

Thursday, August 10, 1989

Conroe man charged with murder made previous threats to children

CONROE (AP) — A man charged with capital murder in the killings of his two children had made threats against them last month in another county, officials said.

Russell Billingsley Sr., 27, was jailed for 12 hours on July 24 on a complaint of disorderly conduct after allegedly threatening his children at the family's home in Vidor, authorities in Orange County said.

Billingsley was charged Tuesday in Montgomery County in the deaths of his daughter, Brandy

Marie, 7, and son, Russell Jr., 6, who were shot Monday just outside Lankford's Water Hole Tavern, about four miles southeast of Conroe.

Montgomery County Sheriff's Detective Tracy Peterson said Jan Marie Billingsley, 24, had left her husband and children in Vidor a few weeks ago and moved into her parents' residence behind the tavern near Conroe.

"He (Billingsley) had told her over the phone he was going to kill the kids because nobody wanted them," Peterson said. "As best we can tell, they'd had a lot of family problems that provoked him to drive up (to

the tavern) from Vidor with the kids."

Orange County Sheriff's Deputy W.J. Hubbard said he assumed Billingsley had sought psychiatric help and the case was referred to

"He had told her... he was going to kill the kids because nobody wanted them"

— Tracy Peterson, Detective

child welfare officials. Hubbard said he heard no more about it until the children were killed.

Billingsley, himself shot in a family dispute that led to the killings, underwent surgery Monday night at Medical Center Hospital in Conroe with a .22-caliber bullet lodged in his brain, officials said. He is listed in stable condition and is expected to be released this weekend, Peterson said.

Montgomery County investigators say Billingsley was shot by his father-in-law, Vern Lankford, 50, after going into the lounge with his pistol drawn.

Vapors cause plane to head back to Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — A Continental Airlines airbus en route to New York's La Guardia Airport made an emergency landing Wednesday at Houston's Intercontinental Airport shortly after takeoff when crew members sighted vapors in the cabin, a spokesman said.

Continental spokesman Ned Walker said crew members aboard flight 122 noticed a light vapor developing in the cabin shortly after takeoff about noon. As a precautionary measure, the captain of the A-300 airbus with 120 passengers decided to return to Intercontinental, he said.

Continental maintenance crews who examined the aircraft said the vapor was caused by heavy condensation in the air conditioning system, he said.

The plane landed safely, taxied to the gate and passengers were being accommodated on other flights, Walker said.

Educator: School, good work ethic helps deprived children reach goals

By Cindy McMillian

STAFF WRITER

Young people from less fortunate backgrounds can achieve their goals through hard work and education. Beverly Clark, director of the University of Houston Outreach Center, told 130 teen-agers and their parents and friends Wednesday.

Clark, the keynote speaker at the scholarship and awards program that closed out this summer's Youth Opportunities Unlimited program, said that many young people wander aimlessly through high school with no plans for the future and miss out on opportunities for self-advancement.

If students follow the "proper work ethic" — making good grades, taking advantage of opportunities and working hard — then they can stay on the road to success, Clark said.

Drugs, crime and unplanned pregnancies can take them off the road to success, she said. She told them to stay in school, pointing out that education increases income and that more than 85 percent of Texas prison inmates were high school dropouts.

She encouraged the students to respect teachers and

other adult authorities who "sometimes hold the key to your future."

The students were part of an eight-and-a-half week program focused on high school students at risk of dropping out of school. They lived in dorms, worked at on-campus jobs for minimum wage and earned credits for high school graduation by taking English and math classes at A&M.

D.H. Seastrunk, Headmaster of Y.O.U., said this summer's program went "very well." The students were tested before arrival and tested again at the end of the program, he said, and they "showed measurable progress."

Seastrunk said the program exposed the students to a variety of career potentials they may not have considered before. Many of them experienced the responsibility of living away from home for the first time, he said.

"We hope that their experience with college life will serve as an incentive to continue education," he said.

Plaques and certificates were awarded at the ceremony for outstanding work, student government, good citizenship, leadership, Y.O.U. Olympics, athletic excellence, talent show and academic excellence. Scholarships for students who choose to attend A&M were awarded as well.

Poll: Texans prefer 'Lone Star State' as license plate slogan

AUSTIN (AP) — The 'Lone Star State' was the overwhelming favorite slogan for new Texas license plates in an Austin American-Statesman poll, but many readers submitted their own ideas, ranging from political commentary to off-the-wall statements.

Of the 7,636 ballots submitted, 6,515 chose 'Lone Star State,' 387 said keep the plates the way they are — slogan-less — and 613 had their own suggestions.

Only 121, less than two percent, chose 'The Friendship State,' which was selected by the Texas Highway Commission and has ignited the license plate flap.

"Texas has always been known as the 'Lone Star State,' and I'm proud of it," wrote Frances Hilliker of Liberty Hill.

Ballots poured into the newspaper singly and in bulging enve-

lopes sent by entire offices full of people and apparently entire small towns.

Mary Lambert of Round Rock was one of the few who liked the proposal by the Highway Commission. "If we made 'Lone Star State,' people would only think of beer!" she wrote.

Some readers combined 'Lone Star State' and 'Friendship State' into 'The Friendly Lone Star State.'

Other suggestions included:

- 'Don't Mess With Texas'
- 'Don't Mess With Me State'
- 'Don't litterdamit'
- 'Pinhead Legislature'
- 'The Bank Failure State'
- 'Texas, the Insolvent State'
- 'Yankee Go Home'
- 'Bluebonnet State'
- 'Gateway to New Mexico'
- 'Gateway to Oklahoma'

Ex-police officer investigated by FBI after rape conviction

HOUSTON (AP) — A former Houston police officer convicted of raping an intoxicated female prisoner at a park is being investigated by the FBI for possible civil rights violations.

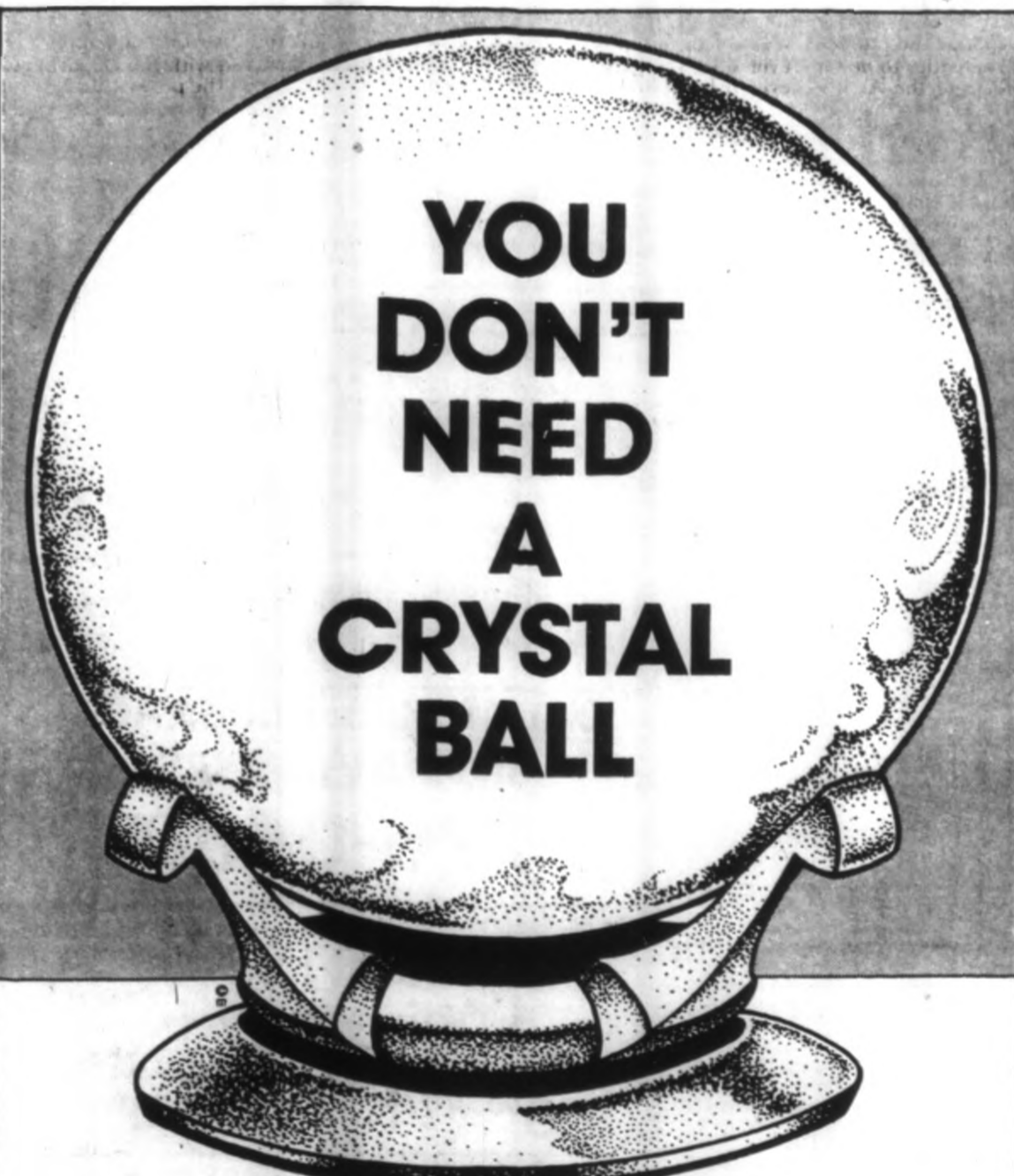
U.S. Attorney Henry Oncken said the case of James Cebula had been referred to the FBI for a "preliminary investigation."

FBI spokesman Rolando D. Moss said Tuesday the U.S. attorney's office asked the bureau to investigate whether Cebula, 29, used force and

violence to violate the woman's civil rights in the May 2, 1988, attack.

The bureau's findings will be forwarded to the civil rights division of the Justice Department, which will recommend whether a grand jury should consider them for a possible indictment.

Moss said the bureau also will look into possible civil rights violations by Keith Ferguson, 22, who remains charged with rape in the case. Cebula and Ferguson, a security guard, arrested the woman outside a nightclub.



to know that advertising in the **Battalion** is **THE WAY** to reach A&M students, faculty and staff. And it's no secret that those **70,000 readers** spend money buying products.

So Don't Leave Your Business' Future to CHANCE
The Back To School issue deadlines soon.

The Battalion
845-2696 or 97
CALL TODAY

CALL BATTALION CLASSIFIED

845-2611



Briarwood APARTMENTS

Free Microwave with a 9 month lease

- 2 Pools
- Tennis Courts
- Hot Tub
- Volleyball Court
- 2 Exercise Rooms
- Basketball Court
- 2 Shuttle Bus Stops
- Covered Parking

1, 2 and 3 bedrooms available

Briarwood Apartments
1201 Harvey Rd.
(*across from Post Oak Mall)
(409) 693-3014
Welcome Aggies!

The GRE Is When?

October 14

STANLEY H. KAPLAN
Take Kaplan Or Take Your Chances

Classes begin Aug. 27
Call 696-Prep

For other locations call 800-KAP-TEST

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY MSC FORSYTH CENTER GALLERIES

Selections From the College of Medicine Art Collection

Featuring works by Artists

JUHREE BASSETT DICK DAVISON JOSEPH DONALDSON VIRGINIA GRONEMAN JOE HUTCHINSON MARGIT ILIKA LUCINDA JOHNSON LEA M. LYMAN MARY CIANI SASLOW	ROBERT SCHIFFHAUER RUTH SHILLING JOSEPH SMITH ALAN STACELL MARY STONE PAUL SUTTMAN WANETA SWANK RUDY VAVRA JOHN WALKER
---	--

Artists' Reception: Thursday, August 10, 1989 from 6:30-8:30pm. Public invited.
Exhibition continues through August 20. Admission is free.

SUPERCUTS

We Cut Hair For Your Ego Not Ours...

Finally The Nation's #1 Hair Styling Salon Has Come To College Station

We're Now Open!

Watch For Our Special Grand Opening Soon

Hours Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.	Culpepper Plaza 1519 Texas Avenue	Supercut-\$8 Students & Professors W.I.D.-\$7 Children 3 and under-\$5
--	--------------------------------------	---