

WILLIAM HENRY HANCE

Born in 1952.

BILLY HANCE.

My daddy's name is David Hance. He a custodian in Lexington.  
My momma was Ailene. She was married to my daddy till they divorced.  
She was staying along but was beaten to death.

My wife was Wanda. We we married 3 years. Got married when I was 24.  
I always wanted to be in the marines. I wanted to fight like GI JOE.  
I like Bruce Lee movies.

On March 30, 1978, Fort Benning Military Police telephone operators and the Columbus Police Communications Department received telephone calls from a black male who identified himself as "Chairman of the Forces of Evil."

Both victims were black females discovered undressed.  
Both were recovered from wooded semi-secluded areas not far from access roads,  
and in the same geographical area.  
Both had been dragged from the road.

In my confession, I stated that Jackson propositioned me for \$20.00 at the Sand Hill Bar and Grill.

I left with her, and drove a short distance when she stripped.

I stopped the car, became upset, and grabbed her.

When she tried to escape, I struck her with a "karate chop" across the head. She fell across the door, bleeding.

I pulled her into the woods and returned to my vehicle, where I picked up a jack handle before returning to the woods.

She was still breathing. I hit her in the head until she was dead.  
I also admit to killing Thirkield.

WHY?

Gail Jackson's proposition severely upset and angered me.

I heard "something pop" while dragging her into the woods.

I was the only member of the "Forces of Evil." I'm the Chairman.

At trial, clinical psychologist Lewis R. Lieberman testified

I have a personality disorder. Characteristic traits of the disorder include egocentrism, an inability to empathize with other people, and poor judgment.

Dr. Lieberman stated I have difficulty ever admitting I have done something wrong, and that I try to cover up a mistake or blame others. Dr. Lieberman testified that there was no organic basis for my personality disorder, and that although I have difficulty controlling my actions, I know the difference between right and wrong. Dr. Lieberman indicated the ability to recognize and admit that one had done wrong would be a sign of improvement, but on cross-examination admitted that people with personality disorders rarely improve over time, and that I have not "mellowed" in the six years since Dr. Lieberman had first examined him.

My friends say I'm dependable, trustworthy, and a good soldier, but that I had experienced financial and marital problems and had been under stress at the time in question.

Other witnesses testified I had not caused problems in prison.

Charles Westcott testified that he has known me for twenty years and that I was friendly, courteous, industrious, and not a problem to the community. Westcott also stated that my invalid mother had died as a result of a physical attack and rape.

Late in February 1978 I was propositioned by Gail Jackson in a bar. We left together in my car and she began removing her clothes. I became angry, stopped my car, and hit her across the head with a "karate chop." As I pulled her by her arms out of the car, into the woods, I heard something pop. I left her in the woods and went back to my car to get a jack handle. She was still breathing when I returned. I hit her in the head with the jack handle until she was dead. I started to dig a grave with a tool; but got scared I would be seen, so I covered her with leaves and dirt.

I threw the murder weapon across the street and left the scene.  
I came up with a plan to put the blame on the "Forces of Evil."

I killed Irene Thirkield in March 1978 after she propositioned me.

In the letters I said one black woman would be kidnapped every three months and killed until the demands were met. One letter stated that the Military Police would receive a telephone call revealing the location of the body of Gail Jackson. The letter indicated that the body was in bad shape, that one arm was broken, and the cause of death was a sharp blow to the head

Westcott also testified that Hance's invalid mother was attacked, raped, and subsequently died. Westcott felt that Hance had been rehabilitated, that he was a bright, talented man, and that his life should be spared.

## MY STORY FROM MY TESTIMONY

I grew up in a below-poverty-level family. I always wanted to be in the Marines. That was my one big want. After graduation from high school I enlisted in the Marines. I was advancing in the Marines and intended to make it my career.

My ex wife wasn't happy with my career choice so to save the marriage I left the Marines, after serving four and a half years. I received an honorable discharge.

Within a year I enlisted in the Army.

I found my wife and a man in bed in my home and divorced her. The financial demands of my wife and daughter caused serious financial problems. I was drawing extra duty in the Army and taking odd jobs in town to supplement his income, but my financial troubles meant I was barred from reenlisting.

I was sickened when I heard of the attack, rape, and death of my invalid mother in 1972. They never caught the attacker.

I stated that I did not know why I killed Ms. Jackson in 1978.

I told the jury I "lost all sense of control" and my "mind flipped."

I accepted responsibility for the murder and begged God's forgiveness and asked the jury to forgive me.

During cross-examination, I admitted killing both Ms. Jackson and Ms. Thirkield, and admitted I did not tell the truth in the first trial when I denied killing Ms. Jackson. I stated that in the six years following my first conviction I had grown spiritually and physically and had made peace with God.

## THEY PSYCHOLOGIST'S VIEW

The conflicts I experience in my relationship with women must be viewed in light of my relationship with women.

My mother was good and kind to me and my sister but at the same time, she was unable to prevent her husband from abusing the children both mentally and physically. At an early age, I experienced incest, and found my father in bed with a prostitute. These conflicts carried over into my own marriage, which ended because of adultery on the part of my wife.

My marked paranoia and feelings of insecurity can perhaps be explained in part by the mental and physical abuse inflicted upon me and my sister by my father.

The more aggressive and assertive features of my personality and at least a portion of my negative feelings toward women can be explained by my view of the paternal figure.

My sister's affidavit states that she and me had a very close relationship and that I was a good student. Our mother worked two jobs to provide food and clothing because our step-father worked irregularly and drank. We both helped to earn money when they could. When she was nine and I was six, our step-father raped her as I watched. The step-father beat and intimidated us, but she "was beaten more frequently" than me.

When I was twelve I found his step-father in bed with a prostitute.

My ex-wife ran around on me, and on two occasions stabbed me with knives. I was a devoted and loving father to his child.

My attorney testified despite his inquiries, I refused to talk about my family background in detail. Moreover, I specifically instructed my attorney to "leave my family out of it."

I did not want them involved in the case or called as witnesses.

The attorney testified he "tried to move me from that position," but I was "adamant."

He explained:

[I]f I had [gone] against his wishes, I would have so alienated Mr. Hance, in my opinion, that I could never have gotten him to cooperate in what I thought as the only viable defense that he had, and that was to get on the stand and tell the truth. I would have just lost Hance if I had alienated him. ... [I]f I had gone in the direction that he was just adamant and opposed to, the family members coming in and saying whatever nice things they could say about him as he was growing up, I do not believe I could have had Hance get on that stand and tell that jury that truth, I just don't believe I could have accomplished it, and I thought that was our only chance to save him. . . . I think I'm aware of my duties as counsel, but I've got to make a judgment . . . do I go find [these family members against his wishes, alienate him, lose him in order to have them, and I made a decision. I would rather have him; I didn't think I could have it both ways. I was convinced then I couldn't, and I don't know of anything other to tell you.

April 6, 1978 news

Wanda Hance, 22 described me as "capable of the crime"

She claims I beat her into having a miscarriage.

She's the mother of our 3 yr old daughter.

"I think his mind could have snapped."

If Spec. 4 William Hance does if fact turn out to be the Chairman of the Forces of Evil who swore he would kill black women, then the Chairman of the Forces of Evil is a black man.

You can tell that Rev. Flakes wonders if indeed the authorities have the right guy here too. "It has been reported that the person who is supposedly the founder of the Forces of Evil has been arrested," the Reverend announces from the pulpit one hot Sunday. "I do say I think it would be wise for young women . . . for old women to be very cautious and very carefully . . .

Ft. Benning, has been described as "the dirty ring around the tub of Columbus." An uneasy relationship exists between the natives and the transients, those with roots and those without.

Down at Building 9022, the Fort Benning soldiers who knew me recite their litany of epithets for Billy Hance.

"A good dude . A good guy. Very friendly all the time . . . A good guy with a sense of humor . . . Kind of quiet . . ."

It is precisely this general assessment that made people wonder why my wife left him almost two years ago and divorced him.

"A lot of people think he's a quiet guy," she says.

"Which he was. But not around me. He used to push me, shove me around, hit me sometimes."

Now remarried, now happy, now living in Virginia, Wanda Johnson wonders about the first man she married.

"I've been trying to figure out - I'm saying. If he did it, was it because of me? Because he said he loved me. He used to tell me that. I figure, the way he was doing me, why didn't he kill ME?"

David Hance, father... Custodian in Lexington.

Curtis McClung

MY WORDS.

Wanda, I know you don't believe this, but I love you."

Why are you executing an innocent man? Why? Why? Why?

Right at this very moment I can prove my innocence. I've been trying to find a judge, any judge, who would help me.