

Two 'Eves' reported at A&M

Stress linked to personality split

By Alison Cope

Battalion Reporter
Only eight cases of multiple personality, a rare psychological disorder popularized by "Three Faces of Eve" and "Sybil," have been published in professional journals. However, psychologists believe that many more cases go unpublished because they are never diagnosed or reported.

Texas A&M University has had at least two of cases of multiple personality in the last couple of years.

Dr. Jeffrey M. Kern, a psychology professor at Texas A&M, said he knows of one stu-

dent who had multiple personality, and the counseling center has reported another.

Textbooks define the cause of multiple personality as an avoidance response which serves to protect a person from highly stressful events, and Kern says college life can cause stress.

"Often students are brought up in a very strict environment. When they get to college, they can't handle certain situations, so their personality splits," Kern said.

Many times the psychological problems are sexually-related,

he said.

Marriage, divorce, child rearing and peer pressure, all stressful situations, also can cause multiple personality in people who have trouble dealing with stress, Kern said.

A childhood trauma was the cause of one of the most celebrated cases of split personality. Chris Sizemore, the subject of the book, "Three Faces of Eve," was two years old when she saw two men killed in a sawmill accident and then saw her mother badly cut in a separate incident. She was unable to cope with the accidents and developed a

second personality which was able to handle the situation. After the accidents, her personalities always came in three's. Sizemore spent 46 years of her life battling 22 different personalities.

Kern said thousands of multiple personality cases probably have gone undetected and unreported because psychologists know little about the illness and often do not report their failures in curing patients.

Kern said one example of a multiple personality is when a person, who is normally shy or introverted, becomes bold or

outgoing when faced with a situation too difficult to handle.

Other people usually cannot tell if a person has multiple personality, Kern said. Many times the person does not know he has a problem until he gets into some kind of trouble. He may find himself somewhere and not know how or why he got there. Kern said this is often the time a person seeks help for the problem.

To cure multiple personality cases, doctors try to help the patient deal with whatever causes the personality split.

Judge's son witness to Wood assassination

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A judge's son who was looking idly out the window of his brother's apartment on May 29, 1979, said he saw federal Judge John Wood lean into his car, heard a shot and saw Wood fall back onto the pavement.

James A. Spears, son of Senior U.S. District Court Judge Adrian Spears, testified Wednesday that he saw Wood, whom he knew personally, leaving his apartment for work at 8:30 a.m.

As Spears watched from an apartment across the driveway, he said he saw Wood lean through the front door of his Chevrolet as if placing something on the seat.

"Then right after that I heard a loud — what I thought was a backfire," Spears said. "I turned back and saw a man (Wood) down in the parking lot. The first thing I did was I called the 911 emergency number and said there was a man down in the parking lot."

Then he ran downstairs, where he found Kathryn Wood standing at the door of her apartment.

Mrs. Wood tearfully testified Wednesday that she was on the telephone just after Wood left for court when she heard the shot.

"I just dropped the phone and went outside," she said. "The door to his car was open. I looked down and picked up his head and said, 'John, who shot you?' He didn't answer me."

Six months earlier, Mrs. Wood said, her husband had refused the protection of U.S. marshals assigned to him after someone fired shots at U.S. Attorney James Kerr of San Antonio.

"He liked the marshals but he didn't like to be followed every minute," Mrs. Wood said.

Charles Harrelson, convicted in a 1968 contract killing, has been charged with murder in the judge's death. Prosecutors say he killed Wood for \$250,000 from Jimmy Chagra of El Paso, who feared a life sentence from Wood in a scheduled drug smuggling trial.

Harrelson's wife Jo Ann is on trial for obstruction of justice and Chagra's wife Elizabeth for conspiracy.

Mrs. Wood, who had made no public statement since the slaying, read aloud a letter she received last month from Mrs. Chagra, who asked forgiveness for her role in the slaying. But asked if she had forgiven Mrs. Chagra, the widow said, "No, I cannot forgive."

The letter had not been made public previously.

"I am a newly-born Christian and after making peace with God, I decided to try and make peace with mankind and especially you," the letter began. "My name is Elizabeth Nichols Chagra."

Mrs. Chagra, 28, said she was in the kitchen frying chicken the day her husband said, "I'm going to kill Judge Wood."

"I had heard my husband on many occasions use this phrase. And never before had anything happened to these people," Mrs. Chagra wrote. "I said, 'OK, honey.'"

"I was not involved in a plot or plan for I never sat down and conspired to have your husband murdered," she said. "God knows that I am guilt-free of that crime."

Jimmy Chagra first denied any involvement in the judge's death but later insisted that his wife deliver the payoff money, she said.

Mrs. Chagra complied but said she eventually had a nervous breakdown because of pressure from government and guilt.

"Regardless of the fact that I did this act out of love and devotion to my husband," she wrote, "I am willing to take my share of the responsibility for what I did. But as a Christian, I know I could never repay or repair the hurt and pain you must have felt."

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