

Mother says her son's early death was 'the Lord's Will'

United Press International

IRVING — Friends of Jonathon Lehman called him "the Golden Boy" and the cards spilled on the blue carpet at his mother's feet were a mixture of hope, happiness, love and eventually sorrow.

Three-year-old Jonathon died in a Memphis, Tenn., hospital Feb. 13, 11 days after receiving a liver transplant.

For his parents, Darlene and Jon Lehman, it was a time to reflect on three years during which they watched their "very special child touch the lives of many people," Mrs. Lehman said.

Their frail, 18-pound son had fought a lifelong battle with a liver ailment that left him in desperate need of the transplant doctors had hoped would give him a chance for a normal life.

During the past year, waiting first for financing, then for a donor, the Lehmans watched Jonathon's health lead him from one hospital to another.

Residents of the Dallas area raised the money to pay for the surgery.

"The Lord provides a support family through the church," Mrs. Lehman said softly. "Without that support, you might not make it."

Though Jonathon was only a child, the cards that flooded into the home spoke of a child who had an effect on families across the nation. Among them was a telegram from Texas Gov. Mark White.

"In a world filled with suspicion and hate, he taught many to care," one man wrote.

Another family wrote, "Jonathon touched our hearts, changed our lives. We thank you for sharing him with us."

Mrs. Lehman said strangers have stopped her and expressed the effect Jonathon had on their lives. But none of their kind efforts can soften the shock of their son's death, she said.

When word finally came that the long-awaited donor liver

was at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis, Jonathon, riding on his father's shoulders, boarded a flight with his parents on Feb. 2.

"I was anxious and excited," Mrs. Lehman said, pausing slightly. "I was never afraid. We didn't prepare ourselves for what happened, didn't consider the possibility. It was a shock."

The operation took place Feb. 3 and doctors had thought he was responding well to the treatment.

"I had just gotten a report that morning that the liver was functioning perfectly. This was almost too perfect," she said.

Mrs. Lehman arrived at the hospital for her daily visit Feb. 13 and "when I saw the doctor's face and he put his hands on my shoulders, I knew he was telling me something bad," she said.

Dr. Gene Whittington, also

shaken by the turn of events, told her Jonathon had suffered a cardiac arrest.

Mrs. Lehman said things happened quickly after that, but said she was sure the doctors and nurses did everything they could.

"They were devastated, shocked and crying and felt that they had failed Jonathon, that they had failed us. And I needed to tell them they hadn't, that it was the Lord's will the way things happened," she said.

"If I could say something to parents going through the same things we went through, it would be that it's not over with the operation. Too many other things can happen."

Mrs. Lehman said the family was making plans to return home just before Jonathon died and had not expected anything to go wrong because the new liver was "functioning perfectly."

Mattox has no objection to televising execution

United Press International

AUSTIN — Attorney General Jim Mattox said Tuesday he has no objection to television coverage of killer James David Autry's scheduled execution, but prison administrators reportedly are not receptive to the idea.

A Beaumont District Court judge has set a March 14 execution date for Autry, whose scheduled execution on Oct. 5, 1983, was halted by a stay from the U.S. Supreme Court just 31 minutes before he was to die by lethal injection.

After his new execution date was set recently, Autry said he wanted the proceedings televised.

"It's not all that real to the public if they don't see an execution," Autry said last week. "If they are serious about using the death penalty as a deterrent they should let the people see it."

Mattox spokesman Elna Christopher said Mattox read of Autry's request and decided to write the corrections board and inform its members they had the authority to allow television broadcast coverage and to issue strict guidelines on how such coverage would be handled.

"He just felt the world is changing, with the broadcast media being so much a part of that change," Christopher said. "It's not so much that he

thought it (the coverage) would be a deterrent."

The Department of Corrections already allows limited press coverage of executions but has never allowed still camera or television coverage.

Despite Mattox's letter, TDC public affairs spokesman Jay Byrd said prison officials did not plan to grant Autry's request.

"I don't know if the board has discussed it or not but it is my understanding from my superiors that we would not allow it," Byrd said.

Senate to discuss grad student dorm

By Mary Frances Scott Reporter

A bill recommending that a dormitory be reserved for graduate students will be introduced to the Student Senate tonight. Philosophy professor Dr. John McDermott requested that the Senate look at this proposal as a solution to two problems: the over 700 vacancies in on-campus housing and the graduate students' desire for on-campus housing.

At present, graduate students are not considered for a dorm space until all freshman,

transfer, and returning students who request a spot have been placed. And even then the space is not guaranteed for the following semesters.

The Senate also will hear committee reports on a bill concerning the placement of easy-to-read maps around campus for the benefit of visitors, and on a bill proposing that instructors put all course requirements in writing at the beginning of each semester, instead of just announcing them orally.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 tonight in 204 Harrington.

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