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Applications Due by 5:00 p.m., February 9, 1998 at the Clayton Williams Alumni Association Reception Desk. Gook Luck.

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Activists gather to protest execution

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Rachel King, holding a sign that read "Execution is Not the Solution," made the trip from Philadelphia to the doorstep of Texas death row because she says she felt compassion for Karla Faye Tucker.

"We do feel a connection with Karla Tucker because she's a woman," said King, a Temple University law professor. "I guess we can more easily identify with her fate and her life. Texas has been killing men without thinking about it. Now they're going to start killing women without thinking about it."

Baltimore resident Stephanie Gibson sat next to King holding a sign that read: "I Oppose the Death Penalty. Don't Kill for Me." The Tucker case has increased awareness of the death penalty, giving activists a chance to seize the spotlight, Gibson said.

"Anything that raises awareness is a good thing, but it's a horrible price," she said.

Protesters gathered at an intersection on the corner of the Huntsville unit Tuesday as Texas executed its first female inmate since 1863.

Several hundred demonstrators, one dressed in an executioner's robe and clutching a Bible, crowded the intersection but were still outnumbered by the hordes of reporters on the grounds of the prison.

TV trucks packed a parking lot usually reserved for prison employees as camera and microphone-toting reporters swarmed on the demonstrators' intersection or on a lawn across the street from the prison.

The protesters were about 200 feet from the front door of the long

brick building, which resembles a schoolhouse, except for the bars on the window.

When the news reached the crowd that Tucker had been executed, a cheer rose from death penalty advocates as some sang "Na Na Na Na... Say Goodbye."

"I think it was a step for justice," said Ran Nelson of Waco, who said he was cheering with everyone else.

Lisa Jackson, who opposes the death penalty and traveled from Michigan, was disheartened by the boisterous reaction.

"I think God is sovereign," she said. "He gives life and he takes life." "This is hateful," she said of the cheering and taunting.

Some death penalty abolitionists made longer trips than others.

"We want Texas to know that they can't execute people anymore," said Alberta Rocca, who

traveled from Rome to attend the organization "Nesuno tocca" ("Hands off Cain.")

Rocca said Italians and Europeans are outraged, heard about the number of people executed in the United States.

"We are very ashamed because the United States is concerned about human rights," she said.

Actually, more than 100 people called the Department of Criminal Justice to talk to Tucker. Calls as far away as Iraq, Iceland and Sweden.

"They're disappointed not doing anything to said a corrections department secretary who did not want to be interviewed. "They can't understand why we're allowing this to happen."

Viewpoints vary on Tucker's execution

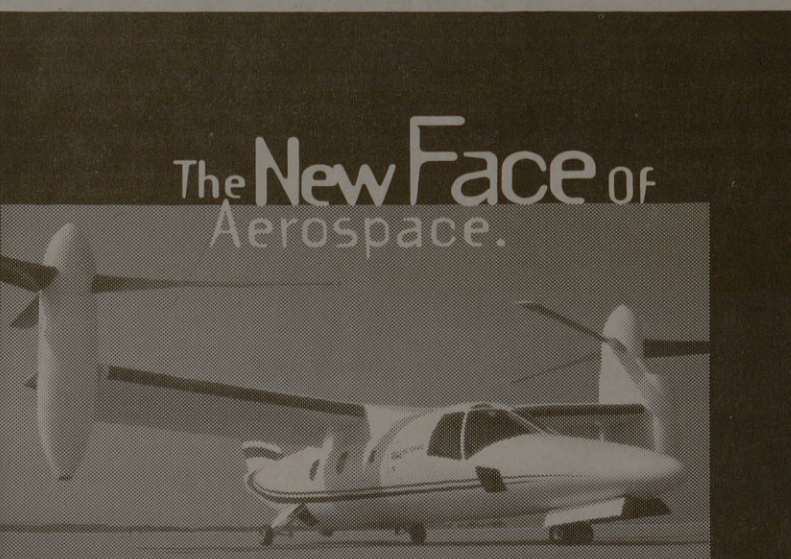
HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The following are quotes concerning the execution of Karla Faye Tucker:

- Karla Faye Tucker**
"I would like to say to all of you — the Thornton family and Jerry Dean's family — that I am so sorry. I hope God will give you peace with this. ... I am going to be face to face with Jesus now. I love all of you very much. I will see you all when you get there. I will wait for you."
- Gov. George W. Bush:**
"Like many touched by this case, I have sought guidance through prayer. I have concluded judgment about the heart and soul of an individual on death row are best left to a higher authority. May God bless Karla Faye Tucker and God bless her victims and their families."
- Richard Thornton, husband of victim Deborah Thornton:**
"I want to say to every victim in the world: demand this (execution). Don't ask for it, demand this. This is your right. The life of a murderer should never be glorified. You are not here to remember my wife. You are here to celebrate a murderer, a pickax murderer. My religion says to forgive. Turn a cheek. I still cannot do it. I've heard her words. I don't think they are heartfelt. I don't believe her conversion. I don't believe her Christianity. This day belongs to Deborah Ruth Davis Thornton. ... Her killer has been sent to the place that we're all going to go sometime, someplace my wife already is. She will deal with Karla Faye Tucker. I promise you, it won't be pretty."
- Lisa Jackson, who opposes the death penalty and traveled from Michigan:**
"I think God is sovereign. He gives life and he takes life. This (the cheering and taunting) is hateful."
- Pat Robertson, a television evangelist who normally is a death penalty supporter:**
"This thing is vengeance. It makes no sense. This is not the same woman who committed those crimes."

A look at some key events in Tucker's case

- 1983**
- June 13 — The bodies of Deborah Ruth Davis Thornton, 32, and Jerry Lynn Dean, 26, are found in the bedroom of Dean's apartment in northwest Houston. Police find the murder weapon — a pickaxe — embedded in Thornton's chest. Valuables are left untouched but Dean's 1974 pickup is stolen.
 - July 20 — Karla Faye Tucker, 23, and Daniel R. Garrett, 37, are arrested and charged with murder in the deaths. Detective J.C. Mosier said the murders apparently resulted from a long grudge between Tucker and Dean.
 - Dec. 6 — Tucker attends drug counseling and religious sessions in jail for the first time.
- 1984**
- April 19 — Tucker is found guilty of capital murder in Dean's death.
 - April 25 — Tucker, who testified during the punishment phase of her trial that even if she were executed she would not be sufficient to atone for her crime, is sentenced to death by lethal injection.
 - Nov. 2 — A second capital murder charge lodged against Tucker in Thornton's death.
 - Nov. 20 — Garrett is convicted of capital murder. Nine days later, he is sentenced to death.
- 1992**
- Feb. 27 — State District Judge Pat Lykos rejects Tucker's request for an evidentiary hearing.
 - May 29 — Judge Lykos sets Tucker's execution for June 30.
 - June 22 — Texas Court of Criminal Appeals stays Tucker's execution and orders evidence into claims by co-defendant James Leibrant, who was charged with burglary in the Thornton murders and perjured himself while testifying in Tucker's trial.
- 1993**
- Jan. 13 — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals reverses Garrett's capital murder conviction about proper jury selection and orders a new trial.
 - June 14 — Garrett dies at a Houston hospital of cirrhosis of the liver and internal bleeding, 10 days after the 10th anniversary of the murders.
 - Oct. 21 — Even though a Court of Appeals stay remains in effect, Judge Lykos sets Tucker's execution date for Tucker — a move, observers believe, is meant to remind the higher courts of the appeal, now more than a year old.
 - Nov. 9 — The Texas Court of Appeals reinstates Tucker's indefinite stay of execution.
- 1995**
- Jan. 30 — Court of Criminal Appeals lifts the stay of execution and denies all related appeals.
 - June 25 — In a proxy ceremony off the prison grounds, Tucker weds prison minister Brown. Brown later visits the Gatesville prison where his bride is held, driving an auto on a honeymoon trip. Prison officials — as per policy — deny them a contact visit.
- 1997**
- Dec. 8 — The U.S. Supreme Court rejects Tucker's request to review her case.
 - Dec. 18 — State District Judge Debbie Stricklin sets Tucker's execution for Feb. 3, 1998.
- 1998**
- Jan. 20 — Attorneys for Tucker ask the Court of Criminal Appeals to postpone her execution to challenge the state's clemency procedure.
 - Jan. 22 — Tucker officially asks the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to lessen her sentence to life imprisonment and to delay her execution. She also asks Gov. George W. Bush to postpone her execution 30 days.
 - Jan. 28 — Texas Court of Criminal Appeals denies Tucker's appeal.

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| COUNTRY & WESTERN II | SUNDAY | 8-9:45 | GRW |
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