

State and Local

Judge moves location of murder trial

DALLAS (AP) — A man accused of killing a teen-ager during a video taped convenience store robbery will be tried on a capital murder charge, a state judge says he will announce Thursday.

State District Judge John Ovard on Tuesday approved a change of venue for Marvin Maurice Wells, 22, who is accused of killing Matt McKay, 17, of Oklahoma City during a November robbery in Carrollton.

It is the first time in 15 years a felony trial has been moved out of Dallas County. The last such move was granted in 1971 in a case involving the killings of three sheriff's deputies, Ovard said.

McKay was shot after he and a friend walked into the convenience store and McKay failed to comply with a gunman's order not to look at his face, authorities said. He was shot once in the back and died two and one-half weeks later after undergoing several emergency operations.

Female journalists speak at A&M

'Women humanize newsroom'

By JULIA COKER
Reporter

Women journalists are bringing compassion to the newsroom but maintaining their professionalism, six women editors said at a panel discussion at the Memorial Student Center Wednesday.

The six editors were Susan Bischoff, managing editor of the *Houston Chronicle*; Maggie Balough, assistant managing editor of the *Austin-American Statesman*; Terry Bertling, editor of the *Huntsville Item*; Barbara Elmore, managing editor of the *Waco Tribune-Herald*; Dee McIlhenney, managing editor *Brazosport Facts*, and Donna Whitaker, managing editor of the *Palentine Herald-Press*.

Whitaker said women editors have humanized the newsroom, helping to open the lines of communication.

Bischoff said this compassion helps diffuse tense situations that can fester in a newsroom when people don't show their emotions.

McIlhenney said women have humanized what has gone into the newspaper, especially the feature sections, which now concentrate primarily on issues of living.

But Whitaker emphasized that women aren't less professional in dealing with hard news stories. She said women are publishing excellent newspapers.

One problem that women journalists have to deal with is sexism, although, most of this comes from outside the newsroom. Elmore said she has received more sexist comments from people outside the newsroom than from the people she works with, although, there is a type of "good ole boyism" that exists in the newsroom.

"People have a certain mind-set about what women do," Elmore said. "There is a 'good ole boyism' going on and you pick up on it."

Whitaker said she misses out on a bond or friendship with her boss because she is unable to have the type of "good ole boy" relationship with him that her male counterparts have. She said she doesn't play golf, so she can't participate in the games he plays with the men in the newsroom.

"I went out to lunch with him (her boss) once," Whitaker said, "and someone made a wisecrack about it. That was the last time I went out to lunch with him."

Bertling said sexism is becoming less evident in the newsroom. She said her newspaper has hired female sports writers. She said she used to be a sports reporter and the first impression of people when she would show up to cover a sporting event was one of disbelief.

Since more women are in the newsroom now as compared to previous years, McIlhenney said

women are beginning to build a female "good ole boy" network.

Although the panel members are in supervisory positions and more women are moving up in the newsroom hierarchy, they said men have no reason to fear reverse discrimination because the majority of publishers and editors-in-chief are men.

McIlhenney said she consciously tries to keep a balance of men and women in the newsroom at the *Brazosport Facts*.

At the luncheon, the editors said having a profession and a family is possible as long as both one's family and employer are flexible.

Bischoff said, "You have to give up something. It might be not keeping your house as nice as you would like. Whatever it is, as long as you have flexibility from your family or boss, you can be where you're needed, but you can't be a perfectionist."

Facing the long hours, possible marriage break-ups and chauvinism, women still aren't discouraged to pursue a career in journalism.

According to an article by Maurine Beasley, associate professor of journalism at the University of Maryland, in the January issue of *The Bulletin*, about 60 percent of about 87,000 students enrolled in journalism in the United States are women.

Voters must choose their sheriff, dead or alive

SAN MATEO, Calif. (AP) — Political leaders in San Mateo County say they may back a dead candidate for sheriff rather than a living one with questionable credentials.

County officials say they never doubted popular Sheriff Brendan Maguire would be re-elected June 3, but the 52-year-old law officer died of a sudden heart attack Monday night.

The ballots already have been printed with Maguire's name. The only other candidate is Jim White, a 41-year-old guard at the U.S. Mint in San Francisco and a licensed private investigator.

Word that White was the only living candidate sparked news reports in Texas and in the San Francisco Bay area about White's 1979 dismissal from the Dallas County Sheriff's Department.

White was suspended by the Dal-

"I have not seen . . . evidence that shows me the other candidate has any qualifications."

— Burlingame Police Chief Fred Palmer.

las County Sheriff's Department several times and fired twice before a third dismissal ended his 29-month tenure in Dallas.

He was fired for the final time in May 1979 after reports surfaced that he had been arrested on charges of shooting a man in El Cajon, Calif., in 1970.

White said because his juvenile record was expunged by court order in 1973, his statement on a Dallas

County application that he has no criminal record was truthful.

At Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting in San Mateo, county leaders discussed whether to mount a write-in campaign for some other candidate or to urge voters to cast their ballots for Maguire.

"We're worried," said Burlingame Police Chief Fred Palmer, president of the county police chiefs association. "I have not seen one piece of documentary evidence that shows me the other candidate has any qualifications."

County Attorney James Fox told the board that if a majority of the votes went for Maguire, the supervisors then would have the option of appointing its own successor or calling a new election.

White issued a news release saying such proposals "usurp fair political practices" and calling for the super-

"I . . . will strongly oppose any attempts by the Board of Supervisors to obstruct the voting process."

— Jim White, Mateo County sheriff candidate.

visors to leave the issue up to the voters.

"I will look forward to debating the issues with any write-in candidate, but will strongly oppose any attempts by the Board of Supervisors to obstruct the voting process," the release said.

Allan Shinsel, a campaign aide to White, said Wednesday that White would not discuss the 1979 firing with reporters, but would issue an-

other statement on that topic later. He said the news reports about White's background were inaccurate, but would not elaborate.

White entered the sheriff's race after suing Maguire and other county officials for denying him a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

Court records allege White falsified his home address on a previous application to the San Diego County sheriff's office, misrepresented his employment status and used stationery from government offices where he wasn't working.

Assistant District Attorney Dan Daly said the denial had to do with the misrepresentations, not with White's background.

White said earlier in the campaign that his firing from the Dallas County sheriff's department was a "political move" and that the shooting was in self-defense.

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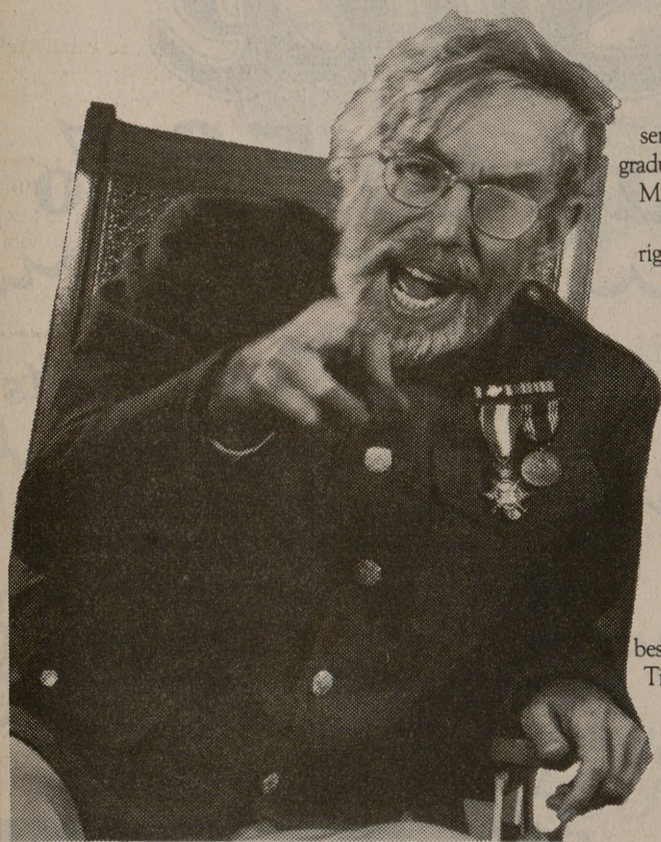
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