

NAACP protests proposed castration

HOUSTON (AP) — A civil rights group has called for the immediate resignation of a judge considering the voluntary castration of a Houston man charged with molesting a child.

Steven Allen Butler, 27, faces up to life in prison on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child. Butler will be sentenced by State District Judge Mike McSpadden, an advocate of castrating some sex offenders. The judge said last week that Butler will be granted 10 years deferred adjudication if he pleads guilty to the April 24 charge and is castrated.

"This is merely an effort to set a precedent and open doors of opportunity to castrate thousands of black males legally," Frank Burns, president of the state conference of NAACP branches, said at a news conference Monday.

"Hopefully, Judge McSpadden... will come to understand that Steve Butler's problem is between his ears and that it will take more than a surgeon's knife to remove it."

Community activist Jew Don Boney also decried what he called McSpadden's "sick mindset" for considering the punishment.

Butler, who is black, has said he would rather be castrated than sentenced to a long prison term.

"It's inhumane, it's barbaric, it's irrational, and it's also illegal," Boney said Tuesday. "We felt that somebody, out of a sense of humanity, needed to speak out against the judge."

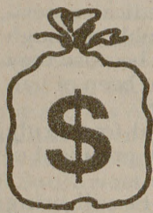
But McSpadden accused Burns and his group, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of being soft on crime.

"It's a shame the black community doesn't have more responsible leadership," McSpadden said. "At a time when the NAACP should actually push for stronger punishment... they take the opposite approach, knowing that the black community is the most victimized by crime."

Greenspan predicts recovery

Interest rate cuts will boost economy, he says

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan conceded Tuesday that rehiring has been slow but stuck to his view that interest rates are low enough to bring economic recovery soon.



Greenspan left open the possibility of further moves to push rates lower and stimulate business. But he said actions already taken by the central bank should be "adequate to turn the economy onto the path of sustained recovery."

He promised, as he has in other recent appearances, "We must and will continue to monitor day-to-day developments closely for validation of that judgment, and, if necessary, move toward an increased degree of monetary ease."

Greenspan spoke at a convention of the Independent Bankers Association of America, a group of small-town and country bankers.

Shortly after his remarks, the Federal Reserve drained money from the banking system for the

third consecutive business day, indicating policy makers did not want short-term interest rates to fall.

Although Greenspan's comments echoed testimony delivered a week ago to Congress, they were his first since Friday when the Labor Department reported U.S. employers shed an unexpectedly large 91,000 jobs from their payrolls in January.

Analysts were split over the meaning of the speech, and financial markets showed little reaction to it.

"He's a little bit worried about the payroll number but not worried enough to change policy," said David Jones of Aubrey G. Lanston & Co. Inc., a government securities dealer in New York.

Fed policymakers "are saying in no uncertain terms... 'Don't count on any relief soon,'" he said.

However, economist Bruce Steinberg of Merrill Lynch in New York said he believed the central bank wanted to nudge rates lower soon but did not want to stir up markets until after Thursday, when the Treasury Department is to finish its three-day auction of \$36 billion in government debt.

"I think the Fed is going to be easing fairly soon," he said. "Perhaps they'll ease on Friday... but if they don't they'll ease some time in February."

In the speech, Greenspan noted the poor employment situation, pointing out that in the six months that ended in January fewer than half the nation's major industries posted employment gains.

"Rehiring has been particularly slow, and recent employment trends have been weak," he said.

On the positive side, he said lower interest rates have encouraged both consumers and businesses to reduce debt.

"I expect the payoff (from that)... hopefully in the reasonably near future," he said.

Meanwhile, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Chairman William Taylor told the bankers that the drop in interest rates was among the factors contributing to an improving outlook for the banking business despite a sharp increase in assets held by problem banks.

"No one ever wants to be optimistic. It's always dangerous... But the facts of the matter are... it's not all darkness," he said.

He acknowledged that when the final accounting is made, the fund insuring bank deposits likely will be shown to have been in the red at the end of 1991.

Police find similarities in break-ins

Two Wyatt's Sporting Goods stores were burglarized on weekends exactly one month apart. On Dec. 9 the store at Manor East Mall in Bryan and on Jan. 5 the store on University Drive in College Station were hit by burglars.

In each case the thieves forced their way into the buildings, searched through the merchandise and stole numerous pieces of sports apparel, ball caps and athletic shoes. The total loss is estimated at more than \$10,000.

At the Bryan store, thieves took, among other things, 36 NIKE two piece wind suits and 20 ball caps. At the College Station store they took 75 pairs of NIKE AIR JORDAN Basketball shoes, along with numerous NIKE T-shirts, shorts and socks, and 40 ball caps.

Similarities in the burglaries lead detectives to believe the same persons may have committed both burglaries and will attempt to sell or trade the items in the local area.

Crime Stoppers

This week the College Station and Bryan Police Departments and Crime Stoppers need your help to identify the person(s) responsible for these burglaries.

If you have information that could be helpful, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS. When you call, Crime Stoppers will assign you a special coded number that will protect your identity.

If your call leads to an arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000 in cash. Crime Stoppers also pays cash for information on any felony crime or the location of any wanted fugitive.

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Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department during the period between Jan. 28 and Feb. 5.

Criminal Mischief

Someone ignited a solid deodorant bottle wrapped in paper towels and placed the burning device outside the window of a second floor room of McInnis Hall.

Someone broke the globe and bulb fixture on a light fixture near the foot bridge in the TAMU Research Park.

All of the vegetation in the University owned apartments community garden was destroyed by an unknown person or persons. Someone damaged the ignition switch of a Honda Elite motorcycle as they unsuccessfully tried to steal the motorcycle.

A 1985 Jeep Wagoneer (TLP# 686-3CB) parked in Parking Area 2 was damaged by someone who broke the rear window by striking it with a blunt object.

Misdemeanor Theft

A brown leather Bechamel jacket left unattended in a fourth floor study room in Rudder Hall was stolen.

A Sharp AM/FM cassette CD player, Model QT-CD 20 was stolen from a basement room in the Engineering/Physics Laboratory.

A DAK camera and monitor were stolen from a fourth floor room in the Bright Building.

A yellow J.C. Penney boys bicycle was stolen from the Sterling C. Evans Library bicycle rack.

A green Perigee Giant boys bicycle was stolen from in front of a first floor room of McInnis Hall.

Someone entered a first floor room and stole

an unknown brand AM/FM radio.

A red Giant Rincon boys bicycle was stolen from the Clements Hall bicycle rack.

A key was stolen from an office in the Special Services Building.

A thief stole \$40 in cash from the Recreational Sports Office in the Read Building.

Harassment

Three victims reported receiving annoying and/or obscene telephone calls during the period.

One victim has been the recipient of harassing correspondence and telephone calls from an acquaintance since October 1991.

Violation of University Regulations

Two individuals from Illinois were located selling T-shirts near Law Hall without authorization.

A subject was detected selling T-shirts on the fourth floor of Dunn without authorization.

Two individuals from North Carolina were selling furniture from a truck in Parking Area 54 without authorization.

Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage

Two people were issued citations for minor in possession of alcoholic beverage.

Driving While Intoxicated

One person was arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail for driving while intoxicated.

Burglary of Building

Someone burglarized the Golf Clubhouse by throwing a stone through a window on the southwest corner of the building. A set of

Ping black dot irons were stolen.

Burglary of Habitation

A thief entered an unsecured second floor room and stole two black leather wallets that contained \$97 in cash and other assorted personal property.

Burglary of Vehicle

A stock Volkswagen AM/FM stereo cassette player, a brown leather identification case and a Charms yellow jacket were stolen from a 1991 Volkswagen Jetta parked in Parking Area 39.

Criminal Trespass

Two subjects were found in violation of previously issued Criminal Trespass Warnings and taken to the Brazos County Jail.

Assault

An altercation between two basketball players on opposing teams escalated to the point of physical contact during a game at G. Rollie White Coliseum. The victim, who was struck in the face with a fist, filed a criminal complaint against his adversary.

Evading Arrest

A subject attempted to escape from an officer by fleeing on foot, but was apprehended, arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

Indecent Exposure

Several individuals reported the presence of a pedal cyclist on campus with his trousers and underwear lowered to expose his genitals. The individual was apprehended and then incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

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