

News in Brief

Supreme Court overturns penalty

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The state Supreme Court Thursday overturned the death sentence of Oregon's worst serial killer, ordering a new sentencing hearing for Dayton Leroy Rogers, who was convicted in 1989 of murdering six prostitutes. The trial court erred by not allowing the sentencing jury to consider the option of life without chance of parole, the state Supreme Court ruled. The trial court also failed to allow a psychologist to testify about possible causes of Rogers' brain damage, the high court said. In 1989, a Clackamas County jury convicted him of aggravated murder and sentenced him to die for murdering six prostitutes and dumping their bodies in a wooded area. The body of a seventh, unidentified woman was found with the others. Rogers was not charged with her death, but his attorneys admitted in court that he killed her.

Boy describes mother's murder

DALLAS (AP) — The 7-year-old son of a slain University Park woman testified Wednesday about the gruesome murder of his mother with a lamp cord and scissors, used by his father to slash her throat. The son of Patrick Timothy Richardson and Mary Williams Richardson testified via a live video feed from the chambers of state District Judge Henry Wade Jr. Richardson, 40, pleaded guilty Tuesday to the murder of his 35-year-old wife at their home in an upscale Dallas suburb. On Tuesday, after his plea, jurors listened to the 911 tape of a daughter's call for help as her mother was being killed. Richardson, who had been free on \$1 million bond, was rearrested April 24 while trying to make arrangements to leave the country.

Kent State observes shooting anniversary

KENT, Ohio (AP) — As thousands of people watched, a bell tolled on the Kent State University campus Thursday at 12:24 p.m., marking the exact moment National Guardsmen opened fire 30 years ago on antiwar protesters. The Victory Bell sounded 15 times: once for each of the four students killed and nine wounded at Kent State and once each for the two students killed at Jackson State University in Mississippi 10 days later.

The shootings on May 4, 1970, stunned the nation and galvanized the antiwar movement.

The 30th anniversary brought the nine survivors back to the campus for the first time in those three decades.

"We don't know why this happened to us. We don't know who said, 'Shoot.' We don't know when they said it or why," said Joseph Lewis, a student who was shot, now 48 and living in Oregon.

The anniversary also included a candlelight march that began on the anniversary's eve and continued with an overnight vigil at the parking lot where Allison Krause, Sandy Scheuer, Jeffery Miller and William Schroeder were killed.

The Kent State shootings happened after days of student protests against the Vietnam War and the burning of the campus Army ROTC building.

The National Guard was sent in to quell the disturbances. Guardsmen fired at least 61 shots in a 13-second burst, hitting protesters, bystanders and students walking to class at a distance.

But Lewis said Guardsmen shot at him for no reason.

"I didn't do anything wrong. People who did something wrong were individuals of the Ohio National Guard who shot and killed them and shot and wounded us deliberately," Lewis said.

The survivors continued to blame the shooting on then-Gov. James Rhodes, who ordered the troops on campus.

"You have to remember Rhodes virtually beat on the table, saying he was going to keep this university open and all the universities in Ohio," said Dean Kahler, a history and government teacher in Nelsonville, Ohio, paralyzed from the waist down because of the shooting.

Rhodes has expressed regret over the shootings but maintains that he had to send troops to Kent State.

"It was a terrible thing," Rhodes, now 90, told *The Columbus Dispatch*.

"But no one plans a train wreck, either. It just happened. And life goes on."

Pennsylvania death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal gave a taped 3 1/2-minute speech during the ceremonies, speaking about what he called government-backed killings in war, during civil rights protests and at prisons.

"Kent State teaches that a so-called free society will slaughter students who are exercising their alleged constitutional right of demonstrating for peace and give awards to the killers and do so with impunity," said Abu-Jamal, who has claimed he was falsely convicted in the 1991 slaying of a Philadelphia police officer.

"I didn't do anything wrong. People who did something wrong were individuals of the Ohio National Guard who shot and killed them and shot and wounded us deliberately."

— Joseph Lewis
Kent State University former student

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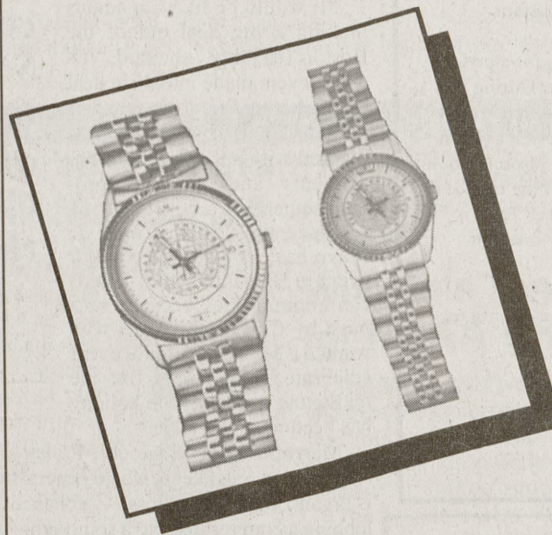


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Friday, May 5, 2000

murder

every day," he said. "It's hard in our society as they put their lives at risk that he's put to death." The electric chair, Old Spivey, was a better show. The condemned Texas inmate on this year and the first of the month. Two more prisoners and Jackson and a companioned an alarm at an east side both were sent following and wound up on the University student from Terrell to a night from a building to some notes when she withdrew money from her hand in her car and driven to Williamson County, Texas with a .25-caliber pistol. Austin street vendor.

explain exorcism

to the report, while a volunteer chaplain placed his hand on the prisoner's forehead. The jail preacher was speaking very loudly, stating for the inmate to get out of the inmate's head and heart," wrote sheriff's officer Curtis Hickey. "He shouted this several times, then started speaking in a language that was unknown to me," wrote Hickey. The volunteer chaplain, according to another report, periodically shouted in "unknown tongues." Full-time jail chaplain Hickey was holding the inmate's hand and had his head bowed, apparently in prayer, according to Hickey's report. A shift commander at the jail's Green Bay unit, located near Interstate 35W and Loop 82, wrote in a report that he walked in on the ceremony. "I did not stop this performance because I am not familiar with this type of process and do not know what the moral or ramifications might be for interrupting such a procedure," wrote Lt. Gayle Gray. The lieutenant conferred with Restorative Justice Chaplain after the ceremony. "I told him that what I had observed was totally unacceptable; it appeared to be an exorcism."

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