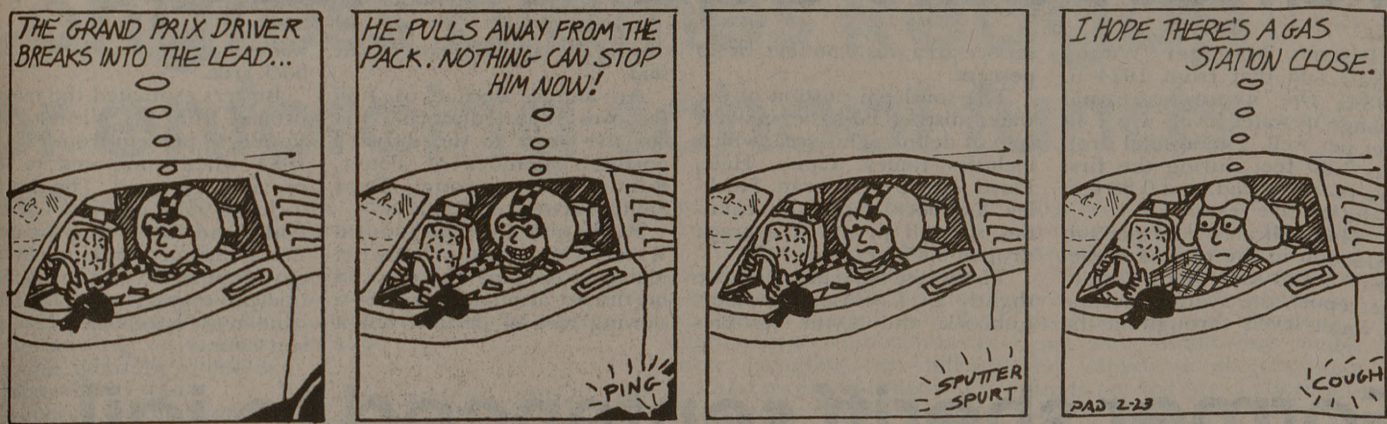


R.I.

by Paul Dirmeyer

Killer surrenders to cops



United Press International
 NEW ORLEANS — A 23-year-old man who said he could no longer live with his conscience surrendered to police and was charged in the murder of a truck driver who disappeared more than two years ago, detectives said Wednesday.

Authorities said Yves R. Morgan of New Orleans summoned police to his home Tuesday and said he had nightmares about a murder he committed about two years ago.

Morgan was arrested and booked in the June 14, 1981, slaying of Albert Hingle Sr. of New Orleans.

Investigators said Morgan did not know the name of the man he claims to have killed, but said he dumped the body in Baton Rouge and abandoned the victim's car in Texas.

Detective Ray Himel, in charge of the Police Department's missing persons section at the time Hingle disappeared, said Morgan's claim he left the

victim's car in Texas "rang a bell."

Hingle was last seen by one of his sons June 14, 1981, when he borrowed the son's car, which was found in Wilmer about 200 miles northwest of Houston. Police said Morgan told them he abandoned the car in Houston.

Detective Donald Saucier said authorities believe a badly decomposed body found in West Baton Rouge Parish about the time Morgan said he committed the crime is Hingle's.

Murder charges dropped against Lucas in Plainview

United Press International

PLAINVIEW — A Hale County murder charge against confessed killer Henry Lee Lucas has been dropped until after the outcome of a Georgetown case involving Lucas, prosecutors said.

Lucas had been charged with the death of a woman whose body was found near Plainview in February 1982. A head found near Scottsdale, Ariz., is believed to belong to the body.

Hale County District Judge

Marvin Marshall dropped the charge Tuesday after District Attorney Ron Felty agreed with defense attorneys that the charge was too vague.

Felty said the charge might be revived later.

"We'll just see what happens down south," he said referring to a capital murder charge Lucas faces in Georgetown for the 1979 death of an unidentified female hitchhiker.

A change of venue was granted in the Georgetown case

Tuesday. District Judge John Carter said the trial will be March 12, but he has not announced where the trial will be held.

Court-appointed defense attorney Bob Bass of Plainview filed a motion in December saying the Hale County charge should be dismissed because authorities were unsure of the woman's identity.

Felty agreed with Bass that the uncertainty of the woman's identity meant Lucas might be

charged with the same murder again if another body were found in the same area.

Felty said his decision to agree with Bass had nothing to do with previous complaints by some county officials about the possible cost to the county of trying Lucas.

Lucas never was arraigned in Hale County because bad weather and court dates elsewhere prevented officials from bringing him to Plainview.

Dallas man says he was tortured

United Press International

DALLAS — A State Department spokesman Wednesday said U.S. diplomats in Saudi Arabia did everything possible to secure the release of a Dallas petroleum engineer from a jail where the man said he was frequently tortured.

In a copyright interview with the Dallas Morning News, Bruce Munden, who returned this month, said he is "bitter" that neither American officials in Damman, where he was held for eight months in jail, nor in Washington, D.C., gave a "damn" about his welfare or that of other American prisoners.

Munden told the News his incarceration resulted from a scheme by his Saudi partners to steal his technology and assets.

State Department spokesman Steve Hill in Washington said the American consulate general in Damman was first informed of Munden's arrest by a friend on June 7, 1983 and that no official notification from Saudi authorities about the arrest was ever received.

The Saudi Arabian embassy in Washington was not available for comment and its director of information, Habib Shaheen, could not be reached.

An aide to Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, said Wednesday the

senator was contacted by Munden and his family only in December 1983 and that on the same day the senator "directed an official inquiry through the State Department to the consulate general."

The aide said the senator received a response in early January from the department about the course of action being taken.

"The consular officer (in Damman) made two attempts to see Mr. Munden in the jail before being allowed to visit him on July 7," Hill said. Subsequent visits were suspended by the Saudis because they were observing the month-long Ramadan religious holiday when Muslims observe fasting, Hill said.

"And when it was over, prison visits were resumed and

we made several visits after July. As you know, U.S. missions abroad don't have the authority to conduct an investigation on the territory of another country," Hill said. "However, in Mr. Munden's case, the matter received attention at the highest levels of the consulate general. His progress in court was monitored and several requests were made with local officials and the partners for an urgent resolution of the matter. We did everything possible and we were very active."

But Munden said, "I'm bitter about it. They don't give a damn. They are not responsible for my release. They had the least amount to do with it. They won't stand up for a citizen's rights."

Munden, owner of

Timeguard Engineering Services Inc., said he was first imprisoned after his Saudi business partners complained that, according to an Arabic language contract, he owed them money. Saudi law allows the accused to be detained until a dispute is resolved, even if no law has been broken.

Munden said what the partners actually wanted was to steal his technique for cleaning and sealing oil pipelines while they are still in the ground.

He said he was strung up on a rack at least 10 times for such minor infractions as exercising or playing cards.

He said other prisoners were regularly beaten on the soles of their feet with a knotted rubber hose.

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