crime might have resulted from a person's failure to take medication, MH-MR may be able to identify and treat mentally ill inmates before arraignment. It may then arrange with the district attorney's office to have the person sent to a public or private treatment center. Often, charges are dropped.

When the offense is more serious, MH-MR workers have been able to intercede to get patients treated at the maximum-security Vernon State Hospital. Meanwhile, the state agency notifies the court that a competency hearing is needed to decide whether the inmate should stand trial.

"Until now, these people just languished in the system and got worse and worse," Edwards said. "Many never got to the point of going before a judge. . . .

Previously, there had not been an advocate in the system for them, and now we are their advocate."

The mental-health pod was set up for Tarrant County prisoners found to be mentally ill who agree to be "stabilized" by taking medication. Like other sections of the new jail, Pod 9C is laid out as a large community room surrounded by two tiers of cells. An open walkway and balcony runs the length of the second level, reachable by a stairway, and leads to rows of cells with doors of wood, not steel like ones in other units.

"We thought we might have problems with the open balcony or stairs, you know, guys jumping off or something, but so far, nothing like that has happened," Moore said.

Unlike those in other pods, prisoners there have more freedom to move about and are in touch with professionals trained in mental health. They know they are living with inmates like themselves and are overseen by guards who have been trained by MH-MR staff members.

The pod's six guards have received instruction in the basics of mental illness, communication with the mentally ill, suicide prevention and the basic types of medication their inmates receive.

"We can't make them take it, under federal law, but we can cajole them and see that they want to take it or they'll end up where they were," Deputy Storm Cashion said.

Cashion is a 10-year department veteran with experience dealing with mentally ill inmates. But only with the introduction of the new program has he received specialized training. Previously, Cashion said, his approach was "trial and error" and often resulted in the need for brute force.

"This makes a whole lot more sense," he said. "You can't just say to one of these guys: 'Go here. Do this.' It doesn't click. And you may not have known there was a mental problem, and then things get out of hand."

Last week, the training Cashion received was extended to 20 sheriff's officers in various jail departments, including booking, where new inmates are processed.

"Eventually, we'd like to have everybody trained to deal with this sort of thing," Moore said.



# County jail fails to pass inspection

BY FRANK PERKINS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Too many inmates, too few jailers and an overtaxed air-conditioning system added up to an overall failing score today for the county's jail facilities.

State jail inspectors spent the last two days examining the jails and made a report on their findings to county commissioners today.

The noncompliance ruling was no surprise to Jim Minter, the acting chief deputy.

"We haven't passed an inspection for the past six years because of the same conditions," he said. "We've got in requests for more people and we're doing the best we can to move out the sentenced felons, but that depends on when the state will take them."

Under the state's Jail Standards Act, the county has one year to bring facilities into compliance. The jails have been operating under variances from jail standards for six years now.

The inspectors noted that the 4,100-inmate population meant some had to sleep on the floor, in violation of jail standards, and that the overtaxed air-conditioning system in the 800-bed city/county jail could not maintain temperatures between 65 and 85 degrees.

"The temperature was right at 85 degrees when we toured the jail yesterday," inspector Bob Patterson told county commissioners yesterday. "I understand that in the hotter months, it gets up into the 90s. You're going to have sanitation and inmate-stress problems if you can't get those temperatures down."

Patterson said the confinement department is short 120 officers, which increases the ratio of prisoners to guards above the state-mandated 48-to-1 ratio.

Minter said that too, was not news.

"We've always been understrength in that area," he said. "We'll be requesting about 180 new officers in the 1993 budget, which should bring us up to strength and give us some leeway to handle any inmate census increase next year as well."

The new Tarrant County Correction Center came in for its share of criticism as well, getting demerits for a slippery, cracking kitchen floor.

"It simply is not sanitary," Patterson said. "It also is so slick that it is like a skating rink."

Minter said county employees are working to seal cracks in the huge concrete slab and refinish it with a less slippery surface.

Despite the noncompliance rating, inspectors Patterson and Terry Julian had praise for the facilities' cleanliness and staff professionalism.

"Tarrant County has come a long, long way in improving its jails. These are well-run, well-operated facilities," Patterson said.



TARRANT EDITION

# Fort Worth Star-Telegram

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1992

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*Prosecutor,*

*attorney are killed*

# Gun Blasts Kill 2, Wound 3 in Court

*Suspect  
escapes  
on foot*

BY ERNIE MAKOVY  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A courtroom spectator pulled a smuggled gun and opened fire on startled attorneys and judges this morning, shooting three lawyers, two fatally, and wounding two appeals court jurists in the old courthouse.

The well-dressed gunman fled down four flights of stairs from the 2nd Court of Appeals and was seen running west on Weatherford Street downtown. He had not been apprehended by early afternoon.

Courthouse sources said the suspect was a 35-year-old man who had been scheduled to have a case heard by the appellate court judges later today. The sources said the man was a well-known figure at the courthouse and had been involved in several previous lawsuits.

County officials said the shooting erupted about 10 a.m. when a spectator pulled a handgun and opened fire as the appeals judges heard arguments in a civil case. The fourth-floor court normally does not have armed bailiffs or metal detectors.

"We had an individual sitting out in the spectator area that for some unexplained reason at this point began to fire his weapon inside the courtroom, a weapon he had in his possession, firing at the bench," Police Chief Thomas Windham said.

What involvement, if any, the gunman had with any of the cases being heard by the court was not immediately known, authorities said.

Killed in the gunfire was Assistant District Attorney Chris Marshall, chief prosecutor in the appellate section of the Tarrant County district attorney's office. Also fatally shot was attorney John Edwards, 33, of the Haynes and Boone law firm in Dallas.

Wounded were appeals court Judges John Hill, who was shot in the shoulder, and Clyde Ashworth, who was shot in the hip. Both were taken to Harris Methodist Fort Worth and both were in serious condition at noon.

Also wounded was Assistant District At-  
(More on SHOOTINGS on Page 10)



# Shootings

From Page 1

torney Steven Conder, who was taken to John Peter Smith Hospital. The extent of his wounds was not known.

Marshall, ironically, was in the court only to hear the presentation of Conder, one of the appellate division's newest attorneys.

The gunman was described as a white male, 35 to 40 years old, with salt and pepper hair, wearing a blue blazer, brown pants and red tie. He was carrying a brown shoulder bag that witnesses said contained an unknown number of weapons.

Family Court Judge Maryellen Hicks called the shootings preventable.

"These people didn't have to die today," she said.

Hicks and several other people who work at the courthouse said security is a constant problem in a building where so many emotional issues are decided on a daily basis.

The shooting was the second violent incident at the courthouse in three years. In 1989, a former sheriff's deputy and private investigator shot and killed his girlfriend after a lengthy standoff in a judge's office.

Karen Silverberg, an attorney who was on the fourth floor this morning when the shots rang out, said, "There were two sets of shots. There were five or six shots, a pause and then five or six more. It almost sounded like there were five or six shots and they reloaded.

"There was screaming coming through the stairwell in the center rotunda. We heard people running."

Hal Lattimore, another 2nd Court of Appeals jurist, was not involved in hearing the arguments this morning and was in his chamber when the gunman opened fire.

He said he came out and went into the courtroom, seeing what he described as five empty 9mm shell casings on the floor.

Lattimore said Hill rolled under the judges' bench after he was wounded and that Ashworth was lying behind the bench, on a step. Marshall was on the west side of the spectator section, lying on the floor.

Dallas attorney Keith Jensen said he was waiting to argue a case in the court when he stepped out to use a nearby restroom and heard five or six shots.

"I started walking back to the bathroom door and just about go to the second door when I saw a bailiff with a hand on his gun saying, 'Get back, get back.'"

Several more shots rang out.

"They clearly came from the stairwell [leading to the fourth floor]. I believe those were the shots that killed the attorney [Edwards] I was scheduled to argue against in the next hearing," Jensen said.

Jensen said he later was told that Edwards apparently was shot as he came out of the restroom and tried to flee down the stairwell.

Hicks said she heard the shots in her second-floor court.

"I could hear screaming and those shots and I thought to myself, 'Oh, God, not again,'" she said, referring to previous shootings at the courthouse.

"I was certainly glad I didn't have my robes on when that shooting started."

Attorney Nelda Harris was in a second-floor probate court when she heard "a pop like a car backfire, then the rapid rattle of five or seven bullets."

She said people in the courtroom locked themselves in and started dialing 911 but the lines were jammed and they couldn't get through. She said they waited for a bailiff as hysteria and pandemonium erupted throughout the courthouse.

The courthouse was ordered evacuated at 10:15 a.m.

"The shots were echoing all over the building, like it was ricocheting," said Mark Burton, who was waiting for a friend on the third floor when the shooting erupted. "It sounded like fireworks."

Pat Bowen, a probate court administrator on the second floor, said she heard the gunshots and the gunman yelling.

"Whoever was doing the shooting was crazy, yelling and screaming. . . . We heard popping and we locked ourselves into our office. There were about eighty of us. Everybody in the hallway was going crazy."

State Rep. Toby Goodman, R-Arlington, said he had left the courtroom seconds earlier and was getting on an elevator when he heard the gunfire.

"I started down the elevator and I heard five shots," he said. "Everybody else said it was nine."

"I saw somebody in a blue blazer running down the stairs and the other end of the building. He had a bag under his arm and blondish hair."

Goodman said that when he was in the court, Judge Hill was seated in the middle, flanked on the right by Judge David Farris and on the left by Judge Ashworth.

Farris escaped injury in the volley of gunfire.

Cindy Buragess, Marshall's secretary in the appellate division, said Marshall was in the court to observe oral arguments by Conder, one of the new attorneys in the division.

Burgess said she was told the judges were hearing argument in a civil case.

"We heard Chris was involved somehow, but I don't know what," she said.

Burgess said several people in the court locked themselves into the law library when the shooting erupted.

Tarrant County Judge Tom Vandergriff said he was "just absolutely horror-stricken" by the shootings.

"I just can't conceive of people losing their emotions and taking the law into their own hands," he said. "Our hearts go out to the families of the two who were killed, and of course, we're terribly concerned for the wounded and we're praying for them."

Vandergriff described appeals court proceedings as "not the kind . . . where you have many spectators. These are lawyers appealing decisions of lawsuits and normally you don't even have the parties who are involved.

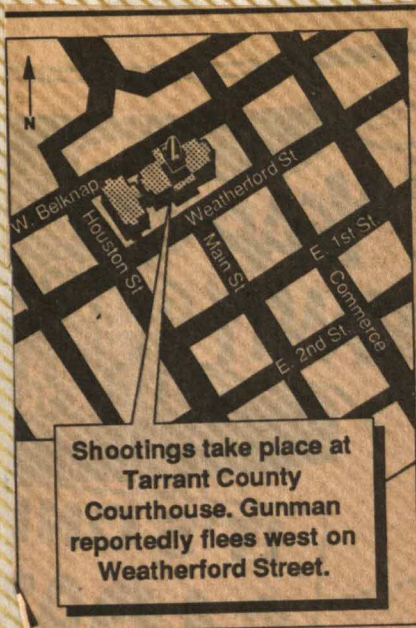
"So it's somewhat of a mystery to me what could have transpired this morning to bring this about. This is not normally a criminal court by nature."

Frank Able, an assistant U.S. attorney who had worked with Marshall, said the killing of Marshall was the "most tragic thing I've ever heard. Why would anyone shoot Chris. That guy was one of the great appellate attorneys in the state."

Ashworth's son, Bruce Ashworth, said he spoke briefly with his father before he went into surgery at Harris Methodist.

"When I went in there, he held my hand and said he was okay. And then later a chaplain came over and said my father would be all right."





Shootings take place at Tarrant County Courthouse. Gunman reportedly flees west on Weatherford Street.



crowds gather across the street from the courthouse



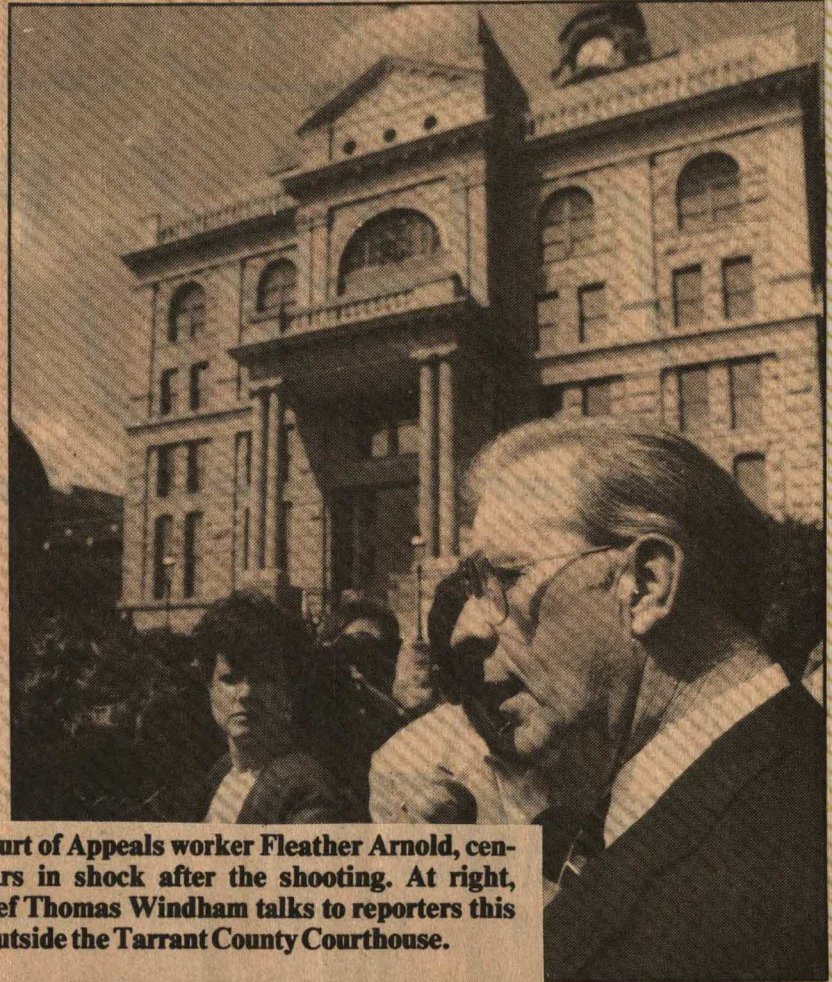
Fort Worth Star-Telegram / LARRY PRICE

Two courthouse workers console each other following the shooting at the old Tarrant County Courthouse



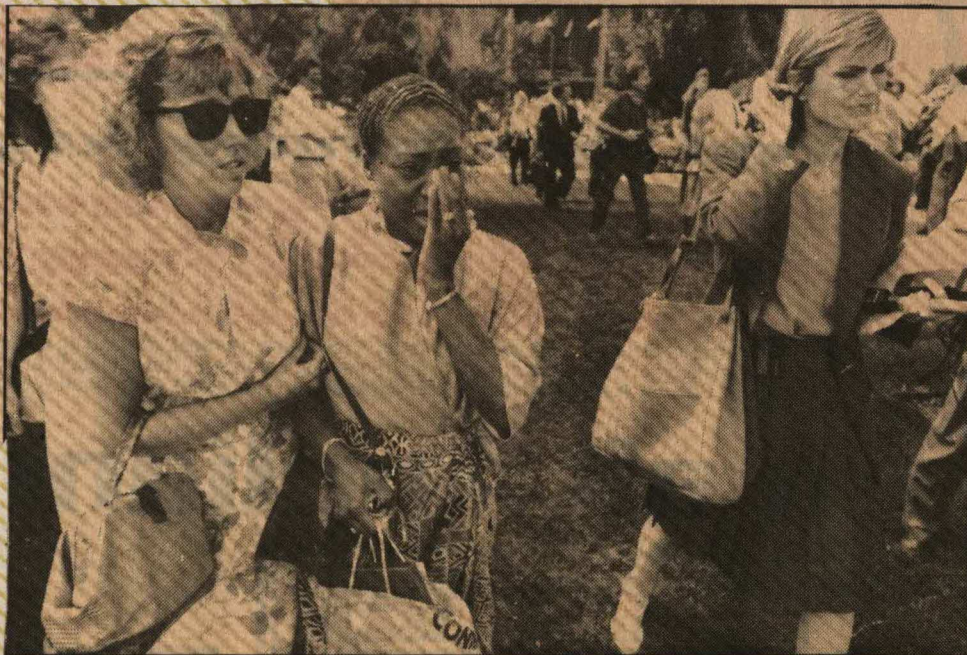
# COURTHOUSE SHOOTINGS

Wednesday P.M., July 1, 1992 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram



**Below, Court of Appeals worker Fleather Arnold, center, appears in shock after the shooting. At right, Police chief Thomas Windham talks to reporters this morning outside the Tarrant County Courthouse.**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / LARRY C. PRICE



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / LARRY C. PRICE





**One of the wounded men is escorted away from the courthouse.**



# Times-Review

Cleburne, Texas (76031), Wednesday, July 1, 1992

## Gunman kills two in Tarrant County Courthouse

By MIKE COCHRAN  
Associated Press Writer

FORT WORTH (AP) — Two people were killed today and three others injured, two seriously, when a gunman opened fire inside a Tarrant County courtroom, Police Chief Thomas Windham said.

The gunman escaped the courthouse, Windham said, and was being sought in the downtown Fort Worth area.

"We had an individual in the spectator's section that apparently was armed," Windham said. "As the proceeding was ongoing this individual began to fire his weapon. He fired it in several directions in the courtroom.

"There was one individual in the spectator section who was killed. There was another individual in the hallway outside the courtroom who was also killed," Windham said.

The Tarrant County District Attorney's confirmed that assistant district attorney Chris Marshall was one of those killed.

"We have three other individuals who were hit, two of them are quite seriously injured," Windham said. Two of the injured are Appeals Court judges John Hill, 48, and Clyde Ashworth, 60, who were both in serious condition at Harris Methodist Hospital.

Early reports said one man had been arrested and another was being sought. But Windham said, "We only had, as I understand it, one active suspect in the courtroom. There may have been others in the courtroom along with him, but at this point we believe there was only one active suspect."

County Judge Tom Vandergriff, the county's top elected official, said the shooting occurred in a Court of Appeals courtroom on the third floor.

"We don't know what the circumstances were, what the case was leading to all the senselessness. All we can do is stand by."

The courthouse dominates the north end of Fort Worth's downtown area.



# Blood and death mock the purpose of a stronghold of law and order



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / CAROLYN BAUMAN

In photo under headline, shooting suspect George Lott, center, is escorted out of Dallas police headquarters by Fort Worth Detective Curt Brannan, in cowboy hat. Lott turned himself in at WFAA/Channel 8 yesterday afternoon. Above, stunned spectators congregate outside the courthouse after the shootings. Right, watchful police and firefighters remove an unidentified victim of the courthouse blood bath.



SPECIAL REPORT: TARRANT COUNTY COURTHOUSE SHOOTINGS.

# The Dallas Morning News



# Anchorman describes surrender

BY STEVEN COLE SMITH  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

For about six hours, George Lott drove around in his white van deciding what to do next. One of the largest manhunts in Fort Worth/Dallas history was under way, but no one had picked up his trail.

What he decided to do was go to the downtown Dallas studios of WFAA/Channel 8. He looked up the location in his Mapsco — last night, the map book was still in Channel 8's lobby — and parked outside. At about 4:15 p.m., he walked up to the receptionist, and asked to see anchorman Tracy Rowlett.

He told the receptionist who he was. She called Craig Harper, the news operations manager, and told him there was a man here he needed to see.

"She said he told her he was the one who had just killed the people in Fort Worth," Harper said. Harper, Rowlett — who was standing nearby — and the desk editor and two cameramen walked toward the reception area, turned the corner, and there was Lott. He was armed with a loaded Glock 9mm semiautomatic pistol, and had additional loaded clips.

"He said he wanted to turn himself in," Rowlett said. "It sounds pretentious, I know, but my first thought was, 'This is a story that we need to cover.'"

It was only later, the anchorman said, that he began to think that Lott was armed and said he had killed people.

"When we turned that corner, he could have killed us, too," Rowlett said.

Harper said Lott appeared calm. "Calm on the outside," Rowlett said, "but you could tell he was very, very confused. He rambled, and had trouble holding onto a thought."

Channel 8 taped its interview, and by 4:50 p.m., Lott was in police custody. "The police actually had arrived quite a bit before that, but

## What Lott told WFAA-TV

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Here is the transcript of George Lott's statements taken by WFAA-TV/Channel 8 of Dallas after he turned himself into the station yesterday. Lott said he drove to Dallas and requested to speak with anchor Tracy Rowlett. Lott showed the weapon he was carrying and then spoke on tape to the station. WFAA contacted police, who took Lott into custody:

*"It's a horrible, horrible thing that I have done today. It's a horrible thing. I've sinned, and I may have failed completely. Somebody needs to look into what's happened to Neal."*

*"In these days and times you can't just simply ask people. You can't come to people and say, 'Here's my evidence; here's the judge — Maryellen Hicks — fixed the case for her friend. . . . We don't want to hear that, it's boring. We want to see a nuclear bomb go off. You have to do a very, very horrible thing to catch people's attention. . . ."*

*"I'm sorry. That's the way I see the world. Maybe I'm wrong. That's what I've run into thus far."*

*"Nobody has control over the judicial system. There are checks and balances for everybody but the judicial system. They check and balance themselves. That's great; however, it really doesn't do the job. Nobody's there to say, 'Well, hey, you people went too far.'"*

*"It came down to my window of opportunity was closing. I have to do it sometime when I'm out of jail for the sexual abuse business. I mean, obviously, if*

*I'm in the Illinois penitentiary, I can't do this. So basically, they don't meet every week and this week was the week I could catch them, basically, that's what it comes down to."*

*"I was shooting at the bench and the judges."*

*"Well, the clip I had in it held 16 and I had an extra round already chambered when I put the clip in, so that's 17. I ran through that, I maybe went through three or four more after that."*

*"Something's wrong if they're trying to hide him out. I understand it's a very tenuous thing to put a child under, it's another horrible thing to put a child up there, particularly if they've been sexually abused. But, unfortunately, I know that I'm innocent of that charge."*

*" . . . I was in the armed forces from 1968 to 1970. I was drafted just like everybody else. I'm fairly normal. I worked construction for several years. I got a law degree. I decided to go back and finish my degree when I had been drafted. I had quit college and proceeded to finish my degree."*

*"There were several people in the courtroom. . . . I basically went in the courtroom and sat for a while and then got up and shot apparently five people. One of them got up and started running out of the room. He was in front of me on the way I was going. I was shooting at the court, essentially, but other people got in the way or did things. . . . There was another door, I wish the guy had gone out the other door. There was another door a lot closer to him. . . ."*

*they hung back," Harper said, not wanting to provoke further violence.*

*"There wasn't any danger," Harper said, "because we had already disarmed him."*



# 2 slain, 3 hurt in FW courthouse

## Suspect surrenders at Channel 8 offices

Distress over child custody cited as motive

By Jacquelyn Floyd

Fort Worth Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

FORT WORTH — A neatly dressed gunman abruptly opened fire in a Tarrant County courthouse early Wednesday, killing two lawyers, seriously wounding two appellate judges and grazing another attorney.

Almost seven hours later, a man who said he was distraught over a child custody case and sexual abuse charges against him walked into WFAA-TV (Channel 8) offices in Dallas, explained his motives on camera and surrendered to police.

"It's a horrible, horrible thing that I have done today. . . . You have to do a horrible, horrible thing to catch people's attention," George Lott told personnel at WFAA. He said he had convicted himself and that "they should execute me."

Mr. Lott said he used a Glock 17 9mm pistol, which he had calmly reloaded, to carry out the shootings. With the gun tucked in a briefcase, he fled down the four-story building's stairs before escaping.

Killed in the rampage were Chris Marshall, 41, chief of the appellate section for the Tarrant County district attorney's office, and Dallas lawyer John Edwards, 33, who was reportedly scheduled to argue a case before the court Wednesday morning.

### TARRANT COUNTY COURTHOUSE SHOOTINGS

The gunfire injured 2nd Court of Appeals Judge John Hill, 48, and visiting Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69. Judge Ashworth underwent hip surgery at Harris Methodist-Fort Worth hospital and was listed in serious condition late Wednesday. Judge Hill, who is not related to the former state supreme court justice and attorney general, was shot in the shoulder. He was listed in good condition at Harris.

Assistant District Attorney Steven Conder, 28, was grazed in the shoulder by one of the bullets. He was treated at John Peter Smith Hospital and released.

Tarrant County Sheriff's Department officials and Fort Worth police had questioned several possible suspects Wednesday afternoon, before Mr. Lott, 45, surrendered at WFAA shortly after 4:15 p.m., saying he was the gunman.

Fort Worth Police Lt. Ralph Swearingin said a witness had identified Mr. Lott as the gunman.

Lt. Swearingin said late Wednesday that Mr. Lott had been questioned and been booked into a Tarrant County jail on investigative charges of capital murder, deadly assault on a court participant and carrying a weapon in a prohibited place. No bail had been set, Lt. Swearingin said.

Mr. Lott told Channel 8 that he had been planning the shootings about a month. "Somebody needs to look into what's happening to Neal," Mr. Lott said, referring to his son, the subject of the custody dispute.

Mr. Lott was indicted in April on aggravated sexual assault charges stemming from allegations that he had sexually abused his son at a motel in Peoria, Ill., according to police and court records. He was scheduled to be tried July 24 on the more serious of the charges, said prosecutor Jim Owens in Peoria, where the son lived.

Mr. Lott had called the felony court clerk in Peoria several times Tuesday and once early Wednesday, unsuccessfully trying to get a hearing regarding his complaints that prosecutors were withholding evidence, according to Kevin Lyon, Peoria County state's attorney.

Mr. Lott had sent a threatening letter accusing prosecutors in Peoria of withholding and fabricating evidence against him, Mr. Owens said.

"It was the first confirmation of everything I had heard and come to fear about George Lott," Mr. Owens said, referring to the letter.

He said Mr. Lott is a former attorney who had surrendered his bar license in Texas and had expressed strong hatred for the judicial system.

"He feels terribly wronged by the justice system," Mr. Owens said. "What happened today didn't surprise any of us. In fact, I think it could have just as easily happened here."

Fort Worth police and FBI agents searched Mr. Lott's south Arlington apartment late Wednesday. Shortly after the search began, officials said they had found no weapons but that the apartment was full of law books and court documents.



According to witnesses' statements in Fort Worth, the gunman went unnoticed among a handful of spectators in the gallery of the usually sedate appellate courtroom on the fourth floor of the old Tarrant County Courthouse building.

As the justices were hearing a case, which authorities believe was unrelated to the shootings, a man

suddenly stood and began firing.

"He was very organized," said Fort Worth Police Chief Thomas Windham. "He simply drew his weapon and began to fire as he approached the bench."

The gunfire struck Mr. Marshall several times in the chest, witnesses said. Judge David Farris dived behind the bench and was uninjured, but his two colleagues on the three-justice panel were shot.

Defense lawyer Dan Hollifield, who was standing at a lectern arguing a motion when the shots broke out, said he escaped by dropping to the floor and crawling into an adjacent office.

"I was just astounded to look around and see a man standing with his arm out, holding a gun," Mr. Hollifield said.

Chief Windham said the judges appeared to be the primary targets of the attack.

"I think he was shooting at the court. He was shooting at the judges," Chief Windham said. "He was spraying bullets all over the place."

When the gunman had emptied his weapon, he calmly reloaded the weapon before walking from the courtroom.

"He did fire a full magazine and then reload," Chief Windham said.

Chief Windham said the killer pursued Mr. Edwards and shot him repeatedly in the chest in a stairwell between the second and third floors. He said investigators did not know whether the gunman was deliberately targeting the attorney or whether their paths crossed as Mr. Edwards was fleeing from the shots.

Chief Justice H. Tod Weaver of the 2nd Court of Appeals said his office will be closed Thursday while investigators continue to accumulate evidence from the shooting scene.

Judge Weaver, whose office is adjacent to the courtroom where two of his colleagues were shot, said he hid in a restroom. He said a briefing clerk also hid in a closet until they heard Judge Farris come into the office to call for help on the telephone.

And despite Wednesday's shooting, the chief justice said he had few qualms about returning to his office.

"I don't think personally I'm going to be edgy about it," he said.

State District Judge Maryellen Hicks, who presided over Mr. Lott's divorce jury trial about two years ago, said custody of the Mr. Lott's son had been awarded to the mother, Margo Livesay. Ms. Livesay had filed charges of aggravated sexual assault on a minor against Mr. Lott.

"My sympathy just goes out to the families. The judges, they're good friends of mine. I'm just devastated. That's all I care to say," Judge Hicks said.

Acting Sheriff Jim Minter said an armed bailiff in the courtroom fired no shots. He said the bailiff was being questioned about his actions Wednesday.

Toby Goodman, an Arlington lawyer and state representative, said he had left the appellate courtroom just minutes before the shooting started. He said he heard seven to 10 shots and a few moments later, saw a man in a blue blazer and carrying a bag running down the hallway and out the east courthouse door.

"I had just been in the courtroom," Mr. Goodman said. "It scares the hell out of you."

Julie Level, an employee of the Tarrant County elections office, said she heard a voice echoing through the buildings begging for help, then heard several shots.

"I heard somebody yell, 'Help, help,'" Ms. Level said. "And then, 'Boom, boom, boom.'"

In the moments after the shootings, sheriff's deputies went from office to office, evacuating the four-floor courthouse. Some employees quickly left the area, and others nervously waited outside, seeking word about the injured and slain.

Many employees were found huddling in closed offices or under desks when the deputies cleared the building, one official said.

The bizarre shootings invited immediate comparison to a hostage siege in August 1989 inside the same building, a turn-of-the-century granite courthouse still used for county offices and civil cases. In that case, a distraught Tarrant County bail bondsman, Manny Cabano, took his girlfriend, county court-at-law clerk Juanita Hermosillo, hostage while he kept authorities at bay for several hours. The standoff ended in disaster when Mr. Cabano first shot the woman, and then himself to death.

Then-Tarrant County Sheriff Don Carpenter was widely criticized for refusing to yield his jurisdiction to Fort Worth police hostage negotiators during the standoff. Relatives of

Ms. Hermosillo have since sued the county and Mr. Carpenter, claiming the former sheriff's negligence contributed to the deaths.

Chief Windham credited Sheriff Minter with quickly establishing a cooperative effort with Fort Worth police shortly after Wednesday's shootings.

"I just have to tell you that the one element of the equation that's changed has been Jim Minter" since the 1989 courthouse shootings, Chief Windham said during a news conference Wednesday.

Judge Farris said no bailiff was in the courtroom when the shooting broke out. Other officials said an armed bailiff was in the vicinity but did not return fire.

Another courthouse official, who did not want to be identified, said the bailiff told investigators that he was afraid of striking civilians if he returned fire.

Officials Wednesday declined to release the bailiff's name.

Sheriff Minter was appointed to act in Mr. Carpenter's stead after the latter stepped down earlier this year following his indictment on several charges of official misconduct.

Wednesday's incident was the fourth instance of an armed gunman in Tarrant County courtrooms since 1986.

Three of those instances resulted in fatalities; in another, a capital murder defendant held a loaded gun to a judge's head. Courtroom bailiffs did not return fire in those instances.

After each of the previous two incidents, officials called for tighter security. Last year, the county bought 32 walk-through metal detectors from the state prison system. Those devices were in storage Wednesday because no judges had asked to use them, officials said.

State District Judge Lee Ann Dauphinot said that county officials had told her that it cost "too much money" to hire personnel to operate the detectors.

Sheriff Minter said he intends to initiate a review of courtroom security procedures in the wake of the shootings. But many county authorities were unsurprised by the lack of stringent security in the largely uneventful appellate courtroom, where the proceedings are often dry and there is little drama.

"If you had the most incompetent bailiff in the world, where would you put him?" asked one county official who did not want to be named. "You'd put him in the court where nothing ever happens."





A Dallas officer advises a man identified as George Lott of his rights after Mr. Lott surrendered at WFAA-TV (Channel 8) offices in the shooting deaths of two people Wednesday. Channel 8 anchor Tracy Rowlett is at the rear.

## 2 are killed in shootings at courthouse

The district court of appeals is charged with reviewing cases that already have been decided in state district courts. A three-judge panel hears pleas in cases being appealed from lower courts, then usually renders its decision in writing at a later date.



# TARRANT COUNTY COURTHOUSE SHOOTINGS



The Dallas Morning News: Richard Michael Pruitt

Dallas Officer B.R. Chapman examines a 9mm gun taken from a suspect who surrendered at WFAA studios Wednesday in downtown Dallas. The man said he was responsible for the shootings in Tarrant County.

## 'I'm the guy who shot the judges'

Frantic manhunt ends as suspect seeks TV interview, gives up gun

By Rochelle Riley

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

The man walked into WFAA-TV (Channel 8) about 4:15 p.m. Wednesday and signed in as "G. Lott."

He said he needed to talk to one of the news anchors, Tracy Rowlett or Chip Moody.

"He just came in and said, 'I'm the guy who shot the judges in Tarrant County,'" said receptionist Ann De-Nike.

She quietly called news operations manager Craig Harper and told him a man identifying himself as the gunman was waiting.

The man appeared "cool, calm, collected," Ms. De-Nike said.

"I asked him, 'Will you please sign in in the book?'" she said. "He said, 'Sure, no problem.' . . . I tried to stay real calm because I didn't want to panic and make him panic."

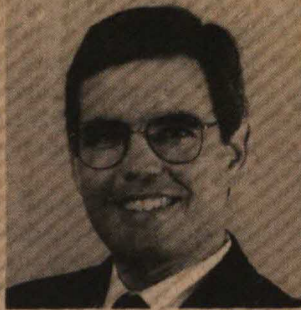
Mr. Lott's appearance and subsequent arrest at WFAA-TV ended a massive manhunt that stretched from a Fort Worth courthouse to the University of Texas at Arlington to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

In the newsroom, Janet Johnson, producer of the 5 p.m. news, was minutes away from the newscast when he arrived.



# TARRANT COUNTY COURTHOUSE SHOOTINGS

## COURTHOUSE SHOOTING VICTIMS



**Attorney  
John J. Edwards  
KILLED**



**Prosecutor  
Chris Marshall  
KILLED**



**Judge  
Clyde R. Ashworth  
INJURED**



**Asst. District Attorney  
Steven Conder  
INJURED**



**Judge  
John G. Hill  
INJURED**



# Chris Marshall

By Tracy Everbach

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Texas lost one of its most respected appellate attorneys when Chris Marshall was slain Wednesday in the same courtroom where he often argued the law, said his peers, co-workers and state officials.

Mr. Marshall, 41, was the chief of the appellate division of the Tarrant County district attorney's office, where he had worked for 14 years.

"He was a great lawyer and a Rock of Gibraltar here," said Tarrant County Judge Tom Vandergriff.

Mr. Marshall was always willing to share his expertise with others. In fact, it was his desire to be a mentor to less-experienced appellate attorney Steve Conder that took him to the courtroom Wednesday.

"He's the top person in his field in the state," said David Richards, a Fort Worth lawyer who used to work under Mr. Marshall. "This morning he was over there to give advice and reassurance to one of the younger attorneys."

Mr. Marshall, who grew up in Fort Worth, was respected statewide for his contributions to the law. He not only argued cases that changed laws, but he also taught legal seminars and served on committees that shaped Texas court procedures.

One of his legacies is a definition of reasonable doubt that all judges must give to juries as part of their charges in Texas criminal cases.

"I knew his work well," said Judge Sam Houston Clinton, who serves on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin. "He was one of the best appellate attorneys on the prosecutors' side in this state. He was remarkably intelligent and scholarly."

In Dallas, prosecutor Ted Steinke described Mr. Marshall as "one of the most well-liked and well-respected prosecutors in the state by both defense lawyers and prosecutors."

Mr. Steinke, chief of the specialized crime division of the Dallas County district attorney's office, co-taught a bar association advanced criminal law course last year with Mr. Marshall.

The tall, quiet lawyer built the appellate division of the DA's office from a small, overlooked group to a highly respected and recognized force of 14 lawyers.

"He molded it from a stepchild to a pivotal part of the DA's office," said Delonia Watson, an assistant U.S. attorney in Dallas who worked for Mr. Marshall

in the late 1980s.

She and others who worked for the prosecutor said he made a lasting impression on them.

"He was concerned about your intellectual and legal growth and also about you personally. He took people under his tutelage," she said.

Ms. Watson said he had offered her the use of his office's law library, which she was planning to visit Thursday.

"I'm even more devastated that I missed a last time to see him," she said.

Another former co-worker, Fort Worth lawyer David Chapman, said that to most people, Mr. Marshall seemed cerebral, introverted and somewhat shy. But to those who knew him well, he had a sharp wit and generous nature.

"He treated me royally well, with kindness, dignity and friendship," Mr. Chapman said. "I'd consider him the best I've ever worked with."

The prosecutor graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with highest honors in 1973 and from UT's law school in 1977, also with highest honors. He graduated from Paschal High School in Fort Worth. His father, Clyde Marshall, is a lawyer in private practice in Fort Worth.

He lived in Arlington with his wife, Betty Marshall, also a lawyer in the DA's appellate division. They had been married three years, Mr. Richards said. He had a daughter, Kristin Marshall, by a previous marriage.

He served as chairman of the criminal justice section of the State Bar of Texas in 1989 and 1990.

Although he gained the respect and admiration of many across the state and the nation, the prosecutor never aspired to a higher office.

"It's almost a waste of Chris' talent that he was (still) in the DA's office," said Mr. Richards, the lawyer who had worked under him.

"He should be on the federal bench or the court of criminal appeals. But he was a shy person and completely apolitical."

Mr. Richards said that the law was Mr. Marshall's life.

"Chris' hobby was the law, as well as being his job," the lawyer said. "He was up there seven days a week, 10 to 12 hours a day. You'd go to lunch with him and the discussion would be about the law."

Staff writer Todd J. report.



Chris Marshall: Killed



# John J. Edwards

By Rochelle Riley

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

It was the Rev. James L. Pleitz of Park Cities Baptist Church who broke the news to Martha Clemons Edwards on Wednesday morning that her husband of nearly eight years was dead.

"One of the attorneys from the firm called to tell me that he had heard that John had been shot, and he was afraid that his wife did not know it," Mr. Pleitz said.

Mr. Edwards, 33, had worked at the firm, Haynes and Boone in Dallas, since 1986. Wednesday, his work had taken him to an appellate courtroom in Fort Worth.

According to police reports, when the shooting began, Mr. Edwards tried to escape, but the gunman chased him and shot him several times, wounding him fatally.

Two other Haynes and Boone employees, lawyer Chris Ewing and summer clerk Matthew Kaliff, were with Mr. Edwards in court. They escaped the shooting. Mr. Bramblett said Wednesday afternoon that they were in shock. Neither returned phone calls.

Within an hour after the shooting, news of Mr. Edwards' death had traveled to Waco and Baylor University, where the alumnus and son of an administrator was well-known, and to the Dallas firm where he was beloved.

"Everybody loved John. He was a real leader," said Haynes and Boone lawyer George Bramblett.

Mr. Edwards was in court Wednesday waiting to argue a civil case, Mr. Bramblett said.

The shooting was a tragic end for a man described by friends and family as a leader and a "good, strong Christian."

"He was a caring father, husband and family member, brother," said his brother Cecil Edwards Jr. "He loved his three boys a lot. And he loved to play basketball."

"John always was in a good humor. He was easygoing, definitely a leader. He had a good, solid head on his shoulders, good judgment," Mr. Edwards said. "We're going to miss him tremendously, but we know he's in a better place. I want to make sure to put in there that he was a good, strong Christian. He loved the Lord."

John Edwards, a native of New Orleans, graduated from Baylor in 1981 and received his degree from Baylor's School of Law in 1984. His wife is a Baylor alumna.

Mrs. Edwards was with their three young sons Wednesday when Mr. Pleitz had to deliver the news.

"When I got there about 10:30, she had not heard," the pastor said. "She knew that he had been shot but did not know that it had been fatal."

While Mr. Pleitz was at the house, the Tarrant County medical examiner's office called.

"She was talking to someone on the phone. Then the call came from the coroner's office," he said. "She said she would take this call. She talked for a moment, then asked me to talk to them. I took the

call, and he told me that Mr. Edwards was indeed dead.

"She was like anyone else," Mr. Pleitz said. "She hoped it was a mistake."

Mr. Edwards had just celebrated his 33rd birthday one month ago Wednesday.

The couple had been packing to move from their East Dallas home into a larger house in Preston Hollow to accommodate their growing family. The twins, Matthew and Pierce, are 3. Daniel is 1.

Mrs. Edwards told her pastor Wednesday that "she had never heard anyone say an unkind word about her husband and she had never heard him say anything unkind about anyone else," Mr. Pleitz said. "He was a gentle, loving person."

"I've been involved, in my ministry, many, many times in telling someone that a loved one has died," he said. "I've done it many, many times before."

"But never in my ministry have I seen anyone as composed and (who) handled it with more dignity and grace as a Christian should than his wife," the pastor said. "She did not come apart emotionally."

The news reached Waco almost as quickly as it did Dallas. Mr. Edwards grew up around Baylor because his father, Dr. Cecil G. Edwards Sr., has been director of the campus health center since 1969.

On campus Wednesday, Judy Maggard tearfully recalled the last time she saw John Edwards. He and his wife had been in Waco in the spring to accept membership on the development council.

"It's such a big shock," said Ms. Maggard, an assistant to Baylor's vice president for external affairs. "John and Martha were dear friends. . . . They're just a dear, sweet couple with three little boys. They're just family."

Baylor law school dean Brad Toben called Mr. Edwards one of the school's outstanding graduates.

Since joining Haynes and Boone, Mr. Edwards had gained extensive experience in litigation involving financial and business law, including breach of contract, negligence and fraud, said Mr. Bramblett.

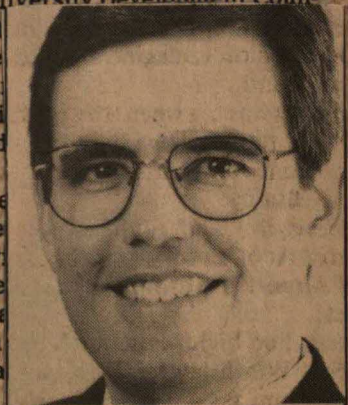
Mr. Edwards worked in Haynes and Boone's general litigation section.

He was president of the Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity and a member of the Order of Barristers, the Dallas Bar Association, the American Bar Association and the Baylor University Development Council. He also worked with

A memorial service at 10 a.m. Friday morning at Park Cities Baptist Church will be at 3:30 p.m. Friday at Waco.

The family will receive Mr. Edwards Thursday at Park Cities Baptist Church.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his brothers, Matthew and Pierce Edwards, both of Dallas, and his sister, Susan Edwards. His father, Dr. Cecil G. Edwards Sr., lives in Waco.



John Edwards: Killed



# John G. Hill

By Jeff Rude

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Second appeals court Judge John G. Hill is described by friends as a quiet and caring man. Witnesses say he reacted in character Wednesday morning when he was shot in the shoulder during the shooting at the Tarrant County Courthouse.

"I think he was in shock," said lawyer Veronika Willard of the Cantey & Hanger firm.

Ms. Willard, who was in the courtroom spectator area waiting to argue a case, tended Judge Hill's wound and tried to calm him for about 10 minutes until paramedics arrived.

"He had rolled under the bench," she said. "I saw blood and loosened his robe and took paper towels and compressed his shoulder the best I could.

"I kept asking him if he was OK, and he said, 'I don't know' and that his shoulder hurt. I told him to hang in there," Ms. Willard said. "He had expressions of pain and concern. . . . He was alert the whole time but didn't say much."

Judge Hill (who is not related to John Hill, the former Texas attorney general and Supreme Court justice) was admitted to Harris Methodist-Fort Worth Hospital in serious condition after the shooting. His condition was upgraded to good about 1:20 p.m., a hospital spokeswoman said.

A Baptist minister who visited Judge Hill in the hospital Wednesday afternoon said the judge told him he initially thought there was an explosion in the courtroom.

"John said after he heard the sound he felt pain in his shoulder, realized he was shot and dropped to

the floor," said Terry Hamrick, minister of Christian education at Fort Worth's Broadway Baptist Church. The judge has attended the church since childhood.

Judge Hill, 48, born in Fort Worth and educated at Baylor University and at Baylor's law school, was appointed to the appellate court in 1983 by Gov. Mark White. He was elected in 1984 for a six-year term and re-elected in 1990.

Son of a longtime Fort Worth lawyer, the late Homa S. Hill, he was an assistant district attorney in Tarrant County from 1967 until 1971 and again briefly in 1974. He served as a Fort Worth municipal judge from 1972 to 1974, a county court judge from 1975 to 1978 and Texas 322nd District judge from 1979 to 1983. He unsuccessfully sought the Democratic nomination for a spot on the Texas Supreme Court in 1988.

He is the second-most-senior member of the seven-member Court of Appeals and is scheduled to become the senior judge later this year when Judge Joseph Spurlock II retires.

The fourth-floor courtroom where the shooting occurred is just down the hall from his office.

Judge Hill and his wife, Lynda, married almost 26 years, have one child, David, 21, who has a developmental disability. Judge Hill has been active with Advocacy Inc., an organization for the rights of developmentally disabled, is a former director of the Fort Worth Jaycees and is a member of the Tarrant County Association for the Blind.

Mr. Hamrick, after visiting him Wednesday, said Judge Hill was in "good spirits and feeling well and very fortunate that he was no worse than he was." He described him, as did others, as "a very peaceful, quiet, caring kind of fellow."



John Hill: Wounded





Clyde Ashworth: Wounded

## Clyde R. Ashworth

By Ed Timms

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Clyde R. Ashworth retired from the bench in 1986. But his love for the law, and his reputation as a judge, kept bringing him back to the courthouse.

The 69-year-old jurist continued to hear cases as needed, filling in for vacationing judges or helping reduce backlogs as a senior judge for the state judicial system.

On Wednesday, the longtime Arlington resident was seriously wounded when a gunman opened fire inside the Tarrant County Courthouse. Two lawyers died in the attack and another appellate judge, John G. Hill, also was seriously wounded.

Judge Ashworth suffered wounds in the hip and was listed in serious condition at Harris Methodist-Fort Worth hospital.

Judge Ashworth won high praise Wednesday.

"If he wasn't such a good judge, he wouldn't have been in that courtroom," said Fort Worth lawyer Jerry Loftin. "He's in such demand because he's got a wonderful reputation for judicial integrity and temperament and knowledge of the law.

"He's one of those people you don't want to retire because there's no one who can fill his shoes."

Mr. Loftin got to know Judge Ashworth when he represented Priscilla Lee Davis during her divorce from Cullen Davis, then one of the state's wealthiest men.

One judge had stopped hearing the case after Mr. Davis was accused of trying to have him killed. Another judge declared a mistrial after reporters' questions about a private meeting he had with Mr. Davis.

Charles J. Murray, who is now retired and also serves as a senior judge, was the presiding judge at the time and gave the case to Judge Ashworth.

"He very kindly took it off my hands," said Judge Murray, who has known Judge Ashworth since they attended Southern Methodist University more than

40 years ago. "I said, 'Clyde, I owe you from now on.'"

Mr. Loftin said it was typical of Judge Ashworth to take on "thankless jobs that no one wanted."

Former political opponents praise him.

Dixon Holman, who heads the civil division of the Tarrant County district attorney's office, was ousted from an appeals court seat by Judge Ashworth in a 1982 election.

"But I have a great deal of respect for him, and I think he's one of the finest judges we have in Tarrant County," he said.

Judge Murray said Judge Ashworth had served as a Marine officer during World War II and had seen combat duty in the Pacific. Both received their law degrees from SMU in 1950; soon afterward, Judge Ashworth was called back to active duty during the Korean War.

After returning home, he began practicing law.

"He was a very prominent Arlington attorney and actively involved in the community," said Arlington Mayor Richard Greene. "His work as a judge was continuing a lifetime of community service."

Judge Ashworth served as director and chairman of the Texas Turnpike Authority from 1958 to 1969. He was both a trustee and president of the Arlington school board during the same period.

In 1968, he was elected a state district judge in Tarrant County. He was elected a 2nd Court of Appeals justice in the county in 1982. He retired from the appeals court in 1986.

The shooting of Judge Ashworth was the second blow to his family in little more than a month. In late May, one of his daughters, Charlotte Ashworth, 39, a court coordinator in Tarrant County, was killed in a motorcycle accident.

On Wednesday, his family gathered at Harris hospital.

"They've really had some tragedies," said Mr. Holman. "This is another horrible experience."



# Steven Conder

Assistant District Attorney Steven Conder was in the 2nd Court of Appeals to argue a criminal trespass case Wednesday when a gunman opened fire in the Fort Worth courtroom.

Also with the 28-year-old prosecutor was Chris Marshall, a more experienced prosecutor who had volunteered to help Mr. Conder on his case.

Mr. Conder suffered slight injuries from the gunfire. Mr. Marshall was killed.

Mr. Conder was treated at John Peter Smith Hospital and released. He joined the appellate section in August 1990 as an assistant district attorney. Before that, he worked for about a year as a briefing attorney, assisting the judge at another

state appellate court in Texarkana.

"He's a very nice young man with humor," said Allan Butcher, a Fort Worth resident acquainted with the shooting victim.

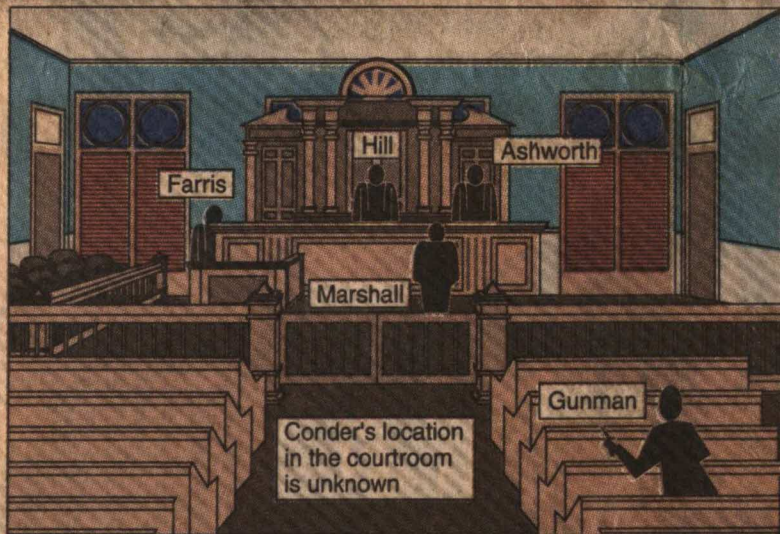
Mr. Conder graduated from Baylor Law School in Waco in 1989. The school's dean, described him as "very conscientious, very hard working, very concerned about the quality of his work as a lawyer."

Reared in Manchester, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis, Mr. Conder earned his bachelor's degree from Westminister College, a small liberal arts school in Fulton, Mo.



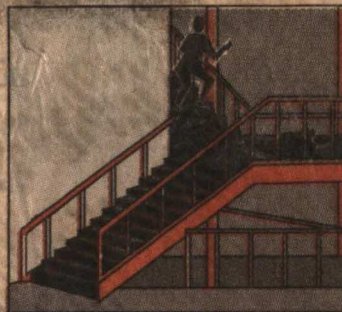
Steve Conder: Wounded

## HOW THE FORT WORTH COURTHOUSE SHOOTING UNFOLDED



### 1 IN THE COURTROOM

About 9:50 a.m. George Lott says he was seated in the gallery of the appellate court, stood and fired shots from his 9mm gun. Chris Marshall was killed; John Hill, Clyde Ashworth and Steven Conder were injured. David Farris was unharmed. The gunman fled.

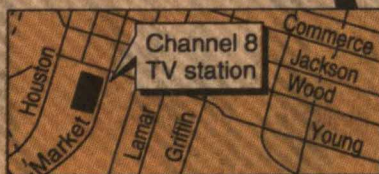
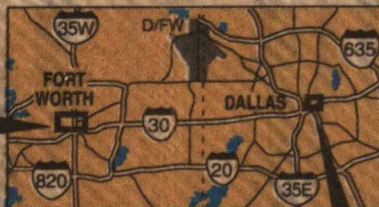
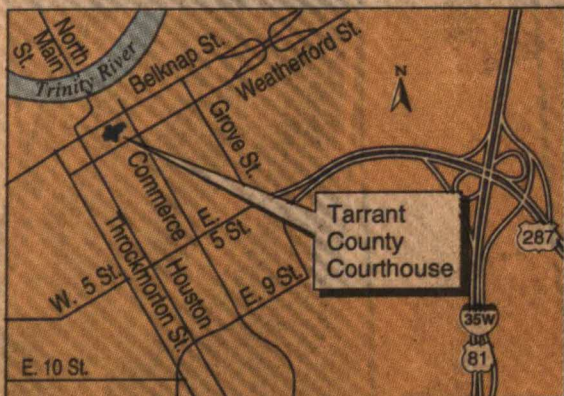
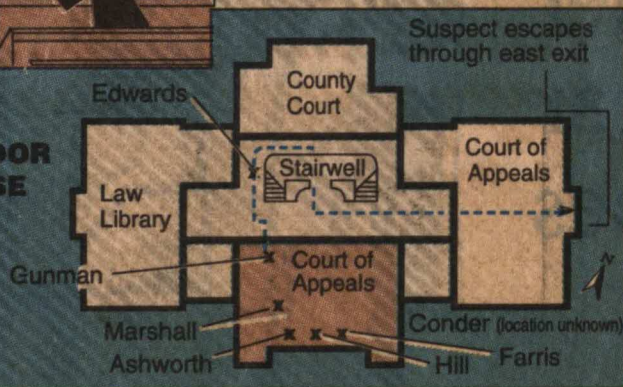


### 2 THE STAIRWELL

Lott says he ran down the stairs, encountering John Edwards, who had fled from the courtroom, and shot and killed him.

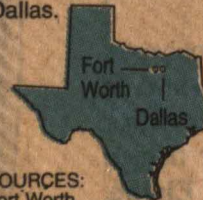
### 3 FOURTH FLOOR COURTHOUSE

Lott says he ran to the first floor and out the east exit to his van, which was parked on the street.



### 4 HOW IT ENDED

About 4:15 p.m. Lott turns himself in at WFAA-TV studios in Dallas.



SOURCES: Fort Worth police, witness accounts



# Suspect angered by legal dealings; behavior had made people uneasy

By Steve Scott  
and Olive Talley

Staff Writers of The Dallas Morning News

George Lott was angry at the law. The 45-year-old former lawyer, charged in Illinois with sexually abusing his son, thought no one wanted to hear his side of the story. On Wednesday, his frustration boiled over.

By his own account, the Arlington man went to an appeals court session at the Tarrant County courthouse and did the only thing he could think of to get some attention — killed two men and wounded three others.

But his actions had long earned the attention of authorities in Peoria, Ill., and his neighbors in south Arlington.

In February, two therapists at Lutheran Social Services in Peoria began studying Mr. Lott's two children. They were scheduled to present their findings in court later this month, one of the therapists said Wednesday.

That therapist said she was uneasy about Mr. Lott from the start of the investigation.

"I've had a nasty, nasty, nasty feeling since we started the assessment," she said. "That's why we were so scared."

After hearing Wednesday afternoon that Mr. Lott was suspected in the killings in Fort Worth, "we thought he was going to be in Peoria next."

The therapist declined to comment about the substance of the sexual abuse case against Mr. Lott because of confidentiality laws.

Mr. Lott was arrested in March based on charges that he had abused his son sometime between Oct. 4 and Oct. 6 in 1991, according to Peoria police reports. His ex-wife, Margo Livesay, filed the complaints, records show.

Wednesday night, police searched his Arlington apartment but found no weapons immediately. Noting that the home was full of law books and court documents, they speculated that Mr. Lott was trying to represent himself in his legal dealings.

Mr. Lott became a member of the Texas State Bar in 1981 and voluntarily went on inactive status in 1988, a bar spokesman said.

His neighbors at a south Arlington apartment complex said they had noticed no behavior that would peg

Mr. Lott as having a violent temper. They did say, however, that he was unfriendly and standoffish.

"I knocked on his door once, and he didn't answer. I knew he was there," said Donald Hill, Mr. Lott's next-door neighbor. "I was just going to introduce myself."

"If you said hello, he didn't say hello back," said Ronnie Lopez, another neighbor. "He never said anything to the kids here. I'm glad after knowing what he did."

Mr. Lott was indicted in April on aggravated sexual assault charges stemming from his wife's allegations that he had sexually abused his 4-year-old son at a Peoria motel, according to police and court records. He was scheduled to be tried July 24.

"I know that I'm innocent of that charge," Mr. Lott said.

Mr. Lott said that his ex-wife, who has been living in or near Peoria, has disappeared and that he fears she is hiding his son.

"The whole point of this whole thing is that somebody needs to look into what's happening with my son," he said.

Mr. Lott's former wife is also a lawyer, said Maryellen Hicks, the Tarrant County Family Court judge who handled the divorce. She said a jury awarded custody of the couple's son to Ms. Livesay, who was known then as Margo Z. Best.

But Mr. Lott complained during the Channel 8 interview that Judge Hicks had "fixed" the case "for a friend." Judge Hicks could not be reached to respond to that allegation.

During the interview, he recounted the shootings.

"I sat and listened awhile, and then I got up and shot some of them," he told WFAA-TV (Channel 8) anchor Tracy Rowlett. "I was shooting at the bench — at the judges."

One lawyer was shot as he ran from the courtroom.

"He was in front of me on the way I was going," Mr. Lott said, explaining that the lawyer got in his way. "I wish the guy would have gone out the other door."

Mr. Lott appeared at Channel 8's studios in downtown Dallas, saying he wanted to surrender and explain.

"You have to do a very horrible thing to get people's attention," Mr. Lott told the TV station. "I'm sorry, but I'm afraid that's the way I see the world."

He said he had been planning the shooting about a month.

Mr. Lott had sent prosecutors a threatening letter accusing them of withholding and fabricating evidence against him, said prosecutor Jim Owens in Peoria.

Mr. Lott seemed frustrated at reporters' questions seeking details about the attack, although he acknowledged, "It's a horrible, horrible thing I've done."

"I wish it hadn't have had to happen," he said. "I'm not sure it's done any good."

Staff writers Stacey Freedenthal, Todd Copilevitz and Charles Camp and the Associated Press contributed to this report.

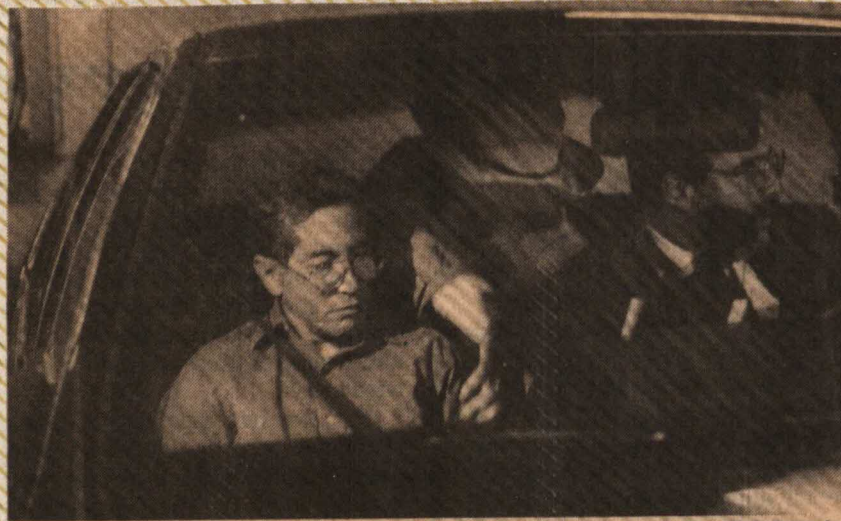




**Medical examiner's office workers wheel the body of one of two people slain in Wednesday's shootings at the Tarrant**

*The Dallas Morning News: David Woo*

**courthouse. The dead were prosecutor Chris Marshall, 41, and Dallas lawyer John Edwards, 33.**



*The Dallas Morning News: Cindy Yamanaka*

**Fort Worth police officers take shooting suspect George Lott from the Dallas police station Wednesday to Fort Worth. Mr. Lott had turned himself in in downtown Dallas.**



# Avoiding violence in our courts



**FRED MOSS**

The Dallas-Fort Worth community is shocked by the news of the shooting and deaths in a Fort Worth court of appeals Wednesday. The church-like environs of an appellate court, populated mainly by lawyers and judges, seem like the last place in this country where violence would occur. And yet, since the beginning of the year, there have been six reported assaults in U.S. courtrooms. Confronted with what must seem further evidence of the increasing insanity of our world, we stop to ask, "What is going on?"

It is understandable that there is violence in our courts. It is not just in television courtrooms that vivid human dramas are played out. They can be emotionally charged in real life. As a prosecutor, I witnessed the full spectrum of rawest human emotions in court when, for example, a rape victim recounted her ordeal face to face with her assailant, when a defendant was sentenced to life imprisonment with his family watching from the gallery, when the parent or spouse of a murder victim gazed upon the person who had just been convicted of the crime, or when the accused faced the ex-friend or spouse whose testimony would surely convict him.

Despite the intense emotions of criminal courts, it seems that most court-related violence occurs in divorce and child custody cases. Again, this is understandable. In these cases, emotions seem to run highest of all. The news is full of horrifying reports of husbands or wives killing the other, and sometimes even their children and themselves. What strong emotions must drive them to such desperate acts! Is it any wonder that when these cases are thrown into the courts, and when the parties are gathered for the court's judgment, sometimes emotions go out of control.

But why in the courtroom? One would think that in a room filled with armed bailiffs and in a building usually filled with police officers one would be safe. But those consumed with rage care little about the consequences beyond satisfying the need to vent their rage. Logic does not enter into it.

Is it happening more often now than in the past? This question deserves study. It would not be surprising if it were found that courtroom violence was increasing. After all, there seems to be an escalation of shootings in our schools, of drive-by shootings in our neighborhoods, and of random shootings in restaurants and clubs. Our whole culture seems to be drowning in a rising tide of violence.

is increased television violence at fault? Slasher movies? Video games where you must kill or be killed? Drugs? The breakdown of the family and "family values"? Who can say?

While there is no immediate solution to the general rise of violence in our society, perhaps there are a few steps that could be easily taken to reduce the violence in our courts.

First, and the easiest step of all, is to increase security in our state courts. Reviewing the reports of court-related violence since January confirms that most of the violence occurs in state, not federal, courts. This may result in part from the fact that federal courts do not handle divorce and child custody cases. But they do handle most of the trials of big drug rings, Mafia leaders and the like. As a result, the security at every federal court is like that at the airport. There are guards and metal detectors at the entrances, and all briefcases are searched.

Typically, state courts are wide open, except for special criminal courts or trials. The number of shootings in our state courts today would seem to call for an increase in security measures there.

Second, some way must be found to reduce the intensity of emotions in divorce and custody cases.

Today, the courts are beginning to use court-ordered mediations to unlog their dockets and to attempt to find less-adversarial means to solve the litigants' disputes. As mediation is used more frequently, perhaps we will see a decrease in the number of violent episodes in our domestic relations courts.

*Fred C. Moss is an associate professor of law at Southern Methodist University.*



## EDITORIALS

# SHOOTING SPREE

### More than increased security is needed

When an orderly courtroom is turned into a nightmarish shooting gallery by a gunman, there is more than the building security at fault. The murder of two people and the wounding of three others at the Tarrant County Courthouse Wednesday provided additional evidence that the culture of guns and violence is taking a tragic toll in this country.

An assistant prosecutor was shot dead, as was a lawyer. Two members of the three-judge appellate panel were wounded seriously.

The full responsibility for the deplorable act should fall on the gunman who fired the weapon. The shootings were a travesty of justice as well as a personal tragedy for the families of the victims.

But the killings also raise questions about the adequacy of the security of the Fort Worth courthouse. It is the third violent outburst in the courthouse since 1989. The landmark structure has little security. That may be befitting the informal, friendly style of Fort Worth, but it does not recognize the harsh realities of today's violent society.

As one former prosecutor in Fort Worth put it, "You go in a federal courthouse, and a calculator will set off a security device. You can walk into this courtroom with a Uzi under your coat, and no one would know the difference."

The incident also raises troubling questions about the increase in violence in courthouses across the country. Six attacks have occurred so far this year.

Yes, we must improve security in our houses of justice. But are we to become a nation of stockaded courtrooms, where judges and juries are sealed off behind bulletproof glass while fiends with handguns try to ferret out holes in the protective system?

Part of the answer must be in facing up to the epidemic of violence being committed by handguns. Just last month, former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop described the situation as a "public health emergency." Those who think the good doctor might exaggerate should consider the facts:

- The leading cause of death among both black and white teen-age males in America is gunshot wounds.
- More than 34,000 Americans die each year as a result of firearms.
- The estimated lifetime costs for one year's worth of firearm injuries will be \$14.4 billion.
- In Texas in 1990, more people died from firearms than in motor vehicle accidents, for the first time in many decades.

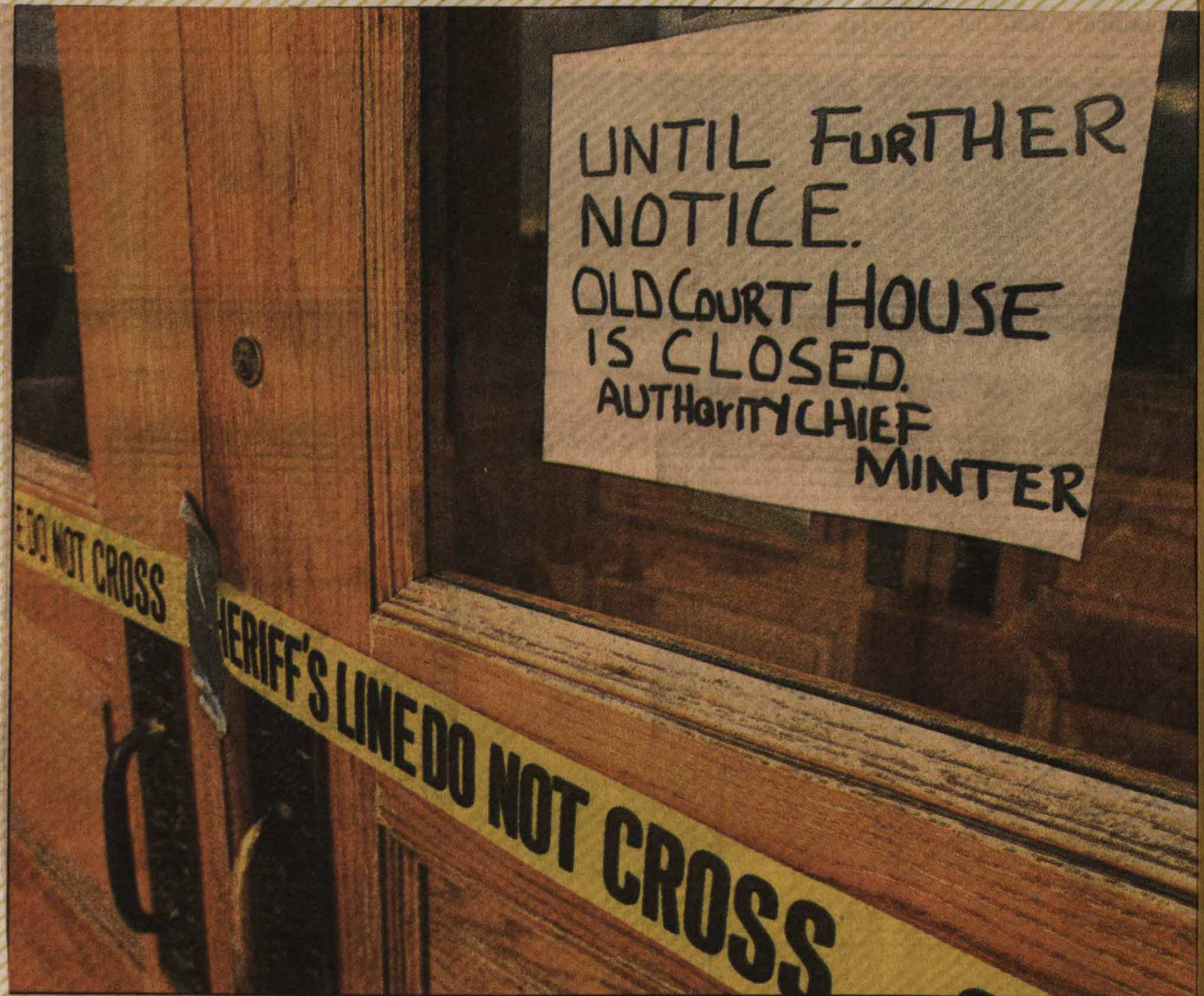
Dr. Koop's prescription is to restrict and monitor gun ownership in the same way the government now controls driver's licenses. He proposes that gun owners would have to be of a certain age and demonstrate knowledge and skill in firearms operation.

Many in our society cling to the concept of unfettered ownership of firearms, but the public should be sufficiently concerned to press for some reasonable gun-control measures. Lawmakers still must approve a national waiting period for handgun purchases, an idea that has become bogged down in the larger congressional debate over crime fighting.

No, such a waiting period will not eliminate all crimes committed with legally purchased guns or stolen guns. But it will send a signal that this nation is beginning to take the crisis of violence seriously. The tragedy in Fort Worth is another reminder that society must take cautionary measures to protect innocent citizens and to safeguard the operations of its justice system.



# Court Judge Orders Security Tightened



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

The Tarrant County Courthouse is closed today after yesterday's shootings.



# Fort Worth

# Star-Telegram

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1992

Fort Worth, Texas Where The West Begins

## *Suspect fought the system he once vowed to uphold*

### Man aims anger at custody, divorce laws

BY KRISTIN N. SULLIVAN  
AND MICHAEL WHITELEY  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — For almost a decade, the legal system has framed the borders of George Douglas Lott's existence.

The law provided careers for the 45-year-old Arlington lawyer and his former wife, Margo Z. Best. Two

years ago in January, a Tarrant County jury ended Lott's marriage and severely limited his right to visit his now 4-year-old son.

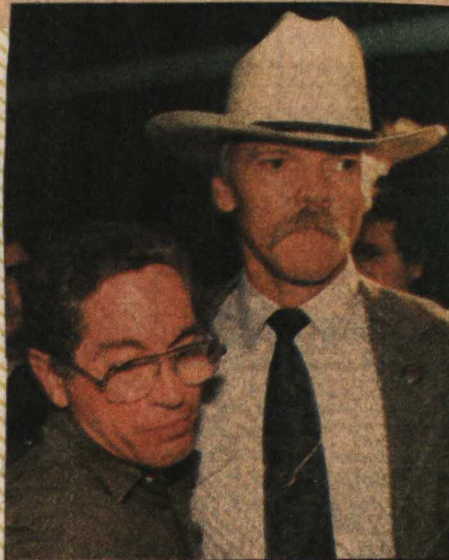
And it was the criminal justice system that was calling Lott later this month to answer charges that he had sexually abused the boy on a visit to Peoria, Ill.

Those who know Lott say he be-

came obsessed with what he saw as corruption among judges and fellow lawyers. They say that at 10 a.m. yesterday, in the 2nd Court of Appeals in the Tarrant County Courthouse, he acted on those obsessions.

Later yesterday, Lott walked into a Dallas TV station and said he

(More on LOTT on Page 18)



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RON JENKINS

Detective Curt Brannan escorts George Lott from Dallas last night.



# Lott

From Page 1

gunned down two attorneys and wounded two judges and another lawyer on the fourth floor of the Tarrant County Courthouse — just two days after state District Judge Maryellen Hicks blocked him from learning his ex-wife's whereabouts in Peoria.

"I have sinned. What I've done is certainly wrong," Lott told WFAA/Channel 8 after surrendering at the studio at 4:15 p.m. "It's a horrible, horrible thing I have done today . . . I'm sorry, but you have to do a very horrible thing to catch people's attention."

Referring to his court appearance scheduled for July 20 in Peoria on two charges of criminal sexual assault, Lott told Channel 8, "It came down to my window of opportunity was closing."

A graying man who wore thick glasses and a sweaty short-sleeved khaki shirt, Lott disputed allegations that he abused his son. He is accused of sexually abusing Neal David Lott with his hands and a gun.

Yesterday's shooting came four years after Lott let his dues to the State Bar of Texas lapse and began a lone attack on a system of state custody and divorce laws that he says favors women. And it came an hour after he telephoned an Illinois court clerk and screamed at her after she told him that she had no authority to drop the charges against him.

Lott's battle with the legal system apparently began when his wife filed for divorce in 1987. After a three-week divorce-custody trial in January 1990, a jury in Hicks' court decided that Neal David Lott belonged with his mother.

Hicks said last night that Lott might have looked briefly into her

courtroom on the first floor of the old courthouse a few minutes before the shots were fired upstairs.

"This could have been me. I could be at the medical examiner's office undergoing an autopsy," Hicks said. "When I first heard that gunfire today, I knew it was a family law case."

State Supreme Court records in Austin showed that neither of the judges wounded yesterday, John Hill and Clyde R. Ashworth, had participated in decisions involving the Lotts' divorce or custody case.

At times in tears and under guard by a Tarrant County sheriff's deputy, Hicks angrily blamed lax security for the shootings and said that she fears she may have triggered the killings by refusing on Monday to tell Lott where his wife was living.

"It doesn't make any sense. Why didn't he kill me?" she said. "I know he's really upset with me and upset with the system."

Those who know Lott say he was an embittered casualty of divorce — the organizer of a small men's protest group who never missed an opportunity to voice his hatred for judges and lawyers.

A court-appointed psychologist said during the divorce case that Lott was suffering from paranoid delusions, said Fort Worth attorney Douglas Wright, who represented Best in the divorce. Wright said that Lott once bragged in the hallway outside the courtroom that he had hired an investigator and was having Wright followed.

"I got a whiff that he had problems then," Wright said. "The psychologists were telling us he had problems, and he was very outspoken about judges and the legal system."

But neither Wright nor Hicks said they had known him to make a threat of violence against the legal system.

Sitting outside the appeals courtroom yesterday morning before the killings, Lott gave no clue of what

was to come, said a Fort Worth lawyer who recognized him.

Fort Worth attorney Vaughn Bailey, who represented Lott's child in the bitter divorce-custody fight, said he recognized Lott sitting in the hallway. "He was flipping through a legal pad. He seemed normal for him. He's not a big conversationalist, and when I said, 'Hi,' to him he just looked at me, but that wasn't unusual," Bailey said.

Bailey said Lott was "a little out of the ordinary," but added, "I thought he was trying hard to be a good father to the son. He had some good ideas and stuff, but he had some difficulty communicating with other people. He was real defensive. He just wasn't very trusting."

Lott was born June 7, 1947, in Okmulgee, Okla., but grew up in the Tanglewood neighborhood of Fort Worth, friends said. He received a bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University and a law degree from the University of Texas Law School. He was licensed to practice law on Oct. 30, 1981.

Records show that he opened an office at 2509 W. Berry St. Increasingly critical of judges and lawyers, however, Lott stopped paying dues to the state bar in 1988 and was placed on inactive status that June, about a year after his wife initiated divorce proceedings.

Although he listed his occupation as computer programmer, Lott told the court he was living on a \$500,000 inheritance, Wright said.

Court records show that Lott has represented himself in his appeal of the child-custody and divorce case in Texas. His appeal was initially rejected in an opinion signed by a three-judge panel of the 2nd Court of Appeals in Fort Worth. Last March, Lott appealed to the Texas Supreme Court, where the case is pending.

He also represented himself in a 1991 Illinois proceeding that resulted in a protective order prohibiting



him from contact with the son, who lives with Best.

He fought the Illinois abuse allegations by asserting that he was victimized by judicial corruption and that his ex-wife had mistreated the child.

An exchange between Lott and an Illinois judge last year sheds some light on the vitriolic nature of the divorce. Lott stood before the judge on Dec. 26 to testify about allegations by his ex-wife and a social worker that the boy was beaten during a three-week visit to his father in August.

"I have never beaten Neal except to spank him with a newspaper folded over. . . . A newspaper like that has plenty of shock absorber," he told Illinois Judge Richard Grawey at the hearing.

"This is the culmination of a very bitter divorce case. . . . It's extremely bitter. I don't believe she would have gotten custody if I'd been able to put in all my evidence. Her lawyer was the son of a senior district divorce-court judge and, while he did not try the case, he did not have to try the case," Lott said.

The judge interrupted: "Sir, let me just stop you right there.

"You've made several statements that would leave the impression that you think the judges in Texas are corrupt or subject to influence or bias. That really has nothing to do with this proceeding," the judge said, calling the remarks "offensive."

David McCarthy, who is representing Lott's ex-wife in a separate custody case in Peoria, said he has witnessed several outbursts by Lott during court proceedings, though he said Lott has not directly threatened his ex-wife.

"She's scared to death of him," McCarthy said. "I've kept her out of the courtroom as much as possible. She just thinks the guy is capable of anything."

Brian Webb, a Dallas attorney

who also represented Best, said that Lott seemed to become obsessed with his belief that the system was against him.

"The impression was that everybody's against him and everything is someone else's fault," Webb said. "This is not your basic everyday fellow."

During his television interview yesterday, Lott said he believed that his Tarrant County custody suit was fixed by judges who unfairly sided with his wife.

In April, Lott was indicted on two counts of sexually abusing his son between Oct. 4 and 6, according to court records. The charges stemmed from a weekend visit with his son, he told Channel 8. Lott said he is innocent of the charges.

In May, an Illinois court banned Lott indefinitely from seeing his son until he and the child receive counseling and social workers believe they can benefit from a relationship, records show.

Investigators for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services also have filed court documents alleging that Lott beat his son in August, leaving bruises on the boy's legs, buttocks, left arm and neck.

Lott ex-wife could not be reached yesterday. McCarthy said he had been unable to reach her, although he said Illinois state attorneys had contacted her.

After Lott tried to obtain her address from Tarrant County court records Monday, he phoned a court clerk in Peoria at 9 a.m. yesterday, an hour before the shootings.

Michelle Pratt, a Peoria County court clerk, said Lott threatened her if she did not drop the sexual assault charges against him. She said that Lott had called her several times a day every day in recent weeks.

"He just screamed and screamed and screamed at me about wanting the charges dropped," she said. "And I'm a clerk. I couldn't do any-

thing."

But Lott was quieter when he crossed the downtown Dallas parking lot shared by The Dallas Morning News and WFAA/Channel 8 yesterday afternoon. Tom Lane, a security officer in the parking lot, said he watched Lott, who carried a Glock 9mm automatic in his waistband and a clip, enter the TV news building.

"I noticed him park a white Dodge Caravan on Young Street in front of Channel 8," Lane said.

Lane said that Lott threw what looked like a baseball cap into the car and then headed into the lobby of the building. About 10 minutes later four police cars and two bicycle patrol officers arrived, Lane said.

Minutes later, police, walking in a tight circle around Lott, escorted him from the building, Lane said.

"We didn't realize at the time what this gentleman had been involved in at the time," Lane said.

Lott was taken to the Dallas police station, about five blocks away. In the basement of the police station, a group of reporters flocked to Lott, asking him about the courthouse shootings.

"Can you tell me why you did it?" he was asked.

"Not in 25 words or less," Lott replied.

Residents in Lott's apartment complex in southeast Arlington described him as aloof and rude, a person who stayed to himself.

"He's probably the only guy at this complex who I've never met. This is a friendly apartment complex, but he never talked to anybody," said Donald Hill, 31, a systems engineer who lives across the breezeway.

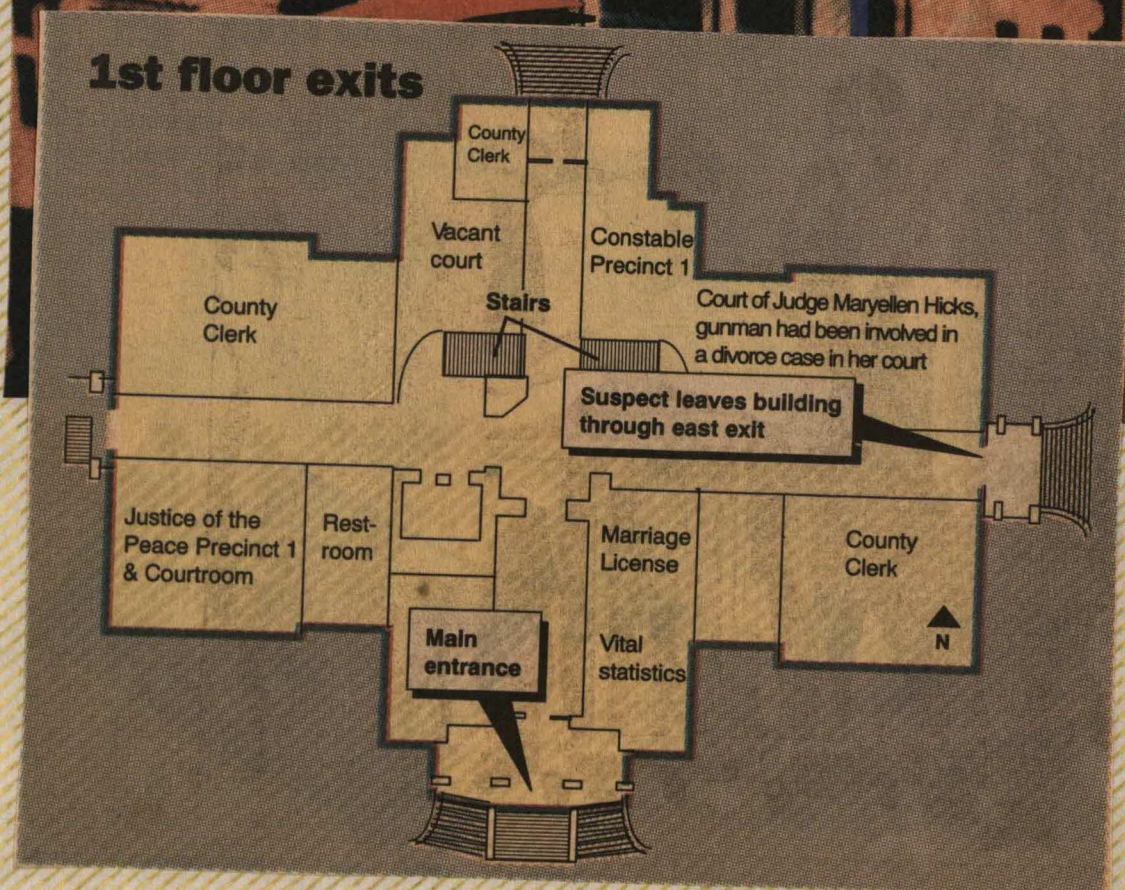
Residents said they never saw Lott in the company of adults but did see him at times with a young boy.

Staff Writers Steve Smith, Kathryn Hopper, John Gonzalez and Karen Potter contributed to this report.



# Tarrant County Courthouse

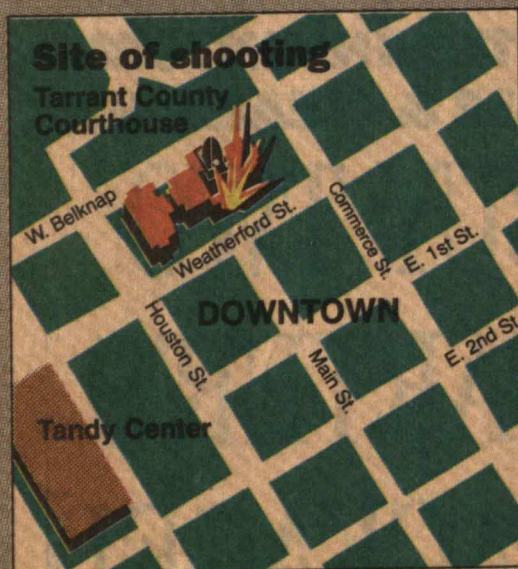
## THE SCENE





## How shooting happened

- Shortly before 9:55 a.m. yesterday, a man rises from a back-row spectator's seat and, without speaking, sprays gunshots from a 9mm handgun in the 2nd Court of Appeals.
- The gunman reloads his weapon and walks out of the courtroom, gunning down an attorney trying to escape the barrage.
- The gunman goes down four flights of stairs and escapes out the east side of the courthouse.
- After a massive manhunt throughout the area, George Lott of Arlington, walks into WFAA-Channel 8 in Dallas at 4:15 p.m. and admits being the gunman who killed two attorneys, seriously injured two jurists and slightly injured another attorney.



## Custody battle led to attacks

BY ERNIE MAKOVY  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A criminal district judge this morning ordered locks and metal detectors installed on her courtroom, a precautionary reaction to yesterday's carnage in which a vengeful father killed two attorneys and wounded two appeals court judges.

County facilities coordinator Gary Kirby said he was served this morning with a court order from Judge Lee Ann Dauphinot demanding the locks on her court today and the metal detectors by Monday. The order also requests locks on doors leading to judges' parking at the Criminal Justice Center.

"We will probably have all this finished today," Kirby said.

Kirby said he expected similar requests from other criminal court judges as well those in the nearby old courthouse, where George Lott of Arlington said he smuggled a gun into the 2nd Court of Appeals and opened fire to avenge the handling

(More on SHOOTINGS on Page 16)



of a bitter child custody case.

Lott surrendered at a Dallas television station about six hours later, saying he had "sinned" and done a "very terrible thing" in slaying the attorneys and wounding two judges and another lawyer.

"It's a horrible thing that I have done today. . . . I've sinned. . . . and I may have failed completely, but somebody needs to look into what's happening to [his 4-year-old son] Neal," Lott told WFAA anchorman Tracy Rowlett in an interview taped before police arrested him.

"So you have to do a very horrible, horrible thing to catch people's attention. It's a terrible thing to do, but that's the way I see the world."

The shootings sparked another round of debate over metal detectors in courtrooms, and County Judge Tom Vandergriff said today he will ask commissioners to review courthouse security at their meeting Tuesday.

"As long as I have been here, I have been told that putting up those detectors has been the responsibility of the judges," he said. "I am trying to get to the bottom of who is responsible for those devices."

Witnesses have identified Lott as the well-dressed gunman who rose from his back-row spectator's seat and, without a word, pulled a 9mm semiautomatic weapon and opened fire on more than a dozen startled attorneys, judges and spectators.

His gun empty after spraying the fourth-floor courtroom, the man reloaded and stalked attorney John Edwards into a hall stairwell, shooting him twice in the back and once in the chest as he tried to evade a hail of bullets.

The killer then climbed down the stairs and escaped out a doorway on the east side of the historic, pink granite courthouse, witnesses said.

A blue coat like the one worn by the gunman was found later in a restroom at the nearby Tandy Center, not far from where police believe he had parked a white van for a quick getaway.

About six hours after the gunshots ricocheted and echoed through the courthouse, creating fear, pandemonium and flights of panic, Lott surrendered at a Dallas TV station and claimed responsibility for the bloody onslaught. He arrived at the station driving a white van and tossing something into the back seat as he stepped out, a WFAA/Channel 8 security guard said.

The guard, a former police officer, searched Lott, confiscating a 9mm Glock semiautomatic pistol and a full ammunition clip concealed in a sock, said Lt. Ralph Swearingin, a Fort Worth police spokesman.

The 45-year-old man was taken into custody by Dallas police and arraigned on one capital murder charge, three charges of deadly assault and one of carrying a weapon in a building where weapons are prohibited. He was transferred to Tarrant County Jail last night with total bail set at \$1,325,000.

At Dallas police headquarters, a group of reporters surrounded Lott, questioning him about the courthouse blood bath.

"Can you tell me why you did it?" one reporter asked.

"Not in 25 words or less," Lott replied.

In his TV interview, Lott said he killed Chris Marshall, 41, chief prosecutor in the appellate section of the Tarrant County district attorney's office; and Dallas attorney Edwards, 33, who was waiting at the court to argue a case later in the morning.

"I basically went into the courtroom, got up and shot apparently five people," Lott said. "One of them [Edwards] started running and I shot him running out of the room."

"I was shooting at the court [the judges] essentially, but other people got in the way. I wish the guy [Edwards] had gone out the other door."

Wounded in the barrage were Judges Clyde Ashworth, 69, and John Hill, 48. Ashworth was in fair condition today at Harris Methodist Fort Worth after surgery to remove a bullet that passed through his right hip and lodged in the abdomen. Hill was in good condition with a gunshot wound in the shoulder.

Also wounded was Assistant District Attorney Steve Conder, 28, who was released after treatment for a graze wound in the chest.

Ironically, Marshall was in the court only to hear his employee Conder, one of the appellate division's newest attorneys, argue his case.

A third judge on the bench, David Farris, was not injured.

Lott, who grew up in Fort Worth, said in the TV interview that he was upset at the judicial system after losing custody of his son in a bitter divorce case now pending before the Texas Supreme Court. The 2nd Court of Appeals had previously upheld a lower court ruling in awarding the boy's custody to Lott's ex-

wife, who is now living in Peoria, Ill.

"He planned it for over a month and gave a statement that his window of opportunity was shrinking," said an investigator who asked not to be identified. "He figured he was going to be arrested" on a child sexual assault charge filed in Peoria by his former wife.

"He's a sick puppy. He's justified it in his own mind. He has no remorse of any kind. He's almost kind of jovial about it," the investigator said.

Fort Worth investigators, however, said that unlike his TV interview, Lott told them he did not want to discuss the shootings anymore.

The investigator said Lott "wanted to wait to see how he came across in his interview on television, to see if he got his point across, before he made any other statements."

"He also said something about a law and said he wanted to represent himself."

Vaughn Bailey, who was appointed as attorney for Lott's child during the divorce proceedings, told police that he saw Lott outside the courtroom minutes before the shooting.

State District Judge Maryellen Hicks, whose office is on the first floor of the courthouse, said she heard the gunshots and later learned that a man who had been involved in a divorce case in her court is suspected of being the gunman.

"I think it was about two years ago. It was approximately a three-week jury trial," said Hicks, who on Monday denied Lott's request for information about his ex-wife's current address in Peoria.

She said Lott's ex-wife, Margo Best, also an attorney, was awarded custody of the couple's son. Best moved to Peoria after the divorce was granted in January 1990.

Lott told WFAA that he had made several trips since then to visit his son.

After one of those trips, his former wife filed charges accusing him of sexually abusing the boy in March, said Peoria Sgt. Phil Benne. He was scheduled to appear in Peo-



ria County Court on July 20 to answer two charges that he sexually abused his son with his hands and a gun, according to indictments.

An hour before the shootings yesterday, Lott called Peoria County Court clerk Michell Pratt, threatening to harm her if charges against him were not dropped.

"He just screamed and screamed and screamed at me about wanting the charges dropped," Pratt said. "And I'm a clerk. I couldn't do anything."

Lott told the Dallas TV station that he is innocent of the Illinois accusations.

Tarrant County Acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter said at an afternoon news conference that the courtroom gunman was "organized" in his actions.

"He simply drew his weapon. He began to fire. He advanced on the bench, then he reloaded and left the building in a calm manner."

Police Chief Thomas Windham said the gunman "simply stood up and began firing and didn't utter any comments whatsoever."

An armed bailiff was in the courtroom at the time, but he did not pull his weapon or try to stop the shooting, a reaction Minter said he can't explain. Minter said detectives were interviewing the bailiff to determine why he did not retaliate.

This morning, however, sources said the bailiff was not in the courtroom when the shooting erupted.

"He was stationed in another court over there and was coming out of the bathroom when this was going on," a source said.

"He did push one attorney back in the bathroom. When he saw the guy shooting, he pulled his gun and followed. He walked around the stairwell and saw [the gunman] shoot Edwards a few times. Then he followed him down the stairs and watched him go out the door."

The bailiff told officials he didn't fire at the gunman because he had stepped into the middle of a shooting spree and didn't know what was going on, a source said.

"He didn't know if the good guy

was shooting the bad guy or the bad guy was shooting the good guy," the source said.

County officials said the shooting erupted about 10 a.m. when a spectator, dressed in a blue coat, brown pants and red tie, pulled a handgun and opened fire in a courtroom that normally does not have metal detectors.

State Rep. Toby Goodman, R-Arlington, whose case had been delayed until later in the morning, said he had left the courtroom and was getting on an elevator when he heard gunfire.

"I started down the elevator and I heard five shots," he said. "Everybody else said it was nine."

"I saw somebody in a blue blazer running down the stairs and out the other end of the building. He had a bag under his arm and blondish hair."

Goodman said that when he was in the court, Hill was seated in the middle, flanked by Farris on the right and Ashworth on the left.

Hicks called the shootings preventable.

"These people didn't have to die today," she said.

Hicks and several other people who work at the courthouse said security is a constant problem in a building where so many emotional issues are decided daily.

The shooting was the second violent episode at the courthouse in three years. In 1989, a former sheriff's deputy and private investigator shot and killed his girlfriend and then killed himself after a lengthy standoff in a judge's office.

Karen Silverberg, an attorney who was on the fourth floor when the shots rang out yesterday, said: "There were two sets of shots. There were five or six shots, a pause and then five or six more. It almost sounded like there were five or six shots and they reloaded."

"There was screaming coming through the stairwell in the center rotunda. We heard people running."

Hal Lattimore, another 2nd Court of Appeals judge, was not involved in hearing the arguments and was in his chamber when the gunman opened fire.

Hearing the gunshots, he came out of his office and went into the courtroom, seeing what he described as five empty 9mm shell casings on the floor.

Lattimore said that Hill rolled under the judges' bench after he was wounded and that Ashworth was lying on a step behind the bench. Marshall was on the west side of the spectator section, lying on the floor.

Dallas attorney Keith Jensen said he was waiting to argue a case in the court when he stepped out to use a nearby restroom and heard five or six shots.

"I started walking back to the bathroom door and just about go to the second door when I saw a bailiff with a hand on his gun saying, 'Get back, get back.'"

Several more shots rang out.

"They clearly came from the stairwell [leading to the fourth floor]. I believe those were the shots that killed the attorney [Edwards]. I was scheduled to argue against [Hill] the next hearing," Jensen said.

### THE 9mm GLOCK 17



#### DATA

- Callber: 9mm X 19mm
- Operation: short recoil, self-loading
- Magazine: 17-round box
- Manufacturer: Glock
- Service: Austrian army





Fort Worth Star-Telegram / CAROLYN BAUM

Deputy facility manager Joe C. Davis displays 32 metal detectors in the basement of the Tarrant County Justice Center. They were not in use yesterday.

# Metal detectors still in storage

## Security devices were ordered last year after 2 other incidents

By Dan Malone and Selwyn Crawford

Fort Worth Bureau of The Dallas Morning News

FORT WORTH — The fatal scenario played out Wednesday in the 2nd Court of Appeals marked the third time in six years that an armed gunman has walked unchallenged into a Tarrant County courthouse and killed.

After each of the previous two incidents, officials called for increased security.

That call finally was answered last year when the county purchased 32 metal detectors from state prison officials.

But instead of being used to guard the courthouse entrances, the devices were in storage Wednesday, officials said.

Joe Davis, Tarrant County manager of construction and incarceration maintenance, said the metal detectors have been held in reserve waiting for judges to request them.

"They're stored in the lower plaza of this building (the Tarrant County Criminal Justice Center)," Mr. Davis said. "I've had no requests from any judges to put them up."

Later Wednesday, however, Mr. Davis said he received his first such request. State District Judge Lee Ann Dauphinot gave officials a court order requesting one of the devices, Mr. Davis said.

Judge Dauphinot said in an interview that county officials had previously told her that it cost "too much money" to hire personnel to operate the devices.



## THE COURTHOUSE SHOOTINGS

# Courthouse officials criticize county's security commitment

BY STAN JONES,  
BILL HANNA  
AND KATHY SANDERS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Locked in a basement storage room at the Tarrant County Justice Center, 32 metal detectors designed to keep guns out of courtrooms are gathering dust.

And while the detectors might not have prevented yesterday's bloody shooting spree in a Tarrant County appellate court, at least one judge contends they highlight an alarming and longstanding lack of concern among the county's leaders over courtroom security.

"We're angry," said Criminal District Judge Lee Ann Dauphinot. "If they had had a metal detector in every courtroom, this probably wouldn't have happened."

Since 1986, four incidents of violence in or around Tarrant County's courtrooms have touched off calls for stepped-up security. In June 1991, a panel of judges, administrators and county employees recommended installing metal detectors at courtroom building entrances, adding roving patrols of security guard and other more minor measures.

None of the key recommendations ever was acted upon, according to members of the panel.

The 32 metal detectors in storage were never intended to be installed, but were available for use at the request of a judge for a specific trial or proceeding, said County Administrator G.K. Maenius and Acting Sheriff Jim Minter.

Deputy County Facilities Manager Joe C. Davis, who oversees the detectors, said they have not been used since they were purchased through a state surplus sale in May 1991.

"I don't think we can afford to lose any more human beings," said Criminal District Judge Sharen Wilson. "This is four people dead in six years. How can we ask people to serve on a jury when we can't even protect ourselves."

In the aftermath of yesterday's shooting in the 2nd Court of Appeals at the old Tarrant County Courthouse, judges, county and law enforcement officials were pointing fingers in several directions while debating whether the bloodshed could have been prevented.

Some county officials acknowledge that more should have been done to address the security panel's 1991 recommendations, while some commission members and judges conceded they may not have pushed strongly enough to get them enacted.

"I think it's all of us," Wilson said. "Some judges had requested additional security, some felt what we had was adequate. I believe the truth of the matter is if the commissioners thought the judges really wanted additional security they would have done something."

Criminal District Court No. 4 Judge Joe Drago III spearheaded the security committee following an incident in 1991 when a defendant held a gun on Judge Don Leonard in his courtroom.

Drago said his court coordinator hand-delivered the report in mid-June of last year to commissioners and talked informally with Commissioner J.D. Johnson about it a few times.

"I got the impression J.D. was very, very interested in it. He wanted to carry the ball" through commissioner's court, the judge said. "I sent it over there and I never heard from the commissioner's court. There was no acknowledgement and it was never on the agenda."

When asked why he didn't pursue the report during the past year, Drago said: "You get busy doing your normal work and it gets out of mind."

"About all I can say is I have been singing the security song since the killing in Billy Mill's courtroom. If they don't [do anything this time] they never will."

In 1986, Domingo "Chico" Valasquez shot and killed a trial defendant in County Criminal Court No. 2 and fired several shots at attorneys and law officers before being wrestled to the ground. In August 1989, a former sheriff's deputy sealed himself in a justice of the peace office, where he shot his girlfriend after a six-hour standoff, then killed himself.

Johnson said yesterday's tragedy underscores the need to revisit the problem of lax security.

"It's real easy to point fingers and find someone to point a finger at," Johnson said. "I think we need to address the problem . . . We're all very concerned and very sad about it. We're trying to do the best we can."

Even if the recommendations had been enacted in full, most county officials agree it is unlikely that metal detectors would ever have been installed at the 2nd Court of Appeals, where yesterday's grisly shooting took place.

Chief County Bailiff Tony Wise said the appellate court is a state-funded court and the county does not provide armed bailiffs or other security.

But Jim Hutcheson, general counsel for the Texas office of court administration, which oversees the appeals courts, said most counties are expected to provide security for appellate courts.

"The statutes say that the counties are supposed to provide housing for the appeals courts," Hutcheson said. "The feeling is that since these courts are usually in the county

courthouse, the security is already there."

The county has 73 full-time bailiffs and 33 part-time bailiffs to police 52 courtrooms in the Tarrant County system, Wise said. That works out to about two bailiffs per court. An additional 11 uniformed officers also are used to provide 24-hour security.



The 11 security officers patrol entire buildings, Wise said, while bailiffs are confined to their respective courtrooms. All bailiffs and security officers carry handguns, and most have recently completed a 40-hour, state-certified "bailiff's school" that prepares them for violent courtroom confrontations, Wise said.

Wise said 11 security guards are not enough. The civil courts building, for instance, has a nighttime guard when the courthouse is locked up, but none during the day, he said.

On Monday, Wise said he sent a memo to Minter requesting two additional security officers, including one to provide daytime security to the civil courts building and the old courthouse.

"I needed someone over in that courthouse over there because I'd had several confrontations in the domestic courts [below the appellate courtroom] . . .," Wise said.

Wise said he approached County Judge Tom Vandergriff in January about adding additional security, but said he was eventually rebuffed.

"I had talked with Judge Vandergriff and had sent letters," Wise said. Wise said Vandergriff later told him that while he was sympathetic to the need, Personnel Director Gerald Wright convinced the judge that additional security wasn't necessary.

The recommendation "just floated out in the breeze," Wise said.

Vandergriff said he never met with Wright. The county judge said he thought Wise's recommendations were something to be taken up in upcoming budget talks for fiscal 1993.

Some courtroom regulars say that's what happened to the commission's recommendations of 1991, which followed an incident earlier that year in which a capital murder defendant attempted to take State District Judge Don Leonard hostage using a handgun he took from the judge's bench.

Attorney Mark Daniel, who sat on the subcommittee, said the recommendations were somewhat vague, despite the valiant effort by Drago.

"I had been very concerned about security for several years and when this happened we decided to sit down and come up with some recommendations," Drago said yesterday. "I wrote up a report and sent it over to the commissioners."

He said so many interests were vying for attention — the judges, the

prosecutors, defense attorneys and court personnel — that few definitive answers could be reached.

"It was like moving a mountain," he said, lauding Drago's initiative in trying to do something.

Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay said the commissioners called for a feasibility study of the panel's recommendations because some of the requests seemed impractical.

"My understanding is that if they were readily achievable, they were to be implemented," she said, though she couldn't recall the specifics.

Bedford attorney Lexa Auld, who is married to Judge Bruce Auld, said attorneys who regularly practice at the courthouse are frustrated with the lack of security.

"Today that could have been any of us because at least one of the people who was shot was just there," Auld said. "I know you can't turn the place into a fortress, but you can certainly do better than nothing at all."

Auld said she was shocked to learn that the county had more than 30 metal detectors in a basement that aren't being used.

"You have got to be kidding," she said. "I don't guess I should be surprised though, considering how this county operates."

The 32 metal detectors were bought for \$1,500 through the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department after the Texas prison system offered them as surplus, according to Purchasing Director Sharon Gunn and Minter.

Although the number purchased corresponds to the number of courtrooms in the 2-year-old Justice Center, Minter said that was not by design. He said the department purchased as many detectors as the prison system had to offer.

"That was the number that TDC had for sale," Minter said.

Chief Bailiff Wise said that an additional bailiff would have to be hired for every detector placed at a courtroom or building entrance. He estimated the annual salary of bailiffs at about \$18,000 a year.

"I think we have to face the reality that those of us in public service, those of us who have to be accessible

to the public, we're vulnerable in many, many instances," Police Chief Thomas Windham said yesterday. "I think to get to a point where we're locking ourselves behind closed doors in an attempt to carry our justice in this country is to me inconceivable."

Staff writers J. Lynn Lunsford and Frank Perkins contributed to this report.



## Earlier recommendations on security went unheeded

BY KATHY SANDERS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — After a judge was held at bay with a gun in the new courthouse last year, a committee of Tarrant County judges, administrators and employees got together to study security problems at county buildings.

The committee compiled a "wish list" of security needs, identifying problems and recommending solutions. After a defendant in Judge Don Leonard's criminal district court got a hold of a gun and held it on the judge. No one was injured.

The recommendations were forwarded to county commissioners, but officials said the report was never acted upon.

The Tarrant County Justice Center Security Committee — which split into four groups to study security in public areas, secure areas, offices and courtrooms and bailiffs — focused primarily on the new courthouse, but security at other county facilities such as the old courthouse was discussed, said chairperson Judge Joe Drago III.

The committee's recommenda-

tions, mostly for the new courthouse, included:

- Placing metal detectors at every building entrance.
- Having an obvious "show of authority" as a deterrent.
- Starting roving patrols in addition to lobby guards. Two officers should be on duty at all times. Roving patrols could check that all doors, maintenance entrances and parking areas are secure.
- Beginning an education program so employees know what to do in an emergency.
- Increasing training for bailiffs, including more gun training and implementing new qualifications for bailiffs.
- Installing hidden panic buttons in several key areas including the counter of the main district clerk's office, bond forfeiture office and appeals office.
- Installing security cameras in stairways.
- Stationing bailiffs on each court floor at all times.
- Remodeling one courtroom with bulletproof-glass areas for high-security cases.



## Sheriff candidates vow to make courthouse security a prime topic

FORT WORTH — When the man walked through the courthouse door yesterday, 35 metal detectors were gathering dust in a basement.

Across the street at the new Criminal Justice Center, 26 high-tech TV security cameras whir in the hallways. But nobody has time to watch them.

Now we know how much security there is in Tarrant County's courtrooms: none. The man couldn't have walked into an airport, a rock concert or even some local schools yesterday.

But in Fort Worth, he walked into the heart of justice unchallenged.

Two other men will never walk out.

When this middle-aged misfit opened fire on the Court of Appeals yesterday, county commissioners across the street were cracking open a thick professional audit report on the Sheriff's Department. In black and white: "General findings. . . Courthouse and county building security needs to be improved and examined." Followed by six pages of suggestions.

If the county brain trust is waiting for voters to anoint a new sheriff, here's a message from both men running for the job:

Put up those metal detectors. Now. . .

**No debate here:** "It needs to be



done tomorrow, in case there's some copycat out there," said Dub Bransom, police chief of suburban River Oaks. He's the Democrat.

"We knew we needed them two years ago, so what are we waiting for?" said David Williams of Watauga, a community-relations officer on leave from the Haltom City police. He's the Republican.

This November, one of them inherits this security Swiss cheese. Both said yesterday that they will post metal detectors at selected courthouse doors and padlock the rest.

"Look, the government's job is to protect the citizens," Bransom said.

"If we can't even protect the government, where's that leave us?"

Six years. Five dead. That's the toll from the County Courthouse, where the only security device is each bailiff's gun.

The new Criminal Justice Center, which cost megabucks, isn't much better. Criminal judges have a "panic button," but it sounds on the

TV panel at a front desk.

The buttons and cameras work. But the officer at that desk is too busy to watch or listen. That's from the audit report — in a specific warning. . .

**Block the path:** Bransom and Williams will disagree on other issues in the sheriff's race. Like gun control: Williams is against any restrictions; Bransom likes competency testing and a required buyers' waiting period.

Yesterday's courthouse events will be a campaign topic for both men. Bransom, 54, will say he's got more experience as a chief and 17-year Fort Worth officer. Williams, 38, will talk about his crisis training.

Each has other ideas to tighten the courthouse. Williams would train guards and bailiffs to "read" dangerous personalities. Bransom would ask civic clubs for money to wire the older courtrooms for panic alarms.

But together, they say: Stop the guns at the door.

"We can get together and get this done," Bransom said. "Politics doesn't have a thing to do with it."

"Judge [Clyde] Ashworth is a Republican, Judge [John] Hill is a Democrat.

"Those bullets got both of them."





Fort Worth Star-Telegram / LARRY C. PRICE

Prosecutor Steve Conder, wounded in the courthouse shootout, is transported by paramedics.



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / GLEN ELLMAN

The shooting left holes in two windows of the Tarrant County Courthouse where a painter was working.



# Missed by minutes

## Painter was on break when bullet went through ladder

BY HOLLACE WEINER  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — General Contractor Dick Stacey will never again gripe when his employees take a breather during the workday.

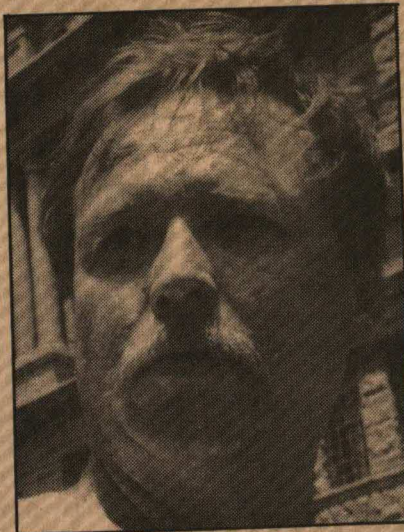
"I'll never complain about taking breaks again," he promised yesterday, relieved that he and his three-man painting crew were alive and well after a bullet, fired inside a courtroom, flew through a window pane and sailed between two rungs of an unoccupied ladder.

Seven minutes earlier, 41-year-old Tim McGinty, one of Stacey's employees, had been standing on the ladder, painting the window trim a historically correct shade of evergreen.

"One of the bullets was, like, through the ladder where I was standing," McGinty said as he stood on the sidewalk. "I got a little shaky. I feel like I'm the luckiest man in Fort Worth, seeing as how I might have been the sixth victim."

Five people were shot, two of them fatally, about 10 a.m. yesterday when a man pulled a 9mm handgun during a session of the 2nd Court of Appeals.

McGinty, who has been painting door and window trim on the 1890s courthouse for the past month, propped up his ladder and set down his paint bucket on a third-floor granite balcony yesterday morning.



Tim McGinty: Painter had a close call.

He didn't know what was going on behind the window, he said, because the curtains were shut.

McGinty said that he normally takes a break at 10 a.m. But yesterday morning, a co-worker operating a cherry picker sent the basket up for him at seven minutes to 10, so he descended.

After relaxing with a can of iced tea in the courthouse basement, he re-entered a hallway and heard shots.

When a few minutes later he opened a door, walked across the courthouse lawn and looked up toward his workplace, he was shaken.

Had he been on the ladder, a bullet would have hit his head or chest, he said. Another bullet would have whizzed through a window pane three feet to his right.

"There's two bullet holes there, which means there's two bullets out there somewhere," he said, motioning toward Main Street.

Realizing that he had an extended break, after consulting with his employer, McGinty phoned his parents — Ann McGinty, a retired teacher's aide, and Gifford McGinty, a retired military man — to tell them he was unhurt. A couple of hours later, he turned up at their Fort Worth home to retrieve a Polaroid camera so he could illustrate on film his close brush with death.

The painter's sister, Barbara McGinty Hardaway, said that her brother was counting his blessings and so was his immediate family.

"Thank God there was paint on his clothes and not blood," she said.

By 2 p.m., the painter was back on the balcony, perched on the ladder, painting the frame surrounding the damaged pane.

"It was sort of like getting back on a horse after you get thrown," the painter explained. "I decided if I dwelled on it too much, I might not want to go up. Besides, since I went up there and finished the work, it also means I don't have to get up there anymore."



# Family court judge says man held grudge over divorce case

BY MICHAEL WHITELEY  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — For state District Judge Maryellen Hicks, Monday's order seemed a routine twist in a tumultuous divorce case that had spanned five years and spilled into courtrooms across two states.

Without benefit of a hearing, the family court judge blocked George D. Lott's insistent efforts to obtain his ex-wife's current address in Peoria, Ill.

It wasn't until hours after a bat-

tery of shots echoed along the corridors of the Tarrant County Courthouse that Hicks linked the 45-year-old lawyer with the man suspected of waging a bloody assault on the Texas 2nd Court of Appeals yesterday — killing two lawyers and wounding two judges.

Hicks spent yesterday afternoon at the hospital with the families of wounded Appeals Court Judges John Hill and Clyde Ashworth.

"I think I'm a pretty lucky person," Hicks said. "I was sitting by

John Hill's bed wondering, 'Why is he here, and I'm not?'"

Shaken, angry and at times in tears, Hicks spent last night under armed guard at a location that she asked not be disclosed. She said she plans to follow through with vacation plans next week and is unsure when she will return to the bench.

She said she was angriest at Tarrant County's lack of attempts to beef up security for its courts. She was most frightened at the chance she could have been a prime target

for Lott's rage.

"I think it's really a tragedy that we haven't any better security in that building or any court building in this nation," Hicks said. "If they say they've been talking about upgrading security, that is a really cheap lie."

Amid confusion over why Lott fired into a panel of appeals court judges who had never considered his prolonged divorce case, Hicks said lawyers in her first-floor courtroom thought they spotted Lott in

the doorway a few minutes before.

No one was able to confirm the sighting, but Hicks said Lott had held a grudge since he represented himself and lost in the three-week divorce trial in January 1990. She says that grudge apparently grew when Lott lost appeals before the Texas 2nd Court of Appeals and the state Supreme Court last year.

Lott was still filing motions in the Tarrant County case and was the subject of criminal sexual abuse charges filed by his ex-wife in Peoria

when the shootings occurred.

She said the jury had given Lott liberal visitation rights when it ruled in 1990. He was allowed visits on the first, third and fifth weekends of each month. Those had been restricted in subsequent Texas court actions, and visitation was finally suspended by an Illinois judge acting on abuse allegations.

Hicks said jurors in the custody case were told that Lott was suffering from paranoia.



# More deaths, and again we

T Thursday P.M., July 2, 1992 / Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Section A, Page 33

## ask: What will come of it?

*On Aug. 10, 1989, we wrote these words in this space. In view of what happened at the courthouse Wednesday, it seems appropriate to repeat them here.*

The woman has a few minutes remaining on her break, so she takes the elevator from an upper floor to a lower floor at the Tarrant County Courthouse. In a matter of seconds, she is back, and colleagues remark about her quick trip. She explains that she had no choice, that she had been ordered off the lower floor. She wonders what all of the commotion is about.

In a little while, sirens are heard and from the courthouse windows, police cars, ambulances and fire trucks can be seen arriving. Then TV news helicopters begin to circle the building.

The word comes. The building must be evacuated. There is a hostage situation. Quietly and quickly, we move out.

Outside, a county worker we've come to know as being securely — and accurately — connected to the courthouse grapevine supplies the details: The name of the hostage taker, the name of the one held hostage, the fact that the children of the one held hostage are there within view, the specific location of where the drama is unfolding.

Police begin to secure the perimeter. One by one, black-clad SWAT team members arrive, pull high-powered weapons from their vehicle trunks and back seats and move into place on, in and about the courthouse.

The police chief is there, in full dress uniform, greeting an officer here, an officer there with a handshake, ready for whatever awaits.

The courthouse crowd watches, murmuring, wondering — wondering whether they will get back inside before the end of the work day; wondering, some of them, anyhow,

about the cash and checks they had had to leave behind and unsecured when the order came to vacate the building without delay; wondering how they might get home and into their homes because they had left personal possessions, including car and house keys, inside.

Someone rushes building blueprints into the courthouse. A television set is brought over.

A county commissioner is summoned by a county executive. Calls go out for a former county commissioner because he knows the hostage taker and some believe he might be able to help.

With streets blocked, with downtown workers trying to go and those who have heard of the hostage situation on the broadcast news trying to come to the scene, traffic is impossibly snarled.

Hamburgers are brought in.

A judge happens by, shakes his head at the ever-present hostility at the courthouse and talks about his security worries, about planning to have a metal shield installed inside his courtroom bench. We think of the judges who in the past have said or intimated they keep guns handy because of the possibility of violence.

A thought occurs: Only hours ago at lunch we had crossed paths with the peace justice in whose courtroom the hostage situation is taking

place, and he had talked about how he still relishes the job, about how he'll probably seek re-election. We wonder if he now has changed his mind.

Almost ominously, someone mentions this is the anniversary of the UT-Austin tower shootings.

The sun begins to bed down for the night. And as we stand in the courthouse shadows, we think it has all of the makings of being a long one.

But before the 10 o'clock news signs on, it abruptly, violently ends. A man and a woman are dead. Children are orphaned.

And criticisms commence.

Early the next morning, we are at the courthouse again. It is somber, subdued. Flowers mark the place of the previous evening's tragedy. A note says the courtroom where hours earlier so much attention was focused will be closed for a while. The flag outside is at half mast.

Inevitably, we hear the talk about whether courthouse security could be improved. There are those who would seem to say that you could empty the county treasury to pay for security measures and those bent upon violence still would find a way around those measures. There are those who would say, "maybe so," but some security strengthening still is possible and that it should be done.

Later, we sit in a meeting of county officials and watch and listen as a committee is formed to look into the courthouse security matter.

Our thoughts slip back to a short three years ago when we were on the telephone to a county official and he interrupted the conversation to say he had just been told there had been a shooting in a courtroom. One died. One was injured. A hue and cry went up for better courthouse security, as it has before. But not much was done.

The flag at the courthouse is at full mast again. The flowers on the peace justice's courtroom door are gone. The place where it happened is returning to normalcy.

The tragedy of the moment is beginning to slip into memory.

But the controversy and the difference of opinion and the claimed wrongdoing that are the reason for the courts and the courthouse being there and that incessantly raise the spectre of violent outbursts — and sometimes spawn them, each time renewing questions about courthouse security — will go on.

We think about that, and we think about what we have seen and heard in these horrifying hours. So we wonder what, when all is said and done, will have come of it all?

Roger Summers is a *Star-Telegram* columnist and editorial writer.



## Editorials/Opinions

# Never again

## Courthouse safety must be No. 1 priority

And so it has happened.

Again.

Just as it has happened before.

And before that.

And before that.

Just as it must not happen again.

Ever.

Violence strolled unnoticed, unchecked, undetected into the Tarrant County Courthouse yesterday, found sneaky opportunity among the decorum there, exploded, snuffed out cherished lives, inflicted serious wounds.

And it caused those there — employees, judges, attorneys, spectators — once more to have heightened reason, as one put it, to learn to live with apprehension, if not fear.

So what are we going to do about it?

What are we, after so many start and stop attempts, at long last going to do about it?

How much bloodshed, how many deaths, how much hurt, how many guns, how many horrific incidents, how many explosive outbursts will it take before something finally is done?

And what can be done?

We had better find out. And we had better find out now because we have, after all, had more than mere warning shots.

In the aftermath of past violent outbursts at the courthouse has come a few attempts at corrective action — a study committee here, installation of some pro-

tective devices there — but that is obviously not enough.

And, now, as before, have come expressions that no matter what security steps are taken, not all potential violence at the courthouse can be checked.

Maybe not. But that must be the goal.

And anyone in authority at the courthouse not willing to pursue that goal with vigor — indeed with expectations of success — had best just move on. And do it now.

Let Wednesday, July 1, 1992, be remembered as the day those at the courthouse — the sheriff's department, Commissioners Court, judges, others — finally got deadly serious about doing what should have been done too many violent outbursts ago.

Let that effort begin in earnest the first thing this morning.

Before the first phone call.

Before the start of routine business.

Before coffee.

Give it top priority.

Recognize that it is far more important than budgets, buildings, road building, anything.

Focus on it the necessary thought, research, money, action, commitment.

And, this time, don't even think of stopping until the job is done and done the best it can be done.

Without that, any next time will be unacceptable and inexcusable.



# Silent suspect wants tape to tell tale

BY KATHY SANDERS  
AND STEFANI GAMMAGE  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — George Douglas Lott, a day after telling thousands of TV viewers that he is responsible for Wednesday's blood bath at the old Tarrant County Courthouse, told investigators he will not talk until he sees if he got his point across in the broadcast, officials said yesterday.

Lott, who said he is angry about the way

Texas judges handled his child custody case, is accused of killing two attorneys and wounding two judges and another attorney in the midmorning shooting spree in the 2nd Court of Appeals.

The attack prompted at least one district judge yesterday to order locks and metal detectors installed in her courtroom and three other judges to request them.

County Commissioner Marti VanRa-  
(More on KILLING on Page 16)

venswaay said yesterday that the issue of courthouse security will be placed on the commissioners' agenda next week.

County employees will be using hand-held metal detectors Monday until permanent ones can be installed, county officials said.

County officials also said they were investigating how court bailiffs responded to the shooting.

Police Sgt. Paul Kratz said yesterday that there no bailiff was in the fourth-floor courtroom when the shooting broke out.

However, sources said that a bailiff, who had been in a nearby wash-room when the shooting started, followed the gunman down the stairwell and saw him shoot one of his five victims.

The bailiff told investigators that he did not fire his gun because he was uncertain which person was the attacker, sources said.

"He didn't know if the good guy was shooting the bad guy or the bad guy was shooting the good guy," a source said.

Lott remained in the Tarrant County Justice Center charged with capital murder, three counts of deadly assault on a court participant and a count of possession of a firearm in places where weapons are prohibited. His bail totals \$1,225,000. He is being held without bail on the capital murder charge.

An investigator in the case said Lott will not talk to police about the shooting spree.

"He wanted to wait to see how he came across in his interview on television, to see if he got his point across before he made any other statements," said an investigator who asked not to be identified.

Investigators subpoenaed the 20-minute taped interview with the 45-year-old Lott and TV station WFAA/Channel 8's Tracy Rowlett, aired in its entirety Wednesday. The station turned it over.

Lott had arrived at the Dallas station about six hours after the 10 a.m. shooting. He told the receptionist he was the man who did the shooting, said he wanted to talk to Rowlett and handed his gun over to station officials.

During the taping, Lott said he was aiming for the judges. The shootings, he said, were supposed to draw attention to his problems with the court system that he believed failed him in a child custody dispute.

His son, Neal, now 4, lives with Lott's ex-wife in Peoria, Ill.

Investigators said Lott had planned the attack for more than a month, having bought a 9mm Glock semiautomatic pistol two months ago. They said he believed he was going to be arrested on a child sexual assault charge involving his son and filed by Lott's ex-wife.

Dallas police arrested Lott at the TV station. Fort Worth police transported the Arlington man back to

the Police Department, where he was unwilling to give them a statement, sources said.

Acting Tarrant County Chief Deputy Jim Minter said yesterday that all nine witnesses picked Lott out of a lineup as the gunman.

"Some saw him sitting outside the courtroom, some saw him in the courtroom committing the crime and others saw him fleeing the courthouse," Minter said.

Killed in the attack were Chris Marshall, 41, chief prosecutor in the appellate section of the district attorney's office; and Dallas attorney John Edwards, 33, who was in Fort Worth to argue a case later in the morning before the 2nd Court of Appeals.

The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office said yesterday that Marshall was killed by a gunshot wound in the face and neck and a gunshot wound in the back. Edwards died of a gunshot wound in the back. Minter said Edwards was hit seven times.

Also shot in the attack were visiting Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69, and 2nd Court of Appeals Judge John Hill, 48. They were in fair condition yesterday at Harris Methodist Fort Worth.

Ashworth was shot in the right buttock and the bullet lodged in his abdomen, officials said, and Hill was shot in the shoulder. Steve Conder, 28, an assistant district attorney, suffered a graze to the shoulder and was released after he was treated.

Wednesday, after a tip from an attorney who represented Lott's son in a bitter custody dispute, witnesses identified Lott from photographs as the gunman who stood up as the appellate court was hearing its second case of the day and, without a word, began firing on judges, attorneys and spectators.

After sitting on a bench outside the courtroom for about five minutes, the gunman went inside the courtroom, sat in the back for a cou-

ple of minutes and then stood up and fired two to three shots, investigators said.

He then walked down the center aisle firing until he ran out of bullets, paused long enough to reload and began shooting again.

An investigator said yesterday that Edwards was shot as he fled from the courtroom. Like others, when the shooting began, Edwards hit the floor but jumped over benches to get out the door when the gunman paused to reload, the investigator said.



Witnesses said the gunman pursued Edwards to the stairway, shooting him at least twice in the back.

As the workday wound to an close yesterday, Minter opened the doors of the pink granite building to reveal the courtroom and the corridors where the previous day's events were played out.

"I think the public needs to be aware of the violence happening in our community," he said.

About two dozen chalk-drawn circles dotted the carpet, walls, benches and window shutters in the fourth-floor Court of Appeals — marking where bullet holes or spent casings were found.

A bloodstain on the green carpet in the third row is a reminder of where Marshall was killed. Three circled bullet holes on the rear wall show where the gunman aimed his weapon at Edwards, Minter said. Bullets also pierced the windows on the south wall behind the judge's bench and scarred the wooden platform itself.

Outside, several chalk circles line the stairwell where Edwards' body was found and dot the walls where bullets struck.

"I don't know if it could have been prevented or not," Minter said. "I'd like to think it couldn't happen again."

The shootings — and a spurt of threats called in to state judges in the county — have prompted vows from county officials to delve into security problems in county buildings.

The county already has in storage 32 metal detectors bought from the state, and county employees began assembling them yesterday.

"As long as I have been here, I have been told that putting up those detectors has been the responsibility of the judges," said County Judge Tom Vandergriff, who took office in January 1991. "I am trying to get to the bottom of who is responsible for those devices."

One judge, Criminal District Judge Lee Ann Dauphinot, issued a court order yesterday morning requiring county workers to install a metal detector in her courtroom and locks on doors.

County facilities coordinator Gary Kirby said the work in Dauphinot's court was completed yesterday.

Three other judges have also requested that the metal detectors be installed, Kirby said.

The shooting has also drawn attention to the county's staff of 73 full-time and 33 part-time bailiffs.

Lt. Pat Burns of the sheriff's internal affairs division said an investigation is under way to determine how each of the courthouse bailiffs reacted during the shooting.

Minter said yesterday that there was not an armed bailiff in the courtroom, but there was one in a nearby washroom.

"He did draw his weapon. He did not fire because he was not sure he could fire safely or if the man was a police officer or not," Minter said.

Another source said: "He did push one attorney back in the bathroom. When he saw the guy shooting, he pulled his gun and followed. He walked around the stairwell and saw the gunman shoot Edwards a few times. Then he followed him down the stairs and watched him go out the door."

Staff writers Frank Perkins, Bill Hanna and Stan Jones contribute to this report.

## County officials move to beef up security

BY BILL HANNA  
AND FRANK PERKINS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — In the aftermath of Wednesday's courthouse shooting spree that left two attorneys dead and two judges and another attorney wounded, Tarrant County officials agreed yesterday to buy hand-held metal detectors to increase security at all downtown Fort Worth county buildings.

County Judge Tom Vandergriff said he wants stepped-up security at every Tarrant

(More on SECURITY on Page 17)

■ **Tarrant bailiffs:** Officials are taking another look at training. . . . . PAGE 17A

County building "regardless of the cost."

"Personally, I would like to see metal detectors in use in every one of our buildings at once," Vandergriff said yesterday.

He met with County Administrator G.K. Maenius, County Facilities Director Gary Kirby and Chief Bailiff Tony Wise yesterday morning and authorized spending up to \$10,000 for hand-held detectors.

Officials will decide during the weekend whether the detectors will be handed out to each judge or whether they will be used at courthouse entrances.

Calls for safer courtrooms came as two district judges received a death threat yesterday from a phone caller who told a bailiff that two gunmen "were going to get" the judges. The caller gave no further details.

As of late yesterday afternoon, four judges had requested walk-through metal detectors in front of their courtrooms, Kirby said.

The four are Criminal District Court Judges Lee Ann Dauphinot and Bill Burdock, 322nd Civil District Court Judge Frank Sullivan and County Criminal Court Judge Michael D. Mitchell.

County employees began assembling the 32 detectors in the basement of the Tarrant County Justice Center but discovered that only two of the nine they were able to put together yesterday worked.

"We knew when we bought them that some wouldn't work, since they were bought at surplus, and had planned to use them for spare parts," Kirby said. "At the price we were able to get them from the state, we had to take what they gave us."

The county bought the detectors last year at a state auction for a total of \$1,500.

County officials' quick response received a mixed reaction from Tarrant County judges, who said it was encouraging but not enough to prevent a repeat of Wednesday's bloodshed.



"As long as they're not pulling bailiffs out of the courtroom to operate these hand-helds, it's a step in the right direction," said Dauphinot, an outspoken critic of courthouse security.

"But the most efficient way is to go with walk-through detectors and then have hand-helds as backups."

Sullivan, a family court judge, said use of metal detectors at the entrances is the only thing that could have prevented Wednesday's shooting.

"Obviously, he wouldn't have been able to walk in there with a 9-millimeter gun if they had been at the entrance to the courthouse," he said. "We've gone through these shootings four times in six years and the answer to making changes is always economics. I don't know what it would take to get them to install metal detectors, but hopefully this is it."

Increased security was a fixture around many courtrooms yesterday as bailiffs escorted judges to their cars. Sullivan said the uproar after the shooting shows that more security is needed.

"In the past hour and a half, we have just about had every nut in town calling up and threatening judges," he said. "It shows we need to make this place safer."

Meanwhile, county purchasers were preparing emergency orders to buy 60 to 70 hand-held metal detectors at \$162 each.

The hand-held detectors should be in use Monday.

"The company is in Kentucky; we can get one-day delivery," said Sharon Gunn, the county purchasing agent.

State law allows the county to spend up to \$10,000 in an emergency without approval from the Commissioners Court. Vandergriff said he is sure that commissioners will have no problem with the emergency purchase.

Commissioners agreed with the emergency purchase.

"I can't think of anything better to do than to purchase those hand-held detectors immediately and to take what steps we can to insure the workers' and citizens' safety in our public buildings," Commissioner Marti VanRavenswaay said.

Commissioner J.D. Johnson also supported the move.

"I'm for anything that will protect the citizens of Tarrant County," he said.

Commissioners Dionne Bagsby and Bob Hampton were out of town and unavailable for comment.

## As shock of bloody spree subsides, inquiries begin







Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JERRY HOEFER

**Emergency personnel lead a wounded man at the Tarrant County Courthouse to an ambulance.**



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / Friday, July 3, 1992

## Lott's father blames Texas law, system for day of violence

BY HOLLACE WEINER  
AND KATHRYN HOPPER  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Doug Lott, the father of the man who announced on television Wednesday that he shot two judges and three lawyers at the Tarrant County Courthouse, says he understands why his son snapped.

"Texas law stinks," said Lott, who, like his son George, has been forbidden by the family law courts from visiting 4-year-old Neal Lott, George Lott's son.

"Of course, the shootings are very shocking to me . . . and I don't approve of what George did at all," added Doug Lott, 68, an engineering contractor and West Point graduate who retired to Florida last month. "But I certainly know why he did it.

"I've seen the thing unfold, and the way my son was treated by this whole judicial system is just so bad," the father said. "It doesn't surprise me he snapped."

Doug Lott, in a telephone interview from Sun City Center, Fla., said he has no immediate plans to return to Fort Worth.

"I don't know what good I can do there," he said. "My son and I were not on the best of terms."

Instead, he will wait for advice from his ex-wife, Nancy, who lives in Fort Worth and who is closer to their son. She was on a Christian Fellowship cruise to Alaska this week, a trip she took with their daughter and her two children, he said.

Doug Lott said he and his wife divorced about five years ago after raising their two children in Fort Worth's South Hills, Colonial Country Club and Tanglewood neighborhoods. Their son, George, was born June 7, 1947, in Okmulgee, Okla., where his grandparents resided and where his mother was staying while his father was stationed with the Army in Italy, family and friends said.



George Lott: Acted as his own attorney in divorce

During his father's next assignment in Illinois, the entire family contracted polio, Doug Lott recalled, and he retired from the Army on disability. In the early 1950s, the family moved to Fort Worth, where Doug Lott's brother and sister-in-law reside. They would not comment yesterday.

George Lott attended Bluebonnet Elementary, McLean Junior High and Paschal High schools before transferring to Allen Military Academy, a school in Bryan where he graduated in 1966, according to family and school officials.

He enrolled at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, but interrupted his studies to join the Army, his father said, and served in Korea during the Vietnam War. After his discharge, he returned to SMU, earning a business degree in 1978. The same year, he entered the University of Texas Law School in Austin.

It was in Austin that he met and married Margo Livesay, said her father, Gene Livesay of Fort Worth, who did not attend the 1985 wedding. It was her second marriage.

"I have to be very honest," Livesay said. "We haven't had all that much contact with them since they got married."

Nor had Doug Lott.

He said one of the last times he saw his son and his grandson was more than a year ago during an outing at Lenny's, a '50s hamburger shop on Cherry Lane in White Settlement where the trio ate burgers and horsed around at a pinball machine.

"The little boy was playing with the machine, even though it wasn't on," the grandfather recalled. "George was one of the most loving

fathers I've seen in my life. I was only with them a couple times. They just seemed to be ideal. And it's just a crying shame that the court wouldn't allow him to have parental rights."

In 1987, George Lott's wife filed for divorce. She won custody of their son in 1990 after a three-week jury trial presided over by state District Judge Maryellen Hicks.

George Lott went through three lawyers before eventually deciding to represent himself in the case, according to Douglas Wright, the ex-wife's attorney. Lott, who received his law degree and license in 1981, had stopped paying his dues to the Texas Bar Association four years earlier.

He was awarded visitation rights and moved to a southeast Arlington apartment to be closer to his son, who was living nearby with his ex-wife.

Wright said that Lott said he was independently wealthy thanks to a \$500,000 inheritance and that he had worked briefly as a computer programmer.

Margo Livesay later moved to Illinois to pursue a new job, her father said yesterday.

While living there, she accused Lott of physically and sexually abusing their son. In 1991, an Illinois court awarded a protective order prohibiting Lott from contacting his son. He was indicted in April on two charges of sexual abuse and was to face the charges this month in Illinois.

"His wife, as I understand it, trumped up some kind of charge that he was molesting the child," Lott's father said. "So he wasn't going to be able to see the child anymore. They were threatening to throw him into jail there. . . . I know the feeling between George and his son and there couldn't possibly be any truth to that charge."



# Victims and their relatives express fear and sadness

Doug Lott said that his son became irate and obsessed over the accusations and that their relationships suffered.

Wright also said that George Lott was bitterly angry when he lost custody of his son.

He said Lott believed that the decision was influenced by Wright's father, retired Judge Robert Wright of the 325th District Court.

Douglas Wright said that when court-appointed psychologist Harry Baker of Fort Worth delivered a damaging psychological profile on Lott to the court during the divorce, Lott asked for a mistrial. He said the analysis was biased because Baker depended on Robert Wright for his livelihood. Baker declined yesterday to comment.

Douglas Wright said that when Hicks denied Lott's requests for a new trial, Lott became vicious, believing that he was a victim of courthouse politics.

BY LISA BLACK  
AND JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Judge John Hill, 48, believed that he was going to die as he lay quietly under his bench waiting what seemed like an eternity before the last shot.

That was the picture his wife, Lynda Hill, 47, drew of the Tarrant County courtroom scene that left two dead and three injured Wednesday after a gunman opened fire.

"I really think he thought he was dying, and that he was going over in his own mind, kind of, the loose ends of his life," Lynda Hill said during a news conference yesterday at Harris Methodist Fort Worth.

John Hill and Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69, remained in fair condition yesterday at the hospital.

Attorneys Chris Marshall, 41, and John Edwards, 33, died in the shootings in the 2nd Court of Appeals.

A third attorney, Steven Conder, 28, of Fort Worth was treated at John Peter Smith Hospital for a graze wound on his right shoulder.

Still appearing shaken and nervous, Conder said yesterday afternoon that he did not want to talk. "I'm not feeling very well and I don't want to talk to anybody," he said through a crack in his doorway.

Lynda Hill said her husband of 26 years told her "there were shots, and then there was a pause, and then there were shots again."

"And it just seemed like it was going on and on forever."

She quoted him as saying, "I sat there and I . . . was thinking about the family members and how they

[would be] cared for."

"He said, 'Well, at least they have a good retirement program and benefits program for the judges' wives,'" Lynda Hill said.

She said her husband, who was presiding with Ashworth and Judge David Farris on the three-judge panel, never saw the gunman but heard an explosion and felt pain.

"He immediately ducked under the bench and stayed at the very back. He knew not to say anything. Even when it was going on, he understood that he needed to be very, very quiet," Lynda Hill said.

She said her husband is still too weak and heavily medicated to talk about the shootings. She said she's also numb with shock and sadness for the families of the other victims.

She joined a chorus of demands for tighter security at the courthouse.

"I really feel like some thoughtful consideration needs to be given to go about making sure the people working in the courthouse and the people there doing business are safe," she said.

She said she watched George Douglas Lott, the man who confessed to the shootings, on television and felt no sympathy.

"I have seen people on TV that were just so obviously out of their mind that you knew that they were not responsible," Lynda Hill said. "And so you had sympathy for their condition."

"And I didn't feel that way about him."

She added: "I probably should have felt angry, but it was just so incomprehensible to me that I don't think anger is what I really felt."

A bullet entered and exited John Hill's shoulder, leaving him with a bruised shoulder blade, cracked ribs and punctured lung.

Ashworth suffered a bullet wound in the hip.

His family issued a brief written statement: "Judge Ashworth is in fair condition, alert and doing well."

"The Ashworth family wishes to thank all of the people who have expressed concern, and remembered them in their thoughts and prayers.

"They are very appreciative of the excellent care provided by the doctors and staff of Harris Hospital —



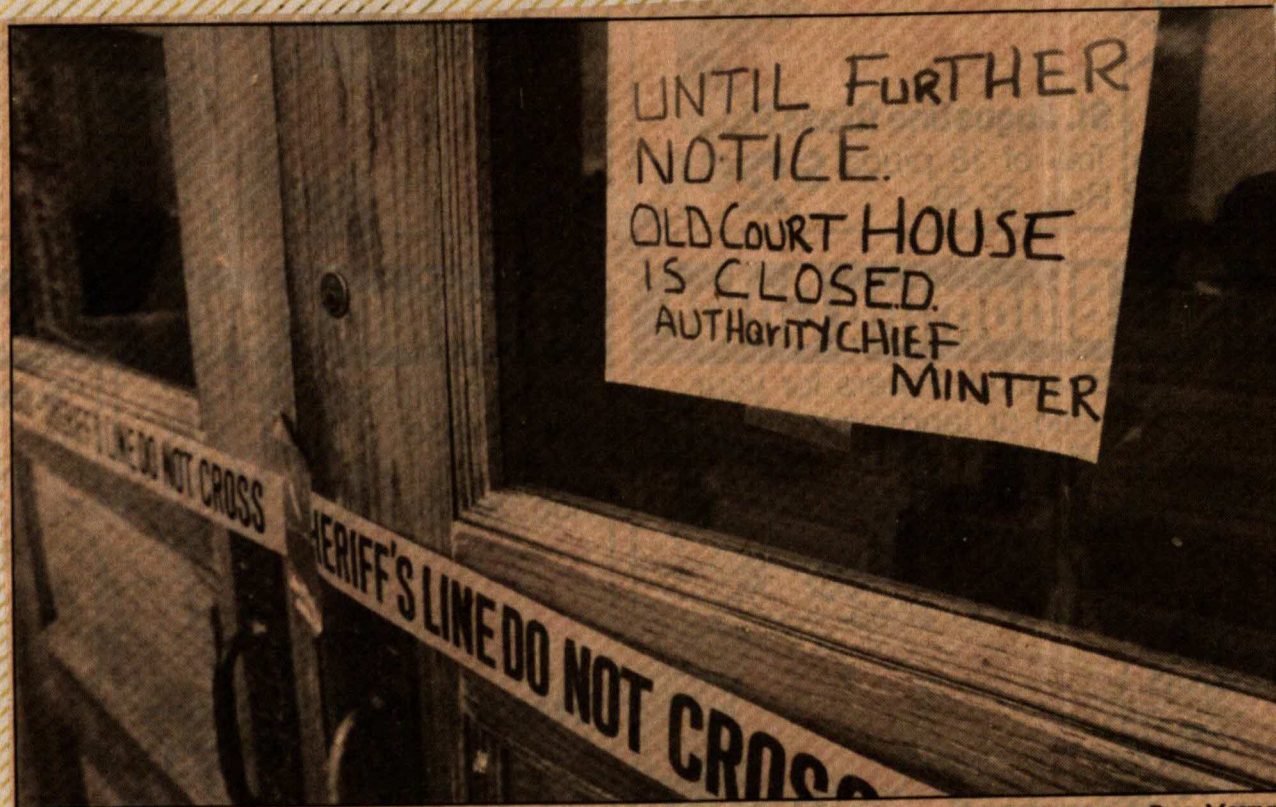
and extend their heartfelt sympathy to the Marshall and Edwards families and friends."

Lynda Hill said the only time she and her husband had worried about courthouse security was when John Hill served as a domestic-relations judge in the 322nd District Court from 1978 to 1983.

Emotions always run high in cases such as child custody and divorce, she said.

"When you go into public service, it's a calculated risk," she said, adding, "I think that he thought that he had minimized his risks when [former Governor] Mark White appointed him to the Court of Appeals.

"I mean, you're on the front lines when you're in a domestic-relations court."



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

A "closed" sign was posted on the courthouse door after the bloody spree Wednesday. Hand-held metal detectors should be in use at the building Monday, officials said.



# TV station gives investigators tape of interview

BY JERI CLAUSING  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The taped TV interview in which George Lott confessed to spraying a state appeals courtroom with bullets, killing two and wounding three, was turned over to investigators yesterday and will likely be used in any prosecution of Lott, officials said.

Lott, a 45-year-old Arlington attorney distraught over his divorce, turned himself in to WFAA/Channel 8 in Dallas about six hours after the Wednesday morning shooting at the Tarrant County Courthouse. He calmly surrendered a weapon and then sat down to tell news anchor Tracy Rowlett why he had done "a very horrible thing."

Channel 8 news operations manager Craig Harper said the station surrendered the tape after receiving a subpoena yesterday morning from Tarrant County law

enforcement officials. The station had aired the entire interview Wednesday evening.

Fort Worth police Sgt. Paul Kratz confirmed that the tape had been received and said that it likely will be used against Lott at trial.

"That is a determination for the district attorney to make, but we do consider it to be evidence at this time," he said.

Kratz and a Dallas police spokesman, Sgt. Jim Chandler, said Channel 8 handled the situation professionally and has been fully cooperative.

Lott was not under arrest and was not making the televised confession to law officers, the officers said. Therefore, laws requiring suspects to be advised of their rights before making statements should not apply, they said.

"Generally, if a suspect talks to someone other than a law enforcement officer, that can be used in

trial," Chandler said.

"It was broadcast to the public, so it would probably be able to be used in court, much the same as the Rodney King tape was used in Los Angeles."

Chandler was referring to a nationally broadcast amateur videotape that was used to indict four Los Angeles police officers in the beating of a motorist.

Lott walked into the Channel 8 offices about 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, telling the receptionist that he was "the man who shot the judges" and that he wanted to speak with Rowlett, Harper said.

"I went and got John Gudjohnsen, [a photographer], and Jim Willet, who is our assignments manager and who is a former police officer, and Tracy Rowlett, and the four of us walked up to the front of the building," Harper said. "John Gudjohnsen asked if he was armed, he pulled up his shirt, and

there his Glock [9mm semiautomatic gun] was."

Harper said Willet took the loaded gun, extra clips of ammunition and a knife Lott revealed under his pants leg, and then led him to an office to begin the interview. Once they were sure Lott was secured and unarmed, Harper said, he called 911 and the Fort Worth police.

"He said he wanted to turn himself in," Rowlett said. "It sounds pretentious, I know, but my first thought was, this is a story that we need to cover. It was only later that I began to think that there he was, fully armed, and he had just killed people. When we turned that corner, he could have killed us, too."

Prosecutor Chris Marshall and Dallas attorney John Edwards were killed in the courthouse attack. Judges John Hill and Clyde Ashworth and Assistant District Attorney Steve Conder were in-

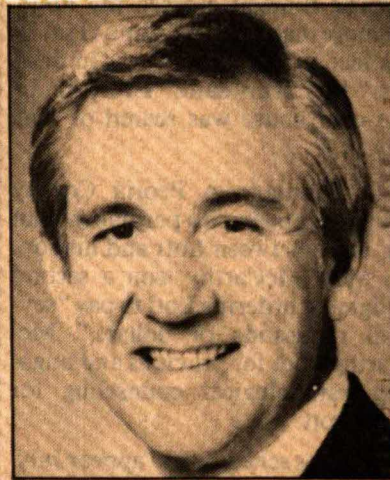
jured.

Harper said Lott was calm at the TV station. "Calm on the outside," Rowlett said, "but you could tell that he was very, very confused. He rambled and had trouble holding onto a thought."

Channel 8 taped a nearly 20-minute interview, and by 4:50 p.m. Lott was in police custody.

The officers had arrived about 20 minutes earlier, but Harper and Chandler said they hung back, deciding how best to handle the arrest. Harper said the station employees never asked that the arrest be delayed until the interview was over.

"They were in no rush to get him," Harper said. "They didn't want to excite him. . . . When the police were convinced that it was time to go in, [station manager Dave] Lane opened the door, followed by one of the sergeants, and asked if the interview was finished



Tracy Rowlett: Says Lott was calm but confused

or not."

At that point, Harper said, Lott stood up and officers arrested him.

Rowlett said: "Nothing quite like this has happened to me before. And I wish the killing would stop so it would never happen. You can quote me on that."

Staff writer Steven Cole Smith contributed to this report.



## COURTHOUSE SHOOTINGS

# Lawyer recalls gunfire and colleague's last morning

BY CHRISTOPHER AVE  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Chris Ewing remembers most the deafening burst of gunfire and the cold glare of the man who pulled the trigger.

"All of a sudden, I heard a tremendously loud noise," said Ewing, a 28-year-old Dallas attorney who arrived 10 minutes early Wednesday for an appearance in Fort Worth's 2nd Court of Appeals.

"I saw the gunman standing, with both of his arms straight in front of him with the gun between them," she recalled yesterday. "As I looked at him, he fired another round straight at the judges.

"He looked so calm, so deliberate

with what he was doing. He just had this steely gaze in his eyes."

For six weeks, Ewing had worked with fellow attorney John Edwards on a motion that the pair were to argue that morning. They hoped to persuade a panel of judges to unseal certain records in a civil case.

Ewing met Edwards and Matt Kaliff, a law student working for the firm this summer, at Edwards' office at the Haynes and Boone law firm. As they loaded into Edwards' car, he asked Ewing to drive.

"John said he had gone to work out early in the morning at the gym just to get the butterflies out," she said. "He had me drive so that he could look over his materials as we

rode over to Fort Worth together. . . . But he didn't look at the materials long. He spent most of the time talking about his sons."

He also apologized for the Christian radio station that came on as Ewing turned the ignition key.

"We were just laughing," Ewing said. "That was so John."

After the threesome arrived in court, they sat on the second row on the left side of the room among the spectators. After another attorney, Daniel Hollifield, began speaking, the gunman stood up and began firing.

"It was like he would aim and shoot and aim and shoot. His firing just kept going," Ewing said. "As I

turned to my right, I noticed that John was already going forward to get down."

Ewing said she glanced back at a gunman squeezing off shot after shot, then, "I hit the deck."

She tried to crawl toward the back of the courtroom.

"But the minute I did, I looked up and saw the gunman again. I knew if I could see him, he could see me," she said. "So I crawled the other direction toward John."

After a few moments the shots stopped, and Ewing heard a sound she described as "clicking."

"I knew he was reloading," she said. "At that point, I really thought, Oh my God, if he's reloading and brought extra ammo, we're all going to die."

"There was no bailiff. There was no security. . . . We were all thinking the same thing: We're all going to be picked off, and there's not one person there to help us."

At that point, Edwards performed what Ewing considers a heroic act. He jumped over the benches and out the door to the hallway, yelling, "Help! Help!" she said.

"I just remember seeing his huge figure leaping over and on top of these pews to get out of the courtroom," Ewing said. "At that point, my immediate thought was, 'Oh thank God, John made it. At least one of us made it out of here.'"

But the gunman followed, trapping Edwards in a stairwell and fatally shooting him before walking down a staircase and out of the courthouse. Ewing said she believes that Edwards may have distracted the gunman from further killing in the courtroom.

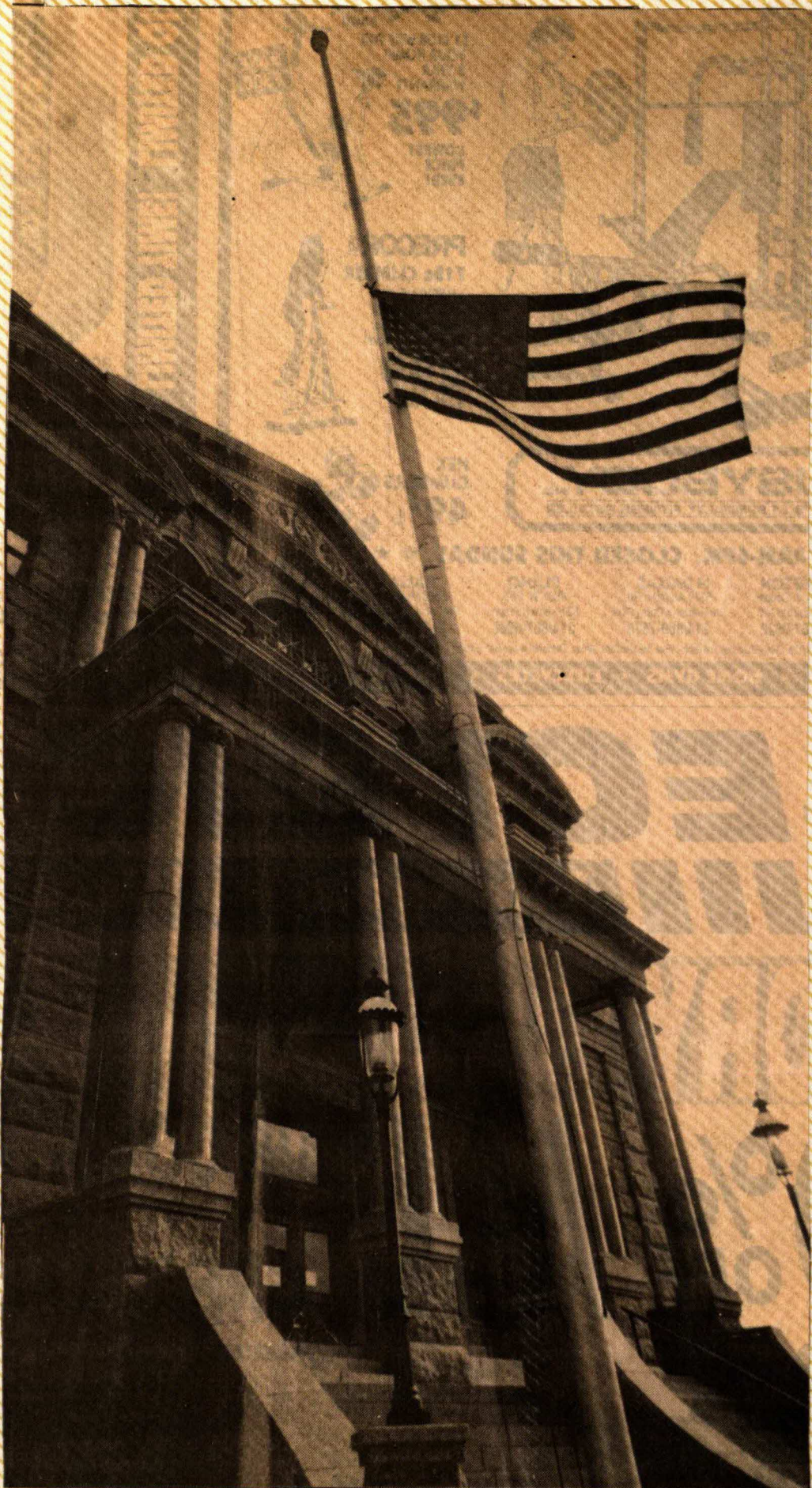
"If John had not done that, my immediate thought was, we'd be dead," she said.

That night she went to Edwards' home to talk with his wife, Martha.

Ewing said she told her "that I felt that John was really a hero."

"I think he really saved our lives. I know that that's what he was trying."





Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

**Courthouse flags at half-staff mark the fourth violent outbreak in or near Tarrant courtrooms since 1986.**



S A T U R D A Y

J U L Y 4 • 1 9 9 2

# Fort Worth

# Star-Telegram

## Day of rage leaves memories and fear

### *Lott's ex-wife in Illinois still worries about attack*

BY MICHAEL WHITELEY  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

PEORIA, Ill. — Citing fears that George Douglas Lott's rage didn't end with his bloody assault on the Texas 2nd Court of Appeals, his ex-wife remained in hiding yesterday and attorneys vowed to use Illinois law to keep Lott in the Tarrant County Jail.

Margo Livesay, speaking through her attorney, David McCarthy, said that she feared Lott would find a way out of the Texas jail and launch an attack on her and their 4-year-old son in Peoria.

Livesay, who filed for divorce in 1987 after less than two years of marriage, went so far as to call the jail yesterday to check on the possibility of her ex-husband's release, McCarthy said.

She has been away from her north Peoria home and has



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / MILTON ADAM

A circle marks the hole where a bullet pierced  
a judge's chair in the 2nd Court of Appeals.



declined to comment since Wednesday's shootings.

"She is deathly afraid of Lott, and she should be," McCarthy said. "She has been completely not up to talking about this. She is very, very distraught."

There was alarm in Peoria yesterday over whether Lott would be able to get out of jail.

In fact, on Thursday, District Judge Sharen Wilson decided that the 45-year-old Lott would be held without bail on the capital murder charge against him. That meant he should not be released from jail even if he were to be able to pay the bail on the other charges against him.

Before Wilson's decision, Lott's bail had been set at \$1.325 million. Assistant State's Attorney Jim Owens said that Tarrant County jailers told him yesterday that the bail had been set on charges of capital murder, deadly assault on a court participant and carrying a weapon in a prohibited place. They also told him, Owens said, that if Lott provided the bail, he would be set free.

County jailers told Sheriff's Department investigators the same thing yesterday morning, one investigator told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

Warden Maj. James Skidmore said that jailers must keep up with a daily flow of new inmates, which can cause confusion. He estimated that 200 inmates are processed daily.

He said, however, that Lott could not have simply been released by the jailers. The release of prisoners with bail of more than \$75,000 can only be approved by either acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter or Deputy Chief John Pempsell, he said.

"If someone were to come down with a million-dollar bond, we would have been making some phone calls," he said.

Lott was to appear July 20 in Peoria County Court to stand trial on charges that he sexually assaulted his son, Neal David Lott, with his hands and a gun during an October 1991 visit at a Peoria motel.

Owens said that he will issue a new arrest warrant for Lott when he does not appear for trial that day — automatically revoking the \$75,000 bond on which he was released from Peoria in April. That, Owens said, will mean that Lott will have to be handed over to Peoria officials after any release from Tarrant County.

Owens said the Texas Department of Health and Human Services questioned Lott in September 1991 in Fort Worth after Neal came home with bruises on his neck, arms, buttocks and scrotum after a visit with Lott.

After a December hearing, Peoria Judge Robert Manning banned Lott from seeing his son without supervision. On May 19 — about a year after Lott began visiting his son in Illinois — the court ordered that he "have no contact" until Lott received child-abuse counseling and his son's therapist decided that Neal was prepared for the visits.

Records filed in Peoria County Court show that Lott saw his son eight times after Livesay moved to

Peoria and stopped following the court's decision that the visits be supervised.

McCarthy said there is no evidence that Lott ever received counseling.

A Texas child-abuse investigator said in October that Lott had rejected allegations that he had beaten his son, saying that the boy fell from a playground ride. But the investigator, Suzanne Gould, also said that Lott had volunteered that he had not sexually molested the boy. She said she never asked.

A source familiar with the investigation last night confirmed that allegations were made that Lott wore robes and used a sword and ropes during sexual encounters with his son.

McCarthy declined to comment on the reports but said that Neal had become increasingly talkative about the encounters during months of psychological therapy.

"The more we got into this, the more that little boy got verbal and demonstrative about the things that have happened," McCarthy said. "He will be undergoing counseling for a very long time."

Livesay's co-workers in the Computer Science Department at Bradley University said yesterday that she waged a frustrating battle to gain court assistance in blocking visitations from the time she started classes for last year's fall semester.

"She has done the best that anybody could do. She saw lawyers, she talked to the state, and the judges ordered her to let him see the boy and to tell the boy to enjoy it," said

Dr. James McAlpin, head of computer science at Bradley.

McAlpin said Livesay continually missed classes to keep court appointments in custody cases in Illinois and Texas. He said that she did not take classes for the summer and probably will not return to the university until next fall.

"But once she arrived, it was sweat and blood the whole time," McAlpin said.

Court officials said that they also feared Lott and were not surprised by the attack at the Tarrant County Courthouse.

Owens, who filed the criminal charges against Lott in March, said he watched Lott during several hearings in the custody case and decided he was dangerous.

"When he stepped into the courthouse, everybody knew it. And they would warn us in advance that he was coming," Owens said. "When you hear about something like this happening involving someone you know, you are usually surprised. No one here was surprised."

On June 4, Lott wrote Owens a bitter letter complaining that the prosecutor had not outlined the evidence against him.

"I will, of course, seek sanctions should you fail to provide me with such . . ." Lott told Owens. "I am not a Peoria homeboy; I am a Christian and not a roman catholic. I never played basketball for Bradley University. I guess you can call my bluff."

Staff writer Richard Dotson contributed to this report.



# County officials taking another look at bailiffs' training

BY STAN JONES  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — They range in age from 39 to 79. Some are peace officers, some are retired teachers or businesspeople with little or no weapons training. The key to safety in the courtroom, they are Tarrant County's bailiffs.

The judges and county law-enforcement officials who place them on the front line in the hostile world of criminal justice say they trust the bailiffs with their lives.

But in light of Wednesday's slaughter at the old Tarrant County Courthouse in which two people were killed and three injured, including one who may have been killed in the presence of a bailiff, county officials are assessing anew whether they are up to the task.

The spotlight may have merit, according to a former chief bailiff and some courthouse officials.

Tarrant County is one of only a handful of counties in Texas that does not require all its court bailiffs to be certified peace officers. As a result, bailiffs hired by the Sheriff's Department or by judges need not have any formal training in courtroom security before they assume their duties.

Lawton Williams, chief county bailiff from 1980 to 1990, said that few of the bailiffs under his command joined the department with prior law-enforcement experience.

"We were lucky enough to get one [a former peace officer] once in awhile, but the majority were never peace officers," he said. "They were gas station operators and meat packing plant employees and the like. That's the way it was; that's not the way it should have been."

Acting Chief Deputy Jim Minter of the Sheriff's Department said yesterday that although many bailiffs are not peace officers, many are licensed jailers with considerable law-enforcement training.

The Sheriff's Department currently has 73 full-time bailiffs and 33 part-time bailiffs to serve 52 courts. In addition, each criminal district court has one or two additional bailiffs who work for the judges.

In Dallas County, only licensed sheriff's deputies with at least 712 hours of law-enforcement training are allowed to serve as bailiffs, said Lt. Larry Forsyth, chief Dallas County bailiff.

"The theory is this. The people that you see committing the violent crimes in the news at night are going to wind up in one place. That's this courthouse," Forsyth said. "There's

no difference in handling them on the street than in the courtroom. They're violent, dangerous people and only trained people should be handling them."

Texas law dictates that only peace officers are allowed to carry weapons in the course of their duties. Minter said that Tarrant County bailiffs who lack law-enforcement certification are allowed to carry handguns by special provision of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures.

Current Chief Bailiff Tony Wise said that virtually all the sheriff's bailiffs have completed a 40-hour bailiff school that teaches them how and when to use their weapons in courtroom emergencies.

Nevertheless, Tarrant County's bailiff system has long been viewed by critics as little more than a retirement home for ex-law enforcement officers or ex-businesspeople looking for a paycheck. Ten of the county's bailiffs are 70 or older and 39 more are at least 60.

Criminal District Judge Joe Drago, who headed a commission that recommended better security training for bailiffs, among other things, in 1990, said that Wednesday's shooting only strengthens the commission's findings.

"I think the perception of the bailiffs being tottering old men is certainly true of the past, but they're getting more fit and younger bailiffs these days," said Drago. "On training? I think maybe we ought to look into it."

Special legislative provisions approved years ago allow criminal court judges in Tarrant County to hire two of the three bailiffs assigned to their courts. Drago said that one of his bailiffs is a retired football player and athletic coach and another is a former security guard for the Bass family of Fort Worth. A third bailiff is supplied by the Sheriff's Department.

Criminal District Judge Lee Ann Dauphinot, who said that she insists on ample security in her courtroom, has sent two of her bailiffs to peace officer school.

Criminal District Judge Sharen Wilson said that her handpicked bailiff has attended the 40-hour bailiff school and that the sheriff's deputy assigned to her court is a former peace officer.

"I've never felt unsafe in my own courtrooms," she said.

Wilson said that in addition to bailiffs, an armed district attorney's investigator is almost always in attendance during courtroom proceedings.



# Court security strong, say officials in Illinois

BY MICHAEL WHITELEY  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

PEORIA, Ill. — Although George Lott's compulsion to serve up his own version of justice might have circumvented the latest in courthouse security, an Illinois prosecutor and administrator say what happened in Tarrant County on Wednesday is less likely to happen here.

At the recently revamped, 5-floor Peoria County Courthouse, the metal detector at the only public entrance could have spotted the 9mm handgun that the assailant smuggled in and used to kill two people and wound three in Fort Worth.

The X-ray machine could have stopped him from passing it through in a briefcase. A computerized combination-lock door could have blocked his entrance to the offices housing judges, juries and clerks.

Had he gotten past all that security anyway, a Peoria County sheriff's deputy monitoring video cameras aimed at every entrance of the building could have watched his retreat.

"I've always been a believer that nothing is foolproof if someone wants to get in," said Sheriff George Shadid Sr. "I would have to say that these situations are always possible

in a society with this much freedom of movement."

Until the shooting Wednesday, the Tarrant County Courthouse stood wide open to visitors, with bailiffs the only security inside courtrooms and no guards or screening devices elsewhere. On Thursday, county officials approved spending up to \$10,000 immediately for hand-held metal detectors.

Shadid and Assistant State's Attorney Jim Owens, who showed off the security system while discussing Lott's case yesterday, say the gunman would have found it difficult to enter the Peoria courthouse and even harder to escape.

Both said they had worried that Lott posed a safety threat during the six months he appeared in court in Illinois to argue for the right to see his son, Neal David Lott.

Safety concerns led to the tighter security at the Peoria courthouse in recent years. Shadid said judges, prosecutors and county officials unanimously agreed three years ago to back proposals primarily meant to keep inmates from mingling with court officials and the public.

Previously, inmates had been driven to the side of the building and escorted onto a public elevator for court appearances.

"We had a very bad situation, and everyone involved agreed we had a serious problem," Shadid said. "We had no problem for getting the support."

The courthouse, revamped a year

ago at a cost of \$11 million, requires attorneys and the public attending civil and criminal cases to pass through a metal detector. The courthouse is the first in Illinois to hold video bail hearings. Judges hear pleadings and set bail as the inmates testify on camera from the county jail's library six miles away, Shadid said.

Judges have a private door to enter the courthouse. And even attorneys are barred from entering the secured area reserved for judges and their staffs.

*"I've always been a believer that nothing is foolproof if someone wants to get in. I would have to say that these situations are always possible in a society with this much freedom of movement."*

— George Shadid Sr.  
Peoria County sheriff



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / PAUL MOSELEY

The flag flies at half-staff at the Tarrant County Courthouse, where weak security has been blamed in Wednesday's shootings.



# Injured judge prayed for life as death stalked courtroom

BY JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Judge John Hill, who survived Wednesday's gunfire in a Tarrant County courtroom, said yesterday that he closed his eyes and prayed as the gunman triggered terror and death in his courtroom.

"I did pray for everybody who was there. I prayed for myself and I prayed for the other people," Hill said in an emotional interview at his Fort Worth home, soon after his release from Harris Methodist Fort Worth hospital.

33, and Chris Marshall, 41, head of the appellate division of the Tarrant County district attorney's office, were slain. Edwards was buried yesterday in Waco after a memorial service in Dallas. Services for Marshall will be Monday in Fort Worth.

Another assistant district attorney, Steven Conder, was grazed by a bullet in the attack.

George D. Lott, who said in a TV interview that he had planned and carried out the shooting spree to draw attention to his problems in a child custody case, remained in a single-person, maximum-security cell at the Tarrant County Jail.

Hill, sitting in his living room with his wife, Lynda, said he did not want to share his thoughts about the 45-year-old Lott. But in a halting voice, he gave a brief account of what occurred.

"I heard what I thought was an explosion. And then, when I felt the sting in my right shoulder and realized I'd been shot, I just went under the desk, the bench, and just stayed there until it was all over," he said. "There was a lot of shooting and a lot of yelling."

Asked if he thought he was going to die as he lay under the bench, his eyes closed, Hill said: "I didn't know."

"I started thinking about the fact that I didn't know, and [about] the shock it would be to her [his wife] and the rest of my family," he said.

Hill said he believes that the 2nd Court of Appeals, the shooting site, will regain a sense of normality. But

Appearing stiff and sore from a gunshot wound in the shoulder, Hill reflected briefly on the deadly attack in his appellate court Wednesday morning.

Along with Hill, Judge Clyde Ashworth was shot but survived. Ashworth was listed in satisfactory condition yesterday at Harris Methodist, where he was being treated for a gunshot wound in the hip.

Dallas attorney John Edwards, (More on LOTT on Page 18)

■ **Gun debate:** Courthouse tragedy renews controversy. . . . PAGE 17A

He acknowledged that the tragedy on the fourth floor of the old Tarrant County Courthouse has taken a great toll on many people.

"We are very grieved for the families of Chris Marshall and John Edwards," Hill said. "It was a very disturbing thing to a lot of people, especially for those who were there and, I know, to many who were not there."

"We are very concerned about them and they are in our prayers."

State District Judge Sharen Wilson said yesterday that she had granted Lott's request to represent himself after a 20-minute court hearing Thursday.

During that time, Wilson said, Lott was given "all the warnings and admonitions about representing himself, as required by law."

According to The Associated Press, Lott — who received a law degree in 1981 from the University of Texas at Austin but who allowed his dues to the State Bar of Texas to lapse — told Wilson: "It's a personal choice . . . I am not as totally convinced of my incompetence as you are, but I realize if I miss an objection and waive it, it's too bad. Therefore, I could get convicted on the basis of evidence that's incompetent."

Lott is being held on a capital murder charge, a firearms charge and three counts of deadly assault on a court participant.

Wilson also granted a prosecution request that Lott be held without bail on the capital murder charge. That means he cannot be released from jail even if he does come up with the \$325,000 in bail on the other charges.

Jim Minter, acting chief deputy of

the Tarrant County Sheriff's Department, said Lott was separated from the rest of the jail inmates in a maximum-security cell "because of the notoriety of the crime."

Lott's cell is one of 10 that share a common day room. The inmates are let out on a rotating basis, one at a time, to use the room for one hour, jail officials said.

In the day room, prisoners can watch television or play cards, dominoes and other games by themselves, but they do not have access to one of the open-air exercise rooms.

Skidmore said Lott is eating the same food as the other prisoners and as far as he knows, Lott has not made any requests to visit the law

library.

"He's just been a regular prisoner. He hasn't been a problem," Minter said.

A cleanup crew began working in the 2nd Court of Appeals yesterday. There are no scheduled sessions in the court until September and tighter security measures probably will have been installed by then, said

County Administrator G.K. Mae-nius.

Walk-through metal detectors should be in five criminal district courtrooms when those courts open for regular business Monday, Mae-nius said.

"We ordered 60 hand-held detectors, and they should be here by Monday," he said.



# Abuse by Lott suspected in Texas visits

## Illinois investigation focuses on 16 cases

BY MICHAEL WHITELEY  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

PEORIA, Ill. — Illinois officials investigating allegations that George Lott subjected his son to bizarre rituals and sexual abuse say many of those incidents may have occurred in Texas.

Assistant State's Attorney Jim Owens said his office has investigated 16 separate cases in which Lott is accused of abusing 4-year-old Neal David Lott during weekend visits in Texas and Peoria.

Lott remained in Tarrant County Jail yesterday. He is being held without bail on a charge of capital murder after Wednesday's shooting spree at the Tarrant County Courthouse in which two attorneys died and an attorney and two judges were injured. The shootings in the 2nd Court of Appeals, he has said, were intended to draw attention to how he was unfairly treated by the courts in a child-custody battle.

Court records show that Lott visited his son eight times at Peoria motels after his ex-wife, Margo Livesay, moved to Peoria in May 1991.

Owens said yesterday that Livesay photo

(More on OWENS on Page 12)

graphed examples of the child's injuries and reported the instances to Texas child authorities before moving to Peoria to get away from her ex-husband.

But the visits didn't stop until Dec. 26, when a Peoria juvenile judge barred Lott from seeing his son alone.

The Peoria court halted all visits May 19 after Lott was indicted on charges of aggravated criminal sexual assault and criminal sexual assault.

"It's interesting that what an Illinois court could do in months, no court in Texas could do in years," Owens said.

After a three-week trial in Fort Worth, a Tarrant County jury ordered Lott's divorce and awarded custody of their only child to Livesay in January 1990. But the jury allowed Lott visitation on alternating weekends.

Owens and Peoria attorney David McCarthy say Livesay repeatedly asked for investigations from Texas Child Protective Services before she moved to Peoria in May 1991.

Texas Department of Human Services officials have declined to comment on the case. But one court record shows that a Fort Worth

caseworker interviewed Lott about bruises on the boy's body after a visit in August.

Prosecutors have charged the 45-year-old lawyer only in instances occurring Oct. 4 and Oct. 6, when Lott was accused of using his hand and a gun to abuse the boy.

Owens said testimony during private juvenile proceedings in Peoria also indicated that Lott dressed in ceremonial robes and wore a sword during some of the sexual encounters he allegedly had with his son. Neal Lott was never injured with a sword. Owens said the incidents may have spanned two years before Lott's final visit on Thanksgiving.

Owens said investigations into the reports of ritualistic elements of the encounters are ongoing but have not turned up enough evidence to file formal charges.

Peoria County State's Attorney Kevin Lyons had called a Chicago expert on ritualistic, satanic sexual abuse to testify at Lott's July 20 trial.

"The severity and unusual nature of the incidents had prompted Peoria officials to expand their probe into Texas," he said.

"Once you get the impression of the very unusual nature of these crimes, you back up and piece together whatever you can get."

Owens said his office decided to press criminal charges after sitting in on several civil juvenile hearings called by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Services for one of the people killed in the melee Wednesday, Assistant District Attorney Chris Marshall, 41, chief appellate prosecutor, will be held tomorrow. The services will begin at 2:30 p.m. at Westcliff United Methodist Church, 4833 Selkirk Drive.

Attorney John J. Edwards, 33, of Dallas, was buried Friday in Waco.

Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69, was in satisfactory condition yesterday at Harris Methodist Fort Worth. The other judge, John Hill, 48, was released from the hospital Friday.

A third attorney, prosecutor Steven Conder, 28, was treated and released the day of the shooting.



George Lott: Described as surly, obsessed



# 204-bed federal prison facility opens

BY LYDIA LUM  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The federal prison in Fort Worth opened a \$5.2 million, 204-bed facility yesterday that soon will reduce the daily transportation of federal prisoners to and from court proceedings.

Federal prisoners being held at the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center in Cleburne will be moved to the new jail at the Federal Correctional Institute in the next few weeks, said Warden Ron Burkhart. Yesterday, prison officials moved 12 sentenced inmates who had broken prison rules into the jail.

The pending transfer is welcomed by the U.S. Marshals Service, which has custody of prisoners facing federal charges until their cases end. The daily chore of transporting prisoners to court proceedings in downtown Fort Worth will be shortened from 30 miles to six.

But Johnson County officials say they will miss the estimated \$500,000 that their con-

tract with the Marshals Service brings in annually. The federal government pays the county \$54 a day to house each of the 90 or so federal prisoners in the jail at a given time.

"This is something that will definitely affect our revenues," said County Judge Joe Durham.

Because the correctional institute is an all-male lockup, female federal prisoners will be housed at the Mansfield jail, where federal prisoners facing charges in Dallas are held, said Bob Eberling, who supervises the Fort Worth marshals' office.

Federal inmates serving their sentences at the correctional institute in south Fort Worth are nonviolent offenders convicted of crimes such as embezzlement and drug possession.

The new 2-story, beige brick-and-stone building has double-bunked cells with narrow windows that overlook the razor-wire fences that surround the prison.

Federal prisoners housed there awaiting trial will be allowed to congregate in TV

rooms and an in-house library most of the day. However, inmates assigned to the jail for rule-breaking will remain in locked cells, except to shower or exercise, Burkhart said.

After last-minute checks on security and supplies yesterday, 12 inmates were moved into the facility for stays of up to two months. Those men have violated rules ranging from insolence to assault, Burkhart said.

He said officials plan to move more problem inmates into the "prison's jail" in coming weeks.

"This is like a new piece of machinery: there's always quirks and flaws to work out, so you move them in a few at a time," Burkhart said.

Inmates who violated rules had served their time in a building that housed only 30 people, the warden said. But prison population growth brought a need for a bigger disciplinary lockup, he said. The correctional institute has 1,300 inmates; it had 800 two years ago.





**Jail Administrator Bertha Lockhart and warden Ron Burkhart walk through the new prison in Fort Worth.**

Fort Worth Star-Telegram / DALE BLACKWELL



## Judge unhurt in attack sues suspect

By JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Appellate court Judge David Farris, the only justice to escape injury in the courtroom shootings a week ago, filed suit yesterday against the suspect, George Douglas Lott, and will ask for "every penny he has, and every penny he ever hopes to have."

Farris said an important element of his suit is a request that the court freeze Lott's assets, the bulk of which reportedly comes from a \$500,000 family inheritance.

Lott, in a televised confession, said he began shooting July 1 in the 2nd Court of Appeals to draw attention to his problems in a divorce and in a subsequent child custody case involving his 4-year-old son.

The suspect has been charged in Illinois with sexually abusing the

boy.

Lott is in custody in Fort Worth on charges of capital murder, assault on court personnel and weapons violations. He has been denied bail.

Farris said he believes that Lott is stable enough mentally to be held accountable for the shooting that left two lawyers dead, two judges seriously wounded and another lawyer grazed.

"I think he's the type of sociopathic person who doesn't care for anybody else in the world.

"I think he killed people because he'd rather be known as a murderer, and hopefully a murderer of judges [in Texas], rather than go back to Illinois . . . where he would be tried as a man who molested his own son.

"The people he killed were just a part of the cost of his agenda," Far-

ris said.

The judge said if he wins the civil suit, the money he is awarded will go to the families of the two men killed in the attack — Chris Marshall, an assistant Tarrant County district attorney, and John Edwards, a Dallas lawyer.

"If he [Lott] has \$500,000, I want to make sure they get it. I want to make sure he doesn't have any of it left," Farris, 52, said.

Farris was sitting on the bench with fellow appellate Judges John Hill and Clyde Ashworth when Lott opened fire. Hill was shot in the shoulder and was recovering at home last night, while Ashworth remained at Harris Methodist Fort Worth hospital with a gunshot wound in the hip.

Farris said he hopes Hill and Ashworth will join in his civil suit.



# Gunshots heard in emergency

BY RICHARD DOTSON  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Two shots can be heard erupting over the first few words of a courthouse law library employee who was among several people to call 911 during the July 1 courthouse shooting that killed two and wounded three.

Fort Worth police released a recording yesterday of the four 911 calls received by Police Department operators during the shooting, which started shortly before 10 a.m.

The first is from law library worker Marie Gomez, who dived under her desk to call 911 when the shooting started. Several shots can be heard in the background as she speaks from her fourth-floor office next to the 2nd Court of Appeals, where the shooting was going on.

The second call was placed from the probate clerk's office at the west end of the courthouse's second floor. As the 911 call-taker answers, shots ring out over the line, as well as shouts from people in the building.

By the third call, the word *gunshots* can be heard among the background voices of the 911 office as the calls come in.

In the fourth call there are few voices or background noise from either the courthouse caller or the 911 call-taker.

First call:

911 call-taker: Fort Worth 911. What's your emergency?

Caller 1: Yeah. This is the law library [two shots can be heard in the background] at the old Tarrant County Courthouse, and someone

is shooting in here right now.

911: In the courthouse?

Caller 1: In the courthouse. [More shots are heard.] In the old courthouse.

911: 100 . . . [911 calltaker and Caller 1] West Weatherford.

Caller 1: Yes.

911: OK, we'll get the police on the way.

Caller 1: Thank you.

911: Uh-huh.

Second call:

911: Fort Worth 911 . . .

Caller 2: [Shots are heard in the background.] 911, we got shooting in our office in the probate clerk's office.

911: OK, ma'am . . .

Caller 2: Ah, hurry up . . .

911: OK . . .

Caller 2: Ah, we got a shooting in the hallway . . .

911: OK, Ma'am. Stay on the line . . .

Caller 2: On the second floor of uh, uh, of the old courthouse.

911: OK, ma'am . . .

Caller 2: Hurry up.

911: OK. Can you [Caller 2 hangs up] stay on the phone.

Third call:

911: Fort Worth 911.

Caller 3: This is the Tarrant County Courthouse and we have gunshots in the old county courthouse, in the clock on the top we heard a lot of yelling and gunshots.

911: OK, in the old courthouse . . .

Caller 3: Uh huh . . .

911: Up in the area where the clock is?

Caller 3: Uh huh.

911: OK. Can you see anything . . .

Caller 3: No. Ah, we are scared to look out. There was a lot of shots.

911: Several shots?

Caller 3: Uh-huh.

911: Can you look out the window?

Caller 3: No. It's in — it's in the hall. We're not. We're stuck and we are hiding in our office.

911: Oh, you're — it's — it's coming from the hallway area . . .

Caller 3: It's in the hallway.

911: OK. Then everybody get down and get as low to the floor as you can and stay out of the way and we'll get police up there. OK.

Caller 3: OK. Thank you.

911: Bye.

Caller 3: Bye.

Fourth call:

911: Fort Worth 911. What's your emergency.

Caller 4: Gunshots in the old courthouse at Main and Weatherford street . . .

911: Yes, sir. We are getting numerous calls on it. Does anybody have any kind of description on it?

Caller 4: Ah, no. There's a person that's in the basement, though, and they headed towards the north, ah, east corner of the basement and there are sheriff's deputies here.

911: Northeast corner?

Caller 4: Yep.

911: OK.

Caller 4: Yeah. Thank you, sir.

911: All right. Thank you.

Caller 4: Bye-bye.



# Jail scam using lottery runs out of luck

By FRANK PERKINS  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Apparently, a few inmates at the Tarrant County Jail are playing their version of the state lottery, so far without any luck.

An investigator with the lottery commission has told the county sheriff's department that some inmates have come up with a scam based on the lottery, Act-

ing Chief Deputy Jim Minter said yesterday.

"Apparently, they place calls to people and tell them they've won \$1,000 in the lottery. All they have to do to collect their winnings is send them a \$75 tax and they will mail them the remainder of their winnings," Minter said.

He said the mailing address the inmates give is either 100 Lamar St. or 300

W. Belknap St. There is only one building at those addresses — the 1,400-bed Tarrant County Corrections Center.

Minter said that the inmates apparently telephone someone collect — the phones they are allowed to use only make collect calls — and that that person then connects them with the scam target in a three-way call.

(More on SCAM on Page 18)

## Scam

From Page 17

Steve Lavine, lottery spokesman, confirmed that an investigation is under way.

"We are cooperating with Tarrant County officials," he said from Austin yesterday. Lavine said he is not sure how lottery officials learned of the scam.

Minter said the Sheriff's Department has had no complaints from the public. "All we have is this information report from the state. If they determine a crime has been committed, then we'll get more heavily involved."

Lavine said lottery players will know immediately if they have won or lost when they scratch the covering off their lottery tickets.

"No one from the lottery will call to tell players they've won unless they have purchased one of the tickets with the three 'Entrys' on it that qualifies them for the \$1 million drawing pool. Then, we'll call them and verify they are in line for the big one," he said.

TEXAS LOTTERY

# LONE STAR MILLIONS

**Win up to \$10,000 Instantly!**  
Match Three Prize Amounts To Win That Prize.  
Match Three "Entrys" and Mail In For A Chance To Win \$1,000,000.

\$5.00 \$1,000 \$50.00  
FIVE ONE THOU FIFTY  
\$1,000 \$50.00 \$1,000  
ONE THOU FIFTY ONE THOU

TXL



# Lott's history tells of hair-trigger nature

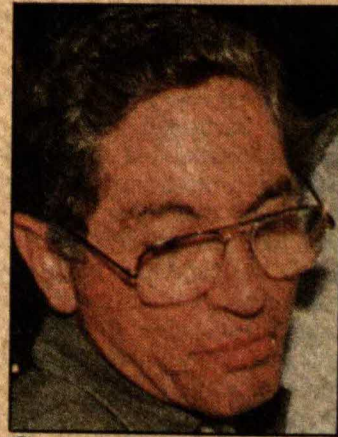
By JACK DOUGLAS JR.  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

George Douglas Lott was exhibiting strong signs of being a troubled, violent man years before he began pulling the trigger of a Glock 9mm handgun in a Fort Worth courtroom, killing two lawyers, wounding three other men and sending shock waves through the city.

Lott acknowledged an unbridled

temper, vowed to have it checked and then reneged on his promises, opting instead to vent his angst on an infant son, according to court records.

After Lott — an attorney who inherited hundreds of thousands of dollars in stocks and bonds — let his law practice lapse in June 1988, he devoted nearly all his time develop-  
(More on LOTT on Page 9)



George Lott devised a game, MacNasty. The object: play dirty tricks.

ing a computer game he called MacNasty.

The object of the game: Pull enough dirty tricks on people and damage enough property, "and the devil comes and takes you away," Lott testified in a 1990 divorce trial.

"Is that how you win?" a lawyer asked. Lott replied: "That's what happens when you win."

Asked whether the game included any elements of the legal system, for which Lott expressed an unrelenting hatred, Lott said:

"Yes, there is a courthouse."

On July 1, two years after that testimony, Lott went to the fourth floor of the century-old Tarrant County Courthouse, concealing a semiautomatic weapon as he took a seat in the 2nd Court of Appeals.

Then he rose and began shooting.

Chris Marshall, 41, chief appellate prosecutor for the Tarrant County district attorney's office, was killed, as was John Edwards, a 33-year-old Dallas lawyer.

Appellate Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69, shot in the hip, remained in Harris Methodist Fort Worth in stable condition; Judge John Hill, 48, was treated and later released from the hospital with a gunshot wound to the shoulder.

Another Tarrant County prosecutor was grazed.

Lott, 45, is in the Tarrant County Jail, denied bail and charged with capital murder, assault on court participants, and firearms violations.

He has said he wanted to make a statement to show that he had been mistreated in divorce and child cus-

tody proceedings and was wrongly charged in Illinois with sexually abusing his only son, now 4.

But according to court records and psychological reports, Lott's frightening outbursts began long before the birth of his son, and even before his turbulent marriage to Margo Z. Best — the woman who is now in seclusion, frightened that somehow her ex-husband will still be able to harm her or their child.

She now goes by her maiden name of Livesay.

Among other things, testimony and evidence brought out in the divorce trial indicated that Lott:

- In a fit of anger, pulled at the penis of his infant son and once, in August 1987, yelled at his child's penis, saying, "Look, he's deformed; he'll never be right."

- Once witnessed an auto accident and then, while on the phone with police, wished out loud that the victims of the accident would die.

- Emptied his pockets of money into a trash can after becoming enraged that a store clerk had given him too much change.

- Was convicted of a misdemeanor after being found guilty of intentionally damaging a woman's car Jan. 5, 1988, in a west Fort Worth parking lot. Lott said he believed that the woman had parked too close to his vehicle.

- Put sugar in salt shakers after a cafeteria worker was not immediately able to give the price of a food item.

- Threatened motorists while traveling at high speeds, and attempted to run luxury cars, especially BMWs, Cadillacs and Mercedes-Benzes, off the street.

- According to two psychologists, was unfit to be left alone with his child.

Livesay testified in the divorce trial that before their Aug. 2, 1985, marriage, Lott became enraged in a shopping center after a baby stroller was pushed in front of him.

"So he said, 'That's it. I have to teach everybody a lesson.' He put his hands straight out and just went through the shopping center running into people — bumping into them real hard," she testified.

Livesay, who at the time was an assistant professor of computer science at the University of North Texas, testified that her husband's rage was frequent and usually triggered by trivial things.

She said that at first, while they were dating, Lott promised her that marriage would calm his temper. Later, with his rage still unchecked, he promised to seek professional help but never did, Livesay testified.

"I would come home in the evening and George would be all upset about something. Either they emptied the trash at the office and did it wrong, or they didn't empty the trash at the office. And he'd be running around and yelling and hitting things," Livesay said.



"One time he came in," she testified, and "he was upset that somebody had given him too much change. He went over and emptied his pockets into the trash because he had too much change in his pockets, and he was yelling about that . . .

"There was no way I could predict what the problem was going to be."

Some of the most bizarre testimony came when Lott described the MacNasty computer game he hoped to market.

Some of what he said rang with tragic irony, in light of the fatal courthouse shootings.

"It's basically an interactive soap opera. . . . You inherit, I believe,

\$150,000 and a couple of oil wells, and you are one of the cartoon characters. Your name is MacNasty and you're very similar to someone like J.R. Ewing. . . .

"You own seven or eight buildings in the town . . . and the only thing that you can do in those buildings are nasty things," Lott testified.

"I mean, you can bribe, you can cheat and you can carry on with other people's wives. You can do all sorts of nasty things like this, all on pull-down menus. . . .

"If you get enough money and nasty points, you win. And the devil comes and takes you away."

Testimony turned somber when it came to the treatment of Lott's son, born July 31, 1987.

Soon after the couple separated, two Fort Worth psychologists reported that Lott should not be left alone with his son, prompting the court to allow him only supervised visits with the baby, pending completion of divorce proceedings.

Dr. Jon Leffingwell wrote that Lott was "very candid in saying that he had had a problem with anger most of his life and said that he had to watch it [anger] all the time."

Leffingwell continued: "Mr. Lott is concerned that he treats [his son] better than his father treated him. According to Mr. Lott, his father treated him like a robot. . . . Mr. Lott is obsessed with being controlled by others. . . ."

The other psychologist, Dr. Harry Phillips Baker, testified in the divorce trial that he had several seemingly productive counseling sessions with Lott, but then Lott took on an eerie demeanor.

"He came to the office and, for 45 or 50 minutes, it was one of the most uncomfortable times I've



A victim is carried away from the Tarrant County Courthouse.

ever experienced. . . . He was smiling, but there was a quiet, focused hostility that made me intensely uncomfortable," Baker said.

Livesay recounted a time when she said Lott became angry while changing his young son's diaper. "He just jerked the diaper off and pulled — pulled [the baby's] penis real hard and [the baby] started screaming. And George said, 'You folded the diaper wrong,'" Livesay said.

However, despite the pleadings from Livesay and the testimony from the psychologists, a jury granted the divorce on Jan. 19, 1990, and allowed Lott full, unsupervised visits with his son.

Those visits were ordered to be supervised by a third party on Dec. 26 after Lott became a suspect in sexually abusing his child in Peoria, Ill. The visits were halted altogether May 19 when Lott was indicted on charges of aggravated criminal sexual assault and criminal sexual assault.

Illinois authorities have said Lott may have sexually molested his son in Texas, also. However, Fred Seale, regional program director for the Texas Child Protective Services, said that CPS officials did not ignore such suspicions.

A CPS caseworker, acting on a tip that Lott's son was underfed and bruised, interviewed the family in 1990 and examined the boy, Seale said. The caseworker found the child to be "fat and healthy," he said.

At the behest of Illinois authorities, Seale said, CPS questioned Lott again in August 1991. "We did a courtesy interview and sent the material back to Illinois," he said.

"As far as the information we have, there was not any abuse that took place in Texas," Seale said.



# Sheriff hopefuls back courthouse security

By Max B. Baker  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Installing X-ray machines and metal detectors at the courthouse complex, limiting access to the buildings and improving training for bailiffs are among the security measures being supported by candidates for Tarrant County sheriff.

Democrat Dub Bransom and Republican David Williams told members of the Senior Citizens Alliance of Tarrant County yesterday that improved security at the county courthouse should be a top priority

after the July 1 shootings that left two people dead and three others wounded.

"It should have been done five years ago," Bransom said. "We need to protect not only the judges, but the clerks and everyone else who works in that building."

Bransom and Williams are the first candidates seeking office in November to be quizzed by the senior citizens organization's political action committee. The alliance says it represents about 100,000 county residents.

Williams and Bransom agreed that access to the courthouses in downtown Fort Worth should be limited and that metal detectors and X-ray machines should be installed at doors where most of the public enters the court complex.

"Federal courthouses have had controlled access for many years," Williams said. "And last year they took in something like 6,000 weapons nationwide."

More metal detectors could be installed at the entrances of courtrooms where a trial's circumstances

warrant extra security, Williams said.

Bransom also recommended that bailiffs be certified peace officers who are trained to respond to emergencies such as the recent shootings. Training of the bailiffs has been criticized in recent weeks as inadequate.

"They ought to be able to protect themselves and other people," Bransom said. "It is a weakness in the system."

Training the bailiffs could lower the costs of hiring more guards to patrol and respond

to emergencies.

On Monday, County Administrator G.K. Maenius recommended hiring 22 guards for the courthouse complex at an estimated annual salary of \$26,000 each.

Bransom and Williams also told the committee about other moves they would make if elected sheriff.

Keeping the jail open was a top priority of both candidates, with Williams saying he would put inmates in tents if the jail became overcrowded.

"It was good enough for our troops in Desert Storm, and it is good enough for our prisoners," he said.

Williams' proposals included establishing a program for violent repeat offenders, a special narcotics unit that uses trained dogs to sniff out drugs, and an air patrol unit similar to the one used by Fort Worth.

Bransom outlined ideas such as creating a county tactical weapons team, boosting the number of officers on patrol, and instituting a program for checking on elderly residents daily.



# Control of Tarrant bailiffs caught in political cross fire

**The district attorney resurrects a decades-old debate between judges and the county sheriff over the officials' hiring.**

By RICHARD DOTSON  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Bailiffs' ability to provide security at the Tarrant County Courthouse has grown into a major concern, but that hasn't always been the case.

Control over the bailiffs — not security — was once the main point of contention between judges and the Tarrant County sheriff, who until 1967 hired all the bailiffs.

And Tarrant County District Attorney Tim Curry resurrected the decades-old debate Wednesday when he said that better bailiffs were needed because some were political appointments.

Curry's comments came at the first meeting between city and county officials who are developing a security plan for the court buildings after the July 1 fatal shootings at the old Tarrant County Courthouse.

The officials are expected to develop new training and job qualifications for all bailiffs.

The sheriff's department employs 72 full-time and 35 part-time bailiffs. About 12 bailiffs have been hired by some criminal court judges.

In 1961, 153rd District Court Judge Harold Craik, who sat on the bench from 1955 to 1971, led a fight for legislation allowing district judges to hire their own bailiffs and not depend solely on the Sheriff's

Department.

The legislation, introduced by then-state Sen. Doyle Willis and state Rep. Don Gladden, both of Fort Worth, skated through the Senate but was shot down in the

*"They [the judges] wanted to pick and choose. The issue of security never came up; it was control. The judges felt like these bailiffs were employees of the court."*

— state Rep. Doyle Willis  
former state senator

House after intensive lobbying by former Tarrant County Sheriff Lon Evans.

"It was mostly control," said Willis, now a state representative. "They [the judges] wanted to pick and choose. The issue of security never came up; it was control. The judges felt like these bailiffs were employees of the court."

There was little concern over setting up a security net because in 1961 a courthouse shooting was unheard of, Willis said.

The bailiff controversy was revived in 1967 by state Rep. Joe Shannon Jr., who now practices family law in Fort Worth.

Shannon said judges had complained to him that they were having trouble getting court documents served by the bailiffs, who, in essence, served two masters: the sheriff and the judges.

The 1967 legislation Shannon

sponsored allowed judges in Tarrant County criminal district courts 1, 2, 3 and 4 to hire two bailiffs each, and judges of county criminal courts 1 and 2 to hire one bailiff each. All of the judges still would be supplied with at least one bailiff from the Sheriff's Department.

Frank Coffey, the district attorney in 1967, was instrumental in drawing a compromise between the sheriff and the judges.

"It boiled itself down to an agreement that the sheriff would get half and the judges would get half," Coffey said. "There has always been talk about the courts taking over who would be hired. I don't believe it had anything to do with who was appointed. I think it was a difficulty over who had control."

Evans, 80, who retired in 1984 after 23 years as Tarrant County Sheriff, said last week that control was important but that politics was at the core of the judges' request to hire their own bailiffs.

Until the late 1960s, the bailiffs were hired and trained exclusively by the Sheriff's Department.

"What I tried to do was get people experienced in law enforcement, if I could find them," Evans said. "We tried our best to put people in who could handle the bailiff's job. A big part of them were former peace officers. We never had any real problems."

But Coffey said it was common then for the sheriff to hire a particular person as bailiff at a judge's request.

"Universally, the judges had a lot to say who their bailiffs were, regardless of who the actual person was they worked for," Coffey said.





Lee Ann Dauphinot:  
Getting button and windows

## Security devices are approved for installation in judge's court

BY FRANK PERKINS

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Bulletproof windows and a panic button are expected to be installed in Judge Lee Ann Dauphinot's courtroom by tomorrow after county commissioners yesterday authorized spending \$570 for the materials.

The move may stave off a jail term for Joe Davis, the county's deputy facilities manager.

Dauphinot found him in contempt of court July 7 for not installing three bulletproof windows in the doors of her Criminal District Court No. 2 and for not installing a phone or intercom

(More on DAVIS on Page 18)

## Davis

From Page 17

system in the inmates' elevator and a panic button connecting her chambers to an outside bailiff, as requested in an official court order to Gary Kirby, Davis' supervisor.

A hearing on Dauphinot's order is scheduled for tomorrow. Davis' attorneys will attempt to quash the contempt motion. A source said county officials will try to have most or all of Dauphinot's orders met before the hearing takes place, thereby making the contempt order moot.

If the issue is not resolved tomorrow, it would go to trial Monday. Visiting Judge R.E. Thornton has been appointed to hear the case.

Still to be resolved is a decision on Dauphinot's request that the county pay attorneys to represent her at next week's trial.

In a letter to commissioners dated July 10, Dauphinot said that the Tarrant County district attorney's office could not represent her because it is defending Davis.

"I am retaining David Richards

and David Chapman. Each attorney bills at the rate of \$150 an hour, an amount you have approved as reasonable in the past," she wrote.

Commissioners will rule on her request at Tuesday's meeting.

County policy is that elected officials must get permission from the Commissioners Court to hire outside counsel.

Dauphinot entered the order for changes in her courtroom July 2, the day after a gunman opened fire in the 2nd Court of Appeals courtroom, killing two attorneys and wounding two appeals judges and a third attorney.

The day of the killings, she issued an order for a metal detector to be placed outside her courtroom and for installation of new locks that could be locked from inside the courtroom. That order was obeyed the same day.

She gave Davis until July 6 to install the panic button and intercom system; until July 7 to install the bulletproof window in the door between her court and the secure hallway where the judges' chambers are located; and until July 13 to install two more bulletproof windows in the wooden doors leading into her courtroom.

At the time of the contempt order, Kirby and Davis said it was impossible to meet Dauphinot's deadline because they needed to find a vendor for the glass, get purchase orders and clear the work with the building architect and city fire marshal to make sure that fire codes would not be violated.

But Kirby said yesterday that he was ready to get on with the work in Dauphinot's courtroom.



# Texas officers protest at Time Warner meeting

BY STEVEN COLE SMITH  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Texas police officers joined hundreds of other protesters yesterday at the annual stockholders meeting of Time Warner Inc., the media conglomerate that owns the record label for Ice-T, the rap singer whose controversial song, *Cop Killer*, has outraged police and their supporters nationwide.

The protest was held outside the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel, the site of the stockholders meeting. "Ice-T has the right to free speech, but he doesn't have the right to call for murder," said Monica Smith, a Dallas police officer and president of the Dallas Police Association, who joined other demonstrators in front of the hotel.

Smith and the others contend that the lyrics to *Cop Killer* are a call to arms for civilians to kill police officers. Ice-T and Time Warner say that the lyrics are a depiction of the fictional mindset of a gang member, and should not be taken as any more than a form of artistic free speech. In a recently published interview, Gerald Kevin, co-chief executive officer of the company, expressed support for Ice-T's song, saying that it "doesn't incite or glorify violence."

A network of police organizations has called for a boycott of Time Warner properties — which include HBO and Cinemax cable channels, Warner Bros. records, *Time* and *People* magazines and Six Flags Over Texas — until their demands are met. Those demands are, Smith said, "to have the record pulled off the shelves, and to issue a public apology to the survivors of police officers who were killed in the line of duty."

Meanwhile, inside the stockholders meeting, actor Charlton Heston stunned shareholders by reading the lyrics of the record in which rapper Ice-T talks about sodomy and falling in love with Tipper Gore's nieces.

The actor, a crusader for conservative causes, described himself as a Time Warner shareholder but said he was speaking as a private citizen who felt obliged to join a furor over the album.

Heston read the lyrics of *KKK Bitch*, in which the singer describes some buddies having sex with Southern Nazi and skinhead girls

while he falls in love with two 12-year-old nieces of Gore.

Gore, the wife of Democratic vice presidential nominee Albert Gore, fought for warning labels on records with explicit language.

Heston said at the shareholders' meeting, attended by Time Warner President Gerald Levin and the company's board of directors, that he wasn't criticizing Ice-T.

"I condemn instead the responsible officials in this company," he said.

Seeds of the controversy were sown May 29, when Dallas Police Senior Cpl. Glenn White wrote a column about the recording in an issue of *The Shield*, the Dallas Police Association newsletter.

A sergeant at the station where White works told him about the *Cop Killer* lyrics.

"We got to talking about it, and I said I'd write a column, and maybe we'd organize a boycott," said White, who was also at the demonstration. "I figured we'd get 75 or a hundred letters at the most."

But soon the media in Texas picked up the story, and it began spreading nationwide. "We had no idea this would happen," White said. "I never thought we'd be here doing this."

"And while it's good to see all this, Time Warner's not going to bend," White said. Consequently, the boycott will likely continue.

Besides representatives from the Fort Worth/Dallas area, police officers from other Texas cities including Saginaw, San Antonio, Tyler and Houston are gathered in Beverly Hills. Representatives from Time Warner have met several times with police representatives, but Smith expects nothing to come from the meetings. "Theirs is a very hypocritical stance," she said. "They aren't going to do anything. It all comes down to the bottom line, and that's money for Time Warner and Ice-T."

This report contains material from  
The Associated Press.



**"You don't believe this is happening."**

## Judge recalls 'unreal' terror in courtroom

BY HOLLACE WEINER  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — The first bullet to hit Judge Clyde Ashworth sailed through the dark-stained mahogany bench he was hiding behind, piercing him below his right hip.

Moments later, when silence followed a burst of 15 shots, the judge pulled himself up by one arm, peered over the bench and made eye contact with a gunman reloading a 9mm semiautomatic pistol.

As the judge ducked for cover again, the gunman stalked behind the bench, muttered something like "you're a dead man," and fired from a distance of 4 feet, hitting the judge below the left hip.

Then a man in the courtroom darted out an exit, diverting the gunman's attention and fire.

Sitting in a wheelchair yesterday, choking back tears as he recalled two men who died in the gunfire, visiting Judge Ashworth described publicly for the first time the minutes of terror July 1 in the 2nd Court of Appeals.

"It was unreal," he said at a press conference at Harris Methodist Fort Worth, where he expects to be hospitalized at least two more weeks. "You don't believe this is happening. I mean this is not happening. This is something I

(More on SHOOTING on Page 2)



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / RODGER MALLISON

**Judge Clyde Ashworth says he harbors no hatred toward shooting suspect George Lott.**

am dreaming. I am hallucinating. This is not going on."

The gunfire in the old Tarrant County Courthouse killed prosecutor Chris Marshall and Dallas attorney John Edwards, who may have saved Ashworth's life when he darted from the courtroom. The gunman, George Lott, followed Edwards into a corridor and fatally wounded him.

The gunfire also grazed another attorney and wounded appellate Judge John Hill, who was hospitalized several days for a bullet wound in his shoulder.

Still unable to walk, and taking pain pills at night, Ashworth said he relives the tragedy in his nightmares and is recovering, thanks to hours of surgery, physical therapy and the prayers of hundreds of people who sent him get-well cards.

"I felt their prayers, believe it or not," said the 69-year-old former Marine, putting his hand to his heart.

Accompanied by his son, attorney Bruce Ashworth, 37, the judge was wheeled into the hospital's administrative conference room wearing new Reeboks, faded purple jogging pants and a golf shirt. During 45 minutes of questions and answers from reporters, he urged the installation of walk-through metal detectors outside courtrooms — "like they do at the airport" — and said he opposes gun control.

A bullet suddenly pierced Ashworth's left buttock, hitting the sacrum and pelvis and lodging in the abdomen but missing his internal organs.

He believes the gunman, whom he had never previously met, planned to fire again, but, "At that time I could sense his attention had been to something out in the courtroom," Ashworth said. "Then I just lay there. I thought Judge Hill was dead."



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Call them detention officers

I was reading Debbie Price's July 12 column about Jay and Linda Hill when I noticed the term "jail keepers." That was the last straw.

The *Star-Telegram* never seems to get it right when it writes about the Tarrant County jail. The people in charge of running the jail and keeping inmates in custody are called jailers. The county's official title for jailers is detention officers, so that individual jailers are addressed as "Officer Smith," or "Officer Jones."

*Star-Telegram* reporters routinely refer to county jailers as "jail keepers," "jail deputies," "guards," and "jail guards."

The ultimate indignity occurred last year. During a blackout in the maximum security facility the *Star-Telegram* reported that sheriff's department investigators were continuously patrolling the corridors and cells with flashlights to prevent violence and stop escape attempts. I was there. I was one of the *officers* patrolling with flashlights. While some investigators were there to locate the trouble spot, it was the jailers who kept the peace.

Don't worry, though. All the local television stations made the same mistakes. The news at 6 showed one female investigator and no jailers. Considering that jail personnel make up 75 percent of the Sheriff's Department, I would think the newspaper would get our name right. Is it too much to ask?

—Gary M. Smith  
Fort Worth





**Law Enforcement Officers  
Association of Texas**

**In Memoriam**

It is with prayer in our heart and deepest sympathy for the loved ones left behind, that we pay our last respects to the fine, courageous officers whose names are listed below.

These are the officer members of the Law Enforcement Officers Association of Texas, who have passed away during the past year. With their passing, the Association and their respective communities have suffered an irreparable loss.

**WILLIAM LESLIE JOHNSON**  
Police Chief  
Levelland, Texas/Hockley County

**HOWARD PAUL WILKINSON**  
Jailor  
Tarrant County Sheriff's Dept.  
Fort Worth, Texas

**CHARLES V. STRICKLAND**  
Lieutenant  
Abilene Police Dept./Taylor County

**GEORGE CURTIS WEBB**  
Deputy Sheriff  
Dallas County Sheriff's Dept.

**EDWARD M. BEEBE**  
Police Section, VA Hospital  
Waco, Texas

**WILLARD H. McMANIS**  
Super. Comm.  
Victoria Sheriff's Dept.  
Victoria, Texas



# Lott goes to court to keep his money

*Shooting suspect to be own attorney*

BY JOHN COUNCIL  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — His hands and feet shackled, George Lott appeared in court this morning to defend himself against a lawsuit to make him pay financially for admittedly killing two attorneys and wounding two judges in a July 1 courtroom shooting spree.

Deputies using hand-held metal detectors searched everyone entering the courtroom, where Lott sat alone at a table and told Judge Michael Schattman that he wanted to be his own attorney in the civil suit filed by families and victims of the shooting.

The judge agreed to the request but also appointed attorney Tom Hall to serve as co-counsel and advise Lott on legal issues in the case.

The lawsuit seeks monetary damages from Lott for the pain and suffering he caused in the shootings. It also seeks to prevent Lott from reducing the value of his property and wealth and to freeze his assets, preventing him from withdrawing money from bank accounts and other sources of savings.

Under questioning by attorneys for the shooting victim families, Lott admitted that he had about \$25,000 cash in one account and about \$270,000 worth of stock.

He said, however, that he needed money to pay his bills.

And when asked by attorney Michael Frederick, representing the family of slain prosecutor Chris Marshall, if he knew who had filed the suit against him, Lott replied:

"I don't care if it is being brought by the pope's mother. I want to pay my bills."

He also said he needed cash to pay storage fees for personal property that had to be moved after he surrendered in the shootings.

"I imagine we aren't going to pass the hat around the courthouse to pay for it," he said sarcastically.

The hearing is to try to determine the net worth of Lott's holdings.

Lott repeatedly cited his rights under the Fifth Amendment and refused to answer questions related to the shooting.

Killed with Marshall, 41, chief prosecutor in the appellate section of the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office, was Dallas attorney John Edwards, 33, who was slain as he tried to flee from the courtroom.

Wounded were Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69, who was shot in the right hip, and Judge John Hill, 48, who was shot in the shoulder. Also injured was Assistant District Attorney Steve Conder.

Another judge on the bench that day, David Farris, was not injured.

He and Marshall's family initiated the the suit against Lott.

After the shootings, Lott fled from the courthouse and later that day surrendered at the WFAA/Channel 8 office in Dallas, where he told officials that he had shot the judges and attorneys.

His motive, he said, was retaliation against a judicial system that he said had cheated him in a bitter divorce and child custody battle.

He is accused of smuggling a 9mm Glock semiautomatic weapon into the 2nd Court of Appeals and opening fire on the attorneys and judges as they heard oral arguments in a case not related to Lott's.



# Lott quizzes appeals jurist

## Gun blasts left judge unharmmed

By JOHN COUNCIL  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — Serving as his own attorney, George Lott yesterday met the lone judge to escape unscathed July 1, the day Lott admits he sprayed a courtroom with a barrage of gunfire that killed two attorneys and wounded two judges.

The confrontation with Appeals Court Judge David Farris came in Judge Michael Schattman's 348th District Court, where Farris and families of the shooting victims won an order freezing Lott's assets pending trial of their suit to make him pay financially for the shootings.

In an odd courtroom scene, Lott was first questioned and then acted as his own lawyer and questioned Farris.

Sitting at a table about 25 feet from the witness stand, Lott asked the jurist about the relationship between the civil court in which they met and the 2nd Court of Appeals where Farris presides.

Lott: "If Judge Schattman did something you didn't like and made you angry, angry somewhere, you could find any number of ways to sabotage him, maybe not on this case, but perhaps on another case, couldn't you?"

Farris: "No."

Lott: "And John Q. Public out there, what can he do about it if he doesn't like your decisions?"

Farris: "He can vote me out of office."

Lott: "OK. Thank you."

Lott did not cross-examine Betty Marshall, the widow of one of the

(More on LOTT on Page 12)

attorneys killed, who has joined Farris in the lawsuit.

Nor did he ask Farris about the shooting, although Farris had testified of his anger and fear.

"It's changed my life. I'm more afraid, I'm more cautious," Farris said. "I wake up every morning and think about what's happened and what didn't happen."

During the questioning of Lott, he was asked if he had "disdain or disregard" for the judicial system.

"I find a great deal of corruption in the judicial system," he said.

The unusual confrontation between Lott and Farris came amid otherwise ordinary court proceedings as Farris and the others sought to freeze Lott's assets of at least \$300,000.

Schattman agreed to the request and extended a temporary restraining order until the suit goes to trial Feb. 8.

Lott, who went on a Dallas TV news show six hours after the courtroom shooting to say he shot two attorneys to death and injured two other judges because he was angry at the legal system, had told Schattman that he will be his own lawyer.

Lott, a non-practicing attorney, has taken the same stance in his defense of the capital murder charge he faces in the deaths of Assistant District Attorney Chris Marshall, 41; and Dallas lawyer John Edwards, 33. Lott is being held in the Tarrant County Jail without bail. No trial date has been set.

While agreeing to allow Lott to act as his own attorney in the civil case, Schattman appointed attorney Tom Hall to serve as co-counsel and advise Lott on legal issues.

The lawsuit, separate from the pending criminal trial, seeks money from Lott, citing the pain and suffering caused by the shootings. Farris has said he will turn over any monetary award from the suit to the families of the people slain in the shooting.

Wounded were Judge Clyde Ashworth, 69, who was shot in the right hip, and Judge John Hill, 48, who was shot in the shoulder. Also injured was Assistant District Attorney Steve Conder.

Schattman did agree to allow Lott to pay for personal expenses and to pay child support for his 4-year-old son, Neal.

Lott has said he committed the shootings because of his frustration in trying to gain custody of the child from his ex-wife, Margo Livesay of Illinois.

In the three-hour hearing yesterday, Schattman also prevented Lott's relatives acting on his behalf from getting access to Lott's personal assets.

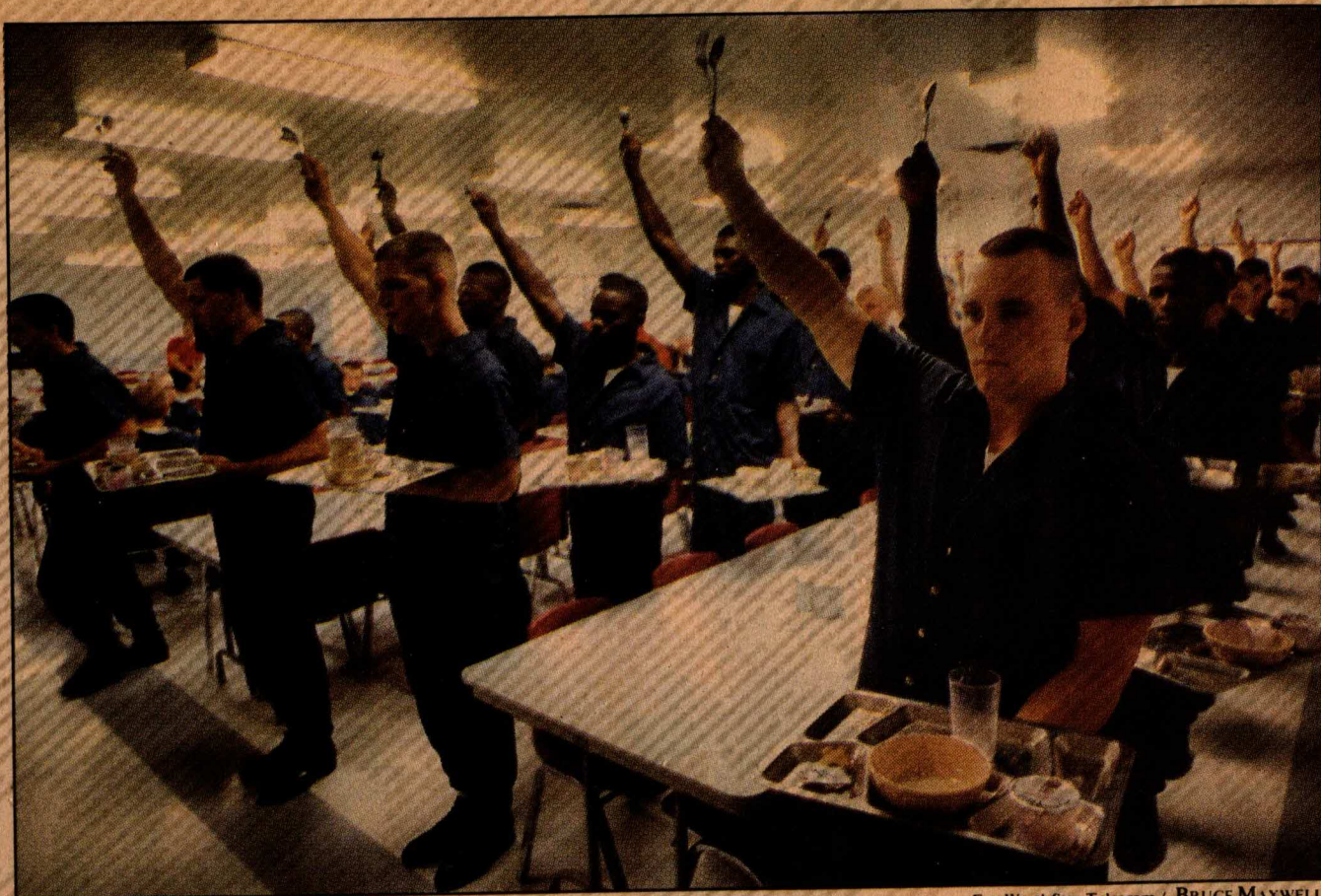
Under questioning by attorneys for the shooting victims' families yesterday, Lott said he had two PaineWebber accounts that hold about \$25,000 cash and about \$270,000 worth of stock. A PaineWebber official put the values at \$27,000 and about \$250,000.

Lott also said he has an account of about \$1,500 in the name of Organization for Justice in the Courts Inc., an organization he formed.

Attorneys still have questions about Lott's financial worth, saying they suspect that insurance policies and family trust funds may add thousands to his wealth.

Lott rejected assertions that he has access to the trust funds. He also characterized what have been described as the large amounts of trust money as "figments of the imagination" of his ex-wife and Douglas Wright, her attorney, who had sought the money during their 1989 divorce proceedings.





Fort Worth Star-Telegram / BRUCE MAXWELL

After a meal, trainees hold their flatware high as they bus their trays. They are given about 10 minutes to eat.

## GIVING THE CRIMINAL LIFE A BIG

# BOOT



With only three minutes for morning showers, boot camp trainees shave before they wash.

After six months of toeing the line in Mansfield's rigorous prison camp, the facility's first inmates are about to graduate.

BY STEVE SMITH  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

MANSFIELD — Shannon Jones stood at ramrod attention beside her bunk and vowed she'll never come back to "this place."

For six months, drill instructors dressed in Marine-type uniforms yelled at the 22-year-old Fort Worth

woman, jarred her awake at 5 a.m. every day, forced her to work in sweltering heat, chopped off her blond curls, made her run four miles daily, ordered her to rake grass, hoe fields, pick up trash in city parks — and give them no lip.

But Jones said that the hassle was (More on CAMP on Page 10)



# Camp

From Page 7

worth it. She said that her stint at the Mansfield Community Corrections Facility, commonly called the "boot camp," will help her turn her life around.

She and 29 other inmates who make up the boot camp's first prisoners will graduate Friday, hopefully never to darken a correctional facility's door again.

The ceremonies begin at 2 p.m. at the correctional facility on Justice Lane, off U.S. 287. District Court Judge Sharen Wilson will be guest speaker.

Jones, sentenced to six months for violating probation after she was charged with possession of amphetamines, said she plans to stay off drugs, attend college, stay away from troublemakers and get a good job.

"When I first got out here, I was scared, angry. I didn't know what to do," she said. "This is a real disciplined lifestyle. They make you show respect all the time.

"I very much want to take the tools I've learned here to work in the free world. I'm ready to be a working citizen."

In February, Jones and the other platoon members were sentenced by judges to the new \$5.5 million county facility rather than to traditional prisons. They were quickly joined by 300 other first-time, nonviolent offenders.

While at the boot camp, their days typically began at 5:30 a.m. and ended at 9:30 p.m. Their public-service work included cleaning Mansfield's parks and cutting weeds, planting 1,000 trees along Joe Pool Lake, building a park on Hulen Drive in Fort Worth for handicapped people, and setting up booths for Riverfest in Arlington and for Fort Worth street festivals.

Out of the original 31 inmates, only one got booted out because he kept disobeying the rules, said Sheri Short, the center's director.

After their release, the graduates, who range in age from 17 to 25, will remain on probation for an average of four years. During the first three or four months, they'll visit

probation agents weekly, rather than the customary monthly visits, Short said.

One slip-up and they'll go back to the boot camp or prison, she warned.

And therein lies the litmus test, corrections officials say.

They believe that if they provide these rough, undisciplined people with heavy doses of old-style military discipline, hours of public service work and educational classes, the inmates will never want to get involved in crime again.

Short said she's "conservatively optimistic" that the new graduates won't be back.

"You really never know what will happen when they get out," she said.

Professors at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville will track graduates over three years to see if they get in trouble again. The facility's repeat offender rate, and the severity of the future offenses, will determine the boot camp's success, said James Marquart, a criminal justice professor at Sam Houston State.

Marquart said the jury's still out on whether the relatively new concept of boot camps work at steering people away from crime. Recidivism rates at boot camps range from about 20 percent to 80 percent, depending on the type of inmates they house, he said.

By comparison, nearly three out of four inmates who are released from prisons become repeat offenders, Marquart said.

But a dozen soon-to-be graduates in Mansfield said they've learned lessons of self-discipline, self-respect, teamwork, anger control, decision-making and job skills, plus how to handle themselves during job interviews and to fill out resumes. They said they have skills to keep them from being repeat offenders.

Most expect to earn their high school equivalency diplomas, they said.

Larry Edmiston, 21, of Fort Worth said he has overcome his drinking and anger problems and plans to become an airline mechanic. A life of fixing planes is better than what he did to land at the boot camp: breaking into a grocery to steal two cases of beer.



# Ice-T pulls

# 'Cop Killer' off album

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Rap star Ice-T says he'll drop *Cop Killer* from his latest album to spare Time Warner Inc. from further attacks and will instead hand out copies of the song for free.

"It's not a Warner Bros. fight. It's my fight," he said yesterday.

Time Warner, the parent of Warner Bros. Records, says new copies of the album *Body*

## Rapper says ruckus is not Warner's fight

*Count*, without the song, should be in stores within weeks.

The news failed to appease police organizations and others who have called for a boycott of the media conglomerate over the song, in

which the rapper sings, "I'm going to bust some shots off. I'm going to dust some cops off."

"I'm glad Warner understands that one shouldn't celebrate the killing of police officers," said actor Charlton Heston, who denounced the album at a Time Warner shareholder meeting earlier this month. "I'm sorry they still think it's OK to sing about raping

women, murdering mothers and sodomizing little girls."

Another song on the album, *KKK Bitch*, describes having sex with Southern Nazi and skinhead girls.

Ice-T said he wanted to shield Time Warner from criticism, and he denied that the move was prompted by law enforcement complaints.

He said that by giving the song away for free, he'll prove the record company wasn't interested only in profits, as some have alleged.

"I'll bring it back to South Central and give it away free at concerts," Ice-T said, referring to the mostly black and Hispanic section of Los Angeles.

Ice-T repeated his assertion that *Cop Killer* is a protest against police brutality. "The record is not a call to murder police. The record is about anger," he said. "This is the end result of police brutality."

More than 1,000 record stores nationwide have pulled the album. Politicians including President Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle have condemned it. Police groups have called for a boycott of Time

Warner products — including the movie *Batman Returns* — and have urged people to sell their stock in the company.

Warner Bros. Records spokesman Bob Merlis said that Ice-T informed company executives of his decision Friday and that he was not coerced.

"His decision was unilateral," Merlis said.

At a news conference yesterday, the rapper also said he feared the controversy would be dragged into the current debate over traditional values.

"This is like a Willie Horton thing," Ice-T said of the racially divisive 1988 commercial supporting George Bush. "They are using me as a platform."

The rapper also said that a campaign is under way to eradicate rap music and that the attacks on Time Warner were designed to show other labels "you better never sign anybody who's counter to the system."

Ron DeLord, president of the Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas, which initiated the call for a Time Warner boycott, said his group wouldn't be happy until Time Warner "admits that they made a mistake."

Glenn White, Dallas Police Association vice president, urged the company to pull any remaining copies of the album from the shelves and donate the profits to a Head Start program or recreational center in Los Angeles.

A senior record industry executive said Ice-T's decision will encourage other such protests and limit free expression.

"It's a terrible precedent," said the executive, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It will haunt us for years to come. I'm very upset and I tremble for the future."

Another industry executive, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the retooled album is a workable compromise.

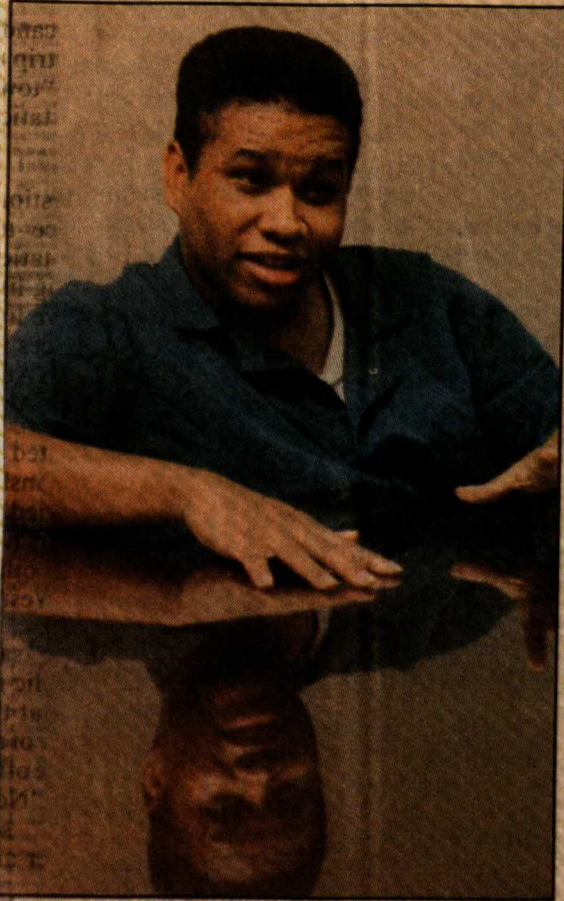


Associated Press

Ice-T talks to reporters yesterday.



## TAKING JAIL TO COURT



Fort Worth Star-Telegram / JOYCE MARSHALL

**A lawsuit by Hilton Williams, a female impersonator and Tarrant County jail inmate, accuses jail officials of falsely portraying him as a homosexual and discriminating against him.**

**BY LYDIA LUM**  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — A Tarrant County jail inmate has accused correctional officers of falsely portraying him as a homosexual and discriminating against him on that basis.

Hilton Williams, 31, filed a lawsuit last month alleging that he was moved from a communal cell that housed 13 other inmates to a single-bed cell because jail officers believe he is gay. Williams, a female impersonator who appeared on the *Donahue* show in February to discuss posing as soul singer Shirley Murdock, says he is not gay.

"I've got nothing against gay people, but I'm just not one of them," Williams said during an interview yesterday at the jail. He said jail officers have called him derogatory names.

# Jailed female impersonator sues after cell changed

Williams outlined his complaints in a lawsuit filed June 29 in U.S. District Court. In his suit, Williams seeks \$500,000. He alleges that jail officers have harassed him and asks that a jail monitor be appointed to protect inmates' rights.

Acting jail administrator John

Pempsell could not be reached for comment yesterday, but last week he told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Williams was transferred to a private cell after complaining about harassment from inmates.

"The move was done for Williams' protection because of those unflattering comments made to him. That's all," Pempsell said last week.

But yesterday, Williams disputed Pempsell's statement, saying that inmates have never mistreated him.

Williams pleaded guilty yesterday to charges of credit card abuse in exchange for a 25-year sentence. He is currently serving a 10-year sentence on various felony theft-by-check convictions.

In his suit, Williams alleged that jail officers have pressured him to sign a form stating that he is gay and allowing them to put a gray wristband on him to designate that sexual orientation. Williams said he never has worn the gray wristband. Pempsell has said that inmates in the new and old jails wear the gray plastic bands so that officers can distinguish them and "protect them from any potential harm."

Inmates wear other colored wristbands indicating whether they are charged with a felony or a misdemeanor.

Other complaints in the suit included unsanitary living conditions and food being served cold.

Williams also said yesterday that since he filed the federal lawsuit, correctional officers have retaliated against him by taunting him about his complaints and withholding his incoming and outgoing mail.



Hilton Williams: Posing as soul singer Shirley Murdock



