

Prison author sentenced

United Press International
NEW YORK — Jailhouse author Jack Henry Abbott, who has spent most of his adult life behind bars, was sentenced Thursday as a persistent felony

offender to 15 years to life in prison for the stabbing death of a newly wed waiter.
State Supreme Court Justice Irving Lang imposed the sentence for the slaying of waiter

Richard Adan, 22.
In addition, Abbott will first have to serve up to eight years in prison on unrelated federal and Utah state criminal charges. Thus, Abbott, 38, faces 23 years

in jail.
Abbott, the literary protege of author Norman Mailer, was convicted in January of manslaughter in Adan's fatal stabbing outside a lower Manhattan restaurant July 18.

The manslaughter charge has a prison term of 12½ to 25 years but Lang decided Abbott was a persistent violent felony offender. Thus, he could be sentenced to a maximum term of 25 years to life.

Lang called Abbott's manslaughter conviction "an indictment of a prison system that brutalizes rather than rehabilitates."

But, he said he could not ignore Abbott's violent background and past conduct in imposing the sentence.

Mailer was in the courtroom for the sentencing.

Abbott, the author of a critically acclaimed prison diary, "In the Belly of the Beast," refused to leave his cell at Rikers Island jail last month for a court hearing in his case.

Lang threatened to issue a court order to force Abbott to appear Thursday. Abbott's lawyer said Wednesday he expected his client to voluntarily appear in court for sentencing.

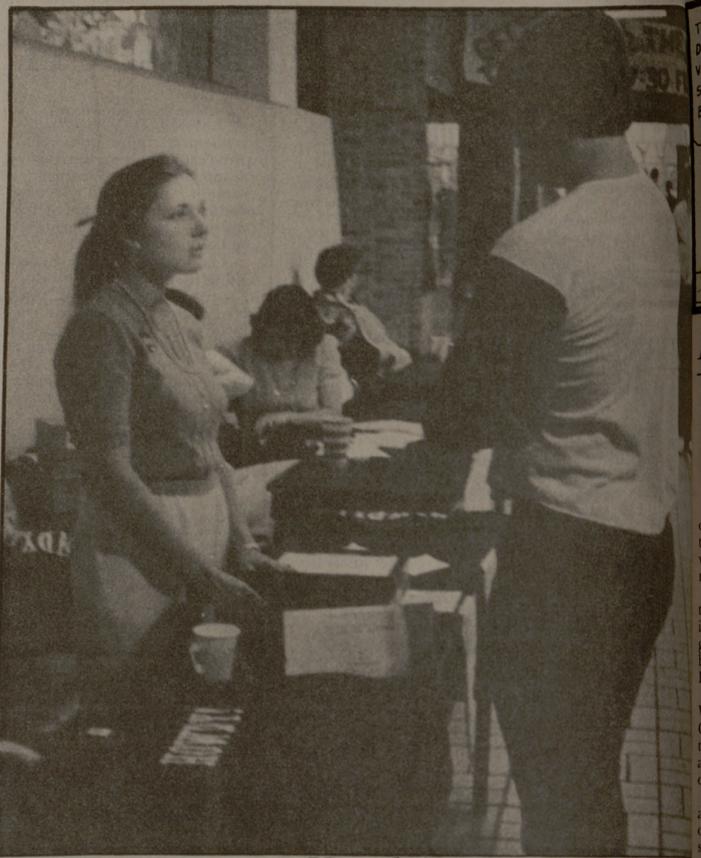
The prosecution, citing two of Abbott's previous felony convictions, asked Lang to declare him a persistent violent offender.

Abbott was convicted of bank robbery in 1971 and of assault with a deadly weapon of a convict in 1967. Abbott stabbed a fellow inmate to death in a Utah prison.

Since age 12, Abbott has been out of jail only 9½ months. Mailer, who was impressed by Abbott's writing, helped the convict obtain release from a Utah federal prison and gave him a job as a literary researcher in New York.

Abbott was on parole and was living at a federally funded halfway house in lower Manhattan, near the restaurant where the slaying occurred.

Adan and Abbott became involved in an argument about the use of an employee rest room. The two men stepped outside the restaurant and Abbott stabbed and killed Adan moments later, officials said.



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Citrus seeds may join war on crop-destroying insects

United Press International
NEW YORK — Farmers someday may use orange, lemon and grapefruit seeds against insects.

Dr. Isao Kubo of the University of California at Berkeley told the American Chemical

Society that waste products from citrus fruits show promise against two insect pests down on the farm.

He called the potential bug killers limonoids and said they are found in seeds, juice and rinds.

Kubo told fellow scientists at a recent national ACS meeting that citrus limonoids inhibited growth of larvae of the cotton bollworm and the fall armyworm.

He figures a pesticide that stunts an insect's growth would cut down damage. Smaller insects can't do as much crop harm as large ones. They eat less.

But there's more to it, said the report on the investigations at Berkeley.

The resultant pygmy bugs also probably would be less resistant to natural predators, parasites and adverse physical conditions, the scientist said.

Limonoids will be put to further tests this year in field experiments on corn or cotton — tests Kubo says are warranted due to the fact that the natural substances apparently are bad for bugs but harmless to humans.

Kubo estimates 30 tons of the substance could be extracted every year from grapefruit seeds alone.

In the tests, Kubo said larvae of bollworm and armyworm would not feed on cotton leaves tainted with limonoids when untreated leaves were available.

When there was no choice, they munched on leaves dosed with limonoids. That diet curbed growth. The results were dwarf versions of full-grown insects.

In tests to date, limonoid from seeds of the neem tree killed the bollworm and armyworm larvae — a lethal step

beyond just stunting growth. But Kubo said the chemical structure of that limonoid is complicated for large-scale production.

The citrus limonoids are complicated, too, but they are available in a steady way from waste of grapefruit, oranges and lemons.

More intelligence about war on insects came in two reports presented at the conference in Las Vegas, Nev.

One report explained how some plants wage sophisticated war against bugs — like burning them. The other said that trees trick bugs by changing composition of leaves to make them non-appetizing.

Dr. Thor Arnason, University of Ottawa, and Dr. G. H. Towers, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, told the plant chemicals absorb sunlight and use it to fry insects today.

Arnason said members of the sunflower clan — dark black-eyed Susans, marigolds — are probably the biggest users of this brand of warfare.

Dr. Jack C. Schultz, of Dartmouth College, said the changing chemical composition of leaves to get rid of insects is a different defense mechanism.

He said research at the Harvard Brook Experiment Forest in New Hampshire revealed that the changes occur in response to chewing insects.

Insects such as caterpillars start chomping lower leaves. The tree changes the composition of those leaves. The caterpillar then moves up around, looking for less nutritious leaves.

The hunt for high quality leaves increases the death rate, Schultz said, by making the leaves more conspicuous to predators such as birds.

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