

# Transformation

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## INSIDE

1998 Women's  
 Watchcare  
 Network Log

## 1998 Bias Violence in Arkansas

Dee Dee Green

**T**his edition of *Transformation* includes events of violence that occurred in the state of Arkansas in 1998 (look for the 1999 Log to be published this Spring). Some of these events claim heinous, yet familiar circumstances such as the murders of women by an intimate partner or spouse. Others mark a not-so-familiar trend profiling white youth as perpetrators in large scale school violence.

In April 1995, we began monitoring the murders of youth across the state of Arkansas. Of the 38 murders logged in 1995, 27 of the young people reportedly died as the result of street violence. In 1998, 14 of 23 (61%) murders were committed by an acquaintance or a relative of the victim. Our society has managed to use violence as an oppressive tool, teaching our youth that it is easier to eliminate what is perceived to be the problem rather than identifying the source of conflict and working toward peaceful resolution. These numbers are a reflection of the patterns of violence that impede our progress toward communal and universal peace for all individuals regardless of race, age, sex, religion, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

### Synopsis

In 1998, we recorded murders of 45 women including Westside Middle School teacher Shannon Wright, 32,

who was killed, along with four female students, after two male students opened fire on the campus as the result of an alleged breakup between the older child and his seventh-grade girlfriend. The day after the Westside Middle School shooting, Misty Erwin, 20, was killed by her boyfriend, Clay Smith, who also killed her two children, her cousin and a babysitter. Although these were not all domestic murders, the motivation for these crimes are an indication of our society's devaluation of human life, especially the lives of women and children. The abhorrent acts speak to the images of hate and violence that pervade our society and shape the values and standards of our youth. The difference in media coverage of these crimes also reflects our society's acceptance of domestic violence as ordinary, whereas violence committed by white youth is seen as extraordinary.

Of the murders of women recorded, 31 of the 45 victims (69%) were killed by an acquaintance, relative, spouse (ex-) or boyfriend (ex-). 51% of the murders were committed by gunfire. 11% of the perpetrators shot and killed themselves. 9% killed children during the assault of the women. 23 murders of youth were recorded including three suicides.

(continued on page 2)

## 1998 Bias Violence in Arkansas

61% of murdered youth were killed by an acquaintance or blood relative. 13% of these youth committed suicide. 30% of the murders involved multiple homicides. 83% of the murders were executed by gunfire. Two deaths of infant children, a newborn and a 3-month-old, were recorded. Both were killed by a parent.

### Other Activities in Arkansas

There are several other incidents of bias violence and discrimination that Watchcare monitors and logs, such as hate group activity, elder abuse, violence against people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered individuals and religious minorities to name a few. Some of these occurrences do not receive adequate attention from the community and media. Watchcare works to counter this inadequacy by monitoring, documenting and responding to any event significant to senseless hate-based violence.

The 1998 Log reports four incidents of violence against aging persons, one of which died after being robbed, raped and bludgeoned to death. Three acts of violence against people with disabilities are listed in the Log, including two institutionalized adults and one homeless victim. Discriminatory acts against LGBT persons are recorded, one being the suicide of a male whose name and address appeared in the *Arkansas-Democrat Gazette* after being

arrested on sex-related misdemeanor charges. Eight episodes of racism and racist violence are published in addition to a national report citing 670 church burnings tracked by the national task force since 1995. Six reports of local hate group activity appear in the Log. Additional information on the investigation of the Aryan Republic Army and Chevie Kehoe is included. Kehoe is charged in the 1996 murders of

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battery.**

William Mueller, 53, his wife, Nancy, 28, and her 8-year-old daughter, Sarah Powell near Russellville, in order to fund a white republic in the Pacific Northwest. Two reports of possible satanic activity are listed, one of which involves cruel attacks on ten horses in Barling, Arkansas. One incident of anti-abortion violence appears in the edition of *Transformation*.

### Final Words

It is difficult to understand the extent to which violence has moved from the status of anti-social behavior to a glamorized

solution to any given situation. It is even more difficult to fathom the enormous influence violence has over interpersonal relationships. According to statistics, every nine to fifteen seconds a woman in this country is abused by an intimate partner or spouse. One out of two women in the state of Arkansas will at some point in her life experience domestic battery. Children killing classmates, parents killing children, adults abusing elderly parents, Christians growing intolerant of Jews, straight people bashing gay people and able-bodied individuals mistreating disabled individuals are indications that such aberrant behavior has become socially and morally acceptable.

The Women's Project and its constituency have worked since 1981 toward the elimination of racism and sexism. The connection between these social constructions and others force us to address all issues of bias-based violence in Arkansas. The Women's Watchcare Network continues to proactively advocate for peace, educate and organize communities around issues of hate-induced violence. In addition to community activism, the Network publishes this annual Log in order to inform and encourage movement toward social change.

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## About the Women's Watchcare Network Log

The Log is published annually as documentation of violence against Arkansans and is based on gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as activities of organized hate groups in Arkansas. We document in order to serve as witnesses to the ongoing violence against people who are perceived as different, to increase community awareness of the epidemic prevalence of violence, and to provide supporting information to those working for social change, including national anti-violence projects, local domestic violence advocates, faith communities, legislators, and others.

Our log contains only information that is verifiable by named sources. We have chosen this method to debate over the truthfulness of our information. This precludes many sources and mandates that the major sources of information for the log are newspapers and literature published by hate groups. Often-times victims of hate crimes do not wish to have their accounts divulged for fear of further violence.

The Women's Watchcare Network is not an undercover network. We operate with the assumption that our work is being monitored by others.

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*All incidents are listed by the date of the first report to appear in the media. The newspaper cited most often is the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, which is listed as ADG.*

## Racist Violence

### February 19, Conway

Tammy Stanley, a University of Central Arkansas secretary, was fired after a fight with an associate professor, Dr. Barbara Holmes. According to reports, the confrontation occurred when Dr. Holmes asked Ms. Stanley, a department secretary, to come to her office to tell her a travel request form had been sent back to the department because it did not contain all the necessary information. Accounts then vary, but both parties agree that Ms. Stanley called Dr. Holmes names, including "n\*\*\*\*r". Dr. Holmes also claims that Stanley shoved her, injuring her knees.

Stanley, who has worked for the university for four years, received a letter of termination citing her "insubordination and conduct reflecting unfavorably upon the reputation of the university."

Stanley said she intends to file a grievance over the firing, which she claims was racially motivated. She said she feels department chair Dr. David Skotko believed Dr. Holmes' version of the events because Dr. Holmes is black and Stanley is white. "He was afraid to punish

her. He's scared she'll end up filing a discrimination lawsuit against him."

*Arkansas State Press: 2/19*

### March 4, Fayetteville

A \$1,000 reward is being offered by the chancellor of the University of Arkansas for information about a vandal who spray-painted "I love n\*\*\*\*rs" on the outside of the Sigma Chi fraternity. The members of the fraternity awoke on Feb. 13 to find several derogatory messages spray-painted on their house and several cars.

Police believe the vandal or vandals may have acted in retaliation for a fight one of the fraternity members got into at a nightclub on Feb. 12.

*Northwest Arkansas Times, ADG: 3/3, 3/4*

### October 3, Little Rock

Shirley residents, Michell Dunn, 22, and Robert Treece, 25, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to the 1995 burning of an interracial church run by the Universal Church of God in Shirley, Arkansas. The two arsonists admitted that they were motivated to intimidate black church members by conspiring to burn the mobile home used by the church as a Christian school.

A third man, Jerry Jones, 25, of Shirley pleaded guilty to a conspiracy charge after driving Treece to the scene to burn the church building.

After being sentenced to

97 months in prison, Treece requested that he serve his term in an area away from blacks who know the nature of his crime. He reported being threatened by some blacks in the Pulaski County jail, including an inmate "with a bad reputation." "We don't have any all-white prisons," said U.S. District Judge Henry Woods. However, the judge agreed to alert the prison system of Treece's request.

All three of the conspirators were handed the minimum sentences allowable under federal sentencing guidelines.

*LCD, ADG: 4/17, 10/2, 10/3, 12/10*

### **January 7, Greenbrier**

Federal authorities are investigating an area cross-burning near Greenbrier as a possible hate crime. The incident was reported to the Faulkner County Sheriff's Office on November 21, 1998, when Angela Maxfield, a black resident west of Wooster, discovered the cross burning in her front yard.

Assistant U.S. District Attorney Michael Johnson stated, "We are investigating it...and have been since it was brought to our attention shortly after the incident. We typically stay with these cases until we solve them." He was unable to release information concerning the investigation, but guaranteed that the federal agency had every intention of reaching some resolution despite the length of

the investigation.

*LCD: 1/7*

### **February 25, Little Rock**

A U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's lawsuit claims that the Cajun Company's Caucasian foreman referred to its African-American employees as "n\*\*\*\*rs." The lawsuit alleges the African-American employees were treated more harshly than others and they were discharged or forced to quit because of their race. The suit is seeking lost wages with interest, compensatory damages for emotional and psychological harm, and punitive damages.

In late January, the EEOC filed another lawsuit claiming female employees at Odom Antennas Inc. of Beebe had been subjected to sexual harassment and possible retaliation following their complaints about the alleged unlawful practices. The lawsuit seeks lost wages with interest, compensatory damages for emotional and psychological harm as well as punitive damages.

Both lawsuits were filed in the Federal District Court system in Arkansas.

*Little Rock Free Press: 2/25-3/10*

### **February 26, North Little Rock**

Police were called to a North Little Rock convenience store when a Little Rock man and a Bauxite resident scuffled twice after both men nearly caused a traffic accident.

The Little Rock man

reported that while driving west on 47th Street the Bauxite man almost caused a traffic accident. The Bauxite man reportedly followed the Little Rock resident into the Shell Superstop on Camp Robinson Road, where he began using racial slurs before striking the Little Rock man. After leaving the store, the Bauxite resident returned to the parking lot. He told authorities that the Little Rock man nearly hit his car and a second fight ensued.

Police made no arrests, but they told the Little Rock man to contact prosecutors for warrants.

*ADG: 2/26*

### **March 14, Little Rock**

A male caller to the Women's Project left the following message for the white woman who facilitates the "White Women Reading Against Racism" book group: "Tell her that I don't believe in all this interracial sh\*t. I don't think it's alright for blacks and whites to get married. Yeah, I'm a racist and I don't like all this interracial sh\*t."

The caller did not leave his name or phone number.

*Witness Report: 3/14*

### **October 23, Washington (National)**

Statistics show that one-fourth of the nation's church burnings are made up of black churches. Bill Lann Lee, acting assistant attorney general, said,

“Right now we have found no evidence of a national conspiracy based on racial bias or anti-religious motives. In some cases, clusters of church attacks revealed ‘local coordination’ among arsonists.”

The national task force formed to track attacks on churches has been investigating church fires since 1995. The task force reported that of the 670 suspicious church fires, bombings or attempted bombings since 1995 show that 225 targeted black churches; 297 churches were burned in 1996, 119 of them were black. In 1997, the task force tallied 53 attacks on black churches and 155 on others. Eight months into 1998, 28 of the 114 churches targeted were black.

Most of the fires remained unsolved, however 308 people have been arrested in church attacks. Looking at attacks on black churches, 68 whites, 37 blacks, and one Hispanic have been arrested.

ADG: 10/23

## Sexist Violence

### *Murders of Women*

#### **January 6, Pulaski County**

The body of Kimberly Fudge, 35, was found in a shallow grave in the southern part of the county by a man

walking through the woods. She had been stabbed several times in the chest.

Fudge’s mother, Helen Wade, 68, reported her daughter missing to the North Little Rock police. According to the report, Kimberly Fudge had not been seen since Dec. 27.

Wade told police that Kimberly Fudge and her husband, James Charles Fudge, 33, fought Dec. 26 and that he allegedly cut his wife on the face with a knife and choked her. James Fudge threatened to kill Kimberly during the Dec. 26 encounter, according to Wade. Kimberly Fudge refused to call police and report the attack, according to her mother.

James Fudge was arrested on Jan. 26 in Portland, Ore. He was charged with first-degree murder and unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. He was also arrested on a 1990 probation revocation warrant from Washington County, Ore. He has an arrest record dating to 1980 with charges of aggravated battery, first-degree domestic battery, second-degree battery, terroristic threatening, disorderly conduct and fleeing.

ADG, *The Oregonian*: 1/6, 1/8, 1/28

#### **January 10, El Dorado**

Carolyn White Sturgis, 42, was found dead on Friday morning beside a county road northeast of El Dorado by a Union County Road Department employee. Her body had multiple gunshot wounds.

Sturgis was seen alive the night before when she visited some friends in El Dorado.

ADG: 1/10

#### **January 14, Little Rock**

A Sherwood man killed his ex-girlfriend and then shot himself in the front yard of the woman’s home. Angela Goodrich, 33, died on the sidewalk near the front steps of her home. She had been shot once in the chest with a .12-gauge shotgun.

Gerald Stell, 37, apparently drove up to the house just after Goodrich started her car to go to work. Before she could flee into the house, Stell shot her. Stell then stood over Goodrich and shot himself in the chest.

Detectives said there were no police reports that Stell had ever harassed or stalked Goodrich.

ADG: 1/14

#### **January 22, Little Rock**

Larry Wayne Barnes, 28, pleaded innocent to a charge of first-degree murder in the shooting death of his ex-wife, Debra Settles O’Neal, 36, outside her home on January 20. He was ordered held in the Pulaski County jail on \$200,000 bond.

O’Neal’s 15-year-old son, Grady O’Neal, told deputies that his mother had recently divorced Barnes but Barnes came to the house, told O’Neal he

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wanted to resume the relationship, "would not take 'no' for an answer" and refused to leave.

Mother and son went inside the house and locked the doors. Debra O'Neal tried to call sheriff's deputies, but Barnes cut the telephone line, deputies said.

Grady O'Neal told deputies that he and his mother went back outside where Barnes was waiting. While Grady O'Neal was walking to a neighbor's home to call the sheriff's office, Barnes allegedly fired three or four shots and Debra Barnes fell with wounds in her back and right hand. Barnes then ran to his pickup and fled.

Deputies found O'Neal lying in the street, conscious but unresponsive. She was flown by helicopter to Baptist Medical Center.

Barnes was stopped and arrested on single counts of first-degree domestic battery and for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The battery charge was changed to first-degree murder when O'Neal died later in the evening. Barnes was later convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole.

*ADG: 1/22, 9/30*

### **January 23, Elaine**

The body of Mary T. Harris, 69, was found on the floor of her home by family members. The cause of death is yet to be determined by state police and Phillips County sheriff's deputies are handling it

as a homicide.

*ADG: 1/23*

### **January 30, Hot Springs**

Ulda Morales, 33, was stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend, Carlos Cambre, 31, in an Oaklawn Park horse barn where she worked as a groomer. The two had been living together until the past weekend, when Morales reportedly moved out after a domestic dispute. She had moved in with friends at a nearby trailer park.

Cambre had been twice warned to stay away from Morales and Barn 16. On Thursday morning, Morales and Cambre began to fight, said Oaklawn spokesperson Terry Wallace. Several people witnessed the fight and tried unsuccessfully to separate the two. Security officers managed to restrain Cambre only after he had stabbed Morales and then slashed his throat and stabbed himself in the chest, police reported.

He was charged with first-degree murder upon his release from the hospital where he underwent surgery.

*ADG: 1/30, 1/31, 2/5*

### **February 11, Hot Springs**

The skeletal remains found Oct. 4 by hunters in a remote area near Arkansas 298 were confirmed to be those of a woman aged 20-35 years old with "mixed black and white features." She was 5 feet to 5'4" tall, had evidence of a broken nose that was never set, and died within the

last three years.

The report from the state Crime Laboratory indicated that the unidentified victim died from multiple injuries, in particular blunt-force trauma to the skull, Lt. Ray Shoptaw said. "They ruled it a homicide," he said.

*ADG: 2/11*

### **February 25, Harrison**

The body of a woman found the evening of February 23 in a wooded area is believed to be that of Kelly Ann Horn, 26, of Harrison. Horn was last seen Feb. 17 and was reported missing by her husband. Her car had been found in the Ozark Mall parking lot on U.S. 65 in Harrison and some clothing at the wooded area matched some clothing belonging to Horn.

A man being held in the Boone County jail on an unrelated charge began offering information about a missing woman. The information led authorities to the body in an area about 2 miles north of Harrison.

The body has been sent to the state Crime Laboratory. The cause of death was undetermined. *ADG: 2/25*

### **March 11, McNeil**

Jacqueline Ellis Wesson, 36, was shot and killed during an argument with her husband, according to Columbia County Sheriff Wayne Tompkins. Her husband, Willie Roy Wesson, 45, was arrested after a Stephens police officer stopped his car in Ouachita County and seized a

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gun allegedly used in the shooting.

The shooting occurred just before 11 p.m. Sunday at a McNeil residence.

*ADG: 3/11*

### **March 15, Pulaski County**

An unidentified woman's body was discovered by Maumelle police on the banks of the Arkansas River. Authorities would not disclose additional information about the discovery.

*ADG: 3/15*

### **March 17, Mayflower**

The death of Rebecca Burks, 41, who died Jan. 29, is being investigated as a homicide. Initially she was thought to have died as the result of a house fire from which her son, James Burks, 22, escaped.

*ADG: 3/17*

### **March 21, College Station**

Sheila Robierson, 32, was found dead in her home from a gunshot wound to the head.

Detectives are interviewing family members and witnesses trying to develop leads to a suspect.

*ADG: 3/21*

### **March 28, Pine Bluff**

Clay King Smith, 27, was charged with five counts of capital murder for the shooting deaths of Misty Erwin, 20; her cousin, Shelly Sorg, 24; Sorg's children, Taylor Nicole Sorg, 3,

and Sean Michael Sorg, 5; and Samantha Rhodes, 12. Samantha Rhodes, the baby-sitter, was also beaten in the face as well as shot. All had been shot with a small-caliber weapon.

Sheriff's deputies discovered the bodies in the mobile home near Redfield where Erwin lived with Smith after relatives filed missing persons reports.

James Erwin, Misty Erwin's uncle, said Smith had a history of domestic violence with Misty. He said Smith had been arrested recently and threatened to kill Misty Erwin when he got out of jail.

Prosecuting Attorney Betty Dickey said that Smith is unemployed and is addicted to methamphetamine. She said deputies were called to the residence two days before the murders for "a minor incident," possibly involving abuse, but "apparently she was not injured seriously and didn't want him prosecuted."

"This is a classic case of domestic violence," Dickey said.

Smith was found guilty and sentenced to death.

*ADG: 3/27, 3/28, 3/31*

### **April 8, Fayetteville**

Vivian Ferguson, 38, was found dead of stab wounds in the bathroom of an apartment after police received a 911 call reporting a suicide. Police found a butter knife in Ferguson's hand. Tracy M. Wright, 27, Ferguson's boyfriend, allegedly told police that Ferguson had stabbed herself

with that knife.

Investigators at the state Crime Laboratory found Wright's wounds were not consistent with the butter knife. They found she had been stabbed with a sharp, double-edged knife like a dagger. The knife was recovered about a month after Ferguson's death.

Police suspect that Ferguson and Wright fought after she kicked or tipped over a bucket of gasoline and spilled it on the floor. Lt. Tim Helder said Wright allegedly had been "huffing" or inhaling gasoline fumes to become intoxicated.

Police said Wright stabbed Ferguson during the fight, then walked six blocks to his sister's house to tell her that Ferguson was dead. The two went back to the apartment, then Wright's sister call 911 and reported a suicide. Police believe the sister, Angelita Blackburn, thought that Ferguson had indeed killed herself. She has not been charged.

Wright was held in the Washington County jail on a first-degree murder charge. He was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 40 years in the Department of Correction.

*ADG: 4/8, 8/13, 8/16*

### **April 10, West Memphis**

Larry Jones, 39, allegedly cut the throats of his wife, Sandra Jones, 34, and her two sons, Courtney Jones, 17, and Deron Davis, 10. Their bodies were found in their home after Larry Jones called the police.

"He wanted us to believe that he had walked in and found the bodies," West Memphis Police Lt. Mike Allen said. "A neighbor told us otherwise. ... He had pretty much told the neighbor what he had done."

Jones was charged with three counts of capital murder and is being held in the Crittenden County jail without bond. He confessed after his arrest but did not give a motive.

Sandra and Larry Jones had been married since August 1997. Matilda Johnson, Sandra Jones' stepmother, described Larry Jones as a controlling man who tried to isolate his wife from others. Police said Larry Jones has a history of domestic abuse.

*Log Cabin Democrat,*  
ADG: 4/10, 4/11, 4/14

#### **April 14, Heber Springs**

Three people were found dead in the Eden Isle community after authorities received a 911 call in which they heard gunshots. Ramona "Mona" Irving, 34, her daughter Austin Irving, 11, and her husband Charles Irving, 66, were found dead. The mother and daughter had each been shot in the head and chest, and police said Charles Irving killed them. Charles Irving died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Authorities said they received the call about 7 p.m. Austin Irving's voice was heard pleading with the 911 operator for help, "My dad is killing my mother." The dispatcher then

heard a barrage of gunfire and then silence as the phone fell to the floor.

Neighbors and friends said Charles Irving filed for divorce March 31 and had moved out of the house. A restraining order was filed the same day as the divorce was filed. The divorce would have been final in a few weeks.

ADG: 4/14, 4/15, 4/16

#### **May 3, Little Rock**

Paul Smith, 36, was arrested for the beating death of his ex-girlfriend, Emma Goodman, 47. Goodman's grandson, Marcus Thomas, 11, told police and family members that Smith cut phone and power lines to the house, kicked in the front door, and came inside against his grandmother's orders.

When Goodman, clutching Marcus and his 3-year-old sister, Kayla Goodman, to her sides, told Smith to leave, Smith told her to let go of the children or he would cut off her hands. Smith then allegedly yanked a crystal doorknob from the kitchen door and attacked Goodman.

Marcus said Smith beat Goodman with the doorknob and stabbed her with its metal shank twice in the chest. Smith allegedly slammed Goodman's head against a wall, choked her and dragged her up and down the staircase.

When the children tried to leave the house, Smith allegedly threatened to stab them.

The children's mother, Phyllis Goodman, 27, found them

and her mother the next morning. The 3-year-old had spent the night sleeping alongside Goodman's body on the sofa. Family members said that Smith had assaulted Goodman in the past.

Smith entered innocent pleas to charges of first-degree murder, aggravated assault, terroristic threatening and two counts of false imprisonment. Bond was set at \$250,000.

ADG: 5/3, 5/5

#### **May 12, Pine Bluff**

The body of a woman was found in a lake on the city's northeast side. The Jefferson County coroner's office said it believed the woman, who was African-American, was in her 20s. It appeared that she had been dead for several days.

ADG: 5/12

#### **July 2, Helena**

Emeka N. Robinson, 21, died the day after being shot by her boyfriend, Jimmy Lee Guy, 28. Guy shot Helena Police Capt. Richard Wyssbrod, 44, who was apparently trying to break up a domestic disturbance, then shot Robinson. Guy then shot himself to death. The weapon was a .45-caliber semiautomatic handgun.

Officials said there was a history of domestic disturbances at the Guy-Robinson residence. Guy was released from the Phillips County jail on June 25, having been arrested June 6 on a contempt of court charge.

ADG: 7/2

### **July 9, Hope**

Alicia Blackmon, 32, was killed and her boyfriend, Roy Lynn Arnold, 36, was critically wounded by her estranged husband, Vance Dewayne Blackmon, 34, who then killed himself. The shootings occurred at Alicia Blackmon's residence. Hempstead County authorities had responded to several alleged incidences at the residence during the past few months. Alicia and Vance Blackmon had been under protective orders preventing each other from harming the other.

Arnold was admitted to the hospital in stable condition. Authorities reported that after the shooting, despite his wounds, Arnold took the Blackmon's two children across the highway to a neighbor's residence, from where the sheriff's office was called.

ADG: 7/9

### **July 19, London (Pope County)**

Dana Tester, 55, and her husband, Don Tester, 71, were found dead in the living room of their home. Preliminary autopsy reports show that each had been strangled and had sustained multiple blunt force injuries; Dana Tester also suffered sharp force injuries to her neck.

The Testers' car, a 1995 Dodge Stratus, was later recovered in Houston and other stolen property was found at a Houston pawn shop.

Thomas Taylor, a

Bentonville resident, told authorities that Roy Tester, the Testers' son, took him and a 15-year-old girl to the Testers' home. On a later trip, Roy Tester and his father began arguing. Roy Tester choked his father and then advanced on his mother. At that point, Taylor and the 15-year-old girl left the house and went to a truck. Taylor told authorities that Tester told him that he had cut his mother's throat.

Taylor said that he, the 15-year-old girl and Tester drove to Houston in the Dodge Stratus and that Tester pawned a guitar, jewelry and a watch belonging to his parents.

A warrant for Roy Tester, was later issued. He was captured February 12, 1999 in Seminole, Florida. He is charged with two counts of capital murder.

ADG: 7/19, 7/21, 7/29, 7/30, 8/2, 8/24, 2/25/99

### **July 20, Kirby (Pike County)**

Jimmy Morgan, 44, was arrested in the shooting death of his girlfriend, Carolyn Marie Cowart, 49.

The two were part of a country music band that had played in Malvern. Witnesses said that the two had been arguing throughout the night and Cowart had asked Morgan to move out. Cowart's brother and sister-in-law were at the house and were aroused from bed by the sound of gunshots after 3 a.m.

The couple found Morgan holding a pistol in the kitchen at the back door of the house. Morgan reportedly threatened

them with the weapon before leaving the scene on foot. Morgan fled into the woods near the house and the brother then found his sister outside on the steps to the back door, shot several times.

After a manhunt, Morgan was found two miles away and was arrested without incident by local authorities. He told officers that he knew nothing about the shooting and is being held in the Pike County jail on a charge of capital murder.

ADG: 7/20, 7/28

### **July 28, Booneville**

The body of Rhonda Combs, 23, was driven to the Booneville Police Department by her boyfriend. The man said Combs' ex-husband, Timothy Buffington, 32, had asked them to drive him to a bridge so he could hide some property before leaving on a trip. Once at the bridge, Buffington allegedly unwrapped a rifle from a blanket and shot through the truck's back window, hitting Combs once in the head. The boyfriend drove off before Buffington could reload. Buffington also allegedly claimed that he was on the way to kill his children. Police placed the children and their grandmother into protective custody while tracking Timothy Buffington to the field where Combs had been killed.

Police found Buffington standing in the field holding a rifle over his head and yelling for the officers to "come and get him." After a brief negotiation,



### **September 19, Little Rock**

The body of Marilyn Mazique, 41, was found lying beside the street in the 1300 block of West 32nd Street by a father walking his daughter to a school bus stop.

A neighbor told officers that he had been awakened by five or six gunshots in the street shortly after 2:30 a.m. He went outside and saw a rust-colored 1978 or 1979 model foreign car speeding from the area.

Investigators said Mazique had been shot, her body wrapped in a blanket and left lying at the side of the street.

No arrests have been made. There are no suspects.

*ADG: 9/19*

### **September 22, Little Rock**

A home intruder shot and killed Tiffanie Rush, 18. The crash of her front door being forced open had awakened her. When she opened her bedroom door to investigate the noise, the gunman whirled and fired, striking her in the chest. The gunman then demanded money from Derick Hardy, Rush's boyfriend. The gunman also shot at Hardy but missed. When he fired again into the room, he missed Rush's 2-week-old daughter lying in a car seat at the end of the bed.

Anthony Fletcher, 16, was charged with capital murder. He had pleaded innocent and is being held on a \$250,000 bond in the Pulaski County jail.

*ADG: 9/22, 9/23, 9/24*

### **September 28, Hackett**

James Gibson, 61, was arrested after he called 911 and said he had shot his wife to death. Ginger Gibson, 51, was shot in the back of the head with a .410-caliber shotgun as she slept in their bed. Gibson indicated that the two had been having financial problems and had been fighting over the past few weeks.

Gibson is being held in the Sebastian County jail. Charges are pending.

*ADG: 9/28*

### **September 28, Little Rock**

Bonnie D. Smedley, 70, told her family she was going to Muskogee, Okla., to clean and refurbish a house she owned. Police began a search when her car was found with suitcase, jewelry, eyeglasses and cleaning supplies intact near a fishing spot on the Saline River in Dallas County. Authorities were suspicious that foul play had occurred because her billfold was thrown into bushes, the vehicle was nearly 50 miles from her intended route, and the vehicle's doors were locked.

Jackie Smedley, 61, said it was not uncommon for his wife to take long drives alone, but that he had no idea what could have happened to her. A witness told officers that a pickup truck matching one owned by Jackie Smedley was seen near the car at the river. Investigators had also found blood matching Bonnie Smedley's blood type inside the home, in Jackie Smedley's truck, in a garbage bag and on a shovel.

She is presumed dead.

Jackie Smedley was later arraigned on a charge of second-degree murder and released on \$25,000 bond. He was also placed on electronic monitoring and told not to leave the state. The Smedleys had been married about five years.

*ADG: 9/28, 9/29, 10/8, 10/14, 10/22*

### **October 4, Cotton Plant**

See Violence Against the Elderly--Vincie Nash.

### **October 15, North Little Rock**

John A. Lacy, 31, was charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of Beverly Henderson, 45, whose body was found in a shallow grave outside of Mayflower.

The evening of Oct. 6, Henderson's fiancé, Jeffrey Gallandt, called the manager of the Park Lane Motel and asked the manager to check a room he had rented with Henderson. Gallandt is an over-the-road trucker who had called to check on Henderson and who called the manager after he had been unable to reach his fiancée.

The motel manager found the mattress soaked in blood, blood on the walls and teeth on the floor. Investigation revealed that a bloody palm print on the wall matched Lacy's palm print.

Lacy was questioned and after he was read his rights, he gave a taped confession. He later led detectives to Henderson's grave. No motive

was given for the murder but it was reported that Lacy and Henderson were acquainted.

Lacy is being held on a \$600,000 bond in the Pulaski County jail.

ADG: 10/15, 10/16

### **October 25, Little Rock**

Melissa Kaye Gunter, 29, died after being pushed from a pickup truck. Her boyfriend, Clarence B. Hicks, 39, was arrested on a first-degree murder charge when he went to Southwest Hospital to check on her condition. Gunter had suffered serious head injuries along with multiple abrasions.

About three hours before her body was found, police had talked with Gunter, who was walking near Interstate 30 and Scott Hamilton Drive. A motorist had called 911 and reported a man and a woman fighting in a truck near where Gunter was walking. The police reported that they did not see any signs of abuse on Gunter and asked her if she wanted to leave with Hicks. Gunter allegedly said she was not afraid of Hicks and wanted to leave with him.

Shortly before 3:00 p.m., the police were dispatched after a witness reported seeing a man shove a woman out of a moving truck. The witness reported seeing "the driver ... lean over and open the passenger door and push a white female out." The eyewitness estimated that the victim rolled 30 to 40 feet before coming to rest face down on the west side of Auxer Road.

The eyewitness wrote down the truck's license number, which was traced to Hicks' truck.

Hicks is being held on \$200,000 bond in the Pulaski County jail.

ADG: 10/25, 10/26, 10/27

### **October 30, Wright**

The partially clothed body of a woman found by deer hunters near the Lonoke County line was identified as Valerie Christina Roberson, 36, of North Little Rock.

Jefferson County authorities declined to say if the woman had been sexually assaulted. A missing persons report filed in North Little Rock assisted authorities with identifying the body.

At the time of the report, the state Crime Lab had not determined the cause of death.

ADG: 10/27, 10/30

### **November 15, Lonoke County**

A couple discovered the body of Kimberly Ann Burris, 20, stuffed in a freezer in an unoccupied house near Allport. Her identity was not discovered until December after an examination of her dental records.

Gary Martin, 33, of North Little Rock was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit murder and kidnapping, according to Lt. Frank Sturdivant of the Lonoke County sheriff's office. Authorities reported that Martin and Burris had been in a relationship.

ADG: 11/98, 3/99

### **November 30, Jacksonville**

Police were seeking a motive in the murder of Virginia Charter, 38, who is believed to have been shot at close range by her husband who later shot himself. The couple was discovered by Jacksonville police after friends requested that authorities check on them.

Lt. J.J. Martin said "police were called to the house last Tuesday because of a domestic disturbance. March Charter was arrested that night for third-degree domestic battery." Additional reports to police were not made available before the article was printed.

ADG: 11/30

### **December 13, Pine Bluff**

Pine Bluff cheerleader Dominique "Nicky" Hurd, 19, and her boyfriend Peter Robertson, 21, were shot after being abducted by Kenneth D. Williams, 20, outside of the Bonanza restaurant. Williams approached them, offered to take a picture of the couple, then pulled out a gun and ordered them to get into the car and drive to an automated teller. After taking about \$70 from them, their jewelry, and credit cards Williams ordered them to drive to some woods. Williams left them there but quickly returned to get Hurd's pocketbook. There was a brief exchange of words, then Williams shot them both. Hurd died several days after the shooting at at Little Rock hospital.

Williams was convicted

of the murder of Hurd. He was sentenced to life without parole.

ADG: 9/14/99, 9/15/99, 9/16/99

### **December 23, Jacksonville**

Police found the body of a Jacksonville resident, Jeri Cherry, at her home on Tuesday after her brother-in-law told police that "he feared for her safety."

According to Eugene Cherry, Jeri's brother-in-law, he went to the home earlier and his brother met him in the yard explaining that he and Jeri had been fighting. The police were notified after Eugene and his wife returned to the house and no one answered the door.

Police have arrested Jeri's husband, Raphael Cherry, and charged him with first-degree murder. Officers found no visible signs of trauma, but it was concluded that the victim suffered from strangulation.

ADG: 12/23, 12/24

## **Violence/Climate of Intolerance Against Lesbians, Gay Men, Bisexuals or Transgendered Persons**

### **January 29, Little Rock**

A two-day sting operation in Kanis and Reservoir parks resulted in citations for 19 men for either public sexual indecency or loitering for the

purposes of deviant sexual acts. Undercover officers reported they either watched men cruising through or caught men in their early 20s to mid-50s exposing themselves.

ADG: 1/29

### **January 29, Little Rock**

After three attempts to repeal the state's sodomy law failed in the Arkansas Legislature, Lambda Legal Defense and local activists filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law. Arkansas is one of six states with sodomy laws that target only lesbians and gay men.

The lawsuit was filed in Pulaski County's Chancery Court and named the attorney general and prosecuting attorney as defendants.

ADG: 1/29

### **January 30, Little Rock**

Three men were charged with engaging in overt sexual acts during a three-day sting operation in two Little Rock parks. Six men were arrested on charges of public sexual indecency. The names of these nine men and the addresses of most were printed in the newspaper account.

Twenty-four men in all were cited with public sexual indecency and loitering for sex, police said.

ADG: 1/30

### **February 5, Little Rock**

On the same day that the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

printed the names and addresses of men arrested on sex-related misdemeanor charges in an undercover sting in two of Little Rock's parks, one of the men, Gregory Palmer, committed suicide with a shotgun blast to the mouth. He left a note saying, "My name and everything is in the paper this morning. I'm going to Angel and Muffin. Good-bye. I love you." His body was found in the garden of the home that he shared with his partner of 31 years. Angel and Muffin were his two dogs who had died just a few weeks before.

County Coroner Mark Malcolm said, "It's our determination through our investigation of the death that the arrest and publication appear to have played a significant role in his death."

The GLAAD/Little Rock chapter, in a letter to Frank Fellone, deputy managing editor of the Democrat-Gazette, pointed out that when heterosexual men were arrested in a prostitution sting, the newspaper did not print their names.

Fellone said the men's names were newsworthy and publication of the names was consistent with newspaper policy.

GLAAD/Little Rock, *Arkansas Times*: 2/5, 2/20

### **February 27, Little Rock**

Nineteen men were cited for misdemeanor sex crimes in two Little Rock parks during a three-day undercover operation.

Fifteen were cited for

loitering for deviant sexual acts in Kanis and Boyle parks. Four men, whose names, ages and addresses appeared in the newspaper, were arrested and charged with public sexual indecency.

*ADG: 2/27*

### **February 28, Little Rock**

Two men were cited with misdemeanor sexual offenses at Kanis Park by undercover Little Rock police. A Little Rock man, whose name, age and address was printed in the newspaper, was charged with public sexual indecency. A Camden man was charged with loitering for deviant sexual acts.

*ADG: 2/28*

### **March 1, Fayetteville**

A black Mazda 626 LX containing three young men pulled up next to a car with a rainbow on it. The young man on the passenger side asked the driver of the stickered car, "What does the rainbow on the back of your car stand for?" She replied, "Gay rights." The young man then started screaming "F...ing fa..ot" at her. The car he was riding in seemed to swerve toward her car and then speeded up. The victim made note of their Arkansas license plate: 085 BOK.

Then as the victim's car approached Rolling Hills, the harassers' car slowed down, waited for her to come alongside, and then the young man screamed "g..d... fu.." and other

obscurities and produced a camera, saying he wanted a picture of a gay. This kept up until they approached the Mall.

The police were called and said the young men had not broken any laws as they hadn't overtly threatened the victim. The police said that although the men had used abusive, hateful language, it wasn't against the law unless the police witnessed it. The police said they would find out who the car was registered to and warn them that they were walking a fine line--and that any vandalism against any car that might be gay supportive would cause them to be among the first suspects.

Victim's Account: 3/1

## **Violence and Intolerance Against Religious Minorities**

No incidents of violence or intolerance against religious minorities were reported during 1998.

## **Violence Against Children and Youth**

### ***Accidental Gun Deaths***

#### **February 19, Camden**

Michael Hines, 14, was shot and killed by his 13-year-old brother as they played with a

loaded handgun. The brothers had been alone in the house when they found a loaded .38-caliber semiautomatic pistol on top of a dresser in their parents' bedroom. They apparently took the pistol outside the house where it discharged as they played with it.

Camden Police Lt. Sherman Bell said that the 13-year-old called emergency workers to report the shooting. Michael Hines was pronounced dead at the hospital. No charges are anticipated.

*ADG: 2/19*

#### **December 1, Cedarville**

Roxanne Anerson, 7, was fatally shot in the chest by her 9-year-old brother, who retrieved a .22-caliber rifle hanging from a wall rack in the children's home. The children were in an upstairs bedroom when the shooting occurred, while other family members were outside.

The child pulled back the rifle's action, observing no bullet in the firing chamber. When he released the action, a bullet was loaded from the gun's magazine into the chamber. While playing with the gun, it fired, striking Roxanne in the chest. Panicking, the boy told the family that Roxanne had fallen on a nail, but doctors at a Van Buren hospital determined that the young girl was shot.

Cpl. Daymon Blount, spokesman for the Crawford County sheriff's office, reported that the shooting was ruled an accident and the young boy

would avoid prosecution.

ADG: 12/1

## **Homicides**

### **January 13, College Station**

Fredrick Earl Marbely, 17, died after being shot once in the neck at Simmons Grocery. Investigators found Marbely lying in the grocery store's parking lot and witnesses said a black or dark brown Monte Carlo left the lot immediately after the shooting. Sgt. George Craig of the Pulaski County sheriff's office said that the slaying was not a drive-by shooting. Marbely apparently had been shot and then pushed from a car onto the parking lot.

Anthony Gibson, 22, of Little Rock, turned himself in to Pulaski County sheriff's deputies after learning he was wanted on charges in the death of Fredrick Marbely. He pleaded innocent to charges of first-degree murder and kidnapping and is being held on \$250,000 bond in the Pulaski County jail.

ADG: 1/13, 1/14, 1/15

### **January 26, North Little Rock**

Shirley Eagle, 39, was charged with first-degree murder in the stabbing death of her 11-year-old daughter, Laquanda Eagle. Laquanda, who attended Glenview Elementary School, died of multiple stab wounds.

Laquanda's 9-year-old sister called 911 from a neighbor's house around 3:51 p.

m. The neighbor, who lived across the street, said the 9-year-old ran to her house screaming. The mother followed her with a knife but fell into a drainage ditch outside the home, another neighbor said.

The police believe that the mother and daughter had argued. The neighbor said that the 9-year-old told her that the family was eating at the kitchen table when the mother told Laquanda to iron her school clothes. The younger sister then went to her room but the older sister remained in the kitchen. The 9-year-old then heard her sister screaming.

Police found the victim lying on the floor with stab wounds to her upper body.

Shirley Eagle is being held in the Pulaski County jail without bond. She pleaded innocent to the charge of first-degree murder. Pulaski County Probate Court records show that in 1989 and again in 1992 the court was petitioned to involuntarily commit Eagle to the State Hospital. Eagle was ordered to undergo a mental evaluation to determine whether she is competent to stand trial.

ADG: 1/26, 1/27, 1/28, 3/24

### **February 5, Little Rock**

On Feb. 3, an officer dispatched to 2400 block of South Gaines Street to investigate gunfire found Anthony Robinson, 14, lying in the 2400 block of Arch Street with a gunshot wound in his back. Robinson was pronounced dead at University Hospital. Police said that they

knew the victim by his street name of "Cue" and that he had reported gang ties.

Quentin Davis, 18, was arrested and reportedly gave a tape-recorded statement which implicated him in the slaying. He allegedly confessed to being at the scene of the slaying and being armed with a handgun. He denied firing the gun and told detectives that an "unknown acquaintance" fired a weapon several times at Robinson. Davis is charged with first-degree murder and is being held in the Pulaski County jail on \$250,000 bond.

ADG: 2/5, 2/6

### **February 11, Hot Springs**

The death of a Hot Springs man, whose body was found in a creek bed on Feb. 4, has been ruled a homicide, Hot Springs police said.

The body of Wess Woods, 20, was spotted by a motorist. He was face down in the shallow creek beneath an overpass of the Martin Luther King Jr. Expressway.

A preliminary report from the state medical examiner said Woods' injuries resembled those from impact with a vehicle. Detectives and a State Police accident reconstruction expert concluded that Woods was knocked from the overpass 57 feet into the concrete-lined creek. They further concluded that the vehicle might have been a pickup truck because the injuries on his back coincided with impact from a vehicle of that height.

It wasn't known how long the body was in the creek before it was discovered, but Police Cpl. Tim Hoover said, "It wasn't a very long time at all."

*ADG: 2/11*

### **February 16, Pine Bluff**

Grant Lee Mayon, an 18-year-old senior and star basketball player at Mills University Studies High School, died of multiple gunshot wounds after being involved in an altercation at an all-night convenience store. Mayon and several youths from Little Rock were apparently backing out of the parking lot when their vehicle almost struck a group standing outside the store. James "Sonny Man" Jenkins, 24, of Pine Bluff allegedly then pounded on the vehicle.

According to the police, the Little Rock youths got out of their vehicle and a fight ensued on the parking lot. Store security guards used a chemical spray to try to break up the fight. At that time, a witness told police, Marcus Cannon, 21, of Pine Bluff, allegedly pulled a handgun from his clothing and fired into the crowd. Mayon was shot at least four times, once in the neck, and his friend, Marques Blackmon, 19, was shot in the back.

Security guard Darryl Verse then pulled his gun and shot the alleged gunman, Marcus Cannon, once in the leg and once in the abdomen.

In the confusion following the shootings, Mayan

and Cannon were loaded into separate cars and rushed to the hospital. The youths transporting Mayan "got lost and ended up near the Megamarket," said police. They then apparently stopped for a sheriff's deputy who called an ambulance. Mayon died in the emergency room of the hospital.

Police do not know how many youths were gathered outside the store. Lt. Steve King, spokesperson for the Pine Bluff Police Department, said there were 40 to 50 people on the parking lot at the time of the shooting.

Marcus Cannon was charged with first-degree murder in the death of Mayon and first-degree battery in the shooting of Blackmon. Bond has been set at \$100,000 and Cannon will be moved from the hospital to the Jefferson County Detention Center if his condition permits.

*ADG: 2/16, 2/17, 2/19, 2/20*

### **February 17, North Little Rock**

Pulaski County sheriff's deputies were called to a home at 15125 James Cutoff, where they found the body of David Wood, 18, in the entryway. He had been shot.

Sgt. George Craig said investigators were interviewing relatives and neighbors.

*ADG: 2/17*

### **March 22, Little Rock**

William Wadlington Jr., 20, was shot several times as he

left Club El Rancho. Wadlington died during surgery.

Though he had been affiliated with gangs in the past, his mother said, Wadlington had given that up to enroll at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Family and friends said they believe an altercation between individuals not connected to Wadlington led to his death.

Kelly Lewis, 25, of North Little Rock, was charged with first-degree murder. He sought the protection of federal marshals, saying that he feared retaliation from gang members for his alleged involvement in the shooting. He is being held in the Maumelle jail pending sentencing on a federal drug charge.

*ADG: 3/22, 3/27*

### **March 23, Fox**

Roger Freeman, 15, and at least two other teens had been arguing with a fourth teen. The confrontation escalated with the shooting of Freeman by a 13-year-old, who had hoped to scare Freeman and his friends away by getting a .20-gauge shotgun, loading it, and firing it into the air.

Instead of leaving, one of the teens grabbed a cat that belonged to the suspect's family. At the same time, Freeman walked toward the suspect. The suspect lowered the shotgun and fired, hitting Freeman in the face from three to four feet away.

The suspect called the Stone County sheriff's office.

He was taken into custody and is being held at the Craighead County Juvenile Detention Center, charged as a juvenile with second-degree murder.

*ADG: 3/23*

### **March 23, Cabot**

Motorists discovered the body of James Randal Glover, 18, in a parking lot near a Lonoke County bayou. He had two small-caliber bullet wounds to the leg and one in his back and appeared to have been shot at the parking area. A .32-caliber pistol and spent shell casings were found about 40 yards from the body.

Jamie Paul Bowen, 17, of Jacksonville was charged with first-degree murder. He is being held without bond in the Lonoke County Detention Center.

Lt. Frank Sturdivant said the motive appeared to be revenge. "The two knew each other from around town, and Bowen had accused the victim of burglarizing his apartment recently."

*ADG: 3/23, 3/27*

### **March 25, Jonesboro**

Two boys, ages 11 and 13, shot and killed four girls and a female teacher and wounded nine other students and one teacher as the students filed out of the Westside Middle School in response to a false fire alarm. Killed were Natalie Brooks, 11; Paige Herring, 12; Stephanie Johnson, 12; Brittany Varner, 11; and teacher Shannon Wright, 32.

Wounded were teacher Sara Thetford, 42, and nine students: Amanda Barnes, 13; Ashlee Betts, 12; Jennifer Jacobs, 12; Brittney Lambie, 13; Candace Porter, age unavailable; Christina Amer, 12; Jenna Brooks, 12; Whitney Irving, 11; and Tristian McGowan, 13. All except one of the wounded students were girls.

The suspects who were identified by students as Andrew Golden, 13, and Mitchell Johnson, 11, who were students at the school.

Students said Golden had bragged that he was going to shoot all the girls who had broken up with him. Golden was allegedly angry over his recent breakup with a seventh-grade girlfriend, who was one of 10 wounded students. Students also said that Golden had gotten into trouble the day before and was angry with one of the teachers who was one of the teachers later shot. Another student said Johnson "told me yesterday that all the people that broke up with him, he was going to go to school and kill them."

Golden and Johnson allegedly pulled the fire alarm. When about half of the more than 250 sixth- and seventh-graders and some of the teachers were leaving the building, the boys began shooting from the woods about 50 yards away.

The boys were apprehended about 200 yards from the school. Both had high-powered rifles with clips and handguns, and were dressed "head to toe" in camouflage clothing. Also state police found a white

van believed to hold more guns and ammunition parked near the school.

Golden and Johnson were charged with five counts of capital murder and 10 counts of aggravated assault. They were found guilty and sentenced to a youth facility until the age of 18.

*ADG: 3/25*

### **December 10, Newport**

Steven Allen Steggall of Grubbs will serve a life sentence without parole for beating to death his 3-month-old daughter, Haylee Brianne Stice.

Haylee was rushed to Newport Hospital with respiratory problems April 2 and then flown to Arkansas Children's Hospital, where she died after being placed on life support. Dr. Charles James, a pediatric radiologist at Children's, testified that "the infant suffered an extensive skull fracture and broken ribs on both sides of the body."

The death penalty was waived, therefore life without parole was the only available sentence for Steggall to serve.

*ADG: 12/10*

## **Satanic Activity**

### **January 13, Atkins**

About 60 Atkins residents attended the Atkins School Board meeting apparently because of their concern about a "marriage to the devil," which allegedly took place on the high

school campus last week. Robert Travis, high school principal, said he had talked with the students supposedly involved, who had denied any Satanic activity. In a television interview, Travis suggested that the reaction is possibly "a case of sensationalism."

It was a hoax, said School Board President Robert Hearne. Hearne says parents were understandably concerned because of recent shootings at schools in Mississippi and Kentucky, where supposed satanic rituals popped up in some reporting about the crimes.

*Atkins Chronicle, Arkansas Times: 1/13, 1/23*

### **December 7, Barling**

Three stables along Arkansas 59 were the scenes for knife attacks on 10 horses, nine critically injured, one dead. Each of the horses was stabbed in the neck in what Barling Police Officer Larry Croom called "very cruel, hard to explain."

Croom owns two of the horses wounded in the attack and he owned the quarter horse that died from an attack before Thanksgiving. His stable is one of the three that were involved in the attack along Arkansas 59. Authorities suspected that the attack on Croom's quarterhorse was an act of retaliation against the police department or Croom, but Police Chief Myron LaMore stated that this attack "puts a whole different light on it."

The attack drew national attention and there was some speculation that occult or satanic activity may have been involved. Authorities uncovered a shrine in Crawford County that includes carvings and effigies of horses that have been stabbed, but they have found nothing to link it to the Barling attacks.

Police spokesperson Victoria Harris described an eight-foot-tall cross with etchings of a horse's head with a knife sticking out of the forehead, tears flowing from its eyes and a trail of hoof prints. Two candles were attached to the upright post of the cross. An effigy of a horse made of pine needles with a splinter stuck in its chest and a noose around its neck was hanging from the cross.

*ADG: 12/7*

## **Violence Against People with Disabilities or HIV/AIDS**

### **February 28, Mountain Home**

Lonaya Cakora, 22, was charged with one count each of second-degree battery and abuse of an adult for the alleged assault of two elderly residents of the Good Samaritan Village Nursing Home, said Mountain Home Police Chief Phil Frame.

The police were called by officials of the nursing home on the morning of Feb. 22 about injuries that reportedly occurred

that morning to two residents.

Clara Killmore, 92, was treated at the nursing home for minor cuts and bruises around her mouth and jaw that occurred when Cakora allegedly forcefully grabbed Killmore's jaw to insert dentures.

Viola Wilson, 99, was treated and released at a local hospital for cuts on her scalp. Cakora told police that Wilson tried to hit her and became combative after being put in a wheelchair. Cakora allegedly took a comb from a night stand and struck Wilson repeatedly on the head.

Cakora told police that, "She had to deal with a lot of pressures during her shift." She had worked at the nursing home for about a year.

*ADG: 2/28*

### **March 9, Little Rock**

William Duncan, 32, a homeless man who uses a wheelchair, was robbed of \$12 in downtown Little Rock. Duncan told police that a man pushed him out of his wheelchair at Ninth and Main streets, took the cash and fled.

*ADG: 3/9*

### **October 16, Jacksonville**

The staff of Beverly Healthcare and Rehabilitation "reacted improperly when the resident pulled out his feeding tube twice on September 12 and 13," according to the department spokesman.

The patient, Howard Holderfield of Sherwood, died September 14 in the emergency room of the Rebsamen Regional Medical Center nine hours after being transferred there by staff at Beverly. Although the patient's name was printed, Human Services Department declined to confirm the victim's identity.

The facility had its license revoked and was ordered to pay the maximum fine of \$5,000. The office of Long Term Care submitted Mr. Holderfield's file to the state attorney general's office for a possible criminal investigation.

*ADG: 10/14, 10/16*

## **Violence Against Aging Persons (Non-Institutionalized Elderly)**

### **January 8, Little Rock**

An elderly Springdale couple reported to Little Rock authorities that two masked gunmen entered their hotel room Tuesday night and robbed them of \$800 cash.

The couple, both in their early 70's, were staying at the Markham Inn when the robbers entered their hotel room demanding money. The woman was forced to bury her head in the pillow while the other gunman pointed his weapon at the man's face and demanded all of their cash.

The robbers identities

were disguised, but the couple described black men wearing ski masks, gloves and carrying small handguns.

*ADG: 1/8*

### **January 12, Little Rock**

An 86-year-old woman was robbed after a man broke into her home around 7 a.m. on Sunday. The woman reported to police that the robber entered her home by kicking a hole in her back door. He awakened her from her sleep and threatened to shoot her if she did not give him money. He proceeded to take \$200 from her purse while she was lying in bed.

*ADG: 1/12*

### **April 12, North Little Rock**

Leta Nolan, 93, told police she'd gone to the bank to renew some certificates of deposit. While stepping from her car at home with certificates in hand, a man walked into her yard and approached her. He asked for directions. As she gave him instructions, the man grabbed for her purse. When she resisted, he knocked her to the ground, snatched the certificates from her hand and ran.

*ADG: 4/1*

### **November 18, Cotton Plant**

Vincie Nash, 73, was found bludgeoned to death in her home. Three children, ages 2, 3 and 5, that she baby-sat found her body in the living room and tried to awaken her. One of the

children then went next door to Police Chief Todd Brown's home. His wife, Paula, another of the town's police officers, went with the child to Nash's house and found the body.

State police arrested Lawrence Dewayne Eirvin, 27, and charged him with capital murder, rape and robbery of Ms. Nash on October 3. Police spokesman, Bill Sadler, explained that authorities had not discovered Eirvin's link to the murder.

*ADG: 10/4, 10/8, 11/18*

## **Activities of White Supremacist Groups**

### **January 26, Harrison**

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan's participation in the state's Adopt a Highway program will come to an end because it failed to renew its application. The Klan's sign had been located on U.S. 65 about 12 miles south of Branson, Mo.

"That's news to me," said Nathan Robb, son of Thom Robb, national director of the Klan. Robb said that in the four years since the Klan has been cleaning up its stretch of U.S. 65, a dozen signs announcing that fact have been stolen or vandalized.

Residents of the State Line RV Park, on whose property the southbound sign was posted, say it created a traffic hazard and led to more littering.

ADG: 1/26

### **March 23, Spokane, WA**

Guns used in some of the 22 robberies that investigators attribute to the Aryan Republic Army came from Chevie Kehoe and his father, Kirby Kehoe.

Chevie Kehoe and two co-defendants, Faron Lovelace and Danny Lee, are accused in a federal racketeering indictment in Arkansas of forming a group called the Aryan People's Republic. Kehoe and Lee are also charged in the robbery and killing of an Arkansas gun dealer and his family in 1996.

The bound bodies of William Mueller, 53, his wife, Nancy, 28, and her 8-year-old daughter, Sarah Powell, were found in Illinois Bayou near Russellville six months later.

Authorities said the Aryan Republic Army hoped to foment a race war and overthrow the government using money obtained in the robberies. Six members have been convicted in bank robberies in Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas and Kentucky. Investigators believe the robberies netted \$250,000.

### **Memorial Day Weekend, Harrison**

Patriots Day Picnic at the Soldiers of the Cross Bible Camp, sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ, to provide participants with fellowship, Bible preaching and teaching, and an opportunity to "learn

more about your White Christian heritage."

### **July 18, Pulaski, Tennessee**

The National Homecoming and White Christian Heritage--Culture and Craft Festival was held in the downtown courthouse square. Booths to display white cultural crafts or celebrating White Christian heritage or heroes were allowed. The plans for the day included a parade and then a cross-burning ceremony.

### **August 31-September 4, Harrison**

Christian Leadership School was open to all ages 16 and above and offered Biblical, historical and racial topics of study.

### **September 4-6, Harrison**

The National Klan Congress was held at the Soldiers of the Cross Bible Camp. J.B. Stoner, Dr. Ed Fields and Ralph Forbes were scheduled as speakers. According to the publicity materials, J.B. Stoner is the director of the Crusade Against Corruption and "one of the first to recognize that AIDS is a racial disease." Fields is the publisher of *The Truth at Last*, the oldest continuously publishing white supremacist newspaper in America. Ralph Forbes "worked closely with the renowned patriot, George Lincoln Rockwell" of the American Nazi Party.

## **Anti-Government Activity**

No incidents of anti-government activity were reported during 1998.

## **Anti-Abortion Violence**

### **February 19, Little Rock**

James Dawson, 67, of Vilonia, was cited for allegedly claiming he had planted a bomb at the Little Rock Family Planning Services.

Two construction workers who were pouring concrete behind the building told police that Dawson said he'd "planted a bomb on them" about 8:30 a.m.

Agents from the FBI and federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were called but no bomb was found.

The clinic was the site of a bomb scare last year when a Ryder rental truck that had been rented by another abortion opponent was left parked outside of it. No bomb was found and no charges were filed in that bomb scare, although it is still reportedly under investigation.

Dawson was cited for threatening a fire or bomb, a Class A misdemeanor, and released. If convicted, he could face up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

ADG: 2/19

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## Can You Help?

The Women's Watchcare Network is dependent upon a steady flow of information about incidents of bias-motivated violence and the activities of organized groups of white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and anti-government groups. To gather this information, we read and clip Arkansas newspapers and obtain the statements of victims.

What do we need in order to document violence in Arkansas?

We particularly need clippings from newspapers, other than the Little Rock newspapers, relating to the murders of women and children, violence due to sexual orientation or gender identity, violence against people with disabilities, violence against people because of their religion, and the activities of groups such as the Klan, Aryan Nations and other exclusionist militias. If you are able to send a clipping, please write the name of the newspaper and the date of the article.

If leaflets, pamphlets or flyers are handed to you, put under your windshield wipers, or thrown on your property by groups espousing racist, anti-Semitic, sexist or homophobic philosophies, please send them to us, along with the place you received it (e.g. home, work, grocery store) and the date you received it.

If you are a victim of harassment or violence – or you know someone who is – please call and give us a report of the incident. Your account will not be published without your permission. However, even if we do not publish your report in our annual log, we can use the statistical information to share with other national anti-violence projects, in our efforts to affect public policy and improve services to the victims of hate crimes.

If you would like to volunteer, or if you have some other ideas of ways of combating violence, please call us at the Women's Project:

**501-372-5113 (voice)**

**501-372-6853 (TTY)**

**501-373-0009 (FAX)**

**wproject@aol.com**

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Letters to the editor are welcome.

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# Women's Project

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