

NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world

Husband accused of mercy killing indicted

1 GRANTS PASS — A 90-year-old man accused of killing his wife to end her suffering from Alzheimer's disease has been indicted for murder.

A Josephine County grand jury returned the indictment against Henry Jeffrey in the Aug. 2 shooting of his wife, Helen Jeffrey, 88, at their Grants Pass home.

Assistant District Attorney Clay Johnson expressed mixed feelings about the case, but said prosecutors were duty-bound to enforce the law, which does not recognize mercy as a justifiable cause for killing someone.

Defense attorney Chris Mecca said he was disappointed but not surprised by the grand jury's action.

Mecca has said Jeffrey felt a strong commitment to care for his wife.

Jeffrey's daughter was visiting her parents the night of the shooting and called authorities to report her father had shot her mother. Deputies found Mrs. Jeffrey dead in a twin bed that had been pushed next to her husband's bed.

Hunters provide meat for Oregon Food Bank

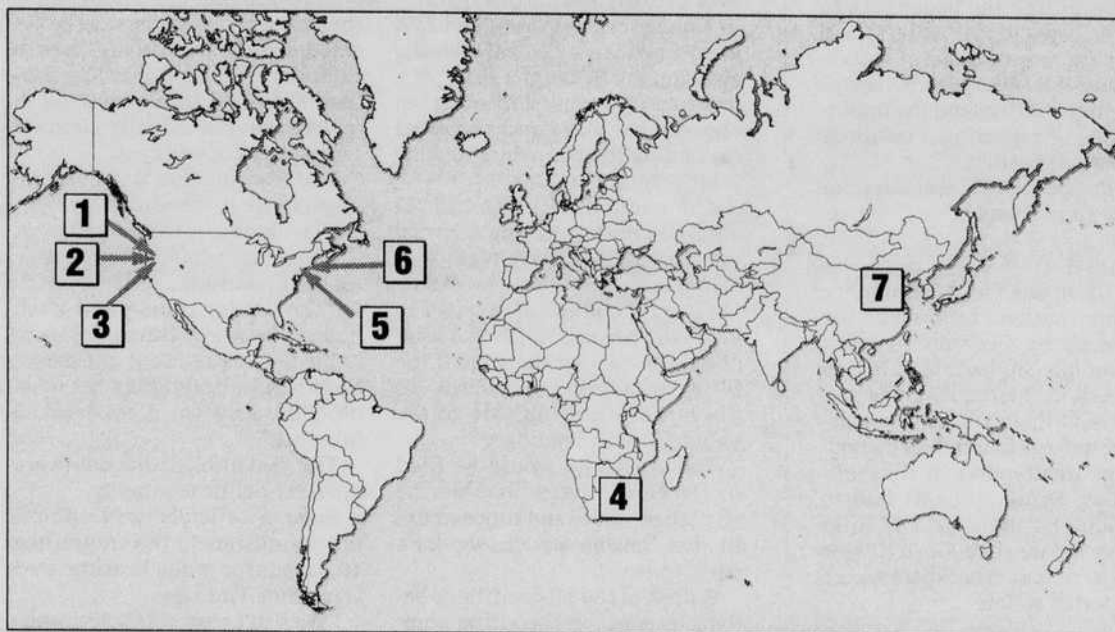
2 CARVER — Hunters are having such a successful year they're donating fresh meat to feed the hungry.

Oregon hunters have already given 2,000 pounds of game to the Oregon Food Bank as part of an Oregon Hunters Association program called Hunters Against Hunger.

"I can see this going to 200,000 pounds a year," said Norman Clavette, whose Sportsmen's Meat Cutting in Carver is the main collection point.

The donations mean fresh meat can be included in some emergency food boxes along with the usual canned and dried goods.

The Oregon Food Bank is the umbrella hunger relief agency in Oregon and southwest Washington, helping to supply emergency food to about 400,000 people a year.



Suspected murderer rejects plea bargain

3 SALEM — A man suspected in at least 13 slayings nationwide has rejected a plea bargain offer that could have settled charges in other states.

Under the proposed agreement, Robert Silveria, 37, would have pleaded guilty to six homicides nationwide, including one in Salem. In exchange, he was to get assurances that no jurisdiction would seek the death penalty.

Marion County prosecutors were the first to file murder charges against Silveria. He is accused of the Dec. 1, 1995, death of William Pettit Jr.

Police believe Pettit was killed in Salem. His body was found in a boxcar in Millersburg on Dec. 3.

Silveria's trial is set for April. Florida and Kansas also have brought murder charges against Silveria, and authorities say he has confessed to killings in Montana, Utah, Washington and Arizona.

Deputy District Attorney Diane Moffatt said the offer would have meant maximum sentences would be imposed in all six homicides to which Silveria would have pleaded guilty.

The aim was to ensure he would not be released from prison, she said.

South African colonel sentenced for murder

4 PRETORIA, South Africa — A former South African police colonel — who once admitted he doesn't know how many anti-apartheid activists he killed — was sentenced Wednesday to two life terms in prison. He became the highest-ranking officer convicted of apartheid-era crimes.

Eugene de Kock, 47, has already appealed for amnesty to a government commission. De Kock claimed during his trial that he carried out attacks on the orders of superiors, and was told some of those orders sometimes came from former President P.W. Botha.

De Kock headed a unit notorious for killing and torturing anti-apartheid activists and was convicted of six murders and 83 lesser charges.

Judge Willem van der Merwe passed two life sentences on de Kock Wednesday — one for murder and one for conspiracy to murder. In addition to these, he sentenced him to 212 years jail.

De Kock will now take his case to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Headed by retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission is hearing evidence of apartheid-era crimes in an effort to heal the wounds from more than 30 years of official segregation.

TWA fuel probe test result 'unremarkable'

5 SMITHTOWN, N.Y. — An analysis of two fuel measuring devices from TWA Flight 800 shows no sign of an electrical problem that would have caused the plane's center fuel tank to explode, a federal spokeswoman said Wednesday.

"Tests on the two fuel probes were unremarkable," said Shelly Hazle of the National Transportation Safety Board. There was no indication of a short circuit in the rods, she added.

NTSB investigators had been studying the 6-foot long rods for more than a week to learn whether they might have sparked the July 17 midair explosion, killing all 230 people aboard.

The metal on one of the rods had been peeled back in a fashion known as "petaling," which heightened the interest of investigators after divers lifted the rods from the ocean floor two weeks ago.

An examination of the petaling showed the damage was consistent with a fuel-air explosion of the kind that happened in the center fuel tank, Hazle said.

But an NTSB source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the finding did not boost theories that the plane might have been brought down by a bomb or missile.

Study reports positive results for AIDS drug

6 BOSTON — A new study confirms that a natural protein can help restore immune systems that have been damaged by HIV.

Last year, doctors from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases reported that regular injections of interleukin 2 can boost the body's production of blood cells that are a primary target of HIV.

In Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, the team reports having duplicated the findings in a more rigorous comparison study using a larger group of patients.

Despite the encouraging findings, doctors have yet to prove that the treatment actually helps people live longer or reduces the risk of AIDS complications. A study to investigate that is planned.

The latest study was conducted by Dr. Joseph A. Kovacs and colleagues on 60 HIV-infected people.

Tiananmen Square leader sentenced

7 BEIJING — The trial lasted four hours, and the verdict was harsh: 11 years in prison for Wang Dan, one of the last active leaders of the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement.

With Wednesday's swift judgment, China's Communist Party leaders signaled their resolve to silence critics. But they also revealed worries about anti-government sentiment and the potent memories of the military assault that crushed the 1989 demonstrations.

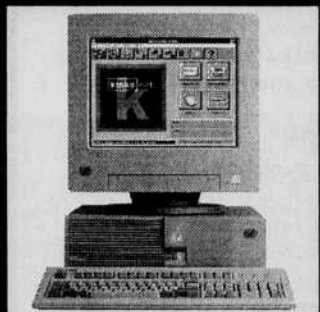
For many, Wang symbolized that movement. As a Beijing University student, he led marches and called for a student union free of government control. After the crackdown, the government put him atop its most-wanted list, flashing his picture on TV nationwide.

Wang served 3 1/2 years in prison only to emerge unrepentant. Over 27 months — before he was taken away by police in May 1995 — he criticized the party in essays published abroad, met with other activists and petitioned the government for democracy.

— The Associated Press

Computer Work Stations

- ▼ IBM and Mac
- ▼ Premiere Software
- ▼ Scanning
- ▼ Color and Black & White Laser Printing



Open 24 Hours **kinko's** 1265 Willamette 344-3555

Interested in attending Law School?

University of California Hastings College of the Law



Representatives will be at the University of Oregon
On November 5th
From 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Oregon Hall Rm. 164, Advising Center-Prelaw area
To answer questions & distribute Admissions Materials

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Cash For Textbooks Mon.-Sat.

Smith Family Bookstore

768 E. 13th
1 Block From Campus

345-1651

Tell your faraway family and friends
to read the *Oregon Daily Emerald*
now available on the world wide web <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ode>