

## Court overturns murder conviction of sky sniper

BOSTON (AP) — The state's highest court Wednesday overturned the murder conviction of a man who shot his wife eight times, then buzzed neighborhoods in a stolen airplane while firing an assault rifle.

The state Supreme Judicial Court ruled that a judge should have conducted a hearing on whether incriminating testimony from Alfred J. Hunter could be used against him.

Hunter, 46, had been convicted of murdering his estranged wife, Elvira, on May 9, 1989, as their 5-year-old son watched. After the killing, authorities said, Hunter stole a car at gunpoint and drove to an airport, where he commandeered a small airplane.

For three hours, he buzzed several neighborhoods and Logan International Airport, firing down with an assault

rifle. Nobody was injured.

During the trial, the jury was allowed to hear testimony from two men who testified that Hunter said he killed his wife because he was angry with her. One testified that Hunter claimed his wife had cheated on him.

Hunter's attorney argued that the statements should be disqualified because Hunter was not mentally competent at the time. A month after Hunter made the statements, he was found incompetent to stand trial. That decision was reversed in 1990. Hunter was convicted in 1992 and sentenced to life without parole.

The state Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the judge should have conducted a hearing to determine whether Hunter's statements were voluntary.

## Pre-embryo tested baby born

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — A baby who was tested when she was only eight cells old to ensure she would be free of the deadly Tay-Sachs disease was born Wednesday. She was the first child to be screened for the incurable disease as a pre-embryo, a doctor said.

Brittany Nicole Abshire and her mother were doing well, said Dr. William E. Gibbons, the family's doctor at the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine in Norfolk.

Brittany was born at Baptist Hospital in Orange, Texas, near the DeRidder, La., home of her parents, David and Renee Abshire.

Brittany was tested as an eight-cell pre-embryo that had not yet been implanted into her mother's womb. Doctors used a needle one-fifth as wide as a human hair to withdraw a single cell from each of eggs that were fertilized "in vitro," or outside the mother, said Dr. Gary D. Hodgen, leader of the team that performed the procedure.

The eggs were tested for Tay-Sachs, and three "clean" eggs were implanted in Abshire's uterus. One developed into Brittany.

She was the first child in the world to be screened for the inherited disease at that stage, Hodgen said.

Brittany, who weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces, was born about three weeks early because Abshire developed a common gall bladder problem and went into labor, said Gibbons, who also is chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at the Eastern Virginia Medical School.

The Jones Institute is part of the medical school. Doctors at the institute delivered the nation's first in vitro, or so-called "test-tube baby," in 1981.

David and Renee Abshire each carry the gene for Tay-Sachs, which killed their first daughter at age 3. Without the test, they have a 25 percent chance of having a child with Tay-Sachs.

Victims of Tay-Sachs are born without an enzyme necessary to remove fatty substances from the brain. Most victims are blind and paralyzed by age 2 and

die by age 5.

There is no central registry for Tay-Sachs births, but about 20 Tay-Sachs children were believed born in the United States last year, said Debbie Gutter, director of National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases, which reviews research on about 40 genetic disorders.

Gibbons said the institute has not yet performed the Tay-Sachs test on other patients, but that some are in preparation.

Gutter said three North American groups are more prone to carrying the Tay-Sachs gene: French Canadians, Jews whose families came from Eastern Europe, and people from a section of southwest Louisiana with a large Cajun population.

Both parents must carry the gene for the child to be born with Tay-Sachs.

Dr. Michael Snabes of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the Baylor College of Medicine praised the work of Hodgen's team.

"I've seen the method that they've used to make this diagnosis, and it's good, solid work," he said.

The technology could help couples who carry other inherited diseases, such as sickle-cell anemia and hemophilia. Doctors in England recently used a similar procedure to help a couple predisposed to cystic fibrosis give birth to a healthy infant, Snabes said.

John Fletcher, director of the Center for Bio-medical Ethics at the University of Virginia, praised the procedure but said it raises questions about future developments in handling defective genes.

"What people are afraid of is, once you start manipulating genes in the embryo, you could move from treating the disease to affecting characteristics that don't have anything to do with the disease, like skin color, height, weight."

Testing couples for the Tay-Sachs gene is routine in many Jewish communities, and in cases where both partners are carriers, they are advised of the risks of bearing children.

*Credit Classes are Still Available for Winter Term*



## Environmental Awareness Workshops

**Outdoor Recreation Admin.— January 28, 29**  
1 credit (LSS 408/508) Fee: \$100, Meets in Eugene

**Outdoor Recreation Admin.— February 18, 19**  
1 credit (LSS 408/508) Fee: \$100, Meets in Medford

This workshop is designed to assist in the understanding of the duties of outdoor administrators. Students will examine program administration and problem solving, as well as management hints and many tested methods in planning, publicity, staffing, registration, and safety. Ninety-nine potential program offerings will be discussed.

**Winter Recreation— February 4, 5, 6**  
2 credits (LSS 408/508) Fee: \$150 plus \$30 travel

This class examines the recreational and tourism potential during the winter months in Oregon. Subjects will be snowplay, skiing, fishing, storm watching, camping and other cool-weather activities. Several guest speakers will cover equipment, commercial ventures, and new opportunities available. Discussion, audio-visuals and on-site observation will aid students in gaining a better understanding of winter recreation.

**Risk and Liability— February 11, 12**  
1 credit (LSS 408/508) Fee: \$75

This workshop is designed for guides, leaders and recreation personnel who deal directly with risk and liability issues. The workshop will cover areas such as standards, negligence, adventure recreation, protection issues, insurance choices and purposes, litigation, risk reduction, permission and release forms, accident reduction insurance, contracts and contracted services.

**Coastal Lakes— February 25, 26, 27**  
2 credits (LSS 408/508) Fee: \$150 plus \$30 travel

Large and small lakes along Oregon's coast provide an interesting and informative field-lab for the study of plants, animals, history and geology. This workshop will explore preservation and use issues, recreational opportunities and resource values, as well as the historical and geological significance of these exceptional resources.

**Rivers— March 4, 5 and 6**  
2 credits (LSS 408/508) Fee: \$150 plus \$30 travel

This workshop will investigate the exciting riparian environments of Oregon's rivers. Field-labs on local rivers offer firsthand exposure to help students gain an understanding of the problems, relationships, concepts and opportunities for river activities. Studies of plants, animals, history and river geology will broaden students' awareness of Oregon's waterways.

To register for any of these workshops, stop by the University of Oregon Continuation Center at 333 Oregon Hall, or simply call:  
**346-4231**

## Clinton, celebrities list favorite books

GARDINER, Maine (AP) — The lifestyles of the rich and famous often include a good book or two. Or, in the case of President Clinton, about 70 a year.

Clinton was one of 50 celebrities surveyed by librarian Glenna Nowell, who compiles an annual "Who's Reading What?" list hoping to encourage others

to read.

"I can't imagine what my life would be like without reading," wrote Clinton, who said he reads about 70 books a year. He chose *The Prince of Tides* and *The Last of the Mohicans* as two of his all-time favorites.

Among the other celebrity selections: Attorney General

Janet Reno recommended *Mary Poppins*, ABC News' Sam Donaldson picked *Plutarch's Lives* and tennis star Martina Navratilova chose Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead*.

"Accepting responsibility — wow, what a concept," Navratilova said. "Too bad politicians don't read these books."

## We'll ask you to do unusual things



Well, not exactly dancing half-naked but many other interesting tasks

### Be a Resident Assistant

University Housing is looking for active, enthusiastic people who would like to fill the Resident Assistant positions in the residence halls for the '94-'95 academic year.

**Compensation:**

Room and board plus \$600 per year.

**Eligibility:**

Must have Junior standing by fall term 1994 and have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher.

You must also attend one of the following orientation sessions:  
Tuesday, Jan. 25th 7 pm Gold Room (Carson Hall).  
Saturday January 29 2:45 pm EWEB Building Community Room, 500 E. 4th Ave.

**Application deadline:**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 1st. 5 pm**

For more information contact: University Housing or call 346-4277

By the way, if you like dancing half-naked, don't hesitate to come.

\*An AAEO institution committed to cultural diversity and in compliance with the ADA.