

Texas asks Supreme Court for Halloween 'Candy Man' execution

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — The Texas attorney general's office filed to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn a court order blocking the Halloween execution of "Candy Man" killer Ronald Clark O'Bryan, a spokesman in the attorney general's office said Wednesday.

5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted him a stay Wednesday just three days before he was to face death in the Texas prison at Huntsville.

However, a spokesman in the Texas attorney general's office in Austin said the U.S. Supreme Court would be asked to let the execution proceed.

The appeal asking to vacate the stay was to have been filed on Thursday.

A 5th Circuit spokesman said

O'Bryan's case had been scheduled for a hearing during the week of Jan. 24, 1983.

The spokesman said judges Carolyn Randall of Houston and Albert Tate of New Orleans voted for the stay, but Judge Thomas Gee of Houston dissented. Gee indicated he would explain his dissent in a later filing.

O'Bryan, of the Houston suburb of Deer Park, was convicted of substituting cyanide crystals

for powdery candy in a "Giant Pixie Stix" given to his son Timothy Marc, 8, on Oct. 31, 1974.

The boy died of cyanide poisoning an hour after eating the substance in his father's presence. Four other children

found with the poisoned candy, including O'Bryan's daughter, did not eat it.

O'Bryan, dubbed the "Candy Man" by fellow death row inmates, was to have died at 12:01 a.m. Sunday.

Cutting VD reference from texts draws fire

United Press International
AUSTIN — A state senator criticized a decision by the Texas Education Agency to delete references to venereal disease from elementary and junior high textbooks, saying it is basic information that cannot be overlooked.

Sen. Betty Andujar, D-Fort Worth, Wednesday called on state education commissioner Raymond Bynum to reverse a decision he made last Friday.

Bynum ordered publishers to delete references to sexually transmitted diseases from their texts for grades four through eight.

Mrs. Andujar, who has been directing a Senate Subcommittee on Public Health and Welfare study on VD, said informa-

tion on VD is "basic information which cannot be overlooked."

"Uniform testimony from health educators around the state repeatedly indicated the need for this instruction," she said. "Now it appears one man has dictated that his own views should prevail over the genuine needs of the community."

Assistant education commissioner Thomas Henderson denied the agency ordered the material deleted. He said it had only informed publishers the agency wanted to review the material.

But David Burton, president of the Texas Association of Textbook Publishers, said deleting the material, or delaying publication for a review would even-

tually drive up the cost of the books.

Burton said publishers had offered texts that complied with guidelines issued in March.

Michael Hudson, coordinator for a citizens group, People for the American Way, said Bynum's decision "undermines the entire textbook selection process."

"Fifteen educators from all across Texas have spent six months reviewing the books, screening thousands of pages of written comments and many hours in public hearings only to have their decision summarily overturned," he said.

Hudson said Bynum's decision underscores the need for reform of the textbook selection process in Texas.

Convicted killer of ex-wife found dead in his apartment

United Press International
AWACO — A man convicted of killing his ex-wife was found dead in his apartment, officials said Thursday. Suicide is the suspected cause of death.

Edward Loesch, 46, was convicted Wednesday in the June 7 shooting death of his ex-wife Rose Day Loesch.

Loesch was to appear in 54th District Court Thursday for the punishment phase of his trial.

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but when he failed to show up at his attorney's office, officers searched his apartment and found his body.

Loesch apparently took a lethal dose of poison, but au-

thorities said further tests would be made to determine the exact cause of death.

The conviction carried a sentence of 99 years to life.

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