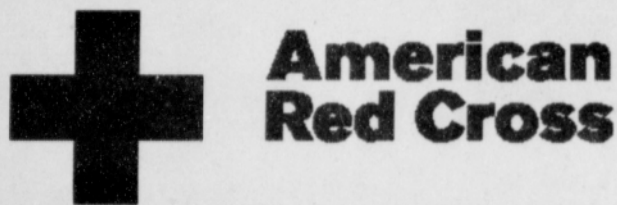


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Illinois Governor Spars Lives of 156 Inmates

(AP) — Calling the death penalty process “as capricious and arbitrary as who gets hit by a bolt of lightning,” Gov. George Ryan announced Saturday he was clearing Illinois’ death row by commuting the sentences of all 156 inmates, a move unprecedented in scale in U.S. history.

Ryan’s action, just two days before he leaves office, drew immediate angry reaction from prosecutors, the incoming governor and relatives of some of the victims.

Ryan said he sympathized with the families of the men, women and children who had been murdered, but he felt he had to act.

“I am not prepared to take the risk that we may execute an innocent person,” he wrote in an overnight letter to the victims’ families warning them of what he planned.

“Our capital system is haunted by the demon of error — error in determining guilt, and error in determining who among the guilty deserves to die,” Ryan said. “What effect was race having? What ef-

fect was poverty having? “Because of all these reasons, today I am commuting the sentences of all death row inmates.”

Ryan had halted all executions in the state nearly three years earlier after courts found that 13 Illinois death row inmates had been wrongly convicted since capital punishment resumed in 1977 — a



Death row inmates Madison Hobley (clockwise from upper left), Stanley Howard, Leroy Orange and Aaron Patterson, were pardoned Friday by Illinois Gov. George Ryan who said the men were tortured into confessing by Chicago police.

Our capital system is haunted by the demon of error — error in determining guilt, and error in determining who among the guilty deserves to die, — Illinois Gov. George Ryan

period when 12 other inmates were executed.

He said studies conducted since that moratorium was issued had

only raised more questions about the how the death penalty was imposed. He cited problems with trials, sentencing, the appeals pro-

cess and the state’s “spectacular failure” to reform the system.

“Because the Illinois death penalty system is arbitrary and capricious — and therefore immoral — I no longer shall tinker with the machinery of death,” he said.

All but three of the sentences will go to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The Republican governor announced outright pardons for four other men on death row Friday.

He said those men were tortured into confessing by Chicago police.

Shooting Puts Deputy in Critical Condition

(AP) — A Clackamas County sheriff’s deputy who was shot in the face last week remained in critical condition Monday after undergoing surgery to reduce swelling in his brain, hospital officials said.

Sgt. Damon Coates underwent the surgery Saturday and was taking medication to prevent further swelling, according to a nursing supervisor.

Nick Teixeira, a Rex Putnam High

School freshman, allegedly shot Coates with a high-caliber handgun on Thursday as Coates and three partners tried to take him from his home for a mental evaluation.

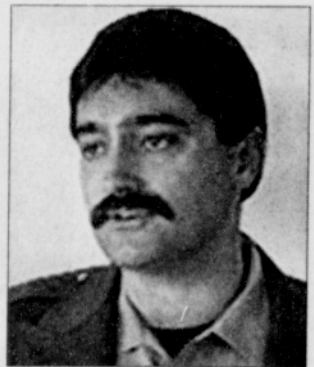
Another officer returned fire, hitting Teixeira in the chest.

Deputies arrested Teixeira on charges of attempted aggravated murder and first-degree assault.

Teixeira was in fair condition Monday at Doernbecher Children’s Hos-

pital. He was visited briefly Sunday morning by his parents and grandparents, the first time he’s been allowed to see them since the shooting.

Teixeira requested to see them, said Detective Jim Strovink, a Clackamas County sheriff’s office spokesman. Teixeira is officially in police custody and is under police guard.



Sgt. Damon Coates

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Assault Suspect Saught

Sang Thanh Nguyen

Portland Police, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in locating and apprehending Sang Thanh Nguyen. A felony arrest warrant, charging Nguyen with Assault in the First Degree, is on file in Multnomah County. The warrant stems from an incident where Nguyen and his brother, who is already in custody, reportedly beat a known acquaintance, causing the victim severe brain and head trauma.

Sang Thanh Nguyen is a 25-year old Asian male with a date of birth of Jan. 14, 1977. Nguyen is 5’2” tall and weighs approximately 110 pounds. Nguyen may be staying in Southeast, or deep South-east Portland, but his parents live in Northeast Portland and it is believed he has been coming and going from there.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, any you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP.

Police Seek New Evidence Against Cramer

(AP) — Detectives seeking clues in the killing of an 18-year-old woman have ended their search of Kelley Point Park and asked for public help in finding a green “Army type” duffel bag that could contain evidence.

Police said the bag likely was thrown into the Columbia Slough and carried into either the Columbia River or the Willamette River.

Cassandra Brown, the daughter of a Port of Portland police officer, has been missing since Jan. 5. Police have arrested her former boyfriend, 18-year-old Benjamin Karl Cramer, and charged him with murder.

“We believe the bag contains evidence in the investigation,” said Sgt. Brian Schmutz, a police spokesman, who declined to elaborate.

safety matters

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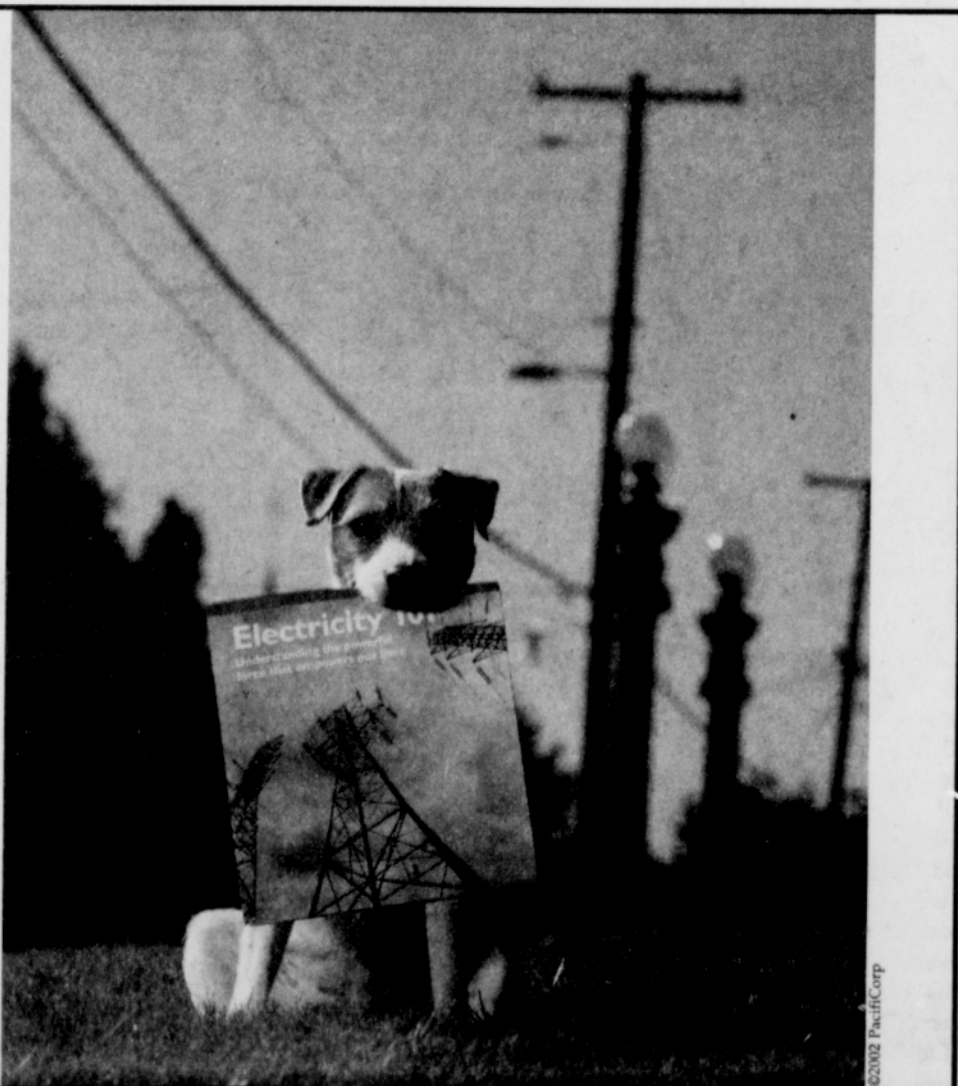
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