

LAW & JUSTICE

Klansman Gets Life in Prison

For black teens murdered in '60s

(AP) -- James Ford Seale, a reputed Ku Klux Klansman, was sentenced Friday to three life terms in prison for his role in the 1964 abduction and murder of two black teenagers.

Seale, 72, was convicted in June on federal charges of kidnapping and conspiracy in the deaths of 19-year-olds Charles Moore and Henry Hezekiah Dee, who disappeared from Franklin County, Miss., on May 2, 1964 and whose bodies were found two months later in the Mississippi River.

Seale showed no emotion as U.S. District Judge Henry Wingate read his sentence.

Wingate told Seale the crimes committed 43 years ago were "horrific" and "justice itself is ageless." He denied a defense motion to allow Seale to be free on bond while his case is appealed.

Federal public defender Kathy Nester filed a notice of appeal. "Mr. Seale maintains his innocence to this crime," Nester said.

During the hearing, one of Dee's sisters and Moore's brother talked about how the violent deaths affected them and their families.

"I don't have no hate in my heart, but I'm happy for justice," said Dee's sister Thelma Collins of Springfield, La.

"I hope you perhaps spend the rest of your natural life in prison thinking of what you did to Charles Moore and Henry Dee and how you ran for a long time but you got caught," Thomas Moore said. "I hope the spirit of Charles and Henry come to your

cell every night and visit with you to teach you what it meant by love of your fellow man."



Reputed Ku Klux Klansman James Ford Seale is escorted to the federal courthouse Friday in Jackson, Miss.

Both of them stood about 10 feet from Seale, but he never made eye contact with them.

The prosecution's star witness against Seale was Charles Marcus Edwards, a confessed Klansman who received immunity from prosecution for his admitted role in the abductions and his testimony.

Edwards said Seale told him that heavy weights were attached to the teenagers and they were then dumped alive into the river.

Seale was arrested on a state murder charge in 1964, but the charge was later dropped, because local law enforcement officers in 1964 were in collusion with the Klan, federal prosecutors say.

Small Media Confront Big Issues

continued from Metro

Colas on the general arch of the story before the cameras got rolling: "You must feel great, because you started out getting diversity in your father's company, and now you're doing it on a citywide basis."

Having previously been with the city for 18 years as a plumbing inspector, Shabazz is plenty familiar with reluctance to enter the limelight, but the community-media experience certainly hasn't hurt him in overcoming shyness.

For young people like Colas, Portland State University's radio station can be an even easier place to build confidence than PCM or KBOO, a community radio station on East Burnside.

Confidence is not a problem lately in the case of 23-year-old Arya Imig, whose KPSU show was a jumping off point to the get on the 10-member booking committee of PDX Pop Now, an independent music festival.

"I was a triple-threat for PDX Pop Now, covering it for KPSU, Local Cut and troubleshooting



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"Urban Vibe" host Mikal Shabazz (right) recently featured Hermann and Andrew Colas, a father and son duo who came to talk about their work supporting minority-construction contracting.

for the festival," Imig says.

He emphasizes the importance of getting passionately involved with established community-media programs. For PDX Pop Now, this meant discussing which bands were "auto-ins," and which bands might benefit from outside suggestions.

"We spent many four-hour sessions throwing out band

names and trying to represent

different genres," says Imig, whose role as a volunteer booking coordinator for the Top Down festival became a little easier. Simply by offering his help, he was able to secure his current favorite band, Blue Skies for Black Hearts, for Hotel DeLuxe's rooftop on Thursday, Aug. 30.

These media junkies are always looking for the next big thing.

Little will be looking to the meetings of PCM's Black Producers Association for ideas on Saturdays at 6 p.m.

"Once we get all the potential minority producers together, we could do some bigger projects," he says.

Tougher Law Wanted for Unlicensed Drivers

The death of a 77-year-old Salem resident by an unlicensed driver who had been cited multiple times caused many to ask lawmakers to take action.

Sen. Jackie Winters has responded by convening a workgroup of lawmakers and agency heads to identify where Oregon law needs to be changed.

At last Thursday's meeting, members of the group discussed elevating the crime of driving with a suspended or revoked license from a violation to a criminal of-



State Sen. Jackie Winters

fense, thereby allowing judges to imprison those who continually disregard the law.

"There are a very small number of Oregonians who continually disregard rules the rest of us follow," said Winters. "In order to get their attention we are going to put some

teeth in to these laws."

Winters cited statistics provided by the Oregon Department of Transportation which show 177 Oregonians with a suspended or revoked driver license were convicted of the same violation four or more times between 2004 and July 2007.

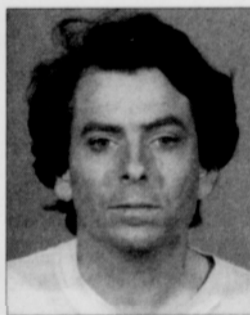
Locker Room Offender Investigation Expands

Portland police think a man arrested for dressing as a woman and entering the women's locker room at the Mount Scott Community Center may have done the same thing at other community centers.

Police spokesman Brian Schmautz said that Thomas Lee Benson was arrested June 11 on one count of invasion of privacy, one count of misuse of a public restroom and one count of failing to register as a sex offender after police responded to a report of a suspicious person at the Mount Scott Community Center at 5530 S.E. 72nd Ave.

Based on more recent testimony, police added a count of Unlawful Contact with a Child last week.

According to witnesses, Benson dressed in women's clothing to enter the women's locker room at least twice during a period of several hours. Once inside the locker room, he changed clothing with children changing into or out of swimming suits.



Thomas Lee Benson

Benson is listed on the Oregon Sex Offender Registry, Schmautz said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Officer Bridget Sickon at 503-823-0878.

Biker Clubhouse Raid Settled

Suit charged police misconduct

The city of Portland agreed to pay \$50,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by three parties upset with a 2004 raid on the Gypsy Joker motorcycle clubhouse at 3535 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Police had arrest warrants for two men suspected of robberies, but when the wanted men weren't there, according to the lawsuit, police held club member Patrick Murphy in handcuffs for five hours without charging him, injured a woman's foot in the raid and damaged the clubhouse.

The suit charged that police used a battering ram and fired tear gas rockets into the clubhouse, despite the fact that the door was unlocked and that there was no resistance from people inside.

The suit was filed in U.S. District

Court by Murphy, Suzanne Miller, the injured woman, and Tomorrow RUS Today, the company that owns the clubhouse building.

At the time, police told reporters that police seized guns and methamphetamine in the raid, but Sam Hochberg, Murphy's lawyer, said the guns found in the clubhouse were legal and that the drugs were seized in a related raid in Salem the same day.

According to the suit, police tore apart walls, knocked holes in the ceiling and smashed 25 framed photographs.

"The club had to take a stand," says Mark Dencklau, Gypsy Joker president. "We needed to tell the police that we won't be treated as second-class citizens. We won't sit by and be their target anymore."

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