

# Lucas: Bundy's execution justified if he was guilty

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Alleged serial killer Henry Lee Lucas, once linked to hundreds of slayings around the country, said Wednesday the execution of Ted Bundy in Florida was justified if Bundy committed the crimes for which he was convicted.

"I have no reluctance about that," Lucas, 53, said in an interview on the Texas death row, where he awaits execution for the 1979 slaying of an unidentified female hitchhiker known only as "Orange Socks."

"But knowing law enforcement as I do, did he commit the crimes?" Lucas asked, referring to Bundy, who

was executed Tuesday.

"To me, anybody that commits a crime like he committed should die," he said. "I can't be the judge or jury, but that's my opinion. If they commit the crime, it's only right they pay the penalty."

In 1983 Lucas confessed to more than 600 slayings, but later recanted all but one — the bludgeoning death of his mother in Tecumseh, Mich., in 1960. The confessions made him the greatest serial killer in U.S. history although some now consider him the perpetrator of a gigantic hoax.

A Texas attorney general's report

in 1986 blamed sloppy work by authorities who accepted the confessions from Lucas, although police say Lucas remains a suspect in numerous killings.

"A lot of people out there — especially law enforcement — still believe I did the crimes," Lucas said Wednesday.

Besides his death sentence, Lucas has at least six life prison terms, two 75-year sentences and another 60-year term.

Asked if he still had hopes he would get out of prison, he replied, "If I can ever get this stuff cleared up."

He said he has 365 confessions to clear in Texas alone.

Lucas said he spent about 2½ years in Florida from 1979 to 1981, living in the same house in Jacksonville with Otis Toole, an occasional companion now jailed in Florida. He said he never met Bundy but had heard of him.

"Just about anywhere you go, you hear about him," Lucas said.

Lucas estimated he had been interviewed by as many as 2,000 police and that Florida authorities have asked that he come to that state to be interviewed about cases in which he has been implicated by Toole.

"They told me they'd give me top treatment, but I don't want any part of it," he said.

"Every time I turn around, they're calling me down to talk on the phone with law enforcement — California, Florida, Virginia, Texas. I told them I wasn't guilty and wasn't going to make some confessions."

## Salutes

### Students

Texas A&M student **Wilson S. Geisler IV** has been awarded the Frank H. Newman Civil Engineering Scholarship for 1988.

Texas A&M students **Soma Coulibaly** and **Vijayabalan Balasingam** have been selected as Outstanding Young Men of America for 1988. This program seeks to recognize the achievements and abilities of men between the ages of 21 and 36.

*Salutes is a community service provided by The Battalion to list students, faculty and staff who have received honors and awards (such as scholarships, retirement, etc.). Space is limited and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee that your submission will run. Submissions may be refused if they contain incomplete or incorrect information. If you have any questions, please call The Battalion at 845-3315.*

## Co-ops

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"Once you're on board, I think you'd really have to screw up to not get hired," he said. "Companies invest a lot of money and time in the program, paying you up to \$12 per hour to learn. That's a lot of investing," he said.

Yates said large companies that hire many co-ops also have their own interests in mind while doing this investing.

"The companies are not altruistic, hiring students just to help them figure out what they want to do," Yates said. "If you think about it, the company will be able to hire a bright, motivated student to work that can be paid less and trained while on the job. The program also allows companies to evaluate the student on something other than just an interview when hiring."

Although some companies are known for extended co-op programs, like NASA, IBM and General Dynamics, other companies have co-ops because they are approached by the student. Golden Bear International, Inc., is one such company.

It was contacted by Colin Melton, a senior agronomy major. Melton worked with the company from June through December 1988.

"As a co-op, my responsibilities included maintaining Jack Nicklaus' putting green, turf tennis court, sand trap, croquet court and general turf at his residence," Melton said. "Golden Bear is a company specializing in design, maintenance, marketing, management and other aspects of the golfing industry."

Melton was a turf intern, working with eight others to keep the property in the best possible shape. He also was included in projects such as lighting, irrigation, weed control and taking soil samples, he said.

"I never had a day where I didn't want to get up and go to work," Melton said. "I loved my job, because everything was a challenge. I joined the program because I wanted to combine what I've learned in school with hands-on experience. I think it's been a good trade-off for missing that time in school."

Melton was able to work two of his three co-op terms back-to-back because the golf season runs year-round in Florida.

"I wanted to work at a place that wouldn't shut down for part of the year," he said. "In Florida, the average temperature is about 78 degrees all year. Some places that I called said they couldn't employ me later than October or November, and that wouldn't meet the co-op re-

quirements."

The co-op program requires that students alternate work and school semesters, meaning the student usually works one spring, one summer and one fall term.

Melton's major, not being a common major for co-ops, gave him the incentive to contact many different companies to find a job on his own.

"I must have contacted over 25 companies and country clubs," Melton said. "My first internship was with Shady Oaks Country Club in Fort Worth," he said. "My second and third were with Golden Bear. Both times I went into the co-op office with the job laid out."

Yates said most students come in with the idea of applying to one of the positions already developed by the co-op office, but don't have an actual job already set up. Either way, something can be worked out, he said.

"Most students that come in to the office with good grades get a job," Yates said. "But there are some disciplines in which it's harder to find one than others."

"It's much easier to place engineering, computer science, accounting, physics, chemistry and other applied majors such as Russian or Chinese in a job, simply because students qualified in these disciplines are harder for companies to find upon graduation," he said. "The companies have to do innovative things, like hiring co-ops, to get their hooks on these students earlier."

"But in non-technical fields like liberal arts disciplines, it is easier for companies to fill their human resource needs from the large number of graduates, without having to utilize the co-op program as a recruiting tool."

Even so, Yates said more liberal arts students are finding co-op jobs. The number of liberal arts co-op students from A&M has grown 250 percent, from four in Spring 1988 to 45 working this spring or planning to this summer.

A total of 1224 students are involved in the co-op program, which is a 67 percent increase from the 734 placements in 1981, when the office centralized to include agriculture, business, engineering and science majors. Co-ops were handled by faculty, deans or advisers of the individual colleges before then, he said.

Yates said that in most of these disciplines, grades are important enough that the University requires a student have a 2.5 grade-point ratio to co-op.

"Many companies require higher, and many also require that the student has completed at least three semesters of school before starting," he said. "Most people tend to think that if you don't start as a sophomore, you're too late. But, in fact, 90 percent of our co-ops start the program as a junior or senior."

Yates said the program also involves graduate students, averaging 10 to 15 each semester.

"No matter when the student co-ops, he is making himself very marketable," Yates said. "The average co-op has a GPR of 3.1 and has had a whole year of relevant experience by the time he's through. Common sense will tell you that a graduating co-op student with good grades will be more marketable in terms of finding and landing a good job."

Yates said he does not want people to think that if they don't co-op, they won't find a job, however.

"I encourage students to get any kind of relevant experience possible, whether by co-oping or through summer internships, part-time jobs, unique research opportunities with faculty members on campus or through other ways," he said. "Companies by and large are looking for good grades and relative experience. I do, however, think that co-oping is the best way to get this experience."

Yates said he cannot stress enough how important relative experience is to many hiring companies.

"At NASA, for example, 60 percent of the college graduates hired had been co-op students," he said. "As a matter of fact, if you're not in engineering, you must go through the program to be hired."

A&M co-ops have been placed across the United States, but 90 percent remain in Texas. However, some students in agriculture have been placed on co-op assignments through the International Agricultural Exchange Association in Australia, Canada, England, Germany and various Scandinavian countries. Generally, though, these co-ops have had a year of relevant experience before they co-oped overseas, he said.

Yates said that his office will hold a Co-op Career Fair Monday, Feb. 27 for students interested in the program. Twenty companies will have booths set up in Blocker and Zachry from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Students interested in learning more about the co-op program can go to the co-op office in 110 Pavilion or call 845-7725 to set up an orientation to the program.

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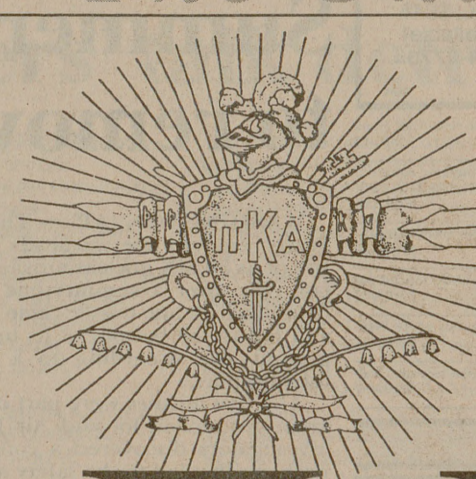
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