

National



Flag waving practice

Staff photo by Brian Tate

Tim Goggin works out with his Corps outfit's flag in preparation for Final Review, which is to be held Saturday on the drill

field in front of the Memorial Student Center. A freshman majoring in mechanical engineering, Tim is in Company F-1.

Conditional parole given for testimony about Wood slaying

United Press International
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — New Mexico Gov. Bruce King has granted a conditional parole to a prisoner who reportedly talked with a man who claimed responsibility in the slaying of federal Judge John H. Wood Jr., a television station reported Monday.

Wood, who was shot to death in San Antonio, Texas, on May 29, 1979, was the first federal judge killed in the line of duty. A special San Antonio federal grand jury investigating the Wood case is in recess.

KOAT-TV said the executive order granted parole to Jerry Ray James, 42, in exchange for his testimony before the grand jury and in all other court proceedings in the case.

New Mexico became involved in the Wood case at a Feb. 11, 1981, meeting in King's office of representatives of the U.S. attorney's office, the FBI and the attorney general's office, the station said.

According to the governor's order, the station said James "at great personal risk" permitted electronic eavesdropping by the government in his cell at the Leavenworth federal prison in Kansas, where he was transferred after the 1980 New Mexico prison riot.

"The surveillance provided the federal government with direct admissions from an individual who admitted responsibility for the murder of Judge John H. Wood," the order said.

The Dallas Times Herald reported earlier James met convicted drug dealer Jimmy Chagra at the federal prison and allegedly heard Chagra "brag of a role in slaying" Wood.

KOAT said James, who is being kept at an undisclosed location outside New Mexico, is "an immediate target for potential violence," the station reported.

James, who was sentenced to life in prison on New Mexico convictions of armed robbery and being a habitual offender, is required under the conditions of his parole to testify "truthfully" before a federal grand jury and all other court proceedings related to the killing of Wood, the station said.

He also must agree never to return to New Mexico, not violate any state or federal felony statutes, not violate any condition of the parole and remain in federal

custody until he has fulfilled the conditions of the agreement.

A Justice Department official confirmed in March James was being "protected by the United States" under the government's Witness Protection Program.

Chagra, a gambler from El Paso, was awaiting trial in Wood's court when the judge was killed. Chagra later was sentenced to 30 years in prison for drug dealing. He jumped bond, but was arrested and taken to Leavenworth. On Jan. 29, 1981, he was moved to the federal prison at Marion, Ill.

Chagra's attorney brother, Joe, also reportedly is a target in the investigation. He has said whenever his brother was in different jails, inmates often would become friendly and ask about Wood's slaying.



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No busing if schools close

United Press International
NATCHITOCHEES, La. — The superintendent of schools here said Tuesday the closure of seven rural high schools was only one method being studied as a means of satisfying a federal judge's desegregation order.

The school board decided Monday to consider closing seven of the parish's 11 high schools to avoid forced busing.

The 7-6 vote, taken during a heated five-hour meeting, was in response to federal Judge Nauman Scott's order that all public schools in the parish be integrated by fall.

"It was not a vote to close anything," said Superintendent Levy Thompson. "A board member offered a motion to look at the concept of four high schools instead of 11."

Levy said he didn't think there was any finality in the motion, since it didn't name the schools which would be closed.

Rural members of the board fought the closures, which were suggested in a package of preliminary guidelines. They feared many of the parish's rural students would have to be bused long distances to schools in Natchitoches proper.

Most of the rural high schools considered for closure handle students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

The board received Scott's order over the weekend and officials said they would do everything in their power to comply. They asked Scott, however, to stand by his promise to use busing only if other methods fail.

Scott will call all the parties involved in the integration suit against the school board into his courtroom in Alexandria on May 21.

The judge's order said nine of the 24 schools in the parish were more than 90 percent one race.

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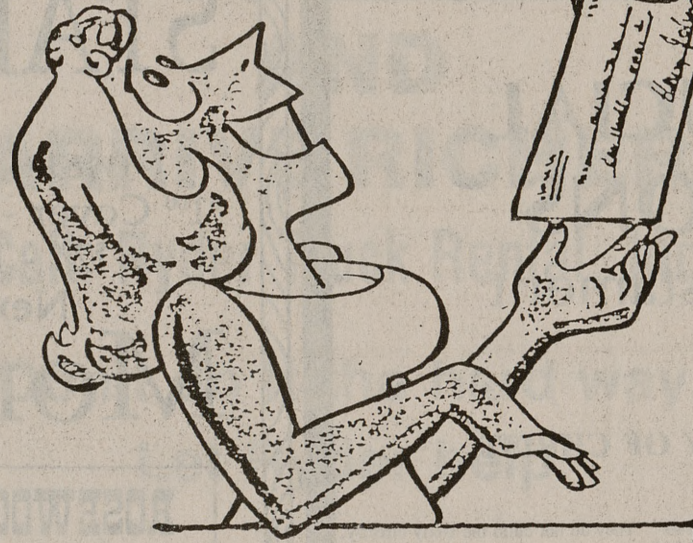
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