

Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Nurse testifies Autumn Hills patient was being starved

Associated Press
 SAN ANTONIO — A nursing home placed an elderly patient on a starvation diet before she died at the facility, a nursing consultant testified in state district court Wednesday.
 Dolores Alford, a gerontological nursing consultant from Dallas, said Autumn Hills nursing home records showed Elnora Breed was being fed only 600 calories a day.
 "Anything under 700 calories would be starvation," Alford said. "It means they were starving the patient."
 The testimony came in the murder trial of Autumn Hills Convalescent Center Inc. and five of its current and former employees.
 They are accused of murder by neglect in the Nov. 20, 1978, death of Breed. The 87-year-old woman

died after living at an Autumn Hills facility in Texas City for 47 days.
 Alford testified a doctor gave a written order that Breed receive 600 cubic centimeters of liquid nourishment each day. But there was no designation of what kind of food she was to receive.
 The records, she said, showed the nursing home was giving Breed about 600 calories of nourishment each day. Any order for such a diet is illegal "and a nurse cannot carry it out," Alford said.
 She said the nursing home records show Breed's diet was boosted to 250 cubic centimeters of nourishment six times a day, six days before her death.
 In earlier testimony Wednesday, Alford testified a culture from a bed sore on Breed's body turned up

bacteria found in feces and urine.
 "It means the patient had to be lying in feces and urine for it to infect the pressure sore," Alford said.
 The nursing consultant earlier had testified Breed suffered at least three bedsores. At least one of them had reached advance stages and the flesh was rotting.
 "Nursing failed this lady," Alford said. "They abandoned her."
 Defendants in the trial are Cassandra Canlas, 31, former director of nursing services; Autumn Hills president Robert Gay, 58; vice president Ron Pohlmeier; Mattie Locke, 42, a nursing consultant; and Virginia Wilson, 62, former administrator of the Texas City nursing home.
 The trial has been moved to San Antonio on a change of venue.

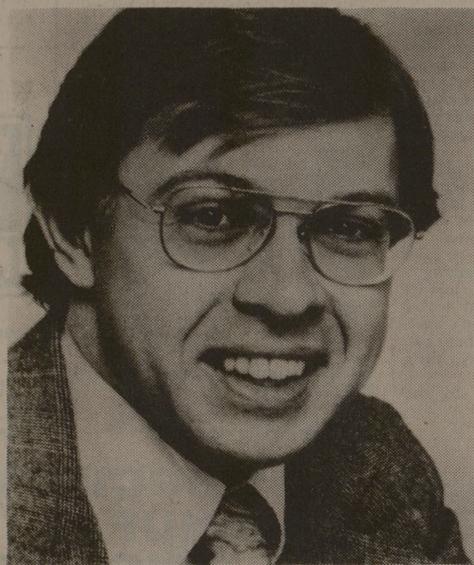
Five death sentences upheld by court

Associated Press
 AUSTIN — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Wednesday upheld five death sentences, including that of an ex-convict found guilty of killing the wife of a minister who had befriended him.
 Jeffery Barney was convicted in the Nov. 25, 1981, strangulation of Ruby Longworth at her Pasadena home.
 Mrs. Longworth's husband John is a minister who had helped Barney win parole from prison, where he had been serving an auto theft sentence.
 According to court records, Barney, then 23, strangled Mrs. Longworth with a microphone cord while her husband was out of town. The victim also was sexually assaulted.
 Longworth testified on Barney's

behalf during the punishment phase of the trial, a fact that puzzled Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Marvin Teague.
 Teague, in a dissent that said there were problems in Barney's trial stated:
 "Given the facts of this case, it is difficult to understand or comprehend why the husband-victim testified ... on behalf of (Barney), unless there is more than meets the eye than what is stated in the majority opinion."
 The majority opinion, written by Judge Chuck Miller, overruled all appeal points raised by Barney.
 "This deliberate and brutal murder coupled with (Barney's) subsequent callous conduct evidences a total lack of regard for the sanctity of life, ownership of property and respect for the personal dignity of in-

dividuals who had gone out of their way to help him," Miller said.
 In another Harris County case, the Court of Criminal Appeals upheld the death sentence of Michael Goodman. He was convicted in the Oct. 16, 1979, shooting death of Jackie Quin at a lounge.
 In a Dallas case, the appeals court affirmed the capital murder conviction and death sentence of David McKay in the March 4, 1982, shooting death of Bobby Hill.
 The appeals judges upheld the death sentence of Robert Streetman, convicted in Hardin County in the Dec. 17, 1982, shooting death of Christine Baker.
 Also affirmed was the death sentence ordered for Jose Guzman, convicted in Navarro County in the Feb. 4, 1984, death of Henry Finch.

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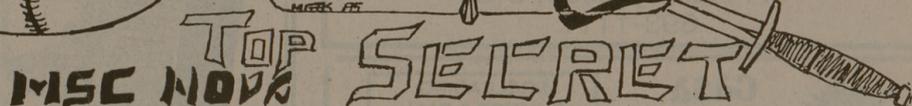
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