

## Death row inmate total drops

United Press International  
HUNTSVILLE — One-hundred-fifty-six persons have been sentenced to die in Texas since reinstatement of the death penalty in 1974, but only 132 remain on death row as of March 3, a prison spokesman said today.

No one has been executed in Texas since Joseph Johnson was electrocuted on July 30, 1964. The method since has been changed to death by injection.

Texas Department of Corrections spokesman Keith Wall said 24 of those sentenced to die have experienced a change in status and are either part of the regular prison population or are out on bench warrants because of appeals.

Two men are sentenced to die this month, but an American Civil Liberties Union spokesman said Texas law provides an automatic 30-day stay by the governor in every case, meaning neither sentence could be carried out until April.

Sammie English, 25, convicted of capital murder in Houston, is scheduled to die Thursday. One lawyer said his appeal process is far from complete.

"I can assure you this man is not gonna be executed for a long, long time," said Houston ACLU staff counsel Stephan Presser.

Rudy Esquivel, 45, convicted of capital murder of a policeman in Houston, is scheduled to die March 20. Esquivel is represented by attorney Will Gray of Houston, who could not be reached for comment.

## Somerville sniper 'just went berserk,' police say

United Press International  
SOMERVILLE — The sniper who opened fire on a picnicking family at Lake Somerville had an arrest record and was jailed in July in Burleson County for a terrorist threat on another man's life, officials said Monday.

Burleson County Sheriff A.C. Wilhelm said Lester Wilson Wagers, 29, had been jailed last year for threatening another person, but Wilhelm would not give any specifics or the victim's name.

"We don't know much more about Wagers. He was in our jail once, and that's the only time we handled him," Wilhelm said.

He also had been arrested in 1975 on a disorderly conduct charge and in 1977 for possession of marijuana.

Wagers, an unemployed welder, opened fire at Lake Somerville in Washington County Saturday, killing 37-year-old Thomas Thies, who was celebrating his birthday with his wife, daughter and two sons.

He first shot Thies in the shoulder, but the fatal bullet hit him in the face. Officials said Wagers then cut off Thies' ears, placing them on Thies' face. He also shot Thies' daughter, Tonya, 6, as she and her mother sped away in a car. The youngster is in stable condition in the hospital.

Wagers then got back into his blue pickup truck, and headed north into Burleson County where he shot Richard Martinez, 16, before taking his own life an hour later.

Martinez was listed in stable condition in Hermann Hospital in Houston.

Police dogs found Wagers about 6:15 p.m. Saturday in a wooded area in the park. Witnesses said they heard a gunshot at about 1:30 p.m. coming from the direction of where the body was found, Goldberg said. He had been dead about four hours when found, Wilhelm said.

## What's Up

- TUESDAY**
- AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS:** Nominations for 1981-82 officers will be discussed at 7:30 p.m. in 103 Zachry.
  - PRE-MED/DENT SOCIETY:** Meets for elections and constitutional revisions at 7:30 p.m. in 204 Harrington.
  - OFF-CAMPUS AGGIES:** Meets at 6:30 p.m. in 109 Military Science.
  - MSC HOSPITALITY SPRING FASHION SHOW:** Will be held at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theatre. Tickets available at the MSC Box Office.
  - AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. in 110 Harrington.
  - A&M WOMEN'S STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** Holds its first organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder.
  - MBA ASSOCIATION:** A Xerox representative will speak at 7:30 p.m. in 204C Evans Library.
  - BIOCHEMISTRY SOCIETY:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. in 113 Heep.
  - WATER SKI CLUB:** Makes final preparations for the Polar Bear Intercollegiate Tournament at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
  - TAMU SAILING TEAM:** Meets at 7 p.m. in Rudder Tower.
  - MEDINA COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. in 137A MSC.
  - SILVER TAPS CEREMONY:** Will be held at 10:30 p.m. in front of the Academic Building.
  - ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & ACTION:** Professor George Knox of the Scientific Commission for Antarctic Research will speak on "Conservation and Exploration of Antarctic Marine Living Resources" at 7:30 p.m. in C111 Langford Architectural Center. The business meeting begins at 7 p.m.
  - FOOD SCIENCE CLUB:** V. Turner talks on South Africa at 7 p.m. in 123 Kleberg.
  - MSC CAMERA:** Lee Rodriguez speaks at 7:30 p.m. in 301 Rudder.
  - CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** Inquiry Class will be held at 7:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center. The Rosary will be said at 10 p.m. in the church.
  - FINANCE ASSOCIATION:** Rose Van Arsdell will discuss the career opportunities with a brokerage firm at 7:30 p.m. at A.C. Edwards & Sons Inc., 1119 Villa Maria Road.
  - ETA SIGMA GAMMA:** Tom Stacy will talk about Discover Land Inc., a psychiatric hospital without walls, 7:30 p.m. in 141 MSC.
  - CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** Juniors interested in working on the Senior Farewell Dinner meet at 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center. Coffeehouse Committee meets at 7:30 p.m.
  - COLLEGIATE FFA:** Dr. H.W. Van Cleave presents a program about being a teacher in agriculture at 7 p.m. in 105 Harrington.
  - ASSOCIATION OF BAPTIST STUDENTS:** John Steelman, National Youth Department Director for the BMA of America, speaks at 7 p.m. in the ABS Center at 304 Highland.
- WEDNESDAY**
- SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS:** Rick Tonda from T.T.I. speaks about automotive fuel economy at 7:30 p.m. in 127-B Zachry.
  - TAMU CZECH CLUB:** Presents a slide show on Czechoslovakia at 7 p.m. in 303 Physics.
- THURSDAY**
- CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** Bible Study will be held at 9 p.m. in Corps Area Lounge F. Night Prayer will be said at 10 p.m. in St. Mary's Church.
  - CLASS OF '82:** Holds a Spring Break Party on the second floor of the Alamo beginning at 7 p.m.
  - TAMU MICROCOMPUTER CLUB:** Meets at 7 p.m. in 203 Zachry.
  - FRESHMAN AG SOCIETY:** Dr. Jim Wild of the Genetics Department will speak at 7:30 p.m. in 208 Scoates.
  - ANGELINA COUNTY HTC:** Meets at 7:30 p.m. in 604 Rudder.
  - CHRISTIAN SCIENCE COLLEGE ORGANIZATION:** Presents a free lecture entitled "Healing Through Spiritual Perception" at 8 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

## Feed store drug gets professional's boost

United Press International  
AUSTIN — A Fort Worth woman said her husband's life would have been saved and her father would have lived longer if doctors were free to prescribe a chemical now legally sold only as an industrial solvent.

Suzanne Frias, her eyes swelling with tears, told a House Health Services Committee hearing Monday that people should be able to get prescriptions of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) from doctors, and not have to hunt it down at supply shops, feed stores or in the black market.

"I think it could have extended my father's life and saved my husband's life," she said. "People using it are getting a fantastic response, but it needs to be brought into the health field."

Frias, who says she used DMSO to treat her broken neck suffered in college, supported a bill by Rep. Gene Green, D-Houston, making DMSO available with a doctor's prescription.

DMSO is available as a solvent or for use on animals with sprains, strains, and other ailments. Although it is not approved by the FDA, a large number of people have used it for decades.

Green said his legislation

would require the doctor to provide a written statement informing the patient that DMSO has an FDA restriction. The bill would ensure the solvent is being administered correctly, he said.

"We have a drug available, but the FDA says you can't use it. But it is being used widespread," he said. "Most people who would want to use it would go to the physician first. It's so available, so widespread, so used everywhere, but the people who are using it are not under a doctor's care."

Dr. E.J. Tucker, a Houston surgeon, introduced three cancer patients he had treated with DMSO and said, "these people would all be dead today without the treatment of DMSO."

Tucker added that DMSO might not be a cure-all for arthritis, but it is "a valuable adjunct. It is a big help."

"I've treated many cases of arthritis with DMSO and I have never had a severe side effect from these people. The worst side effect I have seen is skin irritation, which can be alleviated," he said.

Tucker said until the drug is legalized, "we are tied because it is considered an illegal drug."

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