

Confessed serial killer renounces extradition

By Pam Easton
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Confessed serial killer Coral Eugene Watts, who is set to be released from a Texas prison in less than two years, agreed Wednesday to be transported to Michigan to face a murder charge for a 1979 slaying.

But state District Judge William McAdams placed a con-

dition on the extradition request, allowing Watts to finish medical treatment he is scheduled to receive in Texas before Michigan authorities can retrieve him.

Rudolph Brothers, an attorney for the State Counsel for offenders, which offers legal coun-

sel to inmates, told the judge on Watts' behalf that he had recently undergone major surgery and was on medicine to "address some mental health issues that he has."

"He is concerned that he be able to complete his medical treatment) before returning to the state of Michigan," Brothers said.

Walker County District Attorney David Weeks, who represented Michigan during the extradition hearing, said Watts would complete the treatment and be returned to Michigan within days.

Watts moved from Michigan to Houston in 1981. In 1982, he confessed to Houston police that he killed 13 women. He received immunity for the slayings in exchange for a 60-year sentence for burglary with intent to commit murder.

At the time, the sentence was thought to be enough to keep Watts locked up until he was an

octogenarian. But because of an appeal that overturned a deadly weapon finding and mandatory release laws, he is scheduled to go free at age 52 in 2006. Michigan authorities say that would make him the first serial killer ever released.

McAdams explained to Watts that he didn't have to go to Michigan voluntarily.

"You can fight extradition," he said. "If you can't afford your own attorney, I'll appoint one to represent you."

Michigan and Texas authorities have worked for months to keep Watts behind bars.

The Michigan Attorney General's office announced in March a murder charge had been filed against

Watts for the 1979 killing of Helen Dutcher in Ferndale, a Detroit suburb. The charge was prompted by an eyewitness who resurfaced more than two decades later.

Waller County District Attorney Oliver Kitzman said if Watts isn't convicted of murder in Michigan, his Texas county has enough evidence for a murder or capital murder charge for the 1982 killing of 14-year-old Emily LaQua.

Her death was the only known Texas killing for which Watts confessed but did not receive immunity as part of his 1982 plea deal with Harris County prosecutors.

"The ultimate is to make sure he doesn't ever get out again," crime victims' advocate Andy Kahan said as he stood with the mother of one of Watts' victims.

"This is a big step in ensuring that a cold-blooded, diabolical, serial killer never gets out to victimize any other person."

"The ultimate is to make sure he doesn't ever get out again."

— Andy Kahan
crime victims' advocate

Plagiarism

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resistant to act on suspicions of cheating.

"It (Academic and Professional Integrity Week) is geared to help faculty help students and have students learn ways to help themselves," Balester said.

Kells said the issues of integrity are complex, especially since the Internet is changing the way we make and circulate knowledge.

McCabe's study found that Internet plagiarism is a growing concern because students are not sure how to properly utilize the Internet for research and how to correctly document Internet findings.

"We need to reinsert common values and traditions in light of these changes," Kells said.

The Writing Intensive Course Initiative is being introduced at the symposium. This will be a required course for the incoming freshman class, where students will learn to write and do research for their profession, Kells said.

The Writing intensive course creates an environment for conversation," Kells said.

Keynote speaker Rebecca Moore Howard will give her presentation "Culture and Academic Discourse: Cultivating Authority in Language and Text" Friday at 9 a.m. and will share how one can respond to academic dishonesty proactively, Kells said.

A conversation between student and faculty panelists will take place Friday at 10:30 a.m., which will help educate faculty on what to do if they catch a student cheating and help educate students on ways to avoid cheating, Balester said.

"We hope to create an environment of open discussion and collaboration between different departments who are serving our students," Kells said.

The week will commence with an orientation to University academic integrity resources which will present an online tutorial of the Web site for the Honors Office, Balester said.

"When they have a problem they will know where to go," Balester said. "Anytime they aren't sure if they are plagiarizing, they can come to the Writing Center."

All events are free and open to students, staff and parents.



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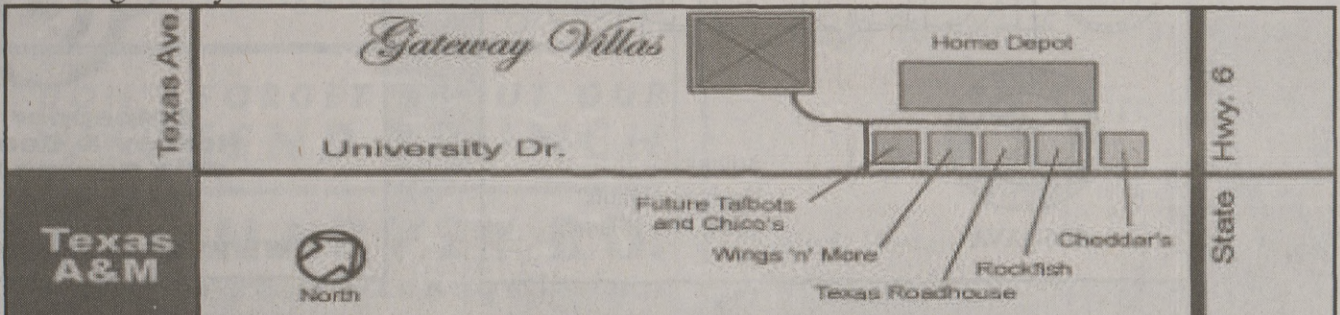
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