

Documented executions doubled due to study

United Press International
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A University of Alabama law library clerk discovered at least 13,600 people have been legally

executed in the United States — 6,600 more than criminal justice experts have always believed.

Watt Espy, who has been researching legal executions during the past 11 years as part of the Capital Punishment Research Project at the university law school, said he expects the total to reach 20,000 before he finishes his work.

The university released Espy's findings during the weekend.

Before Espy began his project, it was believed that about 7,000 people had been legally executed in this country.

Espy, doing the research "so that human beings legally put to death in America are at least given names," only includes executions carried out under court order in his study. He does not list lynchings or military executions. He averages confirming about three previously unrecorded executions each day.

Espy usually begins with a list of executions from a state or county agency or old newspaper clippings. He collects additional information from local or county historians, court records, law

or other libraries, or old newspaper.

"I record the available demographic information relating to the executed person," Espy said. "Often the details are sketchy, especially when the person executed was a slave or in the colonial era."

"In this case, we often have the slave's dollar value at the time, but not the person's age. We attempt to get all the information we can, though," he said.

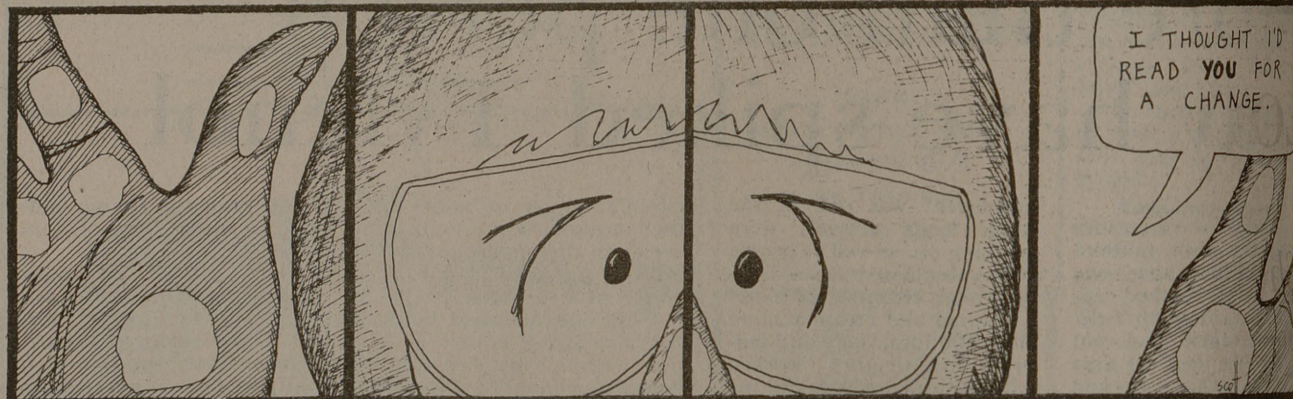
Espy's chronicle of legal executions begins with the 1622 hanging of Daniel Frank in Jamestown, Va., for the theft of a hog and cow, and runs through 1982.

One entry is on the June 13, 1893, hangings of four black men — Buck Brooks, Moses Brown, Frisbie Comegys and Fletcher Williams — in Chestertown, Md., for the murder of a Dr. James Hill.

An account of the hangings in the Columbus, Ga., Enquirer Sun noted that a struggling Comegys was conscious at least five minutes and that Brooks' "determined efforts to get the handcuffs off pleased the crowd greatly."

Warped

by Scott McCullar



What's Up at Texas A&M

Tuesday

DESOTO HOMETOWN CLUB: Officer elections and discussion of upcoming plans for the year will be the subjects of a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 200 Harrington.

WATER SKI CLUB: A general meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.

STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT: A meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder Tower.

KEATHLY HALL-PROGRAMS COMMITTEE: Dan Usiak, Student Legal Advisor, will speak on "Women's and Student's Legal Rights" in a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the A-1 Lounge.

AGGIELAND: Freshmen and sophomores can get their pictures taken for the yearbook this week between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in 350 MSC.

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: An Information on Careers in Data Processing (ICDP) meeting with Shell Oil will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Aggield Inn. Please, undergraduates only. Refreshments will be served.

OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE: Sign up now through Thursday for the Oct. 9 Kayak Trip. Lists are at the secretaries' island in the MSC Student Programs Office today through Thursday.

A&M RUGBY: Practice is held at 5 p.m. at the main drill field Mondays through Thursdays. For more information, contact Robert Gougler at 846-9772.

OFF CAMPUS CENTER: An off-campus freshmen Contact Party will be held at the Barcelona Apartments at 6:30 p.m. Hotdogs and sodas will be available. See you there.

TAMU WINDSURFING CLUB: Elections will be held in a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 410 Rudder.

MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE: A general meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 401 Rudder.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ORGANIZATION: A testimonial meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the All Faiths Chapel Meditation room.

MARKETING SOCIETY: General meeting to discuss the

Dallas trip will be held at 7 p.m. in 102 Academic and Agency Building.

MSC VIDEO COMMITTEE: A meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in 352 MSC to discuss new production and the Monday Night Concert Series.

STUDENT DIETETIC ASSOCIATION: Plans will be made in a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 100 Kleberg for the National ADA convention.

SOCIOLOGY CLUB: A general meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in 407A Rudder.

TEXAS A&M WOMEN'S LACROSSE CLUB: Club practice is held every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Main Drill Field.

AMERICAN HUMANICS STUDENT ASSOCIATION: A discussion of Juvenile Delinquency in America and how it affects the Youth Agencies will be held at 7 p.m. in 350-A MSC.

MSC HOSPITALITY: A general meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

CLASS OF '84: A general meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 501 Rudder. We're getting committees together and need lots of help.

MSC VARIETY SHOW: A committee meeting will be held at 8:30 p.m. in 607 Rudder.

PSI CHI: Ramona Benson will discuss a specific child abuse case study in a meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 402 Academic Building.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS (ASSE): Bob Stark of Marathon Oil Company will speak at a meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. in 342 Zachry.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY: A meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in 158 Academic and Agency Building to discuss parties, resume review, intramurals, and other business.

PRE-LAW SOCIETY: A reception for Noel Augustus, assistant dean of Boston College School of Law, will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in 407 Rudder Tower. Those interested in law school may attend.

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Battered wives lose suit bid

WASHINGTON — The children of two battered women who were killed by their husbands lost a Supreme Court bid Monday to try to sue Texas prosecutors for failing to act when the women sought help.

Without comment, the justices refused to revive a multi-million-dollar lawsuit filed against Tarrant County District Attorney Tim Curry and Louis Barnett, former assistant district attorney.

On separate occasions, Mary Wynell Miller and Gerald Murrell went to the local district attorney's office for help after their husbands abused and threatened them.

But the prosecutors offer no assistance, the lawsuit alleged the office had a policy of non-intervention in domestic violence, and claimed the prosecutors violated the women's rights.

On Dec. 6, 1978, Mrs. Miller, 25, a mother of three, was shot to death by her husband in a car. Mrs. Murrell, 23, a mother of four, was shot in the head by her ex-husband on Jan. 1980, in Fort Worth as she sat in a car with her baby on her lap.

The Texas Court of Appeals dismissed the lawsuit grounds that prosecutors are immune from all lawsuits stemming from their official duties.

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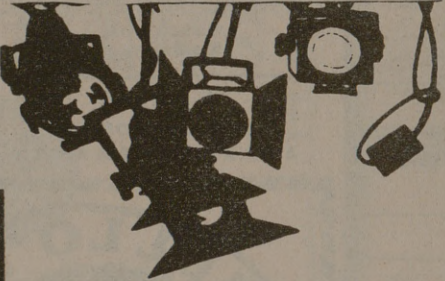
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