

Inmate on suicide watch

Condemned killer attempted to kill self before execution

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A condemned Texas inmate set for execution Wednesday evening was under close scrutiny by prison officials after a weekend attempt to kill himself.

Juan Soria, 33, faced lethal injection for fatally stabbing a Fort Worth teen-ager in 1985 so he could steal the victim's car.

Soria, with a history of self-mutilation and repeated suicide attempts in recent years, nearly severed the hand of a prison minister in a razor attack on death row in June.

Details of the most recent suicide attempt were not immediately known although Soria's attorney said his client had tried to kill himself.

"He is back on suicide watch," said Larry Fitzgerald, a Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesperson.

Since the attack last month on the prison chaplain, Soria has been held at a prison medical unit where he has been under doctor's care.

He met with relatives over the weekend and was moved Tuesday to the Terrell Unit, which houses death row inmates, to meet with his lawyer.

"I think the guy is mentally ill," said Bill Harris, Soria's attorney. "I don't know the extent. Of course, there's a

distinction between being mentally ill and being competent to be executed.

"You've really got to be pretty profoundly mentally ill, and you have to have people to believe that you legitimately don't know you're going to be executed, or that it's im-

"Of course, there's a distinction between being mentally ill and being competent to be executed."

— Bill Harris
Juan Soria's attorney

Harris said he had no plans to seek a 30-day reprieve from Gov. George W. Bush, who by law can issue such a reprieve once.

"I don't expect he would grant it," he said. "And at this juncture, I don't see the justification for it. Thirty days is great if you have something to do with the 30 days."

Soria's lethal injection would be the second this month and 26th this year in Texas. At least six executions are scheduled for August.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in 1994 reduced Soria's sentence to life, saying the trial jury had insufficient evidence to decide one of the questions required for a death sentence; that Soria was a continuing threat to society. Prosecutors, however, appealed the ruling and two years later the court reinstated the death sentence.

Soria was condemned for killing Allen Bolden, 17, who worked at the Fort Worth Boys Club which Soria frequented. Soria, 18 at the time, and a companion, Mike Lagunas, then 19, hitched a ride with Bolden, then pulled a gun on the victim and forced him to drive to a secluded area.

Court records showed Lagunas knocked him out by striking him with a rock and Soria killed him with a pair of knife thrusts to the back of his neck.

minent or why you're being executed. You can be pretty sick and still know those three things."

The U.S. Supreme Court was considering a request to review his case. Attorneys contended there were problems with jury selection at his trial.

The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, on an 18-0 vote, refused a clemency petition.

Barrel racin'



Local Bryan/College Station resident Cathy Colby, makes her last turn during the barrel race at the 4th annual Texas Fire School Shriners' Benefit Barrel Race and Team Roping

CHENEY

Continued from Page 1

number of candidates, including former Senate George Mitchell of Maine, Florida Sen. Bob Graham and Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry.

Among the GOP stalwarts in addition to Hagel and Frist who had been under consideration: Gov. Frank Keating of Oklahoma, Ridge and Pataki; former Gov. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee; Sen. Fred

Thompson of Tennessee; and Rep. John Kasich of Ohio.

Former Missouri Sen. John Danforth lingered on the short list until the end but came up short despite the advantage of hailing from a battleground state.

Cheney changed his voting registration from Texas to Wyoming last week to get around a constitutional problem that arises when both members of a presidential ticket live in the same state.

All signs had pointed to Cheney for days. He told business associates he had a good chance of getting the job and leaving his company, the Haliburton Co. of Dallas; and he was awarded an all-clear health report from his doctors to Bush.

Cheney sold nearly half his interest in Halliburton stock — some 100 million shares — last month, raising an estimated \$5.1 million. Before the sale, Cheney held options on 229,000 shares.

FRANCE

Continued from Page 1

rushed to the scene. Hours after the crash, huge clouds of smoke continued to billow over a nearby wheat field, and an acrid smell filled the air.

Sid Hare, a Federal Express pilot who was at a hotel several miles from the airport, said the plane went down in a ball of fire. He said he could "see smoke trailing" from one of the plane's two left engines before the crash.

"It started rolling over and backsliding down to the ground. At that point it was probably two miles from me," he told CNN. "It was a sickening sight, just a huge fireball."

Jospin and French Transport Minister Jean-Claude Gaysot visited the scene of the crash Tuesday afternoon. "It's a terrible moment," Gaysot said.

An official at Peter Deilmann Shipping in the German port of Neustadt said the passengers came from various German states and met in Paris to fly together for the cruise aboard the MS Deutschland, which is anchored in New York.

Men court-martialed for assault

WICHITA FALLS (AP) — A Sheppard Air Force Base trainee is accused of assaulting two Midwestern State University students in this Northwest Texas city.

Airman 1st Class Maurice A. Longworth, a technical training student assigned to the 362nd Training Squadron, is charged with assault and wrongful use of controlled substances under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

General court-martial proceedings were scheduled to start Tuesday for Longworth. He is accused of assaulting Japanese college students Yuro Ueda, 20, and Aya Ito,

19, on MSU's campus on May 25, according to the Wichita Falls Times Record News' editions Tuesday.

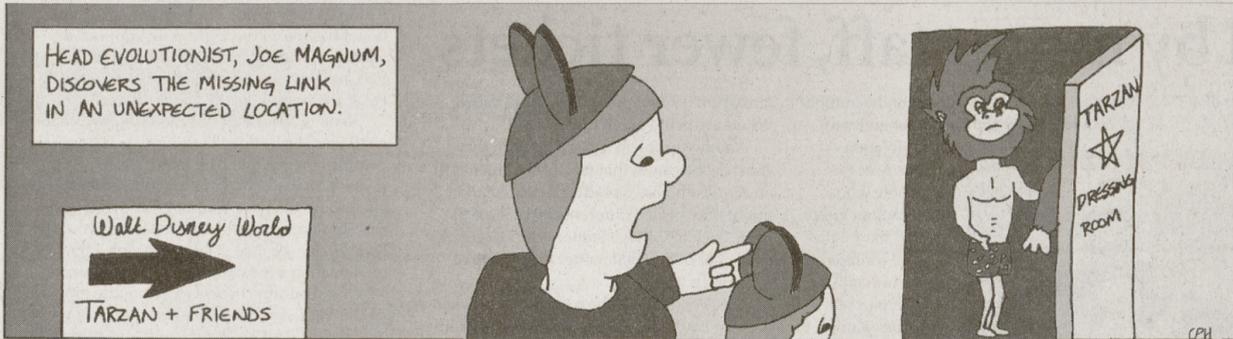
The victims contend that Longworth and Tyrone L. Wilkinson, also of the 362nd Training Squadron, attacked them around 1 a.m. as they were talking by the university's fountain.

Since the attack, Longworth and Wilkinson have been in military pretrial confinement at a Fort Sill, Okla., correctional facility.

If convicted, Longworth faces up to 20 years in the military prison system. Wilkinson's trial date has not yet been scheduled.

THE FANTASTICO CHRONICLES

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Lie, Cheat, or Steal...

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SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

interview with APTN that he hoped peace talks would continue because "the alternatives to a peace agreement are very ugly."

Rahman said he hoped Clinton's efforts would not be wasted. "It's always useful to engage in negotiations," he said.

It had become clear earlier in the day that no serious headway was in sight despite an offer by Barak to Arafat to recognize some sort of Palestinian sovereignty in east Jerusalem.

Clinton credited both sides with seeking a compromise on the city's future, but appeared to suggest Barak took bolder steps.

"The Palestinians changed their position, they moved forward," he said, lifting the veil of secrecy he had imposed on the details of the negotiations. "The Israelis moved more."

At another point, the president said "Prime Minister Barak showed courage and vision" and Arafat "made clear he remains committed to peace."

Palestinian sources said the breaking point was Israel's refusal to recognize Palestinian sovereignty over

Jerusalem's walled Old City, offering only access to the Al Aqsa mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam. Arafat was infuriated, the sources said.

Rahman said Israel's offer of limited sovereignty was unacceptable and a "nonstarter." He said the Palestinians had insisted on sovereignty over all the Old City.

"Israel refused to accept the right of the Palestinian people to have sovereignty over east Jerusalem and the Muslim holy places," he said.

"Regarding the issue of Jerusalem, as with other issues, the Palestinians did not change their positions during the discussions, so there was no chance of arriving at an agreement," said Baltiansky, a spokesperson for Barak.

At 3 a.m. Tuesday, Arafat sent a letter to Clinton, saying he saw no point in continuing because the Israeli position on Jerusalem could never lead to an agreement, Palestinian sources said.

"If you ask me did they make enough progress to get this done, 'yes,'" Clinton said. "But they've to go home and check, they've got to feel around."

"I feel that we have the elements here to keep this process going, I think it can happen," Clinton said.

MISS TEXAS

Continued from Page 1

contestants in the second-largest state pageant. An extensive package, including over \$100,000 in cash and prizes, is presented to the winner.

"Included in the package I received is a Ford Mustang," Krueger said. "I seem to get a lot of attention here in College Station from people who recognize the car."

A contestant in the last two Miss Texas pageants, Lana Wright, a senior agribusiness major, represented South-Central Texas in the 2001 show. In last year's pageant, Wright won the swimsuit portion of the contest. Wright said each contestant begins the competition with a three-minute interview with each of the eight judges. Contestants are then judged on their poise and presence on-stage during the evening gown and swimsuit competitions.

"Kandace is a very sweet girl," Wright said. "I met her last year

through a mutual friend, and I was so excited for her that she won. She deserved it."

With the honor of being crowned Miss Texas come the additional responsibilities and obligations.

Krueger said her duties over the next year will consist of speaking at various charitable events and promoting the sponsors of the pageant. Needing only 13 hours to earn her degree, Krueger plans to take the year off from school, enabling her to focus on the duties of her position.

"By taking a year off from school I feel I will be in a better position to dedicate myself to my reign," Krueger said. "I don't feel that I would be able to share time between my academics and the obligations entitled to Miss Texas without sacrificing the effort that each deserves. My public relations representative schedules appearances across the state for me to speak to charities, other organizations, and my schedule has to be flexible with it."

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