

Lennon's killer denied parole, remains incarcerated

ATTICA, N.Y. (AP) — State parole officials rejected a bid for freedom Tuesday for ex-Beatle John Lennon's killer, saying Mark David Chapman had not lost his interest in publicity, a drive that fueled his "most vicious and violent act."

It was Chapman's first attempt for parole stemming from the December 1980 shooting death. Chapman will not be eligible for parole for two more years.

Chapman was interviewed for 50 minutes Tuesday morning at a closed hearing at the maximum-security Attica state prison by three parole board members, said Tom Grant, a spokesman for the state Division of Parole.

About four hours later, Chapman was given the board's one-page determination beginning: "Parole is denied."

The board called Chapman's killing of Lennon "calculated and unprovoked." In addition to being one of the most famous musicians in the world, Lennon was also a "husband and a father of two young children," the board said.

"Your most vicious and violent act was apparently fueled by your need to be acknowledged," the board said. "During your parole hearing, this panel noted your continued interest in maintaining your notoriety."

In a recent interview, Chapman said he believed that Lennon would have approved of his release.

But the board concluded that releasing Chapman at this time would "deprecate the seriousness of the crime and serve to undermine respect for the law."

The parole board did note that Chapman has an "ex-

emplary disciplinary record" while in prison. But it added that because he has served his time in special protective housing, "you have been unable to avail yourself of anti-violence and/or anti-aggression programming."

Chapman, 45, is serving 20 years to life in Attica. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in June 1981 for fatally shooting Lennon as the rock star and his wife, Yoko Ono, were entering their Manhattan apartment following a recording session.

Ono had written a letter to the parole board about Chapman's hearing. Her spokesman, Eliot Mintz, did not immediately return telephone calls for comment Tuesday.

State Sen. Michael F. Nozzolio, chairman of the Senate Crime Victims, Crime and Correction Committee, had

asked parole authorities to deny Chapman's bid.

"John Lennon represented a vision of hope, peace and love," Nozzolio wrote to Parole Board Chairman Brian Travis.

"Tragically, his positive message and his life were brutally ended by Mark David Chapman," Nozzolio wrote. "It is the responsibility of the New York State Parole Board to ensure that public safety is protected from the release of dangerous criminals like Mark David Chapman."

Parole board hearings with inmates are closed to the public. The Associated Press filed a Freedom of Information Law request to get the board's determination. A transcript of Tuesday's interview with Chapman by the board will be available late in the week.

Test-tube baby chosen to save sister

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — In the first known case of its kind, a Colorado couple created a test-tube baby who was genetically screened and selected in the hope he could save the life of his 6-year-old sister.

The sister, Molly Nash, has a rare genetic disease, Fanconi anemia, that prevents her body from making bone marrow. But last week, doctors gave her an infusion of umbilical-cord blood from her newborn little brother, Adam, to try to correct the disease.

Screening laboratory-created embryos for genetic diseases before implanting them in a woman is not new. But this is the first known instance in which parents screened and selected an embryo in order to find a suitable tissue donor for an ailing sibling.

Molly was just beginning to show signs of leukemia, which is frequently associated with the disease, when she had the transplant, said Dr. John Wagner, her physician at the University of Minnesota. The infusion procedure between siblings has a 90 percent success rate.

"Molly's doing very well," Wagner said Tuesday, although she had a slight cold. She was playing on a computer, he said.

Her parents, Jack and Lisa Nash of Englewood, Colo., wanted more children but were afraid to conceive because both carry a faulty version of the Fanconi gene, meaning each child would have a 25 percent chance of developing the disease.

"We wanted a healthy child," she told the Star Tribune newspaper last month. "And it doesn't hurt him to save her life."

News in Brief

Clinton declares disaster area

MIAMI (AP) — President Clinton on Tuesday declared a major disaster area exists in a nine-county area of Florida, which was hit last month by heavy rain from Tropical Storm Helene.

The president issued the declaration during a fund-raising trip to South Florida where a downpour

from another storm grounded his plane, preventing him from attending a fund-raiser for Democratic congressional candidates at Jupiter Island, Fla.

The federal aid can be used to repair or replace public buildings damaged by the tropical storm.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is continuing to survey damage in other areas to determine whether they also are eligible for federal disaster aid.

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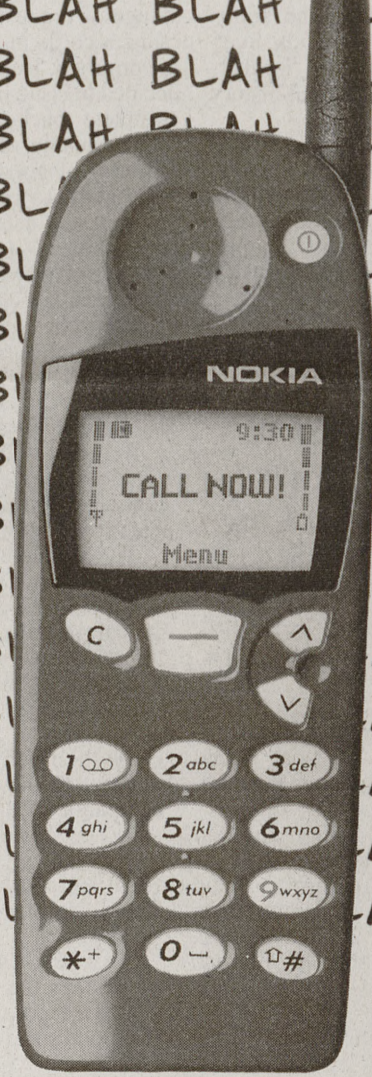
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