

Goodes : 10:30 -
4pm

3788 Tropical Point Dr.
St. James City, FL

33956
283-2392

Dog yelping → from Humane Society -
Aredale / Schnauzer

15 yrs this November ...

This month of March - has something
in it - his b-day the 28th ...

Bud - Loud, assertive - small & compact →

"I don't see how anyone could feel
any better, favor it, if they know
circumstances

Blood thirsty state ✓ is plain revenge →
just torturing ppl →

I've read a lot ...

M - Our son had this molesting problem & did
everything he could ...

Bro - if they really wanted to torture them -
give 'em life in prison w/o
parole ... really wanna torture
them, make 'em live at FSP →
one of the reasons our son
went was kept demanding to
be executed ...

(Wilbur Smith is now mayor of Ft. Myers)
we pd him \$41g ...

Clemency hearing Mar. '80 - "Smith
absol. eloquent"

M. Our son was born borderline retarded ...
Dr. told us ~~and~~ we would ~~not~~
come to wish he'd been born
totally retarded ... looked fine,
almost acted fine ...

Was in a troop of Boy Scouts, retarded -
he struck out like a sore thumb -
but that was his mental level

Carroll - 1790 Broadway -
was vacationing in Sanibel
during the "so-called trial" -
"a farce"

B - "Didn't have
the guts, if that's what you
call it - to go that last night -
didn't go on living"

M - Neighbors wonderful - never snubbed
to my face

B - We were in the phone book - never
out ... all that time just 2
calls ... it happened 3 mos after
we got down here ...

William Smith threatened - began
carrying a gun ... asked out of
it the second time around -
letters in the paper -

"Klan territory" ...

Martinez Out - Grahamed Graham ...

M - His fate - shld it be executed - but
as his mother, it was the only
thing that cld happen - he just
cldn't fit in

B - We're all human animals really →

We belong to Catholic Church - bishops
come out agn & agn & agn -
but get down to indy ^{power} level - they
won't mention - want that &

Some changed my politics - a Repub.
for all my life - until now -
now for Ted Kennedy, Dick Celeste...

M - Freddy made a last confession -
MV made a change in him -
he talked abt things w/ her
never told anyone else ..

M - MV - attitude, easy-going - wld't
leave him off ... later to him →

B - During visits - get put in cage -
terrified ... someone get for him ...
cut, watch stolen, radios -
do nothing for him

M - I have to believe ^{execution} the only thing for
him ... he never ^{cl} made it

Guards taunted him - one put his
organ thru the bars ...

B - AFG a close friend of a black
runner - Willie Jackson - "good
old nigger" - claims he remem'd
me from milk truck in Capitol
Heights

Milkman 31 years ...

They wonder what caused it -
social drinking during pregnancy →
5-6 mos ~~into~~ preg. before
realized -

Qr fact he was on oxygen because
born small ...

Seemed SC smothered them ...

B - Father was a chauffeur ... drove for the
editor of the Wash. Star →
grandfather an English butler, mother
a French seamstress ...

Mildred - Born Wash DC - from West Va. - then
Alexon of fire Co., then D.C., wkd
of the govt (Commerce) →

B - wk'd 9 mos at St. Elizabeth's ...

Drove 600 miles round trip once a month to see him - drive to Largo, stay overnight w/ daughter Carol, up 4:30 am to drive to Starke - 9 am to 3 pm on hard stools - degrading ... after that wld need a drink - Carol's husband wldn't let her stop at him anymore, so take a bottle & get a mixer at McDonald's ...

(Grandson of the Secret Service ...)

B - Cantankerous, talkative, non-stop - a little coarse ...

M - Soft-spln, sweet ...

Freddie — 1954 → shld it have named
him that — too much for a child
to write ... teacher called him Arthur →

B That was my name being emblozoned —
the headlines ...

M He was always frightened — sent to nursery
school bec. no kids to play w/ →
wld cry when teacher left rm ...

Got older he got aggressive — at
9 he shoved a boy into bushes ...
his mother was 'court happy' →
judge threw it out

B — we often wondered what effect that had
on him — being worrywarts like
we are ...

Abt 12 ^{started aggressive toward boy} (he told us) somebody merged w/
him — those little kids never tell
you at the time ... that's what
got him started ...

Feb. 6, 1982 - Ft. Myers News-Press -
Execution scheduled for child-killer Goode →

↓
"Think how nice that is to read..."

Careeth got a doctor in Orangeburg NY
to fly to Fla & interview
Freddie... Nathan Kline - Rockland
Research Institute...

A lot of ppl helping us - just gave
us false hopes...

~~///~~

B - Never been completely convinced he
did this business down here →
Confessed to a lot of stuff he
didn't do... never had one bit of
evidence except his admissions...

Believer he went up there & reenacted
what they accused him of down
here

Murder capital of the world - execution
Capital of the world ... Don't
tell me abt a steam - shit...

B - it started so subtly - nephews come over & sit on his lap - or he'd brush up against

M - kept using the word "society" - it didn't understand ...

B - The chief of police - White - looked us in the eye & said "well, Mr & Mrs Goode, there's no way Freddie 'ol'da done it." → years later he had to resign for molesting a child ...

Wilson Smith - we were paying him, but Freddie allowed to fire him - then worked w/ PDs & so forth → guy in Miami took case saying he'd have F. into mental hospital w/i 45 days ...

Smith came back on - he never felt he'd get the DP ... told us if we got \$100,000, he wd get off ...

III Spring Grove, Md - state mental hospital →
technically, you have to commit
yourself - they knew when he left -
he told them where he was going

At the time, all kinds of charges
pending agst him in Md ...
he just walked away...

Yesterday was March 11 - seven yrs ago
our last visit - thru the wall -
last we saw him he was
cursing us as we walked out →
cursing us thru the glass -
wrote us an apology

M- He'd put on this hard shell & be
ugly → old be & innocent as a
child

B- One time terminated a visit w/ him -
the argument so intense - over
his use of letters →

Don't think ever done it - papers sed wd
never find ...

M- Can't you see, someone w/ his mental
outlook - he wanted the publicity -
all this attn - a press conference
day before exec - letters to gov
& prez...

M - Friends - if not for them, I never
wldn got out - I wldn committed
suicide... I cldnt face it -

Bingo, one day - "You saw paper, I
cant face it" - "Mildred, if ~~&~~
you dont today, be harder tomorrow"

Got me thru

~~So~~ So embarrassing - so terrible, the
things he wld do - threw Candy
to boy he kidnapped in
ctron...

Wanted his piece of power - power
over little children...

B - Was out of hospital just 9 days
after colon cancer - stay came -
"hell of a homecoming" →
asked doctor if he knew who we
were - he sd had been embarrassed
to mention...

~~At~~ 4 yrs ago - sitting at bar of ABC
having a couple drinks - guy asked
name - "Arthur Goode": "yours
not Arthur Goode - he was executed"
↓
sd: "Oh? Somebody w/ same name?"

Framed pic from prison - one snapshot
of AFG w/ bike - ptg chin, etc. ...
in the woods of MD →

B - Cites Tibbs - PL - 'There's your
case a'g't dp - but when dealing
w/ a bunch of cultures, it
falls on deaf ears.'

Never writes checks - in milk &
water biz - saw all the trouble
it causes ...

A local doctor took an interest in
the case - a school mate of
F. Lee Bailey → we had high hopes
of getting him - (they were
trying to make case of innocence) -
there was a psychic telling us
no way

These ppl kept us going

M - We always had hopes - until the end...

Mildred read author Robt Vaughn
was int'd in retarded kids,
behavioral problems - tried to
find him ...

M - My sister-in-law told me French
keep all child molesters in one
place bec. no help for him

We had him to every doctor, every
psych., trying to help - we
sent him to a private school...

for retarded children (when he was 16) ...
Benedictine Rehabilitation Center - MD ...
they went to a baseball game,
he took a child - they never told
us

He was just a misfit everywhere ...

Third grade - went to social services -
but nothing - no good ... to
counselor - he puffed pipe & F.
stared at him - for full hour
not a word spoken

B - "The characters we have run into" →

B - I've often thought maybe had to come
down here - all happened
sudden like - Mar. 31, 1975 →

Came home ~~home~~ for lunch one day
& found 3 police cars there...
I've had nothing but nasty trouble
w/ police...

Searched attic where F. lived...

I've been picked up on traffic 3
times in life - every time, feel
like I've been treated like a
criminal...

~ "There's 49 states & Florida - they ain't
got brains down here" → like
being 40 yrs behind the times -

~ "Nigger"

~ "The nigger is still a nigger down
here..."

Tibby was ~~transported~~ railroaded -
so that all thru the South →

B - Worked outside all my life - hated
Snow - digging in the snow for
water meters ...

1970 - took Fr. on a trip to Maine -
let him drive altho' no permit →
Greenville, Me - on Moosehead Lake -
he threw a fit 'cause (beautiful
picnic setting) couldn't get ice for drink

Never complained abt punishment

M - Never knew how to handle him

B - If gone straight wld a got in
photography - took good pix -
everything lined up perfectly ...

Dugger - a puzzle - F. always on
~~the~~ - d. rept. ... but Dugger wld
let us visit anyway →

He was on med. wing last xmas - so
cold - never got his xmas pkg - last
xmas on earth

M - Never knew when Fone was going to
ring - trouble ...

B - Sp. honestly did his best to try to help Freddie - trying to tell him how to get along

M - Anything F. would do, put his foot ~~in~~ in his mouth - do wrong thing, say wrong thing...

B - one time he was gonna go get a table for a stereo - went into rain in cab, middle of ~~the~~ night - told him would get it next day - but went out in rain for it - another time he went into rain for ice cream - 2 stores - miles - (M) "C'da put that det. to something good, c'da been somebody."

M - When he was about 12 - I thought if only he could meet some boy to get along w/ him -> be his friend - boy's street had b-day party - came home crying, boys horsing around, ranshing - he couldn't cope w/ it - so I told him to go back - but you can't tell someone how to get along - has to be in there

M - WLD-it hunt a fly - wld-it torture
~~dogs~~ animals, good w/ dogs →

B - Got jobs - had \$... porn -
"I've seen it, boys w/ smiles on
their faces - had a lot to
do w/ what happened at the last →

Chief White: "Nothing matches. WLD-it fit..."

So took him to St. Pete to get train...
was gonna get him back to
Spring Grove -

He told us later he took to a
boy on train

M - For 2 or 3 yrs we did nothing
but run from doctor to doctor,
from one psych to another ...

Depo-provera ...

For a short time he had a girlfriend →
~~was~~ mildly retarded ... we suggested
he take her to a motel, hoping that
wld help ...

a Ppl think family's the cause — but
My God, we did everything ...
I never had a full time job
because of having to take him
around

Not like we knew a problem &
just allowed it to happen...

B - Why so dead set agst castration?
Be better than killing them...

At 13 or 14, swimming in river —
herniated ~~the~~ testicle ... emerg.
surgery — wonder if that
had anything to do w/ it →

Take slides of vocations & give
program "in his glory" —

Astronomy — "have all the neighbors
over to look thru it"

3 older kids ... daughters → youngest
11 yrs older than AFG -
a 4th daughter stillborn - told not
to have any more kids ... yrs
later, "Catholic doctor told us
have some more"

B- AFG 9 yrs old - had F on the
truck w/ me for a little
togetherness, trying to give him
a little direction →

At the milk co. 29 yrs, they
threatened to fire me ...

So went to water co. -
3 bks from home - co car,
holidays off - "Semi-retirement"
old bc at Woolco waiting for
store to open when
paper towels 4 for \$1 ...

1972 - got the lots for \$1,200
each ... bought 2 so nobody
old bld on the adjacent
lot ...

Took him around in Sainbury Cornish
~~from~~ car as well → radio in
car, so I cld take him around,
amusement park, etc., able to
get back to territory if need be...

Got so I had to stop ... go to
customer, checking a complaint
& he'd get bored & honk on horn

Only got whipped a couple of times
in ~~years~~ his life, because &
like whipping a dog - he'd just
look at you...

One time, reping go to work - I
clapped him one time - he ran
out & called the police - damn
police came & threatened me ...

And a little later he wld it mean
any of it → we'd have a
fuss & next letter always be
apology...

He went up there - went off w/
Artoz boy - killed other boy -
1st thing heard - a little w/
parquid - first sign of Spring
in Maryland

M - A puzzle throughout life - to himself,
too - he couldn't understand
what was expected of him →

(They rely psych reports)

B - For 15 months, on 5th of each month,
wrote a letter to Graham -
"Attila the Hun," etc. → whether
he ever saw it or not, don't know -
never answered - (I asked him to
answer...

B - We knew right from start he was special - ave. child never gets extra - he got more

m - He was different from the start →
old - it put him to bed - get up - old - it read to him -
old - it held his other...

We did everything we could think of to help him...

Wanted to be a meteorologist →
old hardly read, but would get into and obsess - he idolized the weatherman...

One vacation - thru Montgomery, Alab. -
F. demanded to see Wallace -
went in & took his picture -
QW: "Say hello to my friends in Maryland"...

B- We went over and above... we went to a priest said shld. let him go, give up on him & let police handle it...

But we did it... we wldn gone to Timbuktu if they'd told us we cd get help there...

1st molesting charge at 18 →
18 was a big phen to him - that 'cause of vote, but I found out so he cd buy pornographic books

Tried to get him int'd in liquor - gave him some Manishenky - did it like - that he'd be harmless if he was an alcoholic...

#

Think maybe it scared ~~the~~ him when we moved down here... he walked away → called them from bus station to tell him where he was going

M - We had plans he'd come down here -
we made the garage for him →

B - He'd still be here today if he didn't
straightened out when he got
here...

A nut for fireworks - going thru S.C.
(always grabs fistful of napkins at
McD's ... fistful of matches
at restaurants) ...

Loved fireworks...

M - Drove at Spring Grove - known as the
Candy Man - selling candy, selling
coffee - he actually made \$
there...

He got along well w/ older women...
a woman from Spring Grove Cafeteria -
a woman from NT Washington
who read of him in paper -
gave a radio ...

A minister, Episcopalian, from a small Va. town - visited F., counseled - his wife made him stop beca. it was making him sick...

B → During visits at prison - he'd mostly pour out what happened since last visit -

Pepper steaks, 3 pts of ice cream → one wd melt... I knew wd, but couldn't say no to guy in that situation...

Freddie hated Barton - claimed put him in a closet - delighted in putting him in cage...

Can't see why, w/ leth warrant, gotta put him behind that glass...

M - We saw inmate & woman go into bathroom many times - guards look the other way

If he had gone to prison for life - wd a been killed -

M - Every nite when say my prayers
I mention Margaret - I think
she made his life worth
living those last hours...

He was just like an innocent child

B - Restored faith in human nature...
that ppl kind to him & us →

In a way we were blessed we
got away from up there -
same house 30 yrs - everyone
knew us ... thank God no one
knew us here...

God abandoned?

B & M → Never! Never once - ppl leave
church, turn back on God bec.
one bad thing happens...

M - I felt so sorry for the mothers - every
night I talk abt giving strength
to them ... I've often thought abt
writing them, but nothing I
could say -

Never read papers - never saw what he saw...

Night before execution — Sister Hannah took us over to St. Augustine — to cottages, they have for a retreat ... (Velano Beach?) ...

After, we had to go by the funeral home → pay them — then drove to Maryland for the funeral — had the services before press cd had out abt it ...

B — Then anger over the brain thing → at that point so angry willing to spend every penny I had to get back at someone → but I guess they can do whatever they want a got somebody who's little & they're big

Justice a word exists only in the dictionary — no justice in this state ...

Talks abt property taxes ...

Nite before:

Dick Cavett called -

10 pm Freddie called - asked us to come over

Press called - she acted like she didn't
spk English

AM - went to Church - St. Aug - wk'd on beach...

In a way, I was relieved, if you know
what I mean - he didn't make it
in prison or hospital

B - Every minute torture → every minute
in prison was torture for him ---
So terrified abt what they were
gonna ~~do~~ do to him ...

(Stayed at the Dixie Motel) ...
So embarrassed, they'd tell owner
they were visiting nephew ---
M: "Isn't that awful?"

• At one time Bobby Lewis & Buddy on
each side of FFG →
they more teased him than anything →

M- We used to get so mad at him
for the things ~~that~~ he'd say...

B- Did it for atten - any atten was good
atten...

(never really gave it any thought - we
had notorious letters & I'd go along w/
everybody else...

He always used to refer to it as "my
exhibition"

M- He never able to make anyone feel
sorry for him...

B- I'd tell him to ~~say~~ ^{his} face that he never
did that case down here - he'd
say he did, but wld it go into it...

MM

They went to D. Washington execution...
B. "had some choice things to say" ... but mostly stay out of it "bec. of who we are"

Boy from Pa. wrote, said did some things - became pen pals - don't know how they got thru, those letters ...

Dawson family sued Md ... lawyers flew down, we cooperated w/ them so cd help them ~~what~~ however happened

B → Sent him \$35 a week - \$600 incl trip up there - motel = all that \$ to the lawyer - did it cost to file when all over we denied him anything ...

~~the~~

Not a day goes by - listen to
Classic hits radio:

Sweet Caroline

Tie a Yellow Ribbon

Somewhere My Love - bought for his mom

B → Minute comes on, say 'There's
Freddie's songs'

~~///~~

Freddie here Feb 10 - Mar 12 → 1975
took him on a day trip down
towards Marco Island, thereafter...

~~///~~

Baseball - he was mad bec all the
others wanted to see Jball - he
left on baseball -

M - If you were supposed to zig,
he'd wanna zag

Once stayed up 'til 3 am listening to
Senators 22-inning game

M- He'd ride ~~prever~~ on a bike →
rode a street car to Va &
bought bike, rode it all the way
back - rode bike home from
Pidgey once ... we were on a
trip to Fla. → he got a locksmith
to open the house -

B- Ppl ~~may~~ hear that & say 'Oh, he's not
crazy' - but don't have to be
in a stupor to be crazy -
when I worked at St. Elizabeth's
saw ppl plenty smart - but crazy...

Betty S. contacted W. Smith asking what
reax wld be if Fla. ret'd to
Maryland - but petition drive put
it on front burner - "Bob
Craham had to execute Freddie
if gonna be elected ~~Senator~~
Senator."

B- They had nothing on him - but his admissions ... but he put his head in the noose →

Wilbur Smith - his father Bill Smith - owned appliance stores & most of downtown Ft. Myers...

~~_____~~

~~_____~~

AFG - perpetually enrolled in the
Jesuit Seminary Ass'n

Berkeley Spgs. N. Va.
May 8 1984

Dear Mildred & Bud,

I guess you will be surprised to hear from us but we have been thinking of what you were going through and praying that God will help you to bear that burden. There are so many things in this life that we cannot understand and I suppose it is best that way. We do want you to know that you have been in our prayers and will continue to do so.

Leo and Kathleen were here two weeks ago for a while. They have certainly been seeing the world. They both seemed to be in good health.

I retired from school almost six years ago, but seems like I have as much to do as when I was in school.

I was teacher and principal for 47 years.

We have one son, Warren, who is supervisor of schools in Orange Co. Virginia. He married a girl from Tennessee and they have two daughters now nine and eleven yrs. old. We don't get ^{to see} them as often as we would like to.

I hear from Aunt Vada often but she has had a rough time.

Remember us to Melvin and his wife when you see them.

When you can write to us as we would be glad to hear from you.

Best of luck
Oss & Ralph

Sunday, April 29th.



Dear Mildred and Family.

You will be surprised to hear from me, but, I have had you on my mind, many times recently.


I am Jennie Widmyer Kesecker, I was married to your mother's brother Leslie W. Widmyer.

He passed away in 1944, at the age of 42, we had one son Glenn Widmyer, who lives in Charles Town. I am now married to a wonderful man, Lawrence Kesecker, his wife died in 1945, we were neighbors. We live in his home just three houses below where your Grandparents lived.

All of my married life I lived near the Kelly Widmyer's they had such a great influence on my life. I really missed them when he passed away in 1945 and she went to Akron to live.

In your recent sorrow, we saw your son on television several evenings and I would go to bed with the headache. I didn't tell anyone that I knew who he was because there are so many relatives living here and it would just cause a lot of publicity, here in Morgan County. Ralph Widmyer and I would discuss it between ourselves.

Ralph is a very caring person and he too felt very depressed over it. I knew Alice Widmyer. (Mrs. Luther) knew, so I just called her yesterday and got your address.



2. One night I went to a lenten service in the country with my minister. I told him I was very depressed and I told him that Ralph and I had a family connection with the young man and he said I will pray for all of you tonight. I am proud to have been in the Widmyer family. They were a real down to earth religious family, of course I didn't know your mother. Leo, and I have birthday on Sept. 1st. he was 66 and I am 76. Ralph, has won many honors in Morgan County he is to be honored again by the Lion's Club for his service to the community. He is 71 retired from 42 years of school teaching. We have a new school building named The Widmyer Elementary school. He and Ora are our best friends. I don't see Leo very often. He does a lot of traveling. Vada, and I write to each other regularly she is like a real sister. I hope you and your family will have some better days in the years to come and leave the past in the hands of the Lord. I just wanted you to know I have had you on my mind and in my prayers. I know God will bless you and keep you in the years ahead.

Love, and Best Wishes. Jennie Keescker

March 27 1991

Dear Dave;

Thanks for return of the
religious certificate.

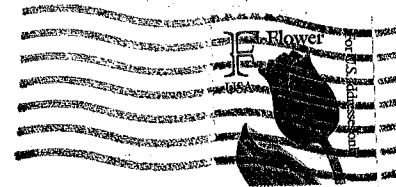
I give you permission to
interview Dr. George Barnard, M.D.

Please keep me posted on your
progress. Were you able to contact Cavett?

Sincerely,

Arthur F. Hoode, Jr.

MR F GOODE JR
TROPICAL POIN
ES CITY FL 33956



Mr. Dave Von Drehle
C/o N. Gibbs
12 Stuyvesant oval
NO. 2 E
New York, N.Y.

10009

George W. Barnard, M.D.
1725 Southwest 6th Terrace
Gainesville, Florida 32601
Phone: 904-375-7479

May 12, 1984

Mr + Mrs Arthur F. Goode Jr
3788 Tropical Point Dr, Rt 2
St James City, Fl 33956

Dear Mr + Mrs Goode

I am writing to let you know that I am quite willing to reduce my bill to \$300. In my report I tried to document the degree of sickness present in your son but the authorities seemed not to agree with my assessment.

I know you have been through a terrible ordeal and I hope that you can now begin to have a marked decrease in your suffering and to experience some happiness as your sorrow goes away.

Sincerely,

George W. Barnard

Tuesday P.M.

Dear Mildred & Bud,

It was good of you to take time to write us. I had been so concerned about you and what you were going through. I had prayed for all of you. I agree with you that it would of been very bad for Fred to of been in a mental institution. I'm glad he had good people with him near the end & also glad that you did too. It would of been so much worse if you had faced it alone. Try to forget the stigma. Lots of families have it. The world is in a terrible shape. Glad you feel that Fred is at peace with God. We both know that retarded people are not responsible for their deeds. I know it is such a relief not to have to worry about him anymore. Lets leave him with God.

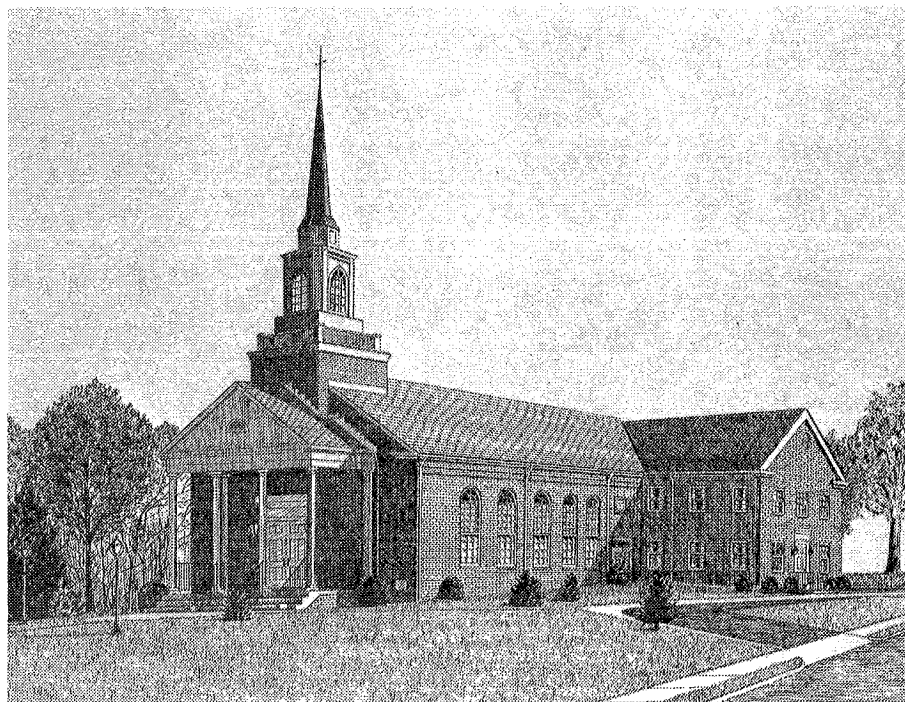
I am anemic again. Haven't been feeling too good so Judy insisted that I go to the Dr. for a blood test. He found that I'm losing blood so I have to go for xrays on Thursday. I have to get both upper & lower I.D xrays. I have to take medicines & drink liquids all day tomorrow. I get the upper xrays

Thursday & have to go back Tuesday
for the lower X-rays so that will mean
laxatives again on Monday. Hope they
don't find a tumor or anything serious.

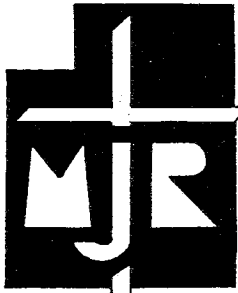
The weather is finally getting warm
here & everything is beginning to look so
pretty. The Dogwoods are quite late in
blooming.

Take care & try not to worry anymore.

Love,
Edna T Walter



This is our Church - Gordonsville Baptist Church



DIOCESE OF SAINT AUGUSTINE
MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

412 N.E. 16th Avenue, Suite 25
904-372-6006

Gainesville, Florida 32601
904-376-9764

April 13 , 1984

Dear Mr and Mrs Goode :

Hope all went well on the trip back to St . James city . I know it will take a long time for the hurt and grief to heal and to let go of Freddy now as he is with his God . Time is a great healer and I know too that you will draw from the richness of your own faith and put your confidence in the risen Lord , knowing that He alone can heal our brokenness and mend our sorrows . This was a terrible thing for anyone to have to go through and more so that Freddy was so far from being a normal human being , and for the state to extinguish his life . That being the worst of all evils .

Perhaps now you will have the peace of knowing that he is not being tortured and abused in a sytem whose intent is to crush all that is good out of the human beings entrusted to their caring . And the state call this "rehabilitation" and for those of us who know better we cringe at such barbarity . For those who do such things there can be little peace and less happinness . We must not use the tools the state did ...that of revenge and hate . That would be lowering ourselves to their level and value systems . Let us never be found wanting in our forgiveness and love . That is what Jesus' death and Resurrection was all about .

Next week will be Holy Week , that special time in the church when all our sufferings seem so minute as compared to our Redeemer and Lord's and this gives us some consolation and lots of hope .

It was a gracefilled time working with you as we grieved to try and understand and for us to be present to you in your anguish and pain of loneliness . I ask for your prayers and continued interest as we forge ahead to create a more civilized society where human life will be held sacred , irregardless of the conditions of that human life . The forces of evil will not prevail .

May God love and keep you and we hope to see you soon .

In Christ ,

Sister Hannah Daly
Sister Hannah Daly

FLORIDA CLEARINGHOUSE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE

MEMBER OF THE SOUTHERN COALITION ON JAILS & PRISONS

SCHARLETTE HOLDMAN
JAMES LOHMAN
DAVID MACK

STEVEN L. SELIGER,
GENERAL COUNSEL

222 W. PENSACOLA STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301
(904) 222-4820; 224-4237

April 12, 1984

Sister Hannah Daley
412 N.E. 16th Avenue
#50
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Dear Sister Hannah:

Here are copies of the Bishops' statement and two nice newsclips for you and the Goodes.

We just got two more death warrants, on James Hill and James Adams. Scharlette gave your phone number to the Hill family, they are very poor and kind of slow and may need some help in the coming weeks. This is James Hill's first warrant and he is certain to get a stay, but I think his family will need some moral support.

The folks in West Palm Beach have the James Adams case. He is a black man from a very large and loving family, I think his folks will be all right.

Thank 'you for all your help.

Sincerely,



Gail Rowland

enc.

P.S.

*I've also enclosed a copy from
the service folks up here died for
Freddie.*

FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

314 BARNETT BANK BUILDING
POST OFFICE BOX 1571
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32302

PHONE (904) 222-3803

THOMAS A. HORKAN, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Mrs. Goode

Statement on the Execution of Arthur F. Goode, III

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops of Florida, I appeal to the Governor and the courts for commutation of the death sentence against Arthur F. Goode, III, which is scheduled to be carried out on April 5.

The murders that Goode committed are revolting; and without a doubt, society must be protected from him. He is clearly mentally unbalanced; other cases similar to his result in treatment and confinement; but he will very likely be executed tomorrow.

Regardless of his mental status, and in spite of the immensity of his crimes, he was created in the image and likeness of Almighty God; he is our brother; and we plead for his life.

The victims of these crimes cannot be restored to life. Their families cannot be spared the horror and pain they have suffered. As an organized society, we must protect others and ease as much as possible the burdens of victims, their survivors and families. But, other states and nations enforce their laws without killing criminals; the State of Florida should join them.

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL

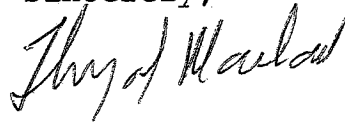
May 10, 1984

Dear Mr. Goode:

I have your letter of April 24, and although I read it as soon as it came in I have been unable to answer it because we have been quite busy here.

I have again read your letter and the only comment I can make is that I appreciate your sharing your views with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thurgood Marshall".

Mr. Arthur F. Goode, Jr.
3788 Tropical Point Drive, Route 2
St. James City, Florida 33956

Goode's father wants, fears execution stay

By Joseph B. Verrengia
Times-Union Staff Writer

STARKE — With less than 48 hours before his son is scheduled to die in Florida's electric chair, Arthur Goode Jr. is a man possessed.

His son, Arthur Frederick Goode III, convicted of strangling a 9-year old Cape Coral boy in 1976, sits in an isolation cell at Florida State Prison, hoping that a federal judge somewhere will block his scheduled execution at 7 a.m. Tuesday.

Having lost appeals to the Florida Supreme Court and to the U.S. District Court in Tampa last week, his lawyer filed papers yesterday asking the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta to spare his life.

A ruling from the appellate court is expected today.

Meanwhile, Arthur's parents, both 67 and retired on Pine Island off the Gulf Coast, stay inside.

They listen to television and radio newscasts — waiting for the announcement that their son's life will be spared and, with equal fervor, praying that his demented rantings about lust for children will not be broadcasted again.

Their telephone rings endlessly.

The elder Goode stays on the line for hours every day, plotting strategy with their attorney, City Councilman Wilbur C. Smith of Fort Myers, and berating reporters who catalog what may be his son's final days.

And through it all, Goode peers out the window for trespassers who scream for his son's electrocution.

"I have yet to see humanity's sense

of fair play," the elder Goode said in a telephone interview. "The only people who have shown any kind of compassion have been those who have retarded children themselves. Other people just can't relate to it and all they hear are the gory statements my son has made.

"I actually fear for our safety if he gets a stay of execution," he said.

According to his father, Arthur Frederick Goode III was a "change-of-life" baby born in Maryland in 1964 to 40-year-old parents who already had two adolescent daughters.

Arthur was diagnosed as mildly retarded with an intelligence quotient of 64. At age 3, he was placed in a special education program.

It was the start of what has become a 25-year rehabilitation effort,

including psychological testing, counseling, a special Boy Scout troop, and hospitalization.

Arthur, who in a news conference at the prison Thursday described himself as an "expert" child molester, claims that he was first molested by a friend when he was 11 years old. He said he liked the feeling and has pursued it with "hundreds" of small boys since.

His deviate behavior was first noted at age 14, and he was institutionalized. It was from such a treatment center in Virginia that he escaped in early 1976 and fled to South Florida to be with his parents, who had moved there after the elder Goode retired.

And it was then, Arthur says, that he lured 9-year old Jason Verdow away from a school-bus stop in Cape

Coral, took him into the woods, sexually abused the boy and then strangled him with the boy's own belt.

Arthur had already been arrested in the similar homosexual murder of Kenny Dawson, 11, of Tyson Corner, Va. He was later sentenced to life imprisonment there.

In a hearing in the Verdow murder to which he pleaded guilty over his father's objections, Arthur was allowed to fire his attorney and act as his own counsel. It is one of several legal points his appeal attorney is challenging in the federal courts.

Arthur is a prolific letter writer. Since his imprisonment at Florida State Prison, he has written hundreds of letters — to the governor asking to

(See GOODE'S, Page A-5)

Goode's father says a stay could help science

(From Page A-3)

be executed, to the parents of his victims describing the last moments of their sons' lives and to reporters from three states and the District of Columbia begging for interviews.

But while he pleads for attention from the press, Arthur, a slightly built man with delicate features and an acne-pitted face, will not reveal why he singled out the boys for murder.

When bluntly asked Thursday, his hands trembled. The question did not easily lend itself to his well-rehearsed views on pedophilia and he tried to deflect it.

"You just can't ask me that," he

objected. "It is difficult to answer off-hand. You kind of have to ask around it in a certain way to get me to say things."

Arthur now dismisses the letters as a publicity stunt and, insisting that he feels remorse, wants a stay of execution.

Goode is pushing state officials to make Arthur a guinea pig for psychologists studying the motivations of child molesters.

There are doctors who agree.

Dr. David Wallace, a child-abuse expert appointed by the Florida Probation and Parole Commission, told the Executive Clemency Board (gov-

ernor and state Cabinet) that Arthur was "ideal" for research because he knew of no other subject with such a well-documented history of mental disorders.

"Killing each offender won't stop Jason Verdows and Kenny Dawsons from happening again," Goode said. "They [state officials] want him dead strictly for revenge and their own political purposes. But it won't solve anything."

Goode prefers that Arthur not talk to reporters because his outbursts only alienate the public against his case. But he realizes that part of his son's sickness is "a desire to be a big-shot" and, because he cannot muzzle him, he has drilled Arthur with the

idea of cooperating with medical science.

But it is an idea Arthur seems only partially to understand. He echoes his father's opinion that he ought to help future child molesters. But he sees pedophilia as a gospel to be spread, rather than a mental illness to control.

"I would like people who are interested in pedophilia to come talk to me first because I am an expert at it," Arthur told reporters Thursday. "I would like to work with the Legislature so people can understand what it is all about."

"It's like ice cream. If you haven't tasted it, you don't know what it's like."

UN
James E. Carte
White House
Washington, D.

Dear President

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2-20-82

Father Pleads for Life Of His Condemned Son

By FRANK DORMAN
Sun Staff Writer

RAIFORD — Desperately pleading for the life of his son, the father of convicted child-killer Arthur Frederick Goode Jr. said Thursday that mental health experts should examine the 27-year-old inmate to learn more about his illness.

A Death Row inmate at Florida State Prison, Goode is scheduled to die in the electric chair March 2. He was convicted of the 1976 homosexual murders of two boys, ages 9 and 11, in Florida and Virginia.

"If his life were spared," Arthur Goode Sr. said, "he could make a valuable contribution to research on his sex problem which, at present time, doctors are helpless to treat and cure." A death warrant for Goode's son was recently signed by Governor Bob Graham, who Goode said "did not have the courage to seize the opportunity to try to cope with one of society's worst problems."

"Killing each offender as they appear does not solve anything," Goode, a Pine Island retiree, said.

The need for such research was demonstrated, Goode said, when his son received a letter from a 14-year-old youth who had been involved in child molestation. "I thought I was the only one," the youth had written to the condemned inmate. Goode said he persuaded his son to give the letter to authorities, who contacted the youth's parents and advised them to seek treatment for him.

In March 1980, Goode's attorney, Wilbur C. Smith of Fort Myers, told

the Executive Clemency Board (governor and state Cabinet) that Goode was a "deeply emotionally mentally disturbed person," Goode's father said. Prior to the hearing, he said, the board had received a report from an expert in sexual abuse of children, who had been appointed by the Florida Probation and Parole Commission to examine Goode.

The expert wrote that Goode is an ideal subject for study and research because his life history has been documented since age 3, adding that he knew of no other similarly disturbed persons who had such a well documented history of mental disorder.

The elder Goode and his wife said they had sought help for their son when he first demonstrated deviant behavior at the age of 14. As a small child, they said, he had been diagnosed as having slight brain damage and being mildly retarded. His early school years were spent in special education classes, and during his teen years, he was treated at a Maryland rehabilitation center for the retarded.

In 1975, Goode's son was committed to a mental hospital in Maryland, where the family had been living, but within a year, he escaped and went to Florida, where his parents had moved. Shortly afterward, the sexually abused body of 9-year-old Jason Verdow of Fort Myers was found near their home. Goode's son was questioned about the strangulation



Convicted Child-Killer Arthur Frederick Goode

(See GOODE on Page 3B)

Goode From Page 1B

murder but was not held because of lack of evidence, his father said.

Within two weeks, during which time Goode had left Florida, Kenny Dawson, 11, of Tyson Corner, Va., was murdered in a similar fashion. Goode confessed to the crime and was sentenced to life imprisonment. Following his arrest, he confessed to the Florida murder. During his trial in Lee County, Fla., Goode was granted his request for the death penalty.

But Goode should not have been allowed to be tried, much less permitted to assist with his Florida defense, his father said.

Goode's father is sure his son

killed the Virginia boy. But he is not convinced of his guilt in the Florida murder. He said his son had been told enough of the details of the crime to have concocted a false story when he confessed. That confession was the prosecution's only real evidence, his father said. He added that authorities could not link Goode with four other murders to which he had also confessed.

Goode's father said that, although most Fort Myers area residents have demanded Goode's execution, some people have been sympathetic toward his family. But almost all of the compassion that has been expressed has come from people who have retarded persons in their families, Goode said.

Mar 5, 1991

Dear David,

Margaret wrote and said you were interested in my son's case.

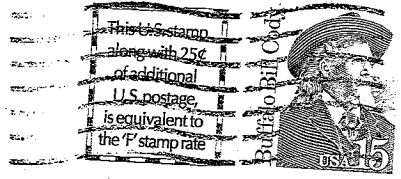
I would like to see you and we have lots of materials pertaining to my son's case.

My address is -
3788 Tropical Point Dr
St. James city, FL. 33956
This is on Pine Island
25 miles N.W. of Fort Myers.

My phone # is (813) 283-2392

Sincerely,
Arthur F. Goode

ARTHUR F GOODE JR
3788 TROPICAL POIN
ST JAMES CITY FL 33956



Mr. David Von Drehle
111 oak st apt 9
Tallahassee, FL.
32301

Convicted killer adds tears and apologies to last goodbye

By BILL COPPINGER
Alligator Staff Writer

STARKE — A handcuffed David Leroy Washington bade a tearful goodbye to his 12-year-old daughter as she sat on his lap at the Florida State Prison Friday morning, about six hours before he was electrocuted.

Washington, 34, became the seventh man executed in Florida since 1979, the fifth this year. Since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, 22 men have been executed nationwide.

Washington was scheduled to be part of the first double execution in the country since 1965 and the first in Florida since 1964. The other inmate, Jimmy Lee Smith, convicted of murdering a mother and her daughter in Marianna in 1978, received an indefinite stay from the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta Thursday.

As he sat with his mother, daughter Florence, Gainesville attorney Susan Cary and the Rev. Joe Ingle of the Southern Coalition of Jails and Prisons, Washington lifted Florence on his lap and made her promise to lead a better life than he had. Ingle told reporters shortly before the execution had been carried out. Family members had requested to see Washington.

"It's my own fault I got here," Ingle recalled Washington saying. "I'm the one who got me here. I want you to make something of your life. I want you to hit the books."

Washington was then led away to prepare for the execution as his daughter stood sobbing, Ingle said.

Washington ate a final meal of fried shrimp and oysters, french fries, rolls, lemonade and about a quart of ice cream, said prison spokesman Vernon Bradford. He ate "almost all" of it, leaving some ice cream, Bradford said.

Washington was led into the death chamber at 6:58 a.m., one minute before his stay was to expire, said Chuck Derany of WXFL-TV in Tampa, one of the 12 media witnesses. After he was strapped into the electric chair, he read a final statement to the families of his victims as well as to

fellow death row inmates, Derany said.

When asked by prison superintendent Richard Dugger if he had a final statement, Washington nodded and said "I'd like to say to the families of my victims: I'm sorry for all the grief and heartache I brought them. If my death brings them satisfaction, so be it."

"To all the guys on Death Row," Washington continued, "I'd like to say don't bow to defeat. . . without a fight. I'm kind of nervous. That's all."

At 7:03 a.m. 2,000 volts of electricity surged through his body for one minute and 25 seconds, according to witness Mark Davis, the station director of Jacksonville radio station WOKV. Prison doctors checked his pulse and heartbeat and, finding none, pronounced Washington dead at 7:09 a.m.

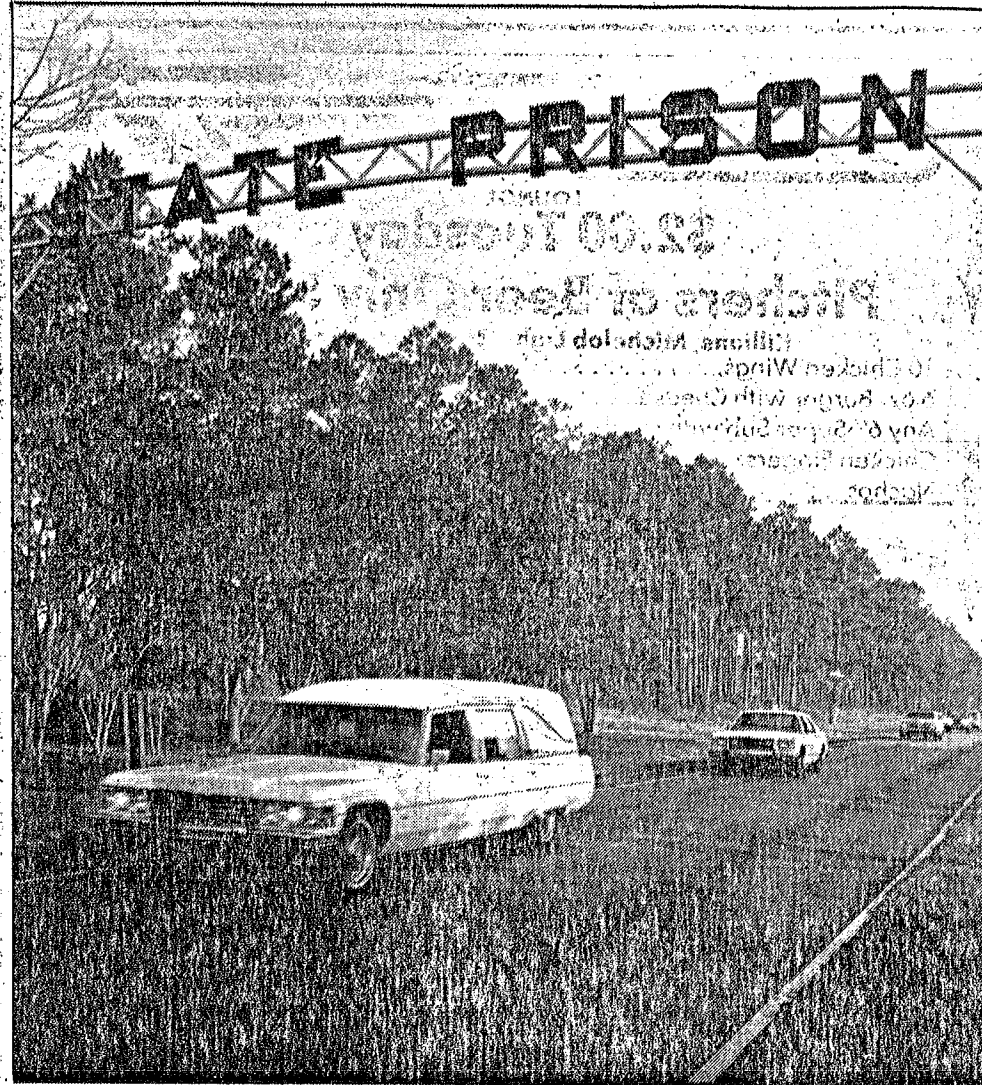
Across from the death chamber, about a quarter of a mile away in a cow pasture, about 30 anti-death penalty protesters sang "We Shall Overcome" when a media witness exited waving a white handkerchief — the now common signal that the execution was completed.

Among those protesting the execution were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Goode Jr., whose son, Arthur III, was executed in April. The Goodes drove from Fort Myers earlier that day for the first time since their son's death. Goode said that Gov. Bob Graham "should be in the Guinness Book of World Records" because of the number of death warrants he has signed.

"He is doing this for political reasons," Goode said. "He's running for the Senate and he wants to use this to his advantage. It's popular to be (pro-death penalty) in this state."

Another protestor, Sheila Maxwell, 29, a waitress in Starke, said "The only time things will change is when there is a new governor."

Maxwell, one of the first anti-death penalty protestors to arrive, is the girlfriend of Charles Messer, a death row inmate convicted of a 1975 murder.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL WILSON

The hearse carrying the body of executed killer David Leroy Washington exits Florida State Prison.

On the other side of the fence stood five people supporting the death penalty. Among them were Floyd Cone Sr. and his son Larin Cone from Baldwin, near Jacksonville. Cone's son Floyd Jr. was shot and killed in 1981 by Edward Dean Ken-

nedy, who is now on Death Row.

"I get no satisfaction in seeing a person die, but I feel it might be a deterrent," Cone said. "If they knew they were going to pay for this with pure swift justice, they'd think about it before they killed anyone."

Bill Coppinger
July 17, 1984

WITH 7 VICTIMS TO HIS NAME, MASS-KILLER "BLOODY" BOB GRAHAM (THE GOVERNOR)
IS A TRULY AMERICAN FOLK HERO!

A statesman who rises above such petty concerns as common decency, "Bloody" Bob has remained true to his great political ambitions. Courageously, he has ignored the snivelling emotional pleas of such unsavory groups as Amnesty International and the predictably whining claims of racism brought by the Congressional Black Caucus. Proudly, he has officiated at the burning of the feeble-minded (Arthur Goode), the old and infirm (Anthony Antone), the Black (James Adams), and the gay (Robert Sullivan), to name just a few. His single-minded and passionate pursuit of the final solution is an inspiration to us all. It is nothing less than a tribute to the American way of life (and death)--especially as practiced in Florida. If the Peter Principle is to mean anything at all, "Bloody" Bob deserves to be Vice-President.

Although committed to The Governor on the first ballot, the Draft "Bloody" Bob for VEEP Committee is also willing to accept the following Democrats as potential candidates for the spot--just a heartbeat away from the Presidency--because these great men have ended so many heartbeats in ways that suggest the great diversity of this great country of ours, ways as American as apple pie--like the gas chamber, the deadly needle, and "Bloody" Bob's all-time favorite, the electric chair):

Governor Mark White, Texas--3 down, 172 to go!
Governor Frank Harris, Georgia--2 down, 115 to go!
Governor George Wallace, Alabama--1 down, 70 to go!
Governor William Allain, Mississippi--1 down, 42 to go!
Governor Edwin Edwards, Louisiana--1 down, 35 to go!
Governor James Hunt, Jr., North Carolina--1 down, 34 to go!
Governor Robert Orr, Indiana--1 down, 25 to go!
Governor Charles Robb, Virginia--1 down, 24 to go!

These boys deserve our support. Send a killer to Washington.

PAID FOR BY THE DRAFT "BLOODY" BOB FOR VEEP COMMITTEE

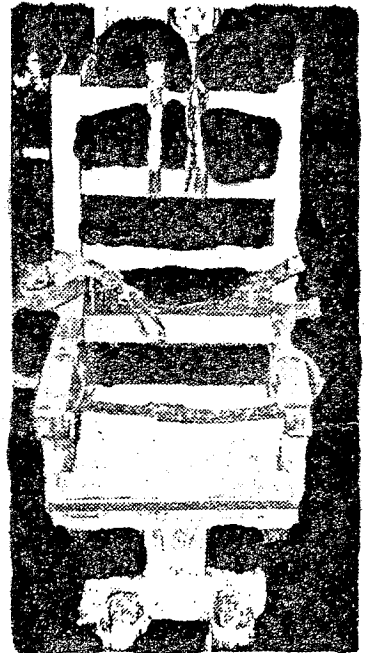
(415)832 4460

220 on State's Death Row

Florida leads the nation in its Death Row population and number of executions since the death penalty was reinstated (6 of 20).

1. Florida	220
2. Texas	172
3. California	157
4. Georgia	115
5. Alabama	70
6. Illinois	61
7. Pennsylvania	56
8. Arizona	51
9. Mississippi	42
10. Oklahoma	40

All figures except Florida as of May 1
SOURCE: NAACP Legal Defense Fund



20 Executed in U.S. Since 1976

Here is a list of convicted killers executed since the Supreme Court allowed states to restore the death penalty in 1976.

INMATE	DATE	STATE
1. Gary Gilmore, 36	Jan. 17, 1977	Utah***
2. John Spenkelnik, 30	May 25, 1979	Florida *
3. Jesse Bishop, 46	Oct. 22, 1979	Nevada
4. Stevan Judy, 24	March 9, 1981	Indiana
5. Frank Coppola, 38	Aug. 10, 1982	Virginia
6. Charlie Brooks Jr., 40	Dec. 7, 1982	Texas*
7. John Evans III, 33	April 22, 1983	Alabama
8. Jimmy Lee Gray, 34	Sept 2, 1983	Mississippi**
9. Robert Sullivan, 36	Nov. 30, 1983	Florida *
10. Robert W. Williams, 31	Dec. 14, 1983	Louisiana
11. John Eldorr Smith, 53	Dec. 15, 1983	Georgia
12. Anthony Antone, 66	Jan. 26, 1984	Florida *
13. Johnny Taylor Jr., 30	Feb. 29, 1984	Louisiana
14. James David Autry, 29	March 14, 1984	Texas*
15. James W. Hutchins, 54	March 16, 1984	North Carolina*
16. Ronald C. O'Bryan, 39	March 31, 1984	Texas*
17. Elmo P. Sonnier, 35	April 5, 1984	Louisiana
18. Arthur F. Goode III, 30	April 5, 1984	Florida *
19. James Adams, 47	May 10, 1984	Florida *
20. Carl Shriner, 30	June 20, 1984	Florida *

*Death by lethal injection
All others died of electrocution

** Death in gas chamber

*** Firing squad

21. Ivon Ray Stanley July 12, '84 Georgia
22. David Leroy Washington July 13, '84 Florida *

Arriving triumphantly in SF with the sweet smell of fresh blood on his breath, "Bloody" Bob has shown his pluck. After Georgia killed Ivon Stanley (IQ 81) on Thursday, The Governor worked day and night not to be outdone. He was justly rewarded with David Washington's blood, on Friday the 13th. Two Black men in two days.

WELL DONE, BOYS! WELL DONE!

Orlando Sentinel
July 11, 1984

State justices refuse to halt 2 executions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's Supreme Court Tuesday cleared the way for the nation's first double state execution since capital punishment was restored eight years ago.

The state's highest court rejected the appeal of convicted killer Jimmy Smith and, two hours later, dissolved a stay of execution for inmate David Washington.

Both men are scheduled to die at 7 a.m. Thursday at Florida State Prison near Starke.

Smith's attorneys will get another chance to win a reprieve for their client during a hearing Wednesday before a federal judge in Pensacola, while Washington's attorneys said they would ask a federal judge in Miami to block the execution.

Washington, 34, was convicted of the 1976 murders of three people in Miami.

Smith, 30, was convicted of the May 1, 1978, deaths of Bonnie Ward and her 12-year-old daughter Donna Strickland. They were killed near Marianna.

On Tuesday morning, the state asked the judges to allow Smith's execution to proceed.

Sara Bleakley, Smith's lawyer, argued that a psychiatric report on her client from a reform school had been withheld by the state and she should have a full hearing to determine if the report could help Smith's case.

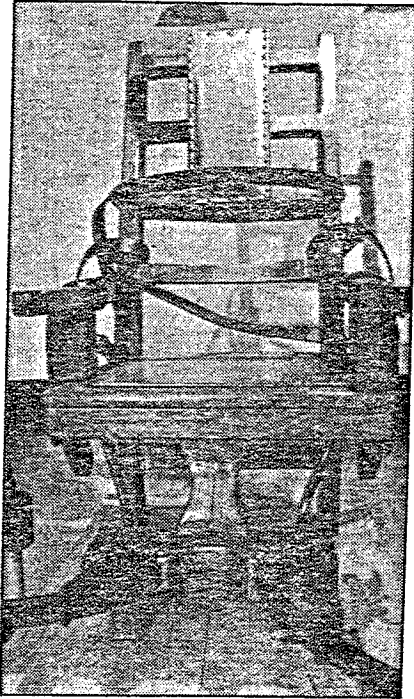
In Washington's case, Circuit Judge Herbert Klein of Miami on Monday granted a reprieve to the inmate and threw out his death sentences, ordering a new hearing.

Assistant State Attorney General Carolyn Snurkowski protested the judge's ruling to the state high court.

Orlando Sentinel
July 12, 1984

Executions blocked

A federal court Wednesday blocked the execution of Jimmy Smith and David Leroy Washington, two prisoners on Florida's death-row scheduled to die today. Smith, convicted of murdering a mother and her 12-year-old daughter in 1978, was granted a stay by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The court also stayed the execution of Washington, convicted of killing three people in 1976. The two were to go to the electric chair at Florida State Prison this morning. Story, C-1. The execution of Ivon Ray Stanley in Georgia is scheduled for today. Stanley was convicted of the 1976 slaying of an insurance collector in Bainbridge, Ga.



Orlando Sentinel
July 13, 1984

Killer of 3 loses plea for his life

2nd condemned man wins appeal, won't die today

By Ilene G. Reid

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

STARKE — Barring a last-minute stay from the U.S. Supreme Court, David Leroy Washington is scheduled to be executed in Florida's electric chair at 7 a.m. today.

Washington's lawyers said they would appeal to the nation's highest court a Thursday decision by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denying the convicted murderer's plea for a stay of execution.

The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the indefinite stay of Jimmy Lee Smith's death warrant, issued Thursday afternoon by the 11th Circuit.

Death warrants signed by Gov. Bob Graham for Washington and Smith expire at noon today. Both were scheduled to be executed Thursday morning, but won temporary reprieves. Graham will now have to sign a new warrant for Smith's execution.

Washington, 34, who is under his third death warrant, has remained calm through the appeals process, said Vernon Bradford, spokesman for the Florida Division of Corrections. Smith, 30, who is under his second warrant, "was pleased to find out he had a stay but he's apprehensive



Washington

because he knows the state's appealing it," Bradford said before the Supreme Court's ruling.

"I think he's a bit more nervous than Washington," Bradford said.

Both men remained in their cells Thursday in the "queuing area" of death row at Florida State Prison, 11 miles west of this city.

Washington was expecting members of his family to visit him Thursday night, Bradford said, but Smith had received no word if his mother would be coming from Kenansville, in Osceola County, to see him.

Washington's appeal for a stay was rejected by a three-judge panel. The opinion, issued by judges Paul Roney, James Hill and Thomas Clark, said Washington's contention that the death penalty is applied in a racially discriminatory manner had already been decided in prior cases.

It also denied that his sentencing was unconstitutional because a prosecutor referred to a victim

EXECUTION

From B-1



Smith

during arguments calling for the death penalty. "We cannot conclude that the remark to which exception is taken was likely to have had any effect upon the sentencing decision of the judge sitting without a jury," the decision says.

Washington was sentenced to death for the murders of three people in a crime spree in Dade County in 1976. He had confessed to the crimes and asked

for the death penalty, but later launched lengthy appeals when he decided he wanted to live.

Smith was sentenced to die for the murders of a Jackson County woman and her 12-year-old daughter in 1978. At the time of his sentencing, he asked the jury to give him the death penalty.

The Supreme Court ruling on Smith's stay ended the possibility of a double execution, which would have been the first in 20 years in Florida's electric chair, known as "Old Sparky."

Please see EXECUTION, B-4

Saturday, July 14, 1984

The Orlando Sentinel

25 cents

The best newspaper in Florida

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Florida Edition

A daughter's sobs follow killer of 3 to chair

Orlando Sentinel reporter Larry Lipman was present at Friday's execution at Florida State Prison.

By Ilene G. Reid and Larry Lipman

OF THE SENTINEL STAFF

STARKE — Triple murderer David Leroy Washington calmly went to his death in the electric chair Friday apologizing to his victims' families and urging fellow death row inmates to fight on.

Only hours before his death, Washington held his sobbing 12-year-old daughter Florence in his lap and

told her, "I want you to do better."

After midnight he was allowed a one-hour "contact visit" in which he could embrace his daughter, his mother, Julia Lane of Blountstown, Gainesville attorney Susan Carey and the Rev. Joe Ingle of the Southern Coalition of Jails and Prisons.

Carey, 40, said Florence dissolved into tears as her father was led away from the visiting area for the last time.

"How do you explain that? How does the governor justify, how does the state justify, killing this girl's daddy? She's as much a victim as anybody," Carey said.

"I want you to do better," Ingle said Washington

told the child. "I want you to set some goals for yourself and I want you to hit the books."

Washington, 34, showed little emotion as he was led into the peach-colored death chamber at 6:59 a.m.

He scanned the faces of the 42 witnesses sitting in a glass booth opposite the three-legged oak chair and asked prison Superintendent Richard L. Dugger if his attorney, Richard Burr, of West Palm Beach, would be among the witnesses. He was not. Washington smiled briefly, apparently at prison spokesman Vernon Bradford.

Washington, who confessed to the three slayings that terrorized Miami during a 10-day robbery and

killer outbreak in 1976, expressed remorse for his actions.

In a clear, unfaltering voice, he said, "I would like to say to the families of all my victims, I am sorry for all the grief and heartache I have brought to them. If my death brings them any satisfaction, so be it."

He then turned his attention to the 220 inmates who remain on Florida's death row, the largest number in the nation.

"I'd like to say to all the guys on death row: Don't



Washington

Please see KILLER, A-7

KILLER

From A-1

bow to defeat." Seemingly unsure if he had said what he'd meant, he said, "Don't bow to a victory." Finally, he blurted out, "Don't bow to a defeat without a fight. I'm kind of nervous. That's all."

Minutes later, Washington became the seventh man executed in Florida since the U.S. Supreme Court removed its objection to the death penalty in 1976. He was the sixth man executed here since Thanksgiving and the 22nd nationwide since reinstatement of the death penalty.

Washington was condemned for the murders of Katrina Birk, a housewife who was stabbed nine times; Rev. Daniel Pridgen, who was stabbed seven times; and University of Miami student Frank Meli, who was stabbed 11 times.

A second execution scheduled at Florida State Prison this week was stayed indefinitely by a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta. That ruling was upheld 9-0 Thursday by the U.S. Supreme Court to give attorneys for convicted murderer Jimmy Lee Smith time for a formal hearing on the claim that he received inadequate counsel during his trial.

About 40 anti-death penalty protestors gathered in a pasture across the road from the prison displaying signs and conducting a prayer vigil. Six people who said they favored capital punishment stood on the other side of a fence and watched the prison quietly.

Among the protesters were Arthur Goode Jr. and his wife Mildred. Their son Arthur Goode III was executed here on April 5 for raping and killing a 9-year-old boy.

Goode criticized Gov. Bob Graham for signing 82 death warrants since taking office in 1979, saying Graham "should be in the Guinness Book of Records."

Like others opposed to capital punishment, Goode accused Graham of being politically motivated in signing more death warrants than any other governor.

Despite the number of warrants he has signed, this week's issue of *The National Law Journal* said Graham is not as vigorous an enforcer of the death penalty as he is portrayed.

The publication also hinted that Graham's decisions on who should be executed are political.

"Death and politics are inextricably linked," the article says. While Graham wants to reap the political benefits of implementing the death penalty in a conservative state, he knows that a wave of executions could alienate voters, the publication reported.

Syd McKenzie, the governor's general counsel, refused to discuss the reasons Graham signs a particular warrant.

But he emphasized that Graham's decision to sign

a warrant is based on the merits of a case. Generally, the governor has said he signs warrants for prisoners who have been on death row the longest and have exhausted their legal appeals.

In Tallahassee Thursday morning, about 50 protestors gathered in the Rotunda to protest the execution.

After representatives of the governor's office said the execution had been carried out, Jimmy Lohman of the Florida Clearinghouse on Criminal Justice said: "At 7:09 this morning, the state of Florida committed yet another murder when it executed David Washington."

Graham, in a statement released following the execution, said the sentence was carried out "after exhaustive judicial analysis and review."

"This process has assured that the constitutional rights of the accused were fully protected," he said. "The execution of the sentence assured that the rights the people of Florida were afforded similar protection."

Inside the death chamber, Washington watched curiously as prison officials strapped a thick belt across his chest and looked down while an electrode was attached to his right ankle. He glanced over his shoulder at the clock on the wall. Next to the clock, the anonymous, black-hooded executioner — paid \$150 in cash — peered through an eye-level slit and awaited the signal to throw the switch. Washington did not look at the executioner.

As the leather chin strap was applied over his mouth, Washington appeared uncomfortable, then relaxed when the black hood was draped over his face and the metal skullcap containing the electrode was attached.

Dugger spoke briefly on an open telephone line with Graham in Tallahassee then walked in front of Washington and nodded to the executioner to throw the switch.

Washington's body jerked to rigid attention and his hands clenched as the 2,000 volts and 14 amps of current passed through his body for one minute and 25 seconds.

After physician's attendant Bill Matthews and attending physician Dr. Canh Nguyen checked for any signs of life, Washington was pronounced dead by Sgt. Don Gladdish.

Ann Palmes, the mother of death-row inmate Timothy Palmes, stood with the Goodes and said that despite the frequency with which electrocutions are proceeding in Florida, "I have hope."

She attends the executions because, "I think if nothing else it accomplishes what's in your conscience. Do you have any conscience for what's happening in the state and in the country?"

Timothy Palmes faces death for a 1976 murder.

Representatives of the Gainesville and Jacksonville Citizens Against the Death Penalty lined the fence with slogan-filled posters and wore stickers disclaiming responsibility for the state's actions.

Pat Blutworth, 35, a member of the Jacksonville group who volunteers with a prison ministry organization, said the protesters continue to come out for each execution because, "We have to make a statement and make the public aware that as Christians



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators in Tallahassee ... they hold vigil in Capitol Rotunda.

we believe murder is wrong in any form."

Countering the organized protestors, who have become a fixture of execution days, were six individuals who gathered to support the state's actions.

Among them were Floyd Cone and his son Larin, 31, from Baldwin, near Jacksonville. Cone's other son, Floyd Jr. was killed in 1981 by a man now on death row, Edward Dean Kennedy whose death sentence was upheld Thursday by the Florida Supreme Court.

Cone said he believes executions are a deterrent to capital crimes and, "If they knew they were going to pay for this with pure, swift justice, they'd think about it, they would."

When asked if televising executions might better dissuade people from such crimes, he said, "Personally, I would like to see the executions in a public square somewhere so people could see the end results of what would happen. My son had just as much right to live and pursue his happiness as Kennedy did."

Washington visited with about a dozen relatives and supporters late Thursday while the U.S. Supreme Court was rejecting his final appeal 7-2.

Washington was given a final supper of fried shrimp, fried oysters, french fries "with lots of ketchup," a quart of vanilla ice cream, hot rolls and lemonade, prison spokesman Bradford said.

Washington spent his last hours lying on his bed or sitting up talking with Mike Berg, chief of the jails in Duval County. Berg acted as the official witness whose function is to observe the treatment of the condemned. The official witness position was created after charges were made by inmates that John Spenkelink was abused prior to his execution in May 1979.

State's high court clears way for double execution

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to halt the scheduled Thursday executions of two convicted murderers, clearing one roadblock to what would be the nation's first double execution since capital punishment was restored eight years ago.

The state's highest court rejected 6-0 the mercy appeal of convicted killer

Jimmy L. Smith and, two hours later, dissolved a stay of execution for mass murderer David L. Washington by the same vote.

Both convicted killers are scheduled to die at 7 a.m. Thursday at Florida State Prison near Starke, where six other men have been electrocuted since 1979. Prison officials have not said who would be the first to be strapped into the electric chair.

Smith's attorneys will get another chance to win a reprieve for their client during a hearing today before a federal judge in Pensacola, while Washington's attorneys said they would ask a federal judge in Miami to block the execution.

Washington, 34, is under his third warrant for the September 1976 murders of three people in Miami. But the Supreme Court heard his case

for a second time Tuesday afternoon.

State prosecutors said Washington's new lawyers were arguing legal issues that had been litigated in other courts. But the prisoner's public defenders insisted the arguments were new and raised constitutional questions that merited a reprieve.

It would be the first time in Florida since May 1964 that two inmates were electrocuted on the same day.

Gainesville Sun
July 11, 1984

Gainesville Sun
July 12, 1984

Killers set for execution get temporary stays

The Associated Press

STARKE — Federal judges Wednesday granted temporary reprieves to a pair of killers who were to die Thursday morning, but Florida still had until noon Friday to execute the men who killed a total of five people.

U.S. District Judge Eugene P. Spellman denied the habeas corpus petition of mass murderer David L. Washington of Miami but granted a stay until 6:59 a.m. Friday to give appeals courts time to review the denial.

Jimmy Lee Smith, who killed two people near Marianna, won a delay earlier from the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals less than 12 hours before he was to die in Florida's electric chair.



Jimmy Lee Smith
killed two people



David L. Washington
killed three people

Gainesville Sun
July 13, 1984

Florida to execute Washington; Smith execution halted

By MIKE McQUEEN
The Associated Press

STARKE — One of two Florida murderers whose executions were delayed for 24 hours won an indefinite stay Thursday, but the Supreme Court declined to spare the other, and prison officials said he would be executed in the electric chair at 7 a.m. today.

The 11th U.S. Court of Appeals in Atlanta granted a stay for Jimmie L. Smith, and the U.S. Supreme Court later refused to lift it. The justices, without comment, left intact the appeals court order sparing Smith's life until it studies his latest legal arguments more closely.

But the Supreme Court ruled 7-2 to approve the execution of David L. Washington, a convicted triple-murderer, and left intact an earlier order by the federal appeal court in Atlanta, which ruled that Smith's arguments of ineffective trial counsel needed closer study.

Florida Department of Corrections spokesman Vernon Bradford said his execution had been rescheduled for just after dawn by State Prison Superintendent Richard Dugger.

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Execution

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"He was still calm. He didn't seem to be surprised. There doesn't seem to be much reaction on his part," Bradford said of Washington's reaction when he learned he'd lost the appeal.

Smith was "still apprehensive" after learning of the Atlanta court's reprieve since the decision was being appealed to the Supreme Court. But once the high court spared him, "he was very pleased," Bradford said.

Death warrants for the men, who killed five people between them, were set to expire at noon today. The carrying out of both sentences would have marked the

nation's first double execution in 19 years.

"We feel that a stay of execution should not have been granted ... that there was no legal basis for it," Assistant Attorney General Ray Marky said in Tallahassee.

Washington and Smith had been "just sitting in their cells" earlier as their appeals were being considered by the 11th Circuit, Bradford said.

Smith, who killed a woman and her daughter, and Washington, a triple-murderer from Miami, had been scheduled to die shortly after sunrise Thursday at the Florida State Prison near Starke but won temporary reprieves from two different federal courts late Wednesday.

Early Thursday, Georgia executed death row inmate Ivon R. Stanley after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear

his appeal. He was the 21st prisoner executed since the Supreme Court restored capital punishment in 1976 and the first black executed in Georgia since 1963. Florida has executed six killers since 1979 but hasn't put two to death on the same day since 1964.

Washington was visited by his mother and other relatives Thursday while capital punishment foes paid a brief visit late Wednesday to Smith, who was "a little more nervous than Washington," Bradford reported.

Washington, 34, was under his third death warrant for a 1976 crime spree that claimed University of Miami student Frank Meli, elderly Miami resident Katrina Birk and homosexual minister Daniel Pridgen.



Gainesville Sun
July 14, 1984



Washington apologizes before his execution

Sun reporter Martin Drummond witnessed the execution of David L. Washington.

By MARTIN R. DRUMMOND
Sun staff writer

STARKE — Just before 2,000 volts of electricity surged through his slender body early Friday, Florida Death Row inmate David L. Washington smiled, said he was sorry for the three people he murdered in 1976 and that he was "kind of nervous."

The 34-year-old black man, a former migrant worker, said if his death brings any satisfaction to the victims' families, "So be it."

"I'm sorry for all the grief and heartache I have brought to them," he said.

And in his last advice to 220 other condemned prisoners, Washington said, "I'd like to say to all the guys on death row, don't bow to defeat ... don't bow to a victory ... don't bow to a defeat."

"I'm kind of nervous," he said with a half-smile. "That's all."

At 7:09 a.m., just over five minutes after his apology, he was declared dead by Florida State Prison doctor Canh Nguyen. Prison Sgt. Don Gladdish then told 42 witnesses crowded into a room

adjacent to death chamber that the sentence had been carried out.

Washington's only visible signs during the electrocution were his clenched fists which slowly rotated during the 85-second burst of voltage. Just before FSP Superintendent Richard Dugger called a halt to the execution, sweat began dripping from Washington's hood-covered face.

Just after the death pronouncement, the 12 news media witnesses, 12 "official" witnesses picked by the state and 18 corrections employees filed out quietly except for a couple of the official witnesses who were smiling and joking, though their conversation could not be distinguished. One of the two had said before the electrocution that Washington's death "is a good reminder that we live in a lot less than perfect world."

Also smiling were a pair of corrections officers standing in the death chamber next to Washington's body.

Washington had been on Death Row for more than seven years

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for the brutal September 1976 slayings of University of Miami student Frank Meli, elderly Miami resident Katrina Birk and minister Daniel Pridgen. The bodies had been stabbed a total of 27 times and, in addition, Birk had been shot.

Meli had begged for his life before being killed, police reported at the time.

In Miami, Meli's mother, Dolores Meli Lo Proto, told the Associated Press Washington's execution was long overdue.

"My son was tied up for two days, stabbed 11 times in the chest, and I'm supporting Washington. I pay taxes. My son is dead. My son would have been an attorney today."

When convicted, Washington told Circuit Judge Richard Fuller to sentence him to death. "I don't want to die — you know what I mean? But if I sit up in some jail and rot, I'd rather be killed," he said then.

During the seven years, two death warrants had been signed by Gov. Bob Graham but both expired after the U.S. Supreme Court blocked them.

Aggressive legal efforts during recent days were waged by death penalty opponents against the death warrant signed in June by Graham. The opponents, claiming an arbitrary and discriminatory sentencing process, were able to block Thursday's scheduled execution when the U.S. Supreme Court said Wednesday it needed more time to review the sentence.

But late Thursday, the Supreme Court justices rejected the last-minute appeal and let stand their earlier stay which expired at 6:59 a.m. Friday. In anticipation of the execution, Washington was fed a breakfast of his choice which included fried shrimp and oysters, french fries, hot rolls and a quart of vanilla ice cream.

At 7:04 a.m., Graham's decree was confirmed by phone and then carried out by a black-hooded executioner who threw the switch for a fee of \$150 in cash.

Washington's body was picked up by Charles Chestnut of Chestnut Funeral Home. Cremation is planned by Washington's family who will spread his ashes in the Atlantic Ocean.

Washington's execution is the seventh carried out by the state since Graham took office in 1978. Nationally, 21 other men have been executed since the Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976, the latest taking place early Thursday morning in Georgia.



Gary Wolfson/Sun staff photographer

Left: Susan Carey, a Gainesville attorney who volunteered her services to help David Washington, reacts to the execution while outside Death Row. Right: Margaret Vandiver, a legal assistant to Washington's attorneys, stands with the parents of Arthur Goode III. Goode died in Florida's electric chair earlier this year.

Protesters await signal of Washington's death

By PAULA HORVATH-NEIMEYER
Sun staff writer

As a red sun broke over the horizon early Friday, some 50 protesters took up a vigil behind a wire fence across from Florida State Prison to await the death of a man few of them even knew.

Behind the tan walls and barbed wire fences of the prison across the street, 34-year-old David Leroy Washington, convicted of killing three people in Miami, was preparing to die.

Washington, a sometimes migrant worker, had lost a final bid for his life late Thursday when the Supreme Court rejected his appeal. He would be the seventh man executed in Florida since the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976.

Many of those who had gathered Friday had traveled to the misty cow pasture before to protest the execution of the others at the Starke prison. Their protestations sounded familiar.

"Executions Equal Pre-Meditated Murder" proclaimed one sign. "Stop State Murder" was scrawled on another.

"These men are here (on death row) for the most part because they're black and in the second part because they're poor," the Rev. Larry Reimer of the United Church of Gainesville told the protesters.

A single death penalty backer stood quietly apart.

Although Washington was nothing more than a name to most of the protesters, some had met the condemned man and even fought for his life.

Joe Ingle, director of the Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons, and Gainesville attorney Susan Carey had stayed with Washington until the early morning hours as Washington met with and prepared his family for his impending death.

"The death penalty creates a whole new class of victims," Ingle told reporters. "The pain his family had to

go through last night is unforgivable."

They stood with Dick Burr, a West Palm Beach attorney who had taken Washington's case during the past few weeks. Burr had just returned from Atlanta where he had been fighting to have his client's life spared by the courts.

"The courts are an important place where the fight for life and decency takes place. But the courts will not do anything to stop (executions) until the people of Florida say they don't want them anymore," Burr said.

Standing silently with the other protesters were Arthur and Mildred Goode, the parents of Arthur F. Goode III, a convicted child rapist and murderer who was executed in early April.

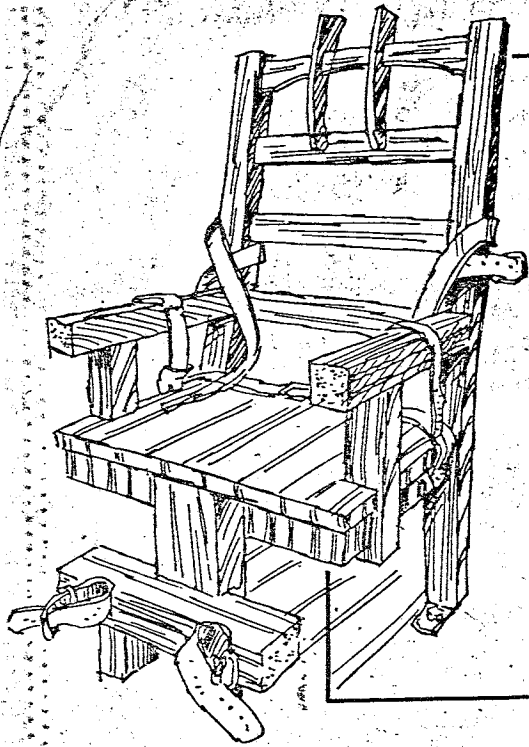
It was the first execution the Goodes had attended since the 1979 execution of John Spenkelink when their son was waiting on Death Row. And it was the first time either of them had ventured near Starke since their son's death three months ago.

"It was the first time we could stand coming near here," Mildred Goode said. Her husband said he hoped their presence "would do a little good and make some impression" in support of the anti-death penalty movement.

Silence descended over the cow pasture as the protesters awaited word on Washington's fate. Even the normally boisterous press corps was quiet as all eyes were focused on the side door leading from "Q wing" of the prison about a quarter of a mile away where the death warrant was being carried out.

Suddenly, the door opened and several small figures emerged. One, believed to be a wire service reporter, came forward, faced the cow pasture and waved a white cloth slowly back and forth over his head. It was the standard signal to other reporters waiting in the cow pasture.

The execution of David Leroy Washington had been completed.



Executions

Top five counties in convictions resulting in execution by electric chair since 1924*

Duval	35
Dade	26
Hillsborough	16
Pinellas	16
Alachua	10

* Before 1924 executions were carried out at the local jail or prison by hanging.

Statewide: 203 (133 black males, 71 white males and no women. Average age 32)

Friends say Washington showed remorse for families of victims

By MARTIN R. DRUMMOND
Sun staff writer

Joe Ingle and Susan Carey often talked with condemned killer David Leroy Washington about a variety of subjects such as sports, religion, the weather and life in prison.

One thing they didn't like talking about, but did so anyway, was death. And when they did, Washington often cried.

It was not so much the painful idea of his own life ceasing — which occurred Friday at 7:09 a.m. — but the sorrow that filled him because of three brutal murders he committed almost eight years ago in Dade County.

Washington, his friends said before the execution, is "eaten up" with grief for the three families who have likewise been grieving ever since his stabbing, robbing and shooting rampage took the lives of their loved ones. "He is remorse personified. David Washington weeps and has for years on what he has done," said Carey, a volunteer lawyer who knew him for six years.

Corrections officers at the Florida State Prison have confirmed that Washington would sometimes cry in his cell at night.

Describing the inmate as "a nice guy ... lovable," Carey said Washington had been a model prisoner who would never kill again, even if released on the street. "David is a good person who did a terrible thing," she said.

Ingle, a minister from Nashville, Tenn., said Washington "just snapped" when he committed the murders.

During the past few days, however, Ingle said he has rarely seen such a display of "warmth, genuine, human concern" as in Washington.

Much of that concern was shown toward family members Thursday night when the tall, slender Washington visited with them for four hours, at one point putting his 12-year-old daughter Florence on his knee and telling her to "hit the books, really work hard" so she wouldn't end up like him.

Florence had come with Washington's mother, Julia. His father is dead. He was divorced. He was poor and legal representation in recent weeks came only because of donated time by lawyers and

social workers and donations from private sources.

Ingle, Carey and another Washington counselor, Margaret Vandiver, told The Sun Thursday that by offering sympathy to the inmate over the past years, they were not trying to lessen the horror the families of Frank Meli, Daniel Pridgen and Katrina Birk have endured.

"We really grieve for them. But it (Washington's death) is not going to lessen anything ... bring back their loved ones," Carey said.

Ingle said one of his missions to the relatives of murder victims is "to help them see what vengeance will do to them and their families. It will eat them alive."

Ingle said he hopes the public does not view death penalty opponents as endorsing murder or to worsen the grief of victims' families. "The important thing they need to understand is that we are not out to hurt them but out to stop a (state) murder," he said.

Carey said Washington's execution is an example of how capital punishment "keeps the murder horribly alive. Because of the morbid character of the execution, it keeps public attention on it (the details of the past murder)."

The three advocates of Death Row inmates said they will likely have little time to focus on Washington's death because of Gov. Bob Graham's prolific signings of death warrants. More than 80 have been signed since he was elected in 1978, though legal blockades by lawyers have kept the execution total to only seven.

"You know what happened is terrible. The whole machinery of the state is set on killing that one person and when you lose (the appeal process) it is so devastating," Vandiver said.

"But you know that as soon as one is over, you don't have time for your sympathy. But we're not going to give up," she said.

Vandiver, a graduate sociology student, said Graham and state Attorney General Jim Smith are "building their political careers on this issue."

The three protesters said the death penalty in Florida will never be abolished until the public persuades enough state legislators to change the capital punishment law.

Just enough killing

There's no pleasing some people. Never mind that under the aggressive leadership of Gov. Bob Graham Florida has become the nation's Mecca for electrical vengeance. Never mind that, while other states struggle to dispatch their first miscreant, Graham, with yesterday's execution of David Washington, has put seven souls under the jailhouse — more than twice as many as any other state.

Forget that the meting out of death has been the Graham administration's most wildly successful public policy achievement — far outshining efforts to, say, reform Florida's tangled tax system or fully fund schools.

And so what if Graham has signed 82 death warrants? So what if he is deplored by Amnesty International, the Black Congressional Caucus, all manner of anti-capital punishment groups and some religious organizations?

Because if Graham were really serious about Florida's capital punishment mandate, he would have signed 114 warrants by now — enough to paper his office wall.

That's the contention of the National Law Journal, a New York legal publication that analyzed Graham's own criteria for determining when to sign warrants and found that Graham could today sign at least 32 — many for inmates who have yet to see their first death sheet. Those inmates are ripe for dispatching, by virtue of having had their sentences affirmed by the Florida Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court, and having had their pleas for mercy rejected by Graham and the Cabinet.

Why the hesitation then? David Kaplan, a lawyer and Journal staffer, implies that even a pro-death advocate with as strong a stomach as Graham's doesn't think his public would sit smiling through a veritable wave of executions, the likes of which is unseen outside of Iran. Instead, the Journal implies, Graham rations out just enough death.

"Death and politics are inextricably linked," Kaplan wrote. He quoted Florida Clearinghouse on Criminal Justice Director Scharlette Holdman, who said "he wouldn't sign 30 warrants tomorrow simply because it would appear so unseemly and repulsive that it would backfire on him."

"He wants to look strong but civilized, not slobbering at the mouth," she added.

It's tempting to simply accuse Graham of playing politics with the electric chair and have done with it. If, for instance, Graham really believed in his much-touted contention that electrocution deters others from committing murder, then the more bodies trundled out the back door of Death Row the better.

It's hard to argue deterrence when, statistically, maybe one in 100 murderers will ever have to pay the ultimate penalty. And a closer look at the numbers show that certain groups of killers have an even smaller chance of being called before the Grim Reaper.

Sun editorial

Killers of blacks, for instance, need worry almost not at all about Death Row. White killers need fret about it less than do blacks. And killers from the upper social and economic classes can do as little as five to 10 years hard time for their crimes. And it is safe to predict that Florida will likely never execute a woman.

So forget about deterrence. Given the nature of the selection process, any killer who is cold-blooded and calculating enough to stop and think beforehand about the consequences of his deed will likely conclude that electrocution is awarded in Florida on a lottery-like basis. And the odds against drawing an unlucky number are great.

Even if Graham did sign another 32 warrants, and even if half of them were carried out forthwith, the additional executions wouldn't change the statistics all that much.

Maybe, then, Graham's perceived reluctance to sign every warrant within arms reach stems not so much, as the Journal implies, from his sense of political preservation, as it does from Graham's appreciation for the concept of the execution as ritual.

Whether accurate or not, there is a growing perception, a fear, among Americans that, somehow, crime is out of control, that people are no longer safe in their homes or streets. That fear naturally breeds anger and resentment, and a logical outgrowth of that is a public sentiment for executions.

That someone goes to the chair periodically is sufficient to appease that public anger and resentment. And it really doesn't matter to the public that the selection process leading to death row is so serendipitous, or so racially and socially selective as to dilute the deterrent value.

To a very real degree, David Washington drew an unlucky number and died on Friday for the sins of murderers and criminals everywhere. And to the degree that his death slaked the public fear and anger, at least for the moment, his execution was not unlike a ritualistic warding off of evil spirits.

Death Row continues to be reserved for the poorest, the blackest, the least intelligent and the lowest caste among our offenders. For the purpose of serving the ritual, a David Washington will do just as well as, say, the Clearwater Methodist pastor who stabbed his wife and son to death, the Orange County commissioner who pumped five bullets into his wife, the Tampa psychiatrist who murdered his patient-lover, the Okeechobee millionaire who murdered her husband, the Nassau County businessman who buried his wife alive with a bulldozer or the former Palm Beach municipal judge who contracted for the deaths of a rival judge and his wife.

The ritual is vengeance, pure and simple. Just don't ever confuse it with justice.

florida

Supreme Court refuses to block executions set for Thursday

By JON PECK
United Press International

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court Tuesday refused to block two executions scheduled for Thursday, setting the stage for furious last-day legal battles in federal courts at opposite ends of the state.

In separate 6-0 rulings, the court cleared the way for what could be the nation's first double execution in 20 years.

The court Tuesday evening lifted a stay of execution issued earlier in the day for triple-murderer David Leroy Washington, who could become the second black executed in Florida since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

EARLIER, THE JUSTICES refused to grant a stay for Jimmy Lee Smith, convicted of killing a Marianna woman and her 12-year-old daughter in 1978.

Attorneys for both death row inmates said they will take their appeals to federal courts.

A hearing on Smith's mercy plea is scheduled for this morning before U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson in Pensacola, and Washington's lawyer said he expected to file a similar federal appeal in Miami.

Tuesday afternoon Washington, who confessed to killing three Dade County people over a nine-day span in 1976, canceled a final press conference at Florida

State Prison in Starke. Smith had refused all along to talk with reporters.

Six prisoners have been put to death in Florida's three-legged wooden electric chair since 1979, five of them since last Thanksgiving. None of the six has been executed while under his first death warrant.

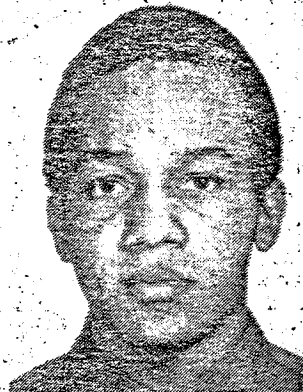
Washington, 34, is under his third warrant, while Smith, 30, is under his second.

Prison officials began preparations for the executions, which were scheduled for shortly after dawn Thursday. Gov. Bob Graham's death warrants expire at noon Friday.

If both executions are carried out, it would be the first time since the U.S. Supreme Court lifted its ban on capital punishment eight years ago that two prisoners have been executed within a 24-hour period in the same state.

Florida's last double execution occurred on May 12, 1964, the final time Florida administered its ultimate punishment before the high court ruling stopped executions for more than a dozen years.

Washington, one of eight children, was born in Trenton, N.J., but moved to Miami when he was 10. He has never denied killing Daniel Pridgen, Katrina Birk and Frank Meli during a rampage of robbery, kidnapping and killing Sept. 20-29, 1976.



WASHINGTON



JIMMIE LEE SMITH

St Petersburg Times
July 12, 1984

Georgian faces execution; 2 in Fla. get stays

Compiled from AP, UPI wires

A killer who buried his victim alive faced death in Georgia's electric chair a few minutes after midnight Wednesday, but two men scheduled to die in Florida today received temporary reprieves.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit in Atlanta granted a temporary stay to Jimmy Lee Smith at 6:25 p.m. EDT Wednesday, a little more than 12 hours before he was scheduled to die in the nation's first double execution in 19 years. The court scheduled a hearing for 9:30 this morning on Smith's case.

A few hours later, after the action in the Smith case, U.S. District Judge Eugene P. Spellman denied the petition of David L. Washington. But he granted a stay of execution for Washington until 6:59 a.m. EDT Friday to give appeals courts time to review his denial.

If the stays are lifted, Florida has until noon Friday to execute the men who killed a total of five people.

Here are details of the developments in both states:

In Georgia

Ivon Ray Stanley, a high school dropout with an IQ of 81, was to become the 21st man executed, and the second in Georgia, since the Supreme Court dropped its ban on the death penalty in 1976.

Please see EXECUTIONS, 4-A

Executions from 1-A

A three-judge panel of the 11th Circuit in Atlanta denied a stay of execution for Stanley Wednesday afternoon, and he was to be strapped into the electric chair at Jackson Diagnostic Center south of Atlanta shortly after midnight.

Stanley and another man, Joseph Edward Thomas, 28, were convicted of the robbery-murder of Clifford Floyd, a prominent Bainbridge, Ga., insurance man who was robbed, beaten, shot and buried alive in 1976.

Thomas is still on Georgia's death row.

Stanley admitted he was present when Floyd was killed, but said it was Thomas who committed the murder.

In Florida

Washington, 34, was to die in the electric chair at Florida State Prison near Starke at 7 a.m., and Smith, 30, was to have followed him a few minutes later. The death warrants for both men are in effect until noon Friday, so they could still be executed if their stays are lifted.

Florida has already executed six men since 1976, more than any other state.

Officials said Washington and Smith were in holding cells about 12 feet apart next to the death chamber. They could not see each other but could communicate if they wished. Apparently they had little to say to each other, according to prison spokesman Vernon Bradford.

Washington, one of eight children born to a Trenton, N.J. family, came to Miami when he was 10. He admitted killing three people in robberies over a 10-day period because he didn't have enough money to buy diapers for his newborn child.

Smith, convicted of killing a woman and her 12-year-old child in 1978, was abused while a child by his father, grandfather and stepfather, according to Gail Rowland of

the Florida Clearinghouse on Criminal Justice.

The last double executions in the United States came in 1965, when Kansas — which has since abolished the death penalty — carried out two double hangings, on April 4 and June 6. The men executed in April of that year were Perry E. Smith and Richard Eugene Hickock, the killers in Truman Capote's book *In Cold Blood*.

Since 1976, the only instance in which two inmates have been electrocuted on the same day occurred April 5, when Elmo Patrick Sonnier died in Louisiana for killing two teen-age sweethearts and Arthur Frederick Goode was executed in Florida for the sex slaying of a 9-year-old boy.

Journal hints politics plays role

A national publication says that although Florida has had more executions than any other state since 1976, Gov. Bob Graham is not as vigorous an enforcer of the death penalty as he is portrayed.

This week's issue of the *National Law Journal* says that while Graham can sign as many as 32 death warrants now, he is signing them either in pairs or individually.

"Gov. Bob Graham is committed to executing murderers. But not too many," the New York publication said.

The publication hinted that Graham's decisions on who should be executed are political.

"Death and politics are inextricably linked," the article says. While Graham wants to reap the political benefits of implementing the death penalty in a conservative state, he knows that a wave of executions could alienate voters, the publication reported.

Syd McKenzie, the governor's general counsel, refused to discuss the reasons Graham signs a particular warrant. But he emphasized that Graham's decision to sign a warrant is based on the merits of a case. Generally, the governor has said he signs warrants for prisoners who have been on death row the longest and have exhausted their legal appeals.

One execution set for today; 2nd is stayed

By JON PECK
United Press International



WASHINGTON

STARKE — An appeals court on Thursday denied a stay of execution for one of two killers facing the first double execution in 19 years, but granted the petition of the second death-row inmate.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta turned aside a last-minute plea from attorneys for David Leroy Washington, condemned for the slayings of three people. The panel refused to delay Washington's execution beyond 6:59 a.m. today, and state prison officials were preparing to execute him at 7 a.m.

Jimmy Lee Smith, 30, received a reprieve.

Attorneys for Washington argued that a prosecutor

unfairly suggested before sentencing that the lives of Washington's victims were worth more than his own.

But a three-judge panel of the court rejected that argument.

"WE CANNOT conclude that the remark to which exception is taken was likely to have had any effect upon the sentencing decision of the judge," the panel said.

Earlier in the day, the Atlanta appeals court agreed to a stay of execution for Smith to further consider his plea of ineffective counsel.

Florida authorities promptly asked the Supreme Court to throw out the stay, but the court refused to



SMITH

Please see EXECUTION, 12-A

Execution from 1-A

consider the request. Death warrants for the two men expire today at noon.

Earlier Thursday, Ivon Ray Stanley, 28, was executed at 12:15 a.m. EDT in the electric chair at Jackson, Ga., becoming the 21st man executed in the United States since the Supreme Court lowered its death penalty ban in 1976.

There has not been a double execution — two men executed in the same chamber on the same day — since 1965, when Kansas hanged two men at once on two different occasions. Florida has executed six men since 1976, more than any other state.

WHILE THE JUDGES pondered and the lawyers argued, Washington and Smith waited in isolated cells 50 feet from Florida's electric chair. Washington, who stabbed to death a homosexual preacher, an elderly woman and a college student in

Miami eight years ago, was visited by his family. And from her home in Central Florida, Smith's impoverished mother called collect every hour to the clearing house on criminal justice to find out the status of her son's appeal. Smith was convicted for the murder of a Marianna woman and her 12-year-old daughter in 1978.

State prison officials were preparing Thursday night to move Smith off death row. They did not expect further court action before his warrant expires at noon.

Washington, who received stays of two previous execution dates, said in an interview: "I think my life was just one big mistake. I had all the best breaks in life, all the right opportunities. Seemed like everything I touched, I destroyed. Family, wife, friends, everything. I just destroyed."

— St. Petersburg Staff Writer Laurie Hollman contributed to this report.

St. Petersburg Times
July 13, 1984

Before execution, man urged daughter 'to do better'

By LAURIE HOLLMAN
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

FLORIDA STATE PRISON — On the last night of his life, David Leroy Washington, who stabbed three people to death during a violent robbery spree eight years ago, gently settled his 12-year-old daughter on his lap.

"I want you to look at me," he said, cupping her chin in his hand, "and I want you to see where I am. I'm going to die here, and I want you to do better."

Less than eight hours later, David Leroy Washington was dead, the seventh man — and second black man — to die in Florida's electric chair since the death penalty was reinstated in 1972.

Washington entered the death chamber shortly after sunrise Friday. He appeared calm and even smiled faintly as he was strapped into the electric chair, the same chair Florida has used for the last 60



David Leroy Washington, left, apologized to the families of his three victims:

'... I'm sorry for all the grief and heartache I have brought to them. If my death brings them any satisfaction, so be it.'

years. Prison Superintendent Richard Dugger asked him if he had anything to say, and Washington said yes.

The 34-year-old convict then urged his fellow death-row inmates to fight their executions. And he apologized to the families of his three victims.

"... I'm sorry for all the grief and heartache I have brought to them," he

said. "If my death brings them any satisfaction, so be it."

WHEN HE WAS finished, a black mask was pulled over his face, a switch was thrown and 2,000 volts surged through his body. His hands clenched and then relaxed. He was pronounced dead at 7:09 a.m.

In a furrowed cow pasture near the prison, about 40 people, some opposed to capital punishment and others friends of the dead man, chanted, *We Shall Overcome*, while a handful of death-penalty supporters across the field looked at the execution chamber in silent approbation.

This was to have been a double execution, Florida's first in 20 years. Washington was scheduled to die first followed shortly afterward by Jimmy Lee Smith, convicted of murdering a Marianna woman and her 12-year-old daughter after the woman said unkind things about his girlfriend.

Thursday night, however, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court's ruling that delayed Smith's execution. The 30-year-old Smith was taken out of his isolation cell 50 steps from the electric chair and moved to a death-row cell farther from the execution chamber.

Please see EXECUTION, 5-A

St. Petersburg Times
July 14, 1984



Death-penalty protester stands with head bowed Friday after execution of David Washington.

Execution from 1-A

SMITH'S DEATH warrant expired at noon Friday, so Gov. Bob Graham will have to sign a new one for him to be executed legally. His lawyers argue that a psychiatric report on Smith was withheld by the state and that their client should get a hearing to see if admission of the report into evidence could alter his death sentence.

Washington wasn't so lucky. First the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta and then the U.S. Supreme Court refused to delay his execution beyond 6:59 a.m. Friday.

So Thursday night, he met with his mother, his daughter, a minister and other family members and friends. Then, at 4:30 a.m., he ate his last meal — fried shrimp, fried oysters, french fries with lots of catsup, hot rolls, lemonade and a half-pint of vanilla ice cream. He polished off most of the food, joking with the guards about his appetite.

After breakfast, prison officials prepared Washington for electrocution. They shaved his head and right leg and gave him his execution attire,

a white shirt and dark-blue pants.

Meanwhile, in the dim, moist fields across the street from the prison, people opposed to his death began to gather. Some were members of the Jacksonville Citizens Against the Death Penalty. Others were attorneys who had worked on Washington's appeal. One said she had a boyfriend on death row.

SEVERAL ASSAILED GOV.

Graham for his resolute enforcement of the death penalty in Florida. One of the most vocal was an elderly man who said he was here with his wife "for the governor's party."

A reporter pressed them to say more, and the woman asked her husband, "You going to tell them?"

"No. Eh, you can tell them," he said. "My son was executed here a few months ago . . . That's right, Goode. Arthur Goode." (Goode, a child molester and child killer, died in the electric chair April 5.)

Graham, who has received increased national attention as well as criticism from human-rights groups for his death-penalty policy, issued a statement about Washington's execution. It read in part, "This process

has assured that the constitutional rights of the accused were fully protected. The execution of the sentence assures that the rights of the people of Florida are afforded similar protection."

As the sun began to rise, people who agree with Graham about the death penalty collected a field apart from their ideological counterparts and chatted quietly among themselves. One member of the group, Burdett Greene of Starke, said he supports capital punishment because "they've got to stop something somewhere."

Washington received a death sentence because he killed a homosexual preacher, an elderly woman and a 20-year-old college student during a 12-day rampage in Miami in 1976. Rev. Daniel Pridgen, a 69-year-old homosexual, was stabbed seven times with a hunting knife. Katherina Birk, 64, was shot and stabbed nine times. Frank Meli, who was studying to be a tax lawyer, was abducted and then stabbed 11 times while he begged for his life.

WHY WASHINGTON killed, his friends waiting outside the prison

Friday morning couldn't say, although they repeatedly noted that he felt great remorse for his crimes. He pleaded guilty to three charges of first-degree murder, later telling a judge, "I didn't have any right to take these people's lives."

Washington originally sought death rather than a life in prison. But he subsequently appealed his sentence, claiming he was poorly represented by legal counsel. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected that argument in May, and Washington then contended that comments made by a prosecutor during sentencing were improper. Federal judges dismissed that argument as well but not before Washington was granted an extra 24 hours to live. Both he and Smith were originally scheduled to go to the electric chair Thursday.

Forty people, including reporters and official state witnesses, watched Washington die. After two doctors checked his lifeless body, Corrections Sgt. Don Gladdish signalled that the execution was over. "The sentence of the state of Florida against David Washington has been carried out," he said. "Please exit to the rear."

Killer's death sentence to be reviewed

By AL MESSERSCHMIDT
Herald Staff Writer

David Leroy Washington, a convicted triple murderer who was scheduled to die in Florida's electric chair Thursday, should receive a new sentencing hearing, Circuit Judge Herbert Klein ruled Tuesday.

He stayed Washington's execution in an order telephoned to the Florida Supreme Court at 7 p. m. Monday, and formally completed Tuesday.

The Florida Supreme Court scheduled a hearing for late Tuesday to review Klein's decision.

Washington pleaded guilty to three first-degree murder charges in 1976. "I didn't have any right to take these people's lives," Washington told Circuit

Judge Richard Fuller. "I don't lie. I believe in God, and I don't want to leave this world with this on my conscience."

Washington, who was 26, told Fuller that he preferred a death sentence to rotting in jail.

The savagery of Washington's eight-day, three-murder spree in Miami brought State Attorney Richard Gerstein to Washington's Dec. 7, 1976 sentencing hearing in Fuller's court.

Gerstein took over for prosecutor Hank Adorno, who prepared the case for trial, and argued that death was "the only sentence that was appropriate" for Washington.

Paraphrasing from Washington's confession, Gerstein described how Washington hated the Rev. Daniel Pridgen, a

homosexual; how Washington planned a robbery at the home of Katherina Birk; and how Washington abducted college student Frank Meli after answering a newspaper ad for Meli's car.

Pridgen was stabbed seven times with a hunting knife in his bed; Birk was shot and stabbed nine times; Meli was tied to a bed and stabbed 11 times while begging for his life.

Gerstein told Fuller that he was "specially moved" by the murder of Meli. The state attorney described Meli as a "young student, some 20 years of age, who was working his way through college while holding down two jobs . . . who had been left without a father because his father was killed in the service of his country overseas."

In reviewing the three death sentences that Fuller ordered for Washington, Klein said that Gerstein's comments about Meli were improper.

Klein said that in 1983 (seven years after Washington was sentenced), the U. S. Supreme Court set a standard for sentencing defendants in death cases. That ruling requires an "individualized determination on the basis of the character of the individual and the circumstances of the crime" not on the basis of the crime victim's social worth.

Commenting about the the victim, Meli, was "fundamental error," said Klein.

Although Washington asked Fuller for a death sentence, he vigorously has fought against his execution.

His appeals seemingly ended in May when the U. S. Supreme Court sustained his conviction and rejected an argument that his court-appointed attorney, William Tunkey, failed to present mitigating character evidence to Fuller at the 1976 sentencing hearing.

In mid-June, Gov. Bob Graham signed Washington's death warrant.

Washington's latest appeal claimed that his death sentence was both arbitrary and discriminatory and that Gerstein's comments were improper. Klein ruled last week that the arguments were new and that he would review the death sentence.

After a hearing Friday and Saturday, Klein stayed Washington's execution, but refused to order a new sentencing hearing.

Double execution is scheduled in Florida

By BILL LUENING

And LIZ BALMASEDA

Herald Staff Writers

STARKE — Barring a last second legal victory by their attorneys, David Leroy Washington and Jimmy Lee Smith will die this morning in Florida's electric chair — the first double execution in the country since 1965.

Washington, former choir boy, high school drummer and confessed triple murderer whose 1976 violent rampage over 12 days shocked Dade County, is scheduled to die first. He will enter the gray death chamber in Wing Q at Florida State Prison at 7 a.m.

As soon as Washington's lifeless form is removed, Smith will be led in. Smith, 30, was convicted of murdering a mother and her 12-year-old daughter in May 1978 near Marianna in North Florida.

Both men are expected to be dead by 7:45 a.m., according to Florida Department of Corrections spokesman Vernon Bradford.

Each will go through the same ritual. Washington planned to see a series of attorneys, ministers and family members during the night. Smith was hoping his mother

would visit him.

At 4:30 a.m. they will get their last meal. Washington selected fried shrimp and oysters, french fries, lemonade and vanilla ice cream. Smith ordered

filet mignon, medium rare, along with chocolate milk, tossed salad and grapefruit juice.

After breakfast each will have his head and right leg shaved. Their scalps then will be covered

with a saline-based petroleum jelly. Each will be dressed in traditional death garb bought for the occasion: crisp white shirt,

Please turn to PAIR / 22A

Miami Herald
July 12, 1984

2 killers are scheduled to die in Florida today

PAIR / from 1A

dark blue pants, white socks. Shoes and a matching blue jacket will accompany their corpses to the funeral home.

Once they are in the death chamber, 30 witnesses and at least five prison staff members will watch them being strapped into the 60-year-old oaken chair. Straps go across each arm and leg; one crosses the chest. Before the leather chin strap and metal "cap" is affixed, each will be allowed a final statement.

On Wednesday, the mother of a young man murdered by Washington was angered by the last-minute appeals.

"I absolutely believe Washington should get the death penalty. I feel very strongly, very strongly, that the death penalty should be executed tomorrow," said Dolores Meli Lo Proto, mother of Frank Meli, a 20-year-old University of Miami accounting student killed by Washington in 1976.

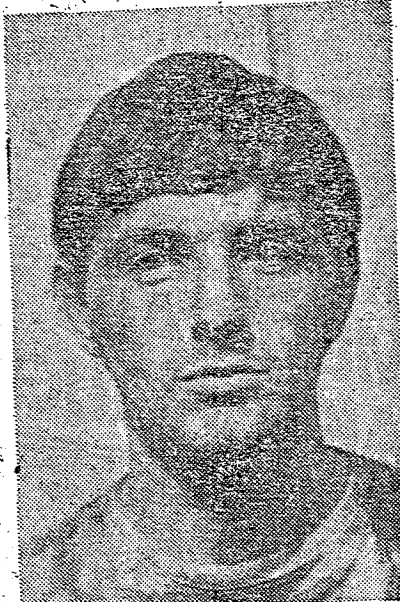
In the first statement she has given since her son's death, Meli Lo Proto said Wednesday: "My son was tied up for two days, stabbed 11 times in the chest. That, to me, was cold blooded murder. I pay taxes here in Dade County and I'm supporting Washington. My son is dead. My son would have been an attorney today."

Frank Meli was her youngest son, an honor student who planned to become a tax attorney. He had put an ad in the paper to sell his car. Washington called him and said he was interested.

Meli was kidnapped on Sept. 29, 1976 and was killed two days later. The University of Miami granted him a posthumous diploma, magna cum laude.

"I live with this every night," the mother said. "I lay in bed, thinking about my son begging to be set free. It hurts. How can anyone think he didn't kill my boy?"

If they die today, Washington and Smith will be Florida's first double execution since Emmett C. Blake, a white man from Bay County, and Sie Dawson, a black



Jimmy Smith: Killed woman, child.

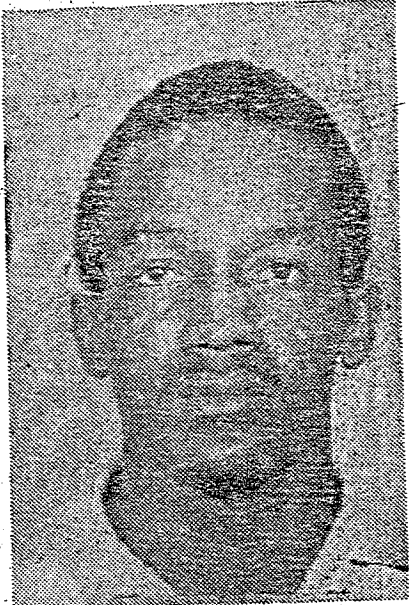
man from Gaston County, were executed on May 12, 1964.

Multiple executions have not been unusual in Florida history. There have been 22 since the electric chair was introduced in 1924, as well as nine triple electrocutions — and three times when four men died in a single day.

Smith and Washington will be the seventh and eighth men to die by state edict in Florida since the resumption of the death penalty in 1976. They will also be the sixth and seventh to die during the term of Gov. Bob Graham.

The Florida Supreme Court on Tuesday denied last ditch efforts by their attorneys to commute the sentences for rehearings. The high court denied both appeals 6-0. Smith's attorneys lost their final effort Wednesday during a hearing before U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson in Pensacola. A last minute request from Washington's attorney to block the execution was denied by a federal judge in Miami.

The current death warrant is



David L. Washington: Rampage in Dade.

Washington's third. In 1976, after he pleaded guilty to the triple murder, Washington told Dade Circuit Judge Richard Fuller: "I don't want to die — you know what I mean? But if I sit up in some jail and rot, I'd rather be killed."

Washington later appealed his sentence, first on grounds he was poorly represented by legal counsel and most recently, because statements made by prosecutors during sentencing were improper.

Smith took his victims to a wooded roadside in Marianna, and strangled Bonnie Ward her 12-year-old daughter, Donna Strickland. His attorney, Sara Bleakley, argued this week that a psychiatric report on her client from a reform school near Marianna had been withheld by the state and that Smith should have a hearing to see if the report could dissolve the death sentence.

On Tuesday, the Florida Supreme Court, 6-0, rejected both pleas, and Graham's death warrant, which expires at noon Friday, was kept in effect.

Killer of 3 goes to electric chair; Supreme Court affirms Smith's stay

EXECUTE / from 1A

the crimes, and during sentencing in December 1976 he told Dade Circuit Judge Richard Fuller he preferred death to life in prison.

Friday, in the macabre death ritual held in Q Wing at Florida State Prison here, his request was fulfilled.

Witnesses to the execution said Washington was composed, unemotional and showed no fear as he was led into the death chamber and strapped into the 60-year-old oaken chair.

Reading from notes taken during the execution, radio journalist Mark Davis of Jacksonville, one of 12 newsmen who witnessed the event, gave this account of Washington's last moments.

Washington arrived at the death chamber at 6:59 a.m. accompanied by eight men: Prison superintendent Richard Dugger, two electricians, three prison officials, a doctor and his assistant.

His head had been shaved, and glistened with an ointment spread on to enhance electrical contact with the skull. He wore blue pants, white shirt and white socks.

He was strapped into the chair. One leather strap went around each leg and arm. Large straps

went around his waist and chest.

Once secured, Washington was asked by Dugger if he wanted to make a statement. He nodded, and in a clear, unhurried voice expressed remorse over the agony he caused his victims and their families. Then he exhorted his fellow inmates to continue to struggle against the death penalty.

"I would like to say to the families of all my victims, I'm sorry for all the grief and heartache I have brought to them. If my death brings them satisfaction, so be it.

"I'd like to say to all the guys on Death Row, don't bow to a defeat without a fight." Then he paused.

"I'm kind of nervous," he said, finally. "That's all."

His statement lasted less than 25 seconds.

The men fastened a leather chin strap tight beneath his jaw. Washington tried a small smile at someone he recognized in the front row of witnesses.

"He was completely a cool character," Davis said.

Aides put the death cap on him and dropped a black veil over his face.

Dugger, meanwhile, had walked around the chair to one of two telephones in the room. On the other end, Gov. Bob Graham in

Tallahassee verified that there had been no further stays of execution. Washington had already had two postponements.

"God bless us all," Graham said. Dugger handed the phone to Sgt. Don Gladdish, who kept the line open. It was 7:03 a.m.

Behind a slit in the death chamber's gray brick walls, the executioner waited. He wore a black hood. Dugger looked at him and nodded.

There was a barely perceptible "thunk," Davis said, and Washington's body went rigid, his hands curled into fists. Davis could see perspiration dripping from beneath the veil, but that was all.

A minute and 25 seconds later, there was a second "thunk" and the power was off.

Medical assistant William Mathew felt for Washington's pulse and then listened for a heartbeat. He motioned to Dr. Cahn Bien Nguyen, who also checked the pulse and heartbeat.

At 7:09, ten minutes after he had arrived in the death chamber, Washington was pronounced dead. Dugger picked up the phone and told Graham the sentence had been carried out.

Washington was the fifth man to die in Florida's electric chair this year, and the seventh since

1979, more executions than any state for that time period.

"The final sentence in this case was carried out after exhaustive judicial analysis and review," Graham said in a prepared statement in Tallahassee.

"I and other members of the Board of Executive Clemency reviewed the case and found no basis for commutation of the sentence."

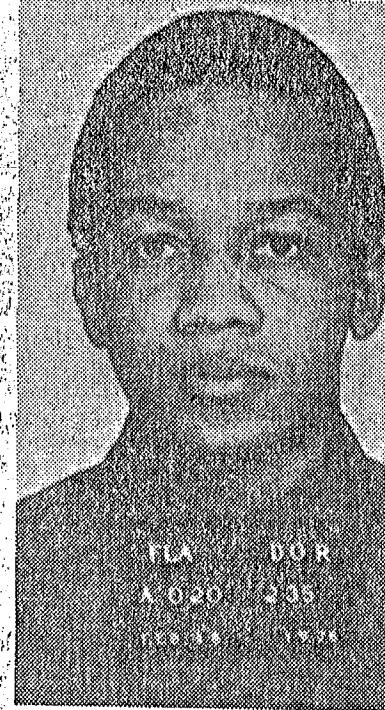
"The difference between David Washington and the governor," said anti-death penalty advocate and attorney Susan Cary after the execution, "is that David was sorry for killing someone."

As the 24 witnesses filed out of the prison, UPI reporter and witness Ken Soo waved a handkerchief to colleagues waiting in two pastures nearly 500 yards away.

One of the pastures had been designated by prison officials for those opposed to the death penalty. The other was reserved for those in favor of it. More than 20 showed up to protest the execution. Five — four men and one woman — showed up to signal their approval.

The protesters carried signs. "Executions Equal Pre-Meditated Murder," read one.

"Florida Death State," read an-



David Leroy Washington: Sorry for victims' families.

other.

As Soo's handkerchief began to flutter, those opposed to the act began to sing *We Shall Overcome*.

The song floated eerily over the dew-wet fields and bright sun of a Chamber of Commerce perfect morning.

But as the song floated toward the squat ugliness of the prison, a grim-faced Floyd Cone Sr. stared across the meadows and remembered his son.

On April 11, 1981, Floyd Jr., 32, was shot to death in Baldwin, a small town near Jacksonville, by Edward Dean Kennedy, who now, the father said, is on Death Row.

"When you've got a person sick like this in our society you've got to remove him," Cone said quietly, in a gravelly baritone.

"I get no satisfaction in seeing a person die, but I feel it might be a deterrent."

On the other side of the fence, protesters wept over Washington's passing.

"The governor should be in the Guinness Book of World Records," said Arthur Goode Sr. of Fort Myers. "He's killed more people than anyone."

Goode and his wife Mildred have come to each execution since their son, Arthur Goode Jr., was executed for murder April 6, 1984.

"It's murder," Goode said. "The longing never dies," Cone said, his hands jammed deep into pockets.

"The emptiness that comes into your life is never filled."

Suddenly, from a loudspeaker inside the prison a voice shouted: "Chow time! Chow time! Stand by your bunks."

Both the Cones and the Goodes walked slowly toward their cars.

Repentant killer of three goes to electric chair

By BILL LUENING
Herald Staff Writer

David Leroy Washington, repentant and calm, died in Florida's electric chair Friday morning — seven years, nine months and 10 days after he murdered the first of three victims in Dade County.

Another murderer scheduled to die Friday, however, had a last-minute stay affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, and was moved back to Death Row from the special cell where he was awaiting execution. Jimmie Lee Smith, who killed a mother and her daughter

near Marianna in Gadsden County in 1979, learned of the decision just 11 hours before he was to follow Washington to the chair.

For Washington, it was the last act in a saga that began in September 1976 when he stabbed to death Daniel Pridgen, then three days later stabbed and shot to death Kathrina Birk, 64, and then, on Sept. 29, abducted and stabbed to death University of Miami student Frank Mell.

Washington pleaded guilty to
Please turn to EXECUTE / 26A

Girl weeps, watches dad taken off to die

By BILL LUENING
Herald Staff Writer

STARKE — The condemned murderer met his family and friends for the final time late Thursday night.

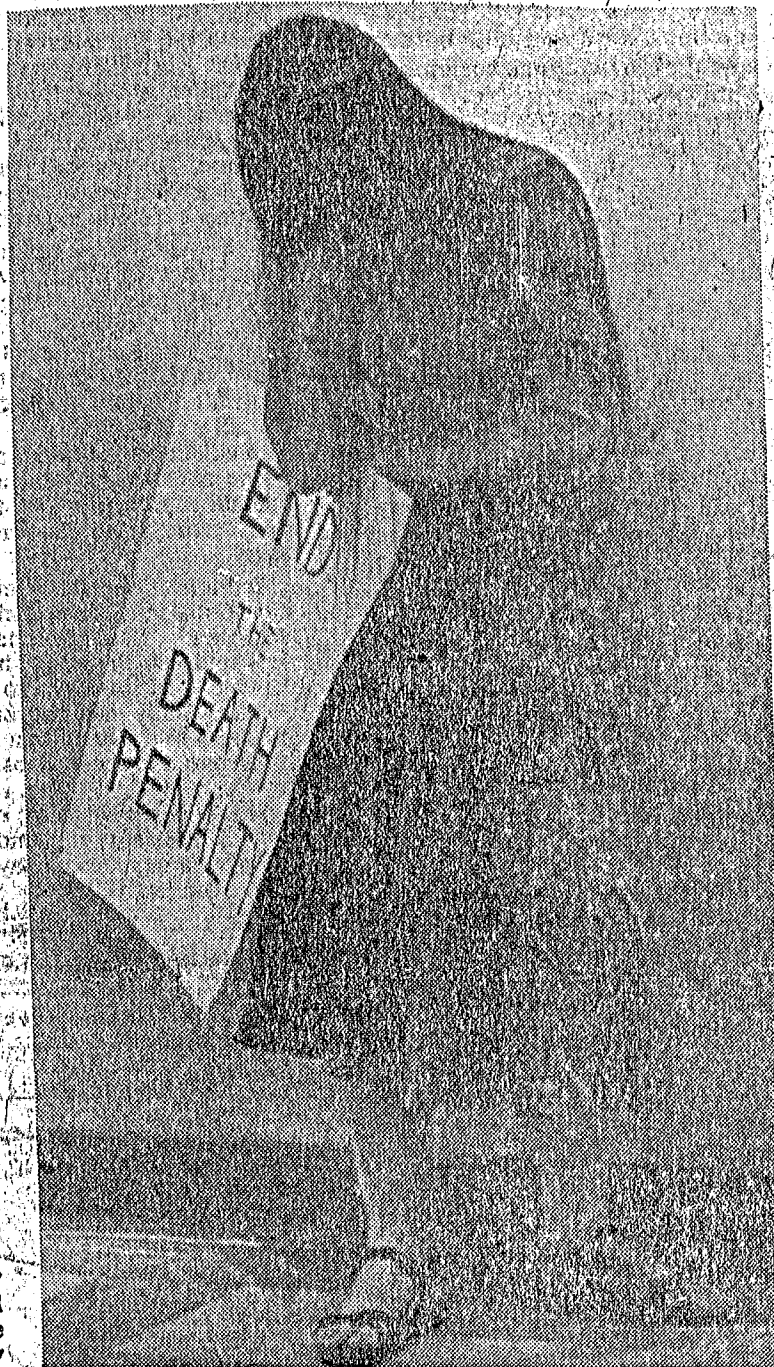
Thirteen people came to say good-bye to David Leroy Washington through the plate glass restraining window in the grim room for visitors in Q Wing, the site of Death Row.

Among them was his mother, Julia Taylor Lane of Blountstown, his stepfather, his brother, his sister and others. Washington's

wife did not come. There was a minister, Joe Ingle of the United Church of Christ in Nashville, Gainesville lawyer Susan Cary and Margaret Vandiver, all three anti-death penalty activists and friends. And there was Florence, Washington's 12-year-old daughter.

From 8 p.m. to midnight, they talked over microphones and through the glass in the orange and yellow Maximum Security Visiting Park. It was hard to hear

Please turn to FINAL / 26A



United Press International
Anti-death penalty demonstrator stands alone in Capital rotunda.

Marianna Herald
July 12, 1982

Girl weeps as father walks off to the chair

FINAL / from 1A

what Washington said, Ingle recalled. At midnight, all but Ingle, Cary, his mother, Julia and Florence bade him farewell.

Those four stayed for another hour in a "contact visit" during which they were allowed in the same room, to speak and touch. "It was a painful and difficult scene," said Ingle.

"He didn't cry," said Cary. "He's really cried out. But I think he'd let go of everything he needed to let go of: the self-loathing, the

guilt over the horrible things he did."

"I think he accepted that he would be forgiven," Ingle said. "And he finally forgave himself."

Washington's mother wept, out of control. Washington had to calm her. "You, crying of all people," he said. "I always thought you were the strongest one."

Most difficult though, Ingle said, was watching the final meeting between father and daughter. Florence wore blue jeans and a lace cotton blouse. She had wanted to look her prettiest and didn't

want to put on her glasses. Her father insisted.

Washington, his hands manacled, was able to reach above the sobbing girl's head and drop his arms around her in an embrace. He sat down in a flat-backed chair and hoisted her onto his lap. It was the final lecture. Admonitions. A prayer of hope.

"It's my own fault I got here," he told her. "I'm the one who got me here. I want you to make something of your life. I want you to hit the books. Mind Momma [his mother, Julia]."

He extracted the promise. He

made her repeat it. "I'm gonna mind Momma," she said, sobbing, clutching her father. "I'm going to love everybody."

Then the men came, and he put the girl down. He told everyone goodbye. "Florence just stood there and watched them as they led her daddy down the hall to die," Ingle said, his eyes brimming.

As Ingle watched Washington disappear down the corridor, he heard the mother say some of the few words she could manage. "My oldest. You're my oldest," she said. "At least now you're free."

Three brutal murders committed in 8 days

By R.A. ZALDIVAR
Herald Staff Writer

David Leroy Washington killed three people in eight days during the fall of 1976. Two were elderly, the third was a student at the University of Miami.

Washington selected his victims at random, plunging them from the routine of ordinary lives into sudden, fatal terror. Of his victims, two died quickly. The third was stabbed 11 times.

Washington took the little cash they had, and stole cars that two of them owned.

The Rev. Daniel Pridgen worked at a laundromat in Liberty City. It was there he befriended Washington on Sept. 18.

Two days later, Pridgen, 69, was visited at his home by Washington. The young man turned on the older one, stabbing him in the chest with a hunting knife.

Kathrina Birk, 64, was known in her North Dade neighborhood as a lady who liked to hold garage

sales. On Sept. 23, she was at home with her three sisters-in-law from Indiana watching Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford debate on television.

Unknown to the sisters, they in turn were being watched by David Leroy Washington. As the candidates droned on, Washington tore the screen door with a knife.

He ordered the women to lie on the floor. From Birk, he took \$8 and change. He tied and gagged the women. Birk, who had known Washington for two years, shook her gag loose. He stabbed her in the chest and shot her once in the head. As she was dying, he shot and stabbed the other three.

Frank Meli, 20, was an accounting major at the University of Miami. When he drove his red Camaro to the North Side Shopping Center on Sept. 27, he thought he was going to meet a man who wanted to buy the car.

Instead, he was met by David

Leroy Washington and two accomplices. They kidnapped Meli and made a ransom call to his family, though police later concluded that the men meant to kill Meli from the start.

Three days after his abduction, Meli was killed. Tied spread-ea-

gled to a bed, he was stabbed 11 times in the chest. The wounds were parallel to each other.

In confessing to the murder, Washington said he had placed a pillow over Meli's head to muffle the sound of the Lord's Prayer, which Meli kept repeating.

Way cleared for double execution

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's Supreme Court cleared the way yesterday for the nation's first double state execution since capital punishment was restored eight years ago. Two killers are set to die tomorrow.

The state's highest court rejected 6-0 the mercy appeal of Jimmy L. Smith and, two hours later, dissolved a stay of execution for David L. Washington by the same vote.

The court also overruled a circuit judge who had thrown out Washing-

ton's three death sentences Monday night.

Both men are scheduled to die at 7 a.m. tomorrow at Florida State Prison near Starke, where six other men have been electrocuted since 1979. Prison officials have not said who would be the first to be strapped into the electric chair.

Gov. Bob Graham's June 15 warrants remain in force until noon Friday.

Smith's attorneys will get another chance to win a reprieve for their cli-

ent during a hearing today before U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson in Pensacola, while Washington's attorneys said they will ask a federal judge in Miami to block the execution.

Washington, 34, is under his third death warrant for the September 1976 murders of three people in Miami.

State prosecutors said Washington's new lawyers were simply arguing legal issues that had been litigated in other courts.

The prisoner's public defenders in-

sisted the arguments were new and raised constitutional questions that merited a reprieve.

But the Supreme Court disagreed.

Smith, 30, is under his second death warrant for the May 1, 1978, stabbing-strangulation of Bonnie Ward and her 12-year-old daughter, Donna Strickland. They were killed near Marianna.

Sara Bleakley, Smith's volunteer lawyer, argued that a psychiatric report on her client from a reform school near Marianna had been with-

held by the state and that she should have a full-blown hearing to determine if the report could help Smith's case.

But the justices' three-page opinion in Smith's case appeared to follow the arguments presented by Assistant State Attorney Ray Marky, who said defense lawyers had ample time during Smith's nearly six years on Death Row to raise all appeal issues.

If electrocuted, Smith and Wash-

(See STAGE, Page B-2)

Stage set for double execution tomorrow

(From Page B-1)

ington would be the 21st and 22nd prisoners to be executed since the U.S. Supreme Court restored capital punishment in 1976. No state has executed two men in one day since then. Florida has executed a nationwide high of six men since the landmark ruling.

The last double execution in Florida occurred in May 1964.

Washington had won a reprieve on

Saturday and again on Monday from Circuit Judge Herbert Klein of Miami. Klein also threw out the prisoner's death sentences, saying he found statements made by the prosecutor during Washington's 1976 sentencing improper.

Richard Burr, Washington's public defender, had convinced Klein that the prosecutor had no right to argue his client should receive the death penalty, in part, because he had killed a college student who aspired to be a

tax lawyer.

Burr said to compare the worth of a defendant's life to that of his victim has been ruled improper by federal courts.

Smith's initial mercy plea was rejected Monday by Circuit Judge Robert McCrary of Marianna, who at the end of the hearing declared: "I'll do all I can to see that he [Smith] gets killed before I die."

McCrary is the judge who sent Smith to Death Row six years ago.

Times Union
July 11, 1984

Times Union
July 12, 1984

Florida inmates win stays of execution

Associated Press

STARKE — Federal judges granted temporary reprieves yesterday to a pair of killers who were to die this morning, but Florida still had until noon tomorrow to execute the men who killed a total of five people.

U.S. District Judge Eugene P. Spellman denied the petition of mass murderer David L. Washington of Miami but granted a stay until 6:59 a.m. tomorrow to give appeals courts time to review his denial.

Jimmy Lee Smith, who killed two people near Marianna, won a delay earlier from the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals less than 12 hours before he was to die in Florida's electric chair.

Both men originally asked to be executed but have since mounted intense appeals to avoid execution.

Meanwhile, in Atlanta a federal appeals court refused last night to block the execution of Georgia Death Row inmate Ivon R. Stanley, who was scheduled to die just after midnight.

A three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in a two-page order that Stanley's petition raised arguments that had already been denied in an earlier appeal. In the latest plea, his lawyers contended that the death penalty in Georgia has been applied in a racially discriminatory manner.

The judges said they found "relief can be granted only if the ends of justice require it; we conclude that the ends of justice do not warrant relief."

Georgia Attorney General Mike Bowers said he understood Stanley's lawyers were taking the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.



Ivon R. Stanley
Appeals to Supreme Court

In Florida, U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson of Pensacola, citing Smith's "death wishes," denied his request for a stay after a nearly four-hour hearing.

Attorneys immediately appealed to the 11th Circuit in Atlanta. Although that court granted a stay, it also set a hearing for this morning to listen to arguments.

Death warrants that Gov. Bob Graham signed on the killers are good through noon tomorrow.

Vinson, ruling in Smith's case, said he initially thought the killer should get a stay for an evidence-gathering

(See FLORIDA, Page A-14)

Florida inmates win reprieves; Georgia killer's appeal denied

(From Page A-1)

hearing on alleged ineffective counsel by his trial lawyer.

But after questioning Smith's current lawyers and reading the trial record the judge concluded that the original defense attorney could not have changed the outcome of the trial because of Smith's death wish.

Washington's attorneys have claimed a prosecutor at his 1976 trial in Miami made improper statements comparing the worth of the life of one of three victims to that of Washington's.

But the state Supreme Court said that was no reason to grant a reprieve, and overruled a circuit judge who on Monday had blocked Washington's execution on that basis.

Washington, 34, is under his third warrant for a 10-day robbery-abduction rampage in which prosecutors said he killed University of Miami student Frank Meli, elderly Miami resident Katrina Birk and minister Daniel Pridgen.

The nation's last double execution in a state occurred June 22, 1965, when Kansas executed George R. York, 22, and James D. Lantham, for one of seven murders that they had bragged they committed. On April 5, Florida and Louisiana each executed a killer.

Florida's last double execution was May 12, 1964, when it put convicted killers Emmett Blake and Sie Dawson to death. The state has executed more than one man on the same day 22 times since it began electrocuting prisoners in 1924, Bradford said.

July 1st 1984

Metro/State

Time ran out on third try to avoid death

By Frank LoMonte
Staff writer

STARKE — Twelve-year-old Florence Washington sat on her father's lap and said a last tearful goodbye just after 1 a.m. yesterday.

Six hours later, her father, David Leroy Washington, was strapped into the electric chair at Florida State Prison and executed for the murder of three Dade County residents during a nine-day killing spree.

"I want you to look at me. I'm the one who got me here. I want you to do better," Rev. Joe Ingle of Nashville, Tenn., quoted the prisoner as saying during the visit.

Washington, who was pronounced dead at 7:09 a.m., was the fifth man to die in Florida's electric chair this year and the seventh to be executed in the state since Florida resumed enforcement of the death penalty in 1979.

Death Row inmate Jimmie Lee Smith, who was convicted of murdering two Marianna women in 1978, also was scheduled to be executed yesterday morning. But Smith won a stay from the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta on Thursday, which was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Washington had survived two other death warrants, one in March 1981, and the other a month later. He and Smith were scheduled to be executed Thursday morning, but they won a temporary stay when the Atlanta appeals court decided Wednesday to postpone the executions for 24 hours.

But Washington's luck — and his appeals — finally ran out Thursday. After hearing oral arguments from Washington's lawyers, the federal appeals court vacated the stay and the U.S. Supreme Court upheld that decision Thursday night.

The 34-year-old Miami native never denied killing University of Miami student Franc Meli, 20, Miami resident Katrina Birk, 64, and minister Daniel Pridgen, 69, and has expressed remorse for his crimes. One anti-death penalty protester standing outside the prison read an excerpt from an interview Washington gave several years ago in which he said he was sorry for his misdeeds.

"I don't care about my life. I feel like I owe society something," Washington told author Doug McGee as quoted in McGee's 1980 book *Slow*

Coming Dark.

Those who visited with Washington hours before his death say the condemned man was more concerned about the grief he had caused his own family and the relatives of his victims than about his own impending death.

"He was able to forgive himself because he felt he was forgiven. And I think that's beautiful," Ingle said.

In Miami, Meli's mother, Dolores Meli Lo Proto, said she didn't believe Washington's earlier apologies in court for the crimes.

"Why didn't he think of that when he was stabbing Frankie in the chest?" she said. "Why didn't he feel bad when Frankie was saying the 'Our Father?'"

"My son was tied up for two days, stabbed 11 times in the chest," she said. "That, to me, was cold-blooded murder."

Washington was served a last meal of fried shrimp and oysters, french fries, lemonade, a half-pint of vanilla ice cream, hot rolls and catsup, said prison spokesman Vernon Bradford.

Ingle said Washington faced the prospect of death calmly, trying to reassure his family that their lives could go on after his death. Witnesses to the execution said Washington was calm and unemotional, even flashing a grin at the witnesses and chatting with the guards who were binding him into the chair.

Moments before the switch was thrown, Washington used his final statement to apologize to the families of the people he murdered.

"I would like to say to the families of all my victims I am sorry for all the grief and heartache I have brought to them," Washington said. "If my death brings them any satisfaction, so be it."

"I'd like to say to all the guys on Death Row, don't bow to defeat without a fight," he continued, stumbling over a few words and then correcting himself. "I'm kind of nervous. That's all."

With that, a metal restraint was clamped around his jaw and a black leather hood was fastened over his head to hide his face from the 40 official witnesses.

After checking to make sure there were no last-minute stays, Prison Superintendent Richard Dugger nodded

(See WASHINGTON, Page A-5)

Washington accepted end quietly

(From Page A-3)

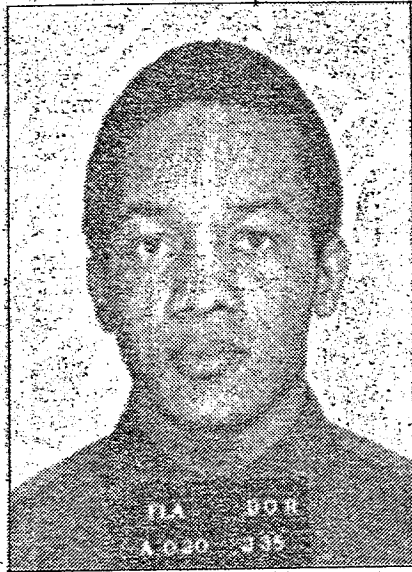
silently to the hooded executioner. With a dull thunk, the lever was thrown and 2,000 volts of electric current cycled through Washington's body.

Witness Mike Davis, news director for Jacksonville's WOKV and WAIV radio stations, said Washington's fists clenched tightly as soon as the current surged into him and droplets of perspiration beaded on his body. Davis said there was no smoke, as there had been with several previous executions.

One and one-half minutes after the switch was engaged, the current was shut off. Prison physician Dr. Cahn Nguyen examined Washington's wrists and chest for signs of life and, finding none, signaled to Dugger that Washington was dead.

Washington's body was taken to Alachua General Hospital in Gainesville for a routine autopsy, after which he will be cremated.

Washington's execution made him the second black in Florida and the 22nd inmate nationwide to be put to



David Leroy Washington
Apologized to families

death since the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976.

Gov. Bob Graham, who signed the three black-bordered death warrants

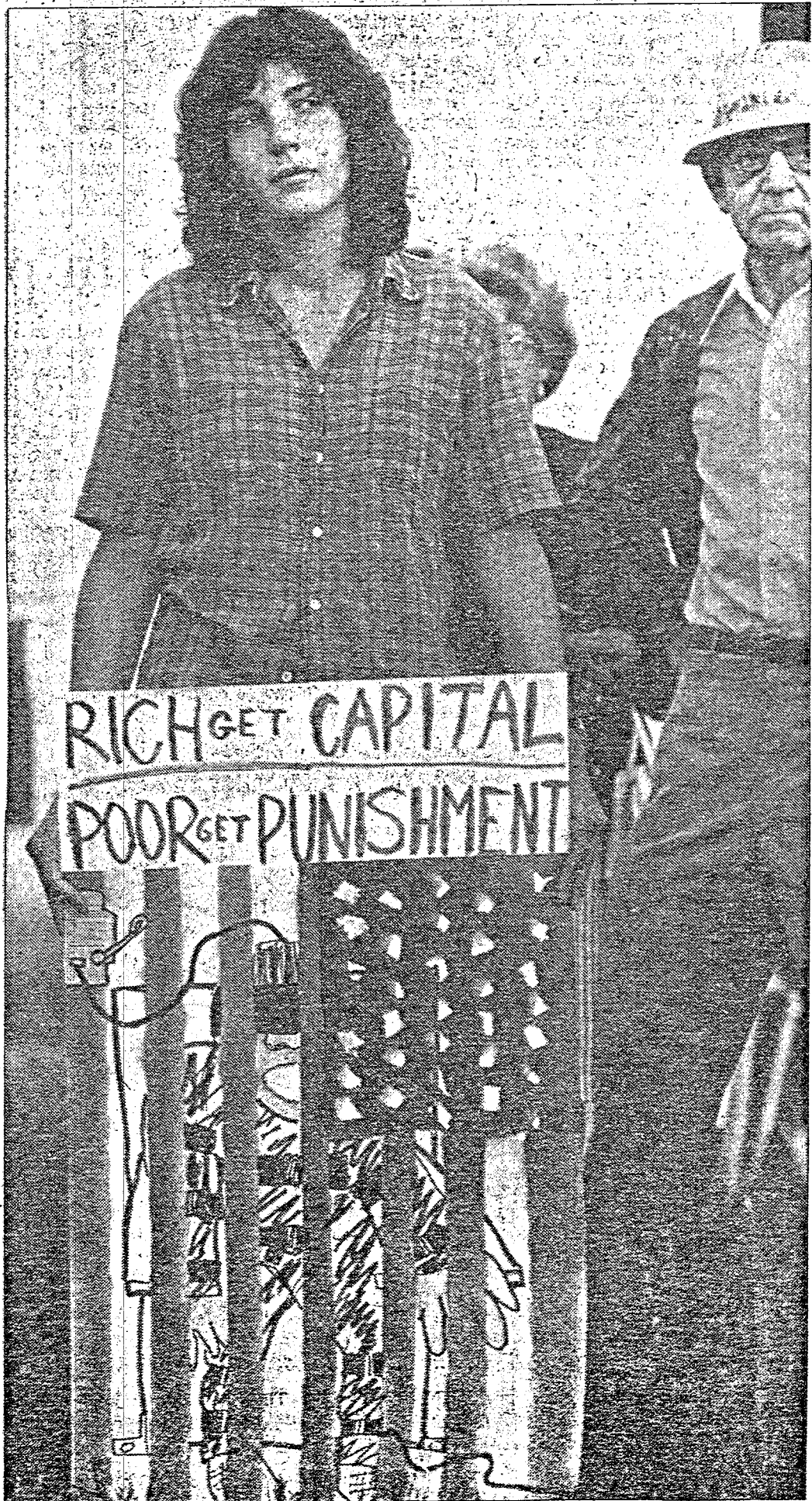
on Washington, released a statement moments after Washington's death saying that the case has had "exhaustive judicial analysis and review" that gave the convicted killer ample time for appeals.

"This process has assured that the constitutional rights of the accused were fully protected," Graham said in the statement. "The execution of the sentence assures that the rights of the people of Florida are afforded similar protection."

About 40 anti-death penalty protesters and a handful of pro-death penalty demonstrators gathered in the cow pasture across the street from the prison to keep a vigil. The protesters sang hymns, waved signs and vented their anger over the execution.

Among the protesters were Arthur Goode Jr. and his wife Mildred, of the Fort Myers area. Their son Arthur Goode III was executed on April 5 for raping and killing a 9-year-old boy.

Mrs. Goode said she and her husband felt their presence "would do a little good and make some impression" in support of the anti-death penalty movement.



— Dennis Hamilton Jr./staff

Robyn Goodkind holds a sign protesting yesterday's execution of David L. Washington. Next to her stands Arthur Goode Jr., Ft. Meyers, father of Arthur Goode III, who was executed on April 5.

A killer's life touches 3 on the 'outside'

... And no one feels good about Death Row inmate Arthur Goode.

By CHRISTOPHER BOYD
Herald Staff Writer

Ken White is a Lee County firefighter and a contented family man. He also is a man who wants Arthur Frederick Goode III dead.

In the past three weeks, White has collected 1,500 signatures asking for Goode's electrocution.

"I'm not a blood-thirsty vigilante," White said. "But Arthur Goode is an imperfect creation. He killed a little boy and he should die for that."

A Lee County Circuit Court judge sentenced Goode to die in March 1977 for the rape and murder of 9-year-old Jason Verdow of Cape Coral. On May 2, more than six years later, a U.S. Court of Appeals overturned Goode's sentence.

"When I heard that, I became enraged," White said. "I thought that this ain't justice. I thought that if Jason were my child, that sucker would have never made it to jail."

Jason's partially nude and badly beaten body was found on March 6, 1976 in a clump of palmettos in North Fort Myers. He had bite marks over much of his body, had been sexually abused and been strangled with a belt.

Blames bleeding hearts

"I visited with the parents of the little boy after he was killed," White said. "Their grief was terrible. But Arthur Goode is still alive, and I've got to believe its because of these bleeding hearts trying to protect him and other murderers."

Goode lives on Death Row in the Florida State Penitentiary at Starke where he has been one of 203 inmates sentenced to die in Florida's electric chair. Goode was also sentenced to life in prison for a raping and murdering a boy in Virginia.

The 29-year-old inmate sees few people. Prison officials say he frequently flies into rages in his cell, yelling to his jailers to bring him young boys to rape.

On calmer days, Goode writes letters — to the governor, judges, newspapers and his parents. Last month, he wrote The Baltimore News-American: "Be advised. I demand my 'execution' be carried out as soon as possible and I am being 'denied' my legal right to 'die.'"

He vacillates between wanting to live and die. In 1979, he even said that he had developed an interest in astronomy so powerful that it could overcome his lust for little boys.

Throughout Goode's incarceration, his 68-year-old parents have visited him at least once a month.

"It's like terminal cancer," said Arthur (Bud) Goode Jr. "It's a slow death for us. We ain't been living, really, for seven years now."

Use him for studies

The senior Goode said he never wants his son released from prison, but he believes he should be allowed to live and used in psychiatric studies.

"Ever since Freddy was three years old, he has wanted to destroy himself," Bud Goode said. "He's just wrapped, I guess. He just doesn't think like other people."

The Goodes moved to a small Pine Island retirement bungalow from Maryland in November 1975. The senior Goode, a retired milkman and water-company worker, said



JEFF LEEN / Miami Herald Bureau

Mildred and Bud Goode in their Pine Island cottage. They still visit their son once a month.

A mother's poem for her son awaiting execution

On Dec. 19, 1982, Arthur Frederick Goode's mother, Mildred, wrote this poem about her son's pending death sentence:

My son is on Death Row;/dear God, how can it be!

He was always a troubled child,/always a bit behind.

I go to bed at night and toss till 3,/or I wake up at 5, and roll the years back/roll

the years back like reflections in a mirror.

He always was a troubled child;/always looking for a friend who was not there./He loved animals, he had a black dog,/And a Siamese cat, he wouldn't hurt a fly.

Dear God, he's on Death Row;/How can this be!

It's 10 years now, it seems like forever!/When I see him, he's 28, but he looks 15/

you see, he was always a little behind./Mothers always know.

Dear God, how could this have happened?/I loved children, I tried to be a good mother./My heart almost bursts with grief of what he did./with what happened./I pray every night for those left behind.

Dear God, I love my son;/it's in your hands now./Dear God, how can this be!

he and his wife, Mildred, were ready to cash in on the good life.

"We hadn't been here 3½ months when Freddy came down here on the train," Goode said. "Less than a month later, they found that boy dead."

After the murder, Freddy Goode went north to Virginia, where he raped and killed Kenny Dawson, 11, and kidnaped Billy Artis, 10, committing homosexual acts on him for nearly two weeks.

"He was a change-of-life baby," Mildred Goode said, wringing her hands. "He was born early and they put him in an incubator with oxygen — they say that does something to the brain."

Mildred Goode said she will never have the happiness she had hoped for in old age.

"If this had happened to us when we were 35, Lord knows, it might have been easier to handle," she said. "Now, I wish it

would end for all of us. I sometimes wish Freddy could just die a natural death. I think he would be better off."

Execution is unlikely

Last year, Freddy Goode came very close to dying in the way his parents fear most.

In February 1982, Gov. Bob Graham signed Goode's death warrant and he spent four weeks on death warch, close to the electric chair that Florida has only used once since 1964. In the end, he received a stay of execution from the U.S. Court of Appeals.

The most recent federal appellate court ruling makes it seem unlikely Goode will face execution soon, if ever. Charles Corces Jr., the Florida assistant attorney general handling the Goode case, has filed for the court to rehear the case, which he believes could take more than a year.

"This case went through three appeals to the Florida Supreme Court," Corces said. "Each time, the court upheld the sentence. In doing so, it also confirmed that the death sentence was proper."

If the appeals court does not grant a new hearing, Corces said, the state would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. He said it is uncertain what would happen if both courts refused to hear the case again.

Wilbur C. Smith III, Goode's attorney, said he believes the appellate decision will stand and the state will allow Goode to serve a life sentence. He said resentencing Goode would likely require a new trial, which he said he doubts would occur.

For Goode's parents, the appellate court ruling didn't feel like a victory.

"Mr. Smith called us up after the ruling and said we had won," Mildred Goode said. "I know better. We can never win now."

Reprieve gives Goode's parents time to continue fight for their son's life

By BRIAN BLANCHARD
Herald Staff Writer

PINE ISLAND — Just before leaving on what she thought might be her last trip to Death Row to see her son, Mildred Goode sighed.

"I could take anything but an execution," she said. "If he could just die of a natural death . . ."

Mildred Goode's soft voice trailed off. She has suffered two heart attacks in recent years. She lets her husband, Bud, who has a history of high blood pressure, talk loudly about injustice.

He needs little prompting and stops only to light L&M cigarettes.

Bud and Mildred Goode say they have always done what they could to protect others from their only son, Freddy — and Freddy from himself.

Convicted murderer Arthur Frederick Goode III — Freddy to the only people who seem to love him, his family — was to die Tuesday in Florida's electric chair at the Florida State Prison. His family spoke Saturday, just before leaving Pine Island to visit him and before learning that his lawyer, Wilbur C. Smith III of Fort Myers, had won a stay of execution from the 11th U.S. Court of Appeals in Atlanta.

"We feel a lot of relief and a little bit of vindication," Bud Goode said Thursday.

The reprieve gives Bud Goode more time to argue the case for his son. It gives Mildred more time to remember.

The Goodes say they treated their only son like the border-line, mentally retarded person they figured him to be — with special education classes in the public schools, membership in a Boy Scout Troop for the retarded, two years in a school for the retarded and, finally, confinement in a mental hospital.

The pale, dark-haired Arthur Goode of today's headlines and newscasts was born when Mildred Goode was 39. She had already given birth to three girls, then aged 20, 15 and 10.

All are now housewives — two live in Maryland, one in Largo, Fla. The two Maryland sisters were preparing Saturday to see their brother for the first time since escorting him to a Maryland mental hospital after the first of two murders. They said they never knew Freddy very well because he was so much younger.

"He was more happy to see his sisters after all these years than he was to learn about the stay," Bud Goode said of the family's visit with Freddy at Starke on Monday.

At home family members called Freddy — a skinny kid with passions for ice cream, predicting the weather and long bicycle rides — a pantywaist.

As a young boy, he was terrified of being left alone with other children in school and at parties. Later, he would sit at home all day and listen to the radio and play records.

He never kept a male playmate for long. "He liked to play with the little girls instead of boys," said Bud Goode.

But as he grew older, Freddy became obsessed with little boys. And the obsession always spelled trouble. When he was seven, his parents noticed that he liked to rub against a cousin, another boy, in a way the cousin didn't care for.

By the time Freddy was 13, he had earned notoriety in his suburban Washington, D.C., neighborhood for fondling younger boys and asking them to sit in his lap.



BRIAN BLANCHARD / Miami Herald Bureau

Mildred and Bud Goode say they did everything they could to protect others from their son — and Freddy from himself.

The first arrest came in 1972. The charge was child molestation: "The victim wasn't physically harmed. Freddy, then 18, got probation."

Other arrests soon followed. Freddy Goode entered a Maryland mental hospital for the first time when he was 19.

He wasn't violent during those days, members of his family say. Just moody, irrational and physically affectionate with boys.

"We took him to the doctors [psychologists] right from the beginning," said Mildred Goode. "He was a puzzle to all of them."

The Goodes, who called Freddy their change-of-life baby, figure that Mildred Goode's approaching menopause stunted their son's mental capacity at birth.

At 21, Freddy had the mental age of a 13-year-old. "He would talk all right," said Bud Goode. "He looked all right —"

"— but he never had too much good reasoning," said Mildred Goode.

It landed him on Death Row. Gov. Bob Graham signed Goode's death warrant Feb. 5.

Until the federal stay of execution Sunday, Goode's family thought he would die Tuesday morning. On Monday, the judges set a date of April 19 to review Goode's March 1977 murder trial. They decided to review possible violations of his constitutional rights.

The issue goes beyond constitutional rights to questions of decency, say the Goodes.

"I'm ashamed I'm living in the United States," said gravel-voiced Bud Goode, a stocky, retired milkman and water and sewer inspector. "I want the American people to know they are executing a retarded boy."

In dozens of letters and statements during the last six years, Freddy Goode, who will be 28 on March 28, said he deserved to be put to death for the March 1976 homosexual murder of nine-year-old Jason VerDow of Cape Coral.

VerDow was sexually molested and killed, according to a medical examiner's testimony, by strangulation with a smooth cord. It happened near a school bus stop in Cape Coral, 19 miles from the Goode home, where Freddy Goode was staying for one month.

Two weeks later, after Goode returned to the Washington area, Kenneth Dawson, 11, of Falls Church, Va., died the same way.

Goode admitted committing both murders, both times after walking away from the same minimum security Maryland mental hospital.

Goode entered the hospital in 1975 after being charged with nine counts of child molestation and convicted with two. He took a bus to Pine Island in March 1976, when VerDow was killed.

Two sisters took him back to the hospital one month later. He walked away before the sisters left the hospital. That's when Dawson died.

Before his trial in Fort Myers, Goode fired lawyer Smith and tried to defend himself.

Goode argued that he was sane and guilty. "At that time he wanted to be found guilty and to be executed," said Bud Goode.

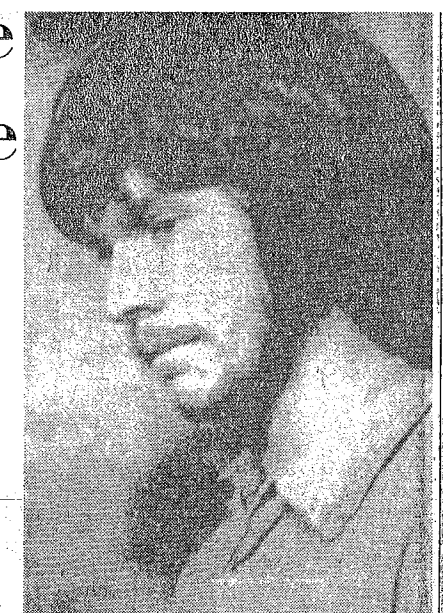
In a press conference at Florida State Prison last week, Goode reversed his earlier stand and said his life should be spared to provide psychiatrists a chance to study his pedophilia, the abnormal sexual desire for children.

That's the position Goode's parents have taken since he was locked up on Death Row.

Though Mildred Goode speaks wistfully of a quiet, natural death for her only son, Bud Goode has worked six years to try to get his son off Death Row, into an institution and under the scrutiny of students of the criminal mind.

"There are almost 1,000 people waiting to go through what my son is going through" on the nation's death rows, Goode said. "Why not study him and try to prevent future Arthur Goodes?"

The Goodes say they know of no jarring event in



Unified Press International

Arthur Frederick Goode is escorted from a Virginia court after his arrest in 1976 on murder charges.

their son's life that would explain his brutal actions.

"The police don't know what to do, the judges don't know what to do, the mental hospitals don't know what to do, so when things go wrong they want to kill Freddy," said Bud Goode.

The Goodes left Freddy in the Maryland institution and retired to Pine Island in November 1975. They thought he would be safe there, but he escaped.

Communication hitches kept the Goodes from sending their son back sooner than they did, they say.

Bud Goode said Freddy called home and told his parents he had left the Maryland mental institution and was on his way to Florida. The father immediately called his Maryland attorney, asking him to alert the hospital that his parents would send Freddy back.

The lawyer "was very busy," said Goode. It took time to reach the lawyer and when Goode did, the lawyer "said to sit tight," said Goode.

It was three weeks before the lawyer had notified the hospital that Freddy Goode would be returning voluntarily, said Goode.

One evening in March just after Freddy arrived, Bud Goode's retirement was shattered during a local newscast that described the murder of Jason VerDow.

Bud Goode thought of Freddy, sleeping in the next room.

"I shook him awake and asked him point blank if he killed that boy. He said 'no.'"

The "no" became "yes" a few months later. Bud and Mildred Goode had hoped to settle into a casual life of fishing and leisure on the Gulf when they bought their home in this retirement and fishing community northwest of Fort Myers in 1972.

Now the small motorboat in their front yard gets wet only when it rains.

Bud stays inside with Mildred, reading legal opinions, talking to reporters and writing daily letters to their son.

Bud and Mildred Goode sign each letter "Love, Mom and Dad."

'Death row' families get little sympathy

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE — The families of Florida's death row inmates are themselves imprisoned by isolation and fear and bombarded by the glare of publicity and hatred from the outside world, says a University of Florida (UF) sociology professor.

"The families are a lot like those of terminally ill patients, but the loved ones of the 190 men on Florida's death row don't turn to each other for support nor do they have society's sympathy," says professor Michael Radelet.

The researcher said death row families experience the same anticipatory grief as those of the terminally ill and can be subjected to undue psychological and social stress if death is delayed indefinitely.

"BECAUSE OF THE public support for executions, it is difficult for the families to find people sympathetic to their plight," Radelet said. "The families must bear the added weight of knowing their relatives' deaths are actively desired and sought by others."

Over the last three years, Radelet and Florida State University graduate student Margaret Vandiver spent 400 hours each visiting death row inmates at Florida State Prison, and getting to know them and their families.

They teamed up with UF sociology professor Dr. Felix Berardo, a marriage and family expert, and the resulting study will be published in the *Journal of Family Issues* next year.

THE RESEARCHERS found virtually all death row families are poor. Few can afford regular visits.

One 78-year-old arthritic mother rode a bus to a town near the Starke prison, then hitchhiked the final 15 miles to see her son on weekends.

Radelet says that like the families of the victims, death row families "bear no direct responsibility for the crime, but they suffer its stigma . . . whereas the families of homicide victims suffer immensely, their suffering usually peaks relatively quickly, and they can begin the slow reconstruction of their lives," he said in a release Monday.

Very True

Society insufficient helping her son

Editor, News-Press—

How can one play God with a young man's life? You didn't live with him for 22 years. We tried getting help for him from the beginning.

He was never labeled a violent person. In fact, just the opposite. There have been many discrepancies in this case here in Florida.

We believe he was put through so much here last March that he went back to Virginia and re-enacted the same crime that he was accused of doing here in Florida. He has since then confessed to many acts and crimes that he never committed.

Let me tell you, at this point that I would have given my own life to have saved those boys. I have seven grandchildren of my own. My heart goes out to the parents and families.

I am just a broken-hearted mother that feels like society has not done enough to try and help young men with problems like my son had.

MILDRED GOODE
Pine Island

Cornwell from 1-B

still lets them get out and walk the streets. They should've put him in the electric chair already."

Does he believe that Goode is insane? "He may be crazy, but he's not stupid. He must have known what he did. He was smart enough to leave Florida and go to Virginia and kill another little boy. He knew what he was doing."

"The point to me is that he did get the death penalty and they haven't followed through. It really doesn't matter what his sentence was — whether it was life in prison or death. They ought to go ahead and impose what he was given."

WOULD, IN LANCE'S view, Goode's death deter others who might be inclined to commit such crimes?

"Probably not. I really don't think it matters to (Freddy) whether he lives or dies. We (Jason's family) still have to deal with the fact it happened. When he's executed, we'll feel justice has been done. I think it's a punishment to the rest of society that he's allowed to stay alive. What's the use of having the death penalty if we don't use it?"

Despite his feelings, Lance thinks he understands the Goodes' attempts to keep Freddy out of the electric chair.

"I really couldn't imagine anyone wanting to see their child — their offspring — killed," he says. "Of course they don't want to see him dead."

"But," he continues, "nobody wants to see their child or their brother murdered either."

To those who believe capital punishment is barbaric and inhumane, Lance VerDow offers these observations:

"The people who want to do away with the death penalty are bleeding-heart liberals who think everyone has the right to live. Well, believe me, they would feel differently if it happened to someone in their family. They may not think so, but what happened to us can happen to anybody, and they sure would change their attitude if it happened to them."

"I'm not on any revenge trip, but you just don't know what it's like until you go through it yourself."

Things began to sour for Freddy from the moment of his birth. He was born while his 39-year-old mother was going through early menopause. She didn't carry him full term, and he was a small baby — unlike his three older sisters — who spent time in an incubator.

Fear is the most prominent memory his parents have of Freddy's childhood.

It often seemed that everything scared him.

WHEN THE WIND stirred the limbs of the mimosa trees near the Goode

home, Freddy — as a toddler — would hawl.

At the age of 2, he became hysterical watching a mechanic jack up the family car at a service station.

In nursery school, he was terrified of other children and would scream when the teacher left the room.

When he was 12, his mother recalls sending him to a birthday party across the street. Freddy was frozen with fear because the other young boys were roughhousing. Before the party was over, he came home in tears and cried for 30 straight minutes. His mother made him go back. He did, but he retreated to a corner and refused to mingle with the other boys.

It was around this time that a teacher became concerned about Freddy. She knew a psychiatrist and, after consulting the Goodes, began escorting her student each Sunday to see the doctor.

It wasn't long, however, before this teacher moved away and Freddy's therapy began to suffer, according to his parents.

His teen-age years were one continuous nightmare for just about everyone around him.

It was not uncommon for angry neighbors to appear at the Goodes' door. Freddy, they would complain, did strange things around little boys. He would brush up against them. Ask them to sit in his lap.

The problems got worse as Freddy grew older. Bud would come home and find police cars in front of the house.

He never had to ask why they were there.

AND THEN THERE were the times that Freddy would hop on his bike and stay gone for hours. Eventually, he would call home.

"He'd call us on the phone, and I'd say, 'You're not messing with any little boys, are you?' " remembers Bud. "And Freddy'd say 'no,' but, hell, you just knew that he'd probably just got through foolin' with some kid. Ain't that weak?"

Nobody — not the teachers, not the doctors and most certainly not his parents — could quite figure out why Freddy was so obsessed with little boys.

Words like "schizophrenia," "retarded" and "minimal brain damage" were bandied about, but the only thing for certain was that Freddy was a certified pedophile (an adult with an abnormal sexual desire for children).

"I whacked Freddy a few times — course now they say you shouldn't hit 'em — but I never got the idea he knew why," says his father.

"Freddy was the type of child you just didn't know how to handle," adds Mrs. Goode. "I'd whip him, but let me tell you somethin', it was just like whippin' a damned dog. He never could figure out why I was doin' it."

Tuesday: Freddy tells his story.

Families' lives crossed, and paths led to death row

■ On Feb. 5, Gov. Bob Graham signed a death warrant for Arthur Frederick Goode III. Goode, 27, was convicted in 1977 of sexually assaulting and murdering a 9-year-old boy near Fort Myers. He also has been convicted and sentenced to life in prison for a similar crime in Virginia. Goode is scheduled to be executed in Florida's electric chair at 7 a.m. March 2. Because his case is being appealed, it is unlikely that the execution will take place as planned. Goode's bizarre and brutal behavior has made him one of the most hated men on death row. His parents say that their son is insane and should not be executed. Others, obviously, disagree. What follows is the first of a two-part examination of the case of Arthur Frederick Goode III. ■

March 6, 1976. Bud Goode sat watching the 11 o'clock news in his home with a mounting sense of apprehension.

In a nearby room, Goode's son, 21-year-old Arthur Frederick Goode III — known as Freddy to his family — lay in a sound sleep.

Freddy had arrived in Florida about two weeks earlier from Maryland, where he had been in deep trouble. Facing multiple charges of child molestation, Freddy had cut a deal with authorities there. In exchange for dismissal of most of the charges, Freddy had agreed to enter a mental hospital for treatment. That had been done, but Freddy had tired of treatment, walked out of the hospital and made his way to the house near Fort Myers to which his parents had retired.

Bud Goode says now that he and his wife were making arrangements for Freddy to return to a hospital but that red tape was complicating the process.

Whatever the delay, it proved to be fatal

MONDAY MORNING

**BILL
CORNWELL**



for 9-year-old Jason VerDow.

THE BIG LOCAL story on the news of March 6 was that Jason's body had been found in a wooded area. The child had been repeatedly molested and strangled after being lured from a school bus stop the day before.

Bud, a coiled spring of a man who has suffered from high blood pressure since the age of 21, felt his stomach tighten as he watched the account of the VerDow murder. Finally, he could take it no longer. Charging into his son's room, he yanked the pasty-faced young man from his bed.

Bud insists that he didn't yell at Freddy, but his voice was loud enough to attract the attention of at least one neighbor.

"Did you kill that boy?" Bud roared. "Did you kill that boy?"

Freddy denied having anything to do with the crime and, less than a week later, his parents brought him to St. Petersburg and put him on a train to Washington, where he was to re-enter a mental hospital.

When he got to the hospital, Freddy didn't like what he saw, so he again simply walked out the door. From the hospital, he kidnapped a 10-year-old Maryland boy, who was with him when he also abducted a boy in Virginia.

The Maryland boy survived his ordeal, but Kenneth Dawson, 11, of Falls Church, Va. met the same fate as Jason VerDow.

Now, almost six years later, Bud and Mil-



Mildred and Bud Goode say their son should be declared insane.

dred Goode sit on their wind-swept back porch, sip bourbon highballs and plead for their son's life.

BUD, WHO SPENT 29 years as a milk delivery driver and 12 years as a water and sewer inspector in Maryland before retiring to Florida in 1975, is still lean and muscular at 67. Bud is a self-described "hothead," and bitterness clings to his words like grapes to a vine.

"What does it take to be declared insane in Florida?" he demands as he fires up another L&M cigarette.

Without waiting for an answer, he inhales the cigarette smoke deeply and points to a household pet.

"I guess you got to be like that dog on four legs and be walking around barking before you're declared incompetent."

Mildred Goode, a soft-spoken woman whose heart weakened by angina pectoris sends shafts of pain through her arms and chest when she hears bad news about Freddy — which is often — agrees.

She hands a visitor a fading photograph of her son. It was taken in grammar school — a snapshot of the child molester as a child.

"Look at the eyes," she says. "Have you ever seen such troubled eyes? Even then, he was different, not normal. Look at the eyes. You can see the trouble there."

The voice at the other end of the telephone line is wary, guarded. Lance VerDow explains that his parents do not wish to talk about his brother Jason's death or Freddy Goode.

Time will heal many things, but the wounds left by the murder of a child have to be among the slowest to mend. If they mend at all.

LANCE, WHO IS 23, was 17 when Jason was abducted and murdered by Freddy.

Unlike his parents, Lance will vent his emotions.

"My parents have had people after 'em to talk for six years," he says. "Life goes on, but we just don't like to be reminded of it all the time . . . But you can't get away from it. I have people who come up to me and ask, 'Was that your brother?' I've adjusted to it pretty well; I'm not about to run from it. Maybe if he's executed, we would have the whole mess over with, and we wouldn't have to keep reading about it in the newspapers or seeing it on television."

"I think this case represents a breakdown in the judicial system, when the system lets a person get in the condition (Freddy's) in and

See **CORNWELL, 6-B**