

Disabled man protests, uses window approach

United Press International
CRIPPLE CREEK, Colo. — A one-legged, transplanted Texan upset over the lack of access by the handicapped to Teller County Commission meetings used a hydraulic "cherry picker" Monday to attend a gathering of commissioners.

Dan Mosley, who moved to Cripple Creek in 1979, was hoisted to the second floor meeting room in the 80-year-old courthouse and rapped on the window. When no one answered his knocks, he opened it and yelled, "Can I come in, or am I gonna have to sit out here?"

Mosley, who has been feuding with the commission to do something about the access situation, didn't wait for a reply. He hoisted himself with his arms through the window and leaned on a radiator until his wife brought his crutches.

Mosley, who lost his right leg at the hip in a Texas industrial accident 17 years ago, said he borrowed a friend's hydraulic bucket truck for the demonstration. He filed a discrimination complaint in May with the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Revenue Sharing that could

jeopardize the county's annual location.

A small crowd of onlookers seemed to appreciate Mosley's efforts, Commissioners Charles Mattson, June Fuhlrodt and Dennis Luttrell weren't amused.

Fuhlrodt called it a publicity ploy and noted commissioners have offered to help Mosley upstairs to attend the meetings. They even have offered to meet downstairs to discuss anything he wants.

"And then they go back upstairs and finish the rest of the meeting," said Mosley.



Welfare fraud discovered

Woman to apologize in a

United Press International
HOUSTON — A judge has ordered a working woman, 19, to apologize with a classified ad to taxpayers and the jobless for fraudulently accepting \$1,425 in welfare payments.

State District Judge Ted Poe said Monday Lavel Foster could reach many of the people she had cheated by taking out an ad in the Houston Chronicle or Houston Post.

"The crime was committed against the taxpayers of the community who foot the bill for all welfare," Poe said. "Therefore, it's just fair that she apologize to those individuals, and to those who may need welfare and cannot get it."

Foster pleaded guilty to the fraud Monday.

Poe ordered also that the woman make restitution for the \$1,425, pay the state \$175 for

her court-appointed lawyer and spend five years on probation. Foster is not to receive any public financial aid during those years, he ruled.

Foster is the mother of one young son. Court records indicate she was employed at a fast-food restaurant last summer during the eight months she was receiving welfare and food stamps.

"A crime like welfare fraud incenses me because many peo-

ple who need welfare — like the elderly or the disabled — can't get it because of the way the system works. It's not stealing from the people that need it, it's stealing from the people that need it the most."

Poe chose the classified ad because that section is the most visible, work, looking for jobs, those are the folks who need it the most and must apologize to them.

Miracles real for recipient

United Press International
HOUSTON — A Tennessee research chemist says he believes in miracles since his successful heart transplant surgery four months ago.

"Before my heart attack and all the things that happened up to the time of the transplant, I didn't believe miracles could occur in today's world," said Charles A. Washington, 47. "But I assure you my being alive today is a real miracle."

Washington, who works at Union Carbide Corp.'s Nuclear Division in Oak Ridge, Tenn., said he underwent seven coronary bypass operations before getting a heart transplant at the Texas Heart Institute in March.

He said his life before the transplant operation was hectic and for "many weeks, I'd have five or six meetings, racing from this place to that."

Now, however, he has made a promise to himself to slow down and spend more time with his family.

"I accepted several times the fact that I was not going to live — and I appreciated what 'here today, gone tomorrow' means," Washington said. "Then when I made it, I truly knew what getting a new lease on life meant... and I understood for the first time the power of prayer."

"I also came to appreciate rather dramatically just what the priorities in one's life are and

should be," he said.

He said after the heart attack last Labor Day, doctors in Tennessee said between 40 and 60 percent of his heart was destroyed.

In Birmingham, Ala., doctors performed seven bypass operations, restoring enough blood flow through his body to give him a chance to return to normal activities.

"Actually, I got progressively worse... and it was scary. I couldn't sleep except sitting up with my head on a table... and the pain was constant," Washington said. "My skin began to peel off, I gasped for breath almost all the time." He said his weight dropped from

210 to 130 pounds, and not able to walk more than a few steps at a time.

The transplant occurred March 27, after a young man from the same area who was in a coma for a year as part of a heart-lung transplant program was found to be a match for Washington.

The donor was identified as a 25-year-old man from the same area who was in a coma for a year as part of a heart-lung transplant program. The donor was found to be a match for Washington.

Tape of beating death to highlight Texas trial

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — A cassette tape that recorded the vicious blows that led to the death of a man, 27, is expected to highlight the state's case against Sherry Wolf, 21, accused of murder.

A jury of seven men and five women was selected Monday for the trial of Wolf, charged with helping plot the slaying of her ex-husband, Billy Staton.

Testimony in the case began Tuesday.

Staton was beaten to death with an iron bar and a hammer on July 16, 1982, in the living room of the Wolfs' farm house at La Feria.

Staton inadvertently taped his death and also the shotgun blast that killed his girlfriend, school teacher Leticia Castro, 27, on a recorder he had hidden on his body during a court-ordered visitation with his daughter, Melanie, 3.

A Brownsville jury convicted Paul Wolf last April in Castro's death, then the farmer, 21, later

pleaded guilty to killing Staton. He received two life sentences for the slaying.

The child had been the victim of a court battle over custody rights. The Wolfs' farm house was the scene of a trolly each time Staton came to see her.

In Wolf's trial, jurors heard several times to the jury that Staton was able to hear the sound of the shotgun blast as he lay on the floor with the bat S. The tape also contained St. St. his own blood in the room where they were found.

A transcript of the trial was made by a court reporter. St. St. which Wolf swore was correct when he pleaded guilty to the slaying, revealed Mrs. Wolf shouted, "I'm again, hit him again," while attacking Staton from behind with the iron bar.

Glenn Henderson, the state witness in Wolf's trial, testified that Mrs. Wolf was plotting to kill the couple where they were found later. Henderson pleaded guilty to murder and also was given a life sentence.

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