

# Last 2 of Texas seven surrender at hotel near hide-out

by Julie Cart  
Los Angeles Times

DENVER — With 300 police officers and federal agents swarming outside their Colorado Springs hotel room, the last of the Texas Seven fugitives surrendered peacefully before dawn Wednesday.

Acting on a tip from a hotel employee, authorities descended on the Holiday Inn just a few blocks from where the two convicts had abandoned their van Tuesday. Inmates Patrick Murphy Jr. and Donald Newbury gave themselves up after more than five hours of negotiations, which included an interview with a local TV station.

The two men will join four accomplices already in custody after being captured Monday in nearby Woodland Park. Another inmate killed himself during a standoff with police. The gang had been the object of an intensive, nationwide manhunt since they broke out of a maximum-security prison in Texas on Dec. 13.

Murphy and Newbury had 10 loaded handguns and two loaded shotguns in their hotel room. Police ordered them to remove their shirts and

march backward out into the open. Officials said they were thankful that the two were taken into custody without violence.

"All of us, in our heart of hearts, believe this could have ended in a gun battle. We are elated with the outcome," said Mark Mershon, special FBI agent in charge of Colorado.

The fugitives were found just 18 miles from the quiet mountain town where the gang had been hiding out since Jan. 1. It came as some surprise to authorities that the last two had remained in the area after their cohorts' capture. After the van was discovered near an interstate highway, authorities decided the pair could be anywhere.

Instead, they were discovered sitting in a nearby hotel watching television reports about themselves. Police called their room about 10 p.m. Tuesday. Murphy answered and expressed surprise to hear a detective on the other end.

"You got us," he said. "I don't know how you guys did it, but you got us."

Negotiations began almost immediately. About midnight, authorities shut off power to the hotel, except for the convicts' room. Soon after, the pair agreed to surrender, but on one con-

dition: They wanted to make a statement on live television. Eric Singer, anchor for KKTU in Colorado Springs, was recruited to conduct two five-minute telephone interviews.

The newsman was coached by FBI negotiators not to agitate the men and to keep his questions positive. Singer was shown on camera conducting the interviews via speakerphone.

Both convicts offered Singer scathing opinions of the Texas correctional system and insights into their 42-day, 800-mile odyssey from Kenedy, Texas, to the Colorado mountains.

Newbury, who was serving a 99-year sentence for armed robbery, referred to the prison break as "our self-extraction (from) the unit" and said that the group took pains so that no one would be hurt.

"It could have been a blood bath," he said. "We could have been out of there in 30 minutes instead of 21/2 hours. We took time with these people to do it gently."

Murphy, who was serving a 50-year sentence for aggravated sexual assault, said that about a week after escaping, the gang found themselves caught in a blizzard in Texas. Still driving a stolen prison vehicle, they



TMS PHOTO

Texas prison escapee Patrick Murphy Jr. is escorted from the Colorado Springs Holiday Inn, January 24, 2001. The last two members of the "Texas Seven" prison escapees surrendered peacefully early Wednesday, ending one of the most intense manhunts in the United States in decades.

decided on the spur of the moment to head north. "Colorado was just a random pick," he said.

The seven convicts settled into a mobile-home park and lived in a 34-foot recreational vehicle. They introduced themselves to their neighbors as a Christian group, mingled in town

and even attended Bible study classes. Some of the men attempted to alter their appearances by dyeing their hair and growing facial hair.

The six men in custody face capital murder charges stemming from the murder of a police officer in Irving, Texas, on Christmas Eve.

# Ohio State cop fired for running porno web site

by William Lee  
January 24, 2001  
TMS Campus

COLUMBUS, Ohio (TMS) — The captain of the Ohio State University police department was fired after school officials learned that he operated a pornographic Web site from university property.

David Stezler, 45, was released from his duties as captain Jan. 19 after 22 years on the job. Officials cited that Stezler used university resources in furthering a personal business, he failed to disclose the use of those resources when asked, failing to disclose secondary employment, and that he failed to disclose his relationship with a university vendor from whom he authorized university purchases.

According to Ohio State's student newspaper, the Lantern, an investigation in late December showed that Stezler ran FantasyWarrior.com, a site that depicted sexual domination and bondage. Stezler, according to the Lantern, also was accused of selling law enforcement supplies from a company he owned.

"After a careful assessment, we concluded that Captain Stezler has compromised his ability to serve effectively in his leadership position," Vernon L. Baisden, assistant vice president for public safety, said in a press release.

"In our judgment, we are obligated to serve the student community in our care by holding our police officers to the highest standards and we must have total confidence in their ability to lead," he added.

# After 8 days of privacy, Jackson makes return



Jesse Jackson speaking during the campaign season last year.

TMS PHOTO

by Mickey Ciokajlo  
January 22, 2001  
Chicago Tribune

A subdued Rev. Jesse Jackson emerged Sunday from three days of seclusion after admitting he fathered a child in an extramarital affair, taking to the pulpit to praise his wife before 3,200 parishioners at a Far South Side church.

"After 38 years, five children later, Jackie, we're still here. I love you so much," Jackson said looking at his wife and two of their children as the Salem Baptist Church congregation roared with approval. "Life is not a straight line, curves in the road. Some mountains and some valleys. But through it all, thanks dear God, we're still here."

Last Thursday, Jackson said he would withdraw from public life to reconnect with his family. On Sunday, he said he was back to fight for civil rights because of the many challenges that face the nation. Citing Saturday's swearing in of President George W. Bush, Jackson said much work lies ahead on issues of fair voting, affirmative action and African Americans in business.

"Yesterday, when the new president came in, the wind shifted," Jackson told reporters after the service. "For many of us, it shifted from a tailwind to a headwind."

Jackson said he would meet with ministers Monday at a luncheon at Rainbow/PUSH headquarters. He said he will go to New York later in the week as part of the organization's "Wall Street project," meant to open up business opportunities for African-Americans.

Jackson spoke from the pulpit for about 10 minutes, mixing prayer with comments to his family and thanking his supporters. He did not discuss the 20-month-old daughter he fathered with a former aide who has been iden-

tified as Karin Stanford, 39. Jackson, 59, did not take questions about the affair or its fallout when he spoke briefly with reporters outside the church after the two-hour service.

Rev. James Meeks, the pastor of Salem Baptist and vice president of Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH coalition, told the congregation that America could not afford to have Jackson on the civil rights sidelines. "It's time to send Reverend into the field to keep lifting up those who are at the bottom," Meeks said.

Last Thursday, with the imminent publication of a National Enquirer story about the child born out of wedlock, Jackson issued a statement that he was the father. Stanford no longer works for the civil rights organization that Jackson founded.

Stanford and her daughter in recent months moved from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles. Jackson is paying Stanford \$3,000 a month in child support. Stanford also collected \$35,000 from Rainbow/PUSH, although explanations have differed as to whether the money was for moving expenses, consulting work or severance pay.

In his statement last week, Jackson said he would withdraw temporarily from public life "to revive my spirit and reconnect with my family." For three days, he remained at his South Side home with his wife and family, meeting with supporters and taking calls from Bush, former President Bill Clinton and performer Barbra Streisand.

Jackson, who strongly opposed the election of Bush and was strident in his opposition of the president's nominee for attorney general, conservative Republican John Ashcroft, told the congregation that "there is a new stage of our challenge."

"Someone suggested that it takes a village to raise a child," Jackson said of the country. "Sick villages raise

sick children. Well villages raise well children. We seek wellness for our nation and for our families."

After the November presidential election, Jackson led marches in Florida and Washington, D.C., to protest voting irregularities. He canceled plans to attend a rally Saturday in Tallahassee, Fla., while Bush was being sworn in as the nation's 43rd president.

How the scandal affects Jackson's moral standing as a leading civil rights activist remains to be seen. But parishioners at Salem Baptist Church were prepared to forgive the man who once marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I'm not down-playing or saying that what he did does not matter, but it's a matter of priorities," said Gwen O'Conner-Griffin, a parishioner from Chicago's West Side. "Right now, the need is great in the community for leadership. ... It is important that he continue to fight because the fight is bigger than he is."

An estimated 3,200 parishioners watched the service live in the church, 11800 S. Indiana Ave., or via closed-circuit television in an adjacent gymnasium and annex. Although church members said they were disappointed to learn of Jackson's indiscretion, they

were heartened by the manner in which he admitted the affair and accepted responsibility.

"Every man is human, and we're capable of our fallacies," said Geoffrey Flowers, 37, of Beverly. "We thank God that he has mercy and he has grace on us and we go forward and try to do better, greater than we did before."

Two of Jackson's five grown children, son Yusef and daughter Santita, attended the service with him and his wife. Escorted by Meeks, they entered the church through a side door with Jackson holding his wife's hand and telling reporters that he felt wonder-

ful.

Meeks told parishioners that he spent the last few days praying with Jackson and his wife about the public situation that the family "has dealt with for a while in private."

Standing beneath a banner proclaiming, "The Just Shall Live By Faith," Jackson, a Baptist minister, closed his prayer before the congregation by reciting a biblical passage. "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray ... and turn from their wicked ways, then they will hear from heaven and God will forgive their sins and heal their land."



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