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## Guard feels no guilt over Alley slaying

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — The man who has admitted strangling the former director of the Alley Theatre said he feels no remorse for her death, but realized he had great admiration for her as he watched her die, a Houston newspaper reported Thursday.

"In those few seconds just fighting with her, her inner spiritual strength was so great in that moment," Clifford X. Phillips said in a jailhouse interview with a Houston Post reporter. "Her will to live and her will to fight. There was great strength. I had great admiration for her."

"It was either her or me who would die," Phillips said, referring to the night he said he grabbed Iris Siff, 58, around the neck and strangled her.

Phillips, 47, a former security guard at the Alley Theatre, said he felt no guilt for having killed her, but he became emotional when he talked of her death and appeared nervous.

Phillips was indicted on capital murder charges Monday by a Harris County grand jury. He said the two other guards in the Alley Theatre building on Jan. 12 had nothing to do with Siff's death.

The former New Yorker is being held in the Harris County Rehabilitation Center, where he awaits arraignment.

Phillips told reporter Rob Meckel he needed money for food, to pay his rent and to sustain his drug habit. He said he went to Siff's office to burglarize it, and said he had burglarized other offices while employed at the theater.

"I just took a chance on getting a few dollars," he said, saying he had no intention of killing the theater director.

But, he said, when he approached her office, he clicked off the light and told Siff he wanted her money.

"Before I knew it, the woman was at my chest," Phillips said. "She came from around the desk. I don't think she got a good picture of her. She asked me to get the hell out. She hollered."

"She caught me off guard. I didn't expect it. She hollered and kicked me in (the groin) ... I started holding her hands and choking her so she'd stop. I told her all I wanted was money."

"After that I don't know what happened. A surge of fear came over me ... It was her life or

mine."

He said he wrapped a phone cord around her neck because he did not have the strength to subdue her.

"After she went down, I felt relieved inside," Phillips said. "I'd done an awful thing because she struggled, but actually fighting for me had no business up there. I didn't anticipate that struggle."

But he said he felt guilty for Siff's husband and two sons because he felt sorry for her loss to them, Phillips said. "I will be very difficult to readjust their lives with me. People ask me why I'm guilty. I think she took it right out of me when she took that fight."

Phillips' girlfriend, Jeanne deaux, who gave the testimony about the slaying, she fears retaliation from Siff's family if he is released from prison.

Authorities asked Phillips to set a bond for Tuesday and testify against Phillips.

## Austin man's murder conviction is upheld

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — An Austin man's capital murder conviction, which had previously been overturned by the Court of Criminal Appeals was upheld Wednesday by the same court.

George Edward Clark was originally given the death sentence for the March 3, 1978, abduction, rape and murder of Ann Tracy Drummond, who was taken from a shopping center parking lot.

On Nov. 9, 1981, Gov. Bill Clements commuted Clark's death sentence. The governor acted shortly after the court of criminal appeals' decision to reverse the case because of error during the punishment phase of the trial.

The state then filed a motion for rehearing, which the court considered Wednesday. But the motion was overruled and the court, in a split decision, voted to

affirm Clark's original conviction.

Clark said his statement to police claiming responsibility for Drummond's death was taken illegally. Two police officers, including one who knew Clark socially, went to the defendant's house and asked him to accompany them to the police station.

The officers told Clark they wanted to check his fingerprints and get an explanation why Clark was walking near the location that Drummond's body was found the day after she was killed.

One of the police officers testified that throughout the interrogation Clark was told he could leave the police station at any time.

Clark gave police his fingerprints, which matched some found on Drummond's car. After the fingerprint match, Clark

was arrested and warned of his rights.

Clark contended that he did not have probable cause to come to his house and take him to the police station. He said he was never told he could be interviewed with the two officers and leave the station.

The court found that Clark had voluntarily accompanied the police officers to the station and was told he could leave whenever he wanted.

The court said the police officers did not detain Clark or had given them the information they sought.

Justice Sam Houston disagreed with the majority ruling. He said the court had commuted a non-capital sentence because the error had already been corrected, and Clark should have been granted a new trial.

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