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Jackson executed for rape, murder

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — After a lengthy final statement, a twice-paroled bank robber and burglar who fled from an Austin halfway house was executed Thursday evening for abducting, raping and fatally shooting a University of Texas student more than 16 years ago.

Tommy Ray Jackson, 43, insisted to the end that he was innocent of the Nov. 17, 1983, murder of 24-year-old Rosalind Robison although he was arrested driving her car and was carrying her automated bank teller card.

He claimed the two were friends. "I cannot show any remorse for something I did not do," he said before being injected with the lethal dose of drugs. "If I did, I'd be faking, and there's nothing fake about me. I'm at peace. Please believe me. I figure that what I'm dying for is for what I've done in my past, not for killing Roz."

He looked directly at her father through a window a few feet away and said, "I called her Roz."

There was no reaction from Dr. Roger Robison. As the drugs began to take effect, Jackson whistled and sputtered. Just after he slipped into un-

consciousness, thunder rumbled outside the Huntsville Unit.

The time of death was 6:24 p.m., 11 minutes after the lethal dose began.

"We're very grateful to the state of Texas for hav-

"I cannot show remorse for something I did not do...."

— Tommy Ray Jackson
death row inmate

ing the death penalty, ... to the people who persevered after 16 years to obtain this judgment," Robison said.

"It's somewhat reminiscent of my affair with Rita Hayworth back in the '40s," he said of Jackson's claim of a relationship with his daughter, a claim he referred to as a fantasy. "It would have been the ultimate odd couple."

Robison, an oncologist, said he had no difficulty watching Jackson die.

Gun control group links Bush with NRA

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping to link George W. Bush to the gun lobby, a gun control group is airing a new TV ad featuring tape of a National Rifle Association (NRA) official touting its clout in a potential Bush White House.

"If we win we'll have a president ... where we work out of their office," Kayne Robinson, the NRA first vice president, tells a gathering in footage used by Handgun Control Inc.

The group calculates that voters will be less likely to support Republican Bush — and more likely to back Democrat Al Gore, a gun control advocate — if they know the Texas governor's pro-gun views.

The Gore campaign was thrilled with the NRA tape, with spokesperson Chris Lehane calling it "the proverbial smoking gun."

"George W. Bush is carrying the NRA's legislative ammo bag but is trying to conceal it," he said.

The Bush campaign said that's not true. "Neither the NRA nor any special interest group sets Governor Bush's agenda," said Bush spokesperson Scott McClellan.

Meanwhile, negotiations have broken down between gunmakers and 31 cities that have sued them in an attempt to hold gun manufacturers liable for gun violence, accusing them of failing to use safety features.

A gun industry representative, Robert Delfay, said today that gunmakers don't want the Clinton administration, which has threatened a federal suit of its own, to be part of the talks.

"If there is a Republican administration in 2001, there will be a much more favorable view of an American's right to keep and bear firearms than there currently is," said Delfay, president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

The ad says Bush signed a law that allows concealed weapons to be carried, "in churches, nursing homes, even amusement parks." Actually, the laws bans concealed weapons from such places, but Bush signed follow-up legislation saying the law can only of dollars on the ad buy.

The group obtained the Robinson clip from a videotape purchased from the NRA Website, and NRA officials did not back off their views that a Bush presidency would be good for their issue.

"I want tell you a piece of news that I just don't think that you probably knew before,"

— Scott McClellan
Governor Bush spokesperson

Robinson said. "We like George Bush better than Al Gore."

The comment about working out of the White House, he said, was a response to the Clinton administration, where the gun control advocates have had found tremendous support.

"Handgun control and he anti-gun people have had literally unlimited access to the White House ... working right out of the office," said Robinson, who also chairs the Iowa Republican Party. Reaching for his Iowa roots, he said the gun control people have been like a giant pig at the state fair while the pro-gun side is just a "poor little duck."

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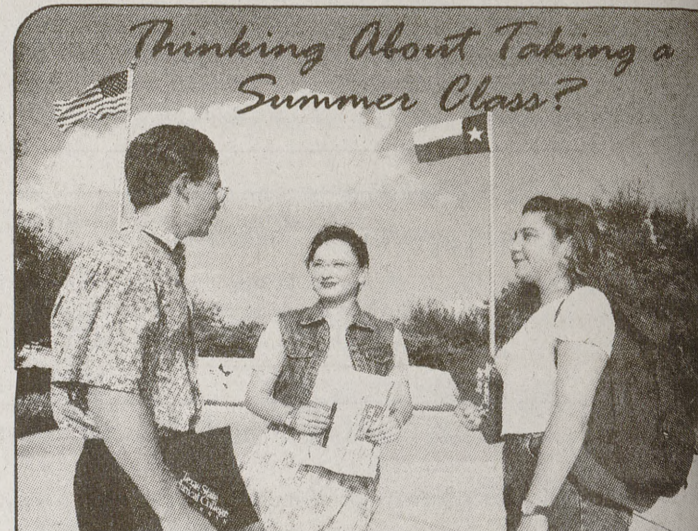
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