

Serial Killer

(Continued from Page 1)

East Baton Rouge Parish prison Wednesday night on charges of first-degree murder, aggravated rape, second-degree kidnapping and aggravated burglary in Kinamore's death.

Lee also faces three counts each of first-degree murder and aggravated rape in the deaths of three more Baton Rouge women - Carrie Yoder, Gina Wilson Green and Charlotte Murray Pace.

Baton Rouge residents had been on edge for nearly a year since news first broke that a serial killer was on the loose.

Women put guns and pepper spray in their purses, took self-defense classes and set up elaborate phone trees to make sure their friends and relatives were safe.

"Now, I can go out in the evening. I was putting on the dead bolts. I put a chair against the door. Now, I don't have to do that," said Vesna Karaman, a graduate student in biology at Louisiana State University.

The task force held a congratulatory news conference Wednesday to recognize those who worked on the case, but the display angered Marino.

"It was solved in spite of the task force," she said.

Wiping away tears, Baton Rouge Police Chief Pat Englade, who heads the task force, said he was proud of the work by the team of local, state and federal law enforcement officials.

He refused to respond to specific criticisms by the victims' families.

Mayor Bobby Simpson said the task force's elation over the capture of Lee moved from "unbelievable relief to anger" when it was suggested that the investigators mishandled the case. Simpson said the criticism of the task force is unfair.

During the investigation, the task force cast a huge DNA dragnet, taking genetic samples from more than 1,000 men.

It also fished for tips by releasing details about a white truck, the killer's shoeprints and items apparently taken from the victims. Investigators sent dogs sniffing through neighborhoods and went door to door, looking for leads.

But it was a separate probe of two cases in nearby Zachary, a suburb of Baton Rouge, that led an investigator not connected to the task force to seek a DNA sample from Lee and eventually link him to the five known slayings by the serial killer.

Lee has not been charged in the two cases in Zachary - the 1998 disappearance of Randi Mebruer, 28, and the 1992 slaying of Connie Warner, 41 - but Zachary police said they suspect he is responsible.

On May 5, the same day Lee voluntarily submitted the DNA, he abruptly pulled his two children out of school, saying he was moving to Los Angeles. Authorities said they do not know the whereabouts of Lee's wife and children.

Lee was also accused in a warrant in St. Martin Parish on Tuesday with attempted murder and attempted rape in an incident in July, before three of the serial killer's victims were slain.

"It just breaks my heart. These women should still be alive. This guy should have been behind bars a long time ago, and the police let us down a long time ago," said Geri Teasley, who has organized monthly rallies in Baton Rouge to remember the victims.

Marino said she believes police relied too heavily on an FBI profile that said the serial killer was probably white and had trouble interacting with women. Lee is a black man described as charming with women.

The police chief has said the task force was not contacted by St. Martin Parish about the attack there until April.

The task force had told investigators working other cases to let them know about evidence that seemed to point to the serial killer, he said.

Women in Baton Rouge called Lee's arrest good news, but some said they were not ready to let down their guard.

"I hope it's the right guy. I'm not totally relieved," said LSU student Stacey Raymond, 21. "Baton Rouge is kind of crazy."

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

Tyson: I want to rape Desiree Washington now

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Mike Tyson hasn't lost his penchant for saying the outrageous. In a television interview scheduled for broadcast Thursday, Tyson again denied he raped Desiree Washington in 1991 in an Indianapolis hotel room. But he said the burden of being labeled a convicted rapist makes him want to do it now.

"I just hate her guts. She put me in that state, where I don't know," Tyson said. "I really wish I did it now. But now I really do want to rape her."

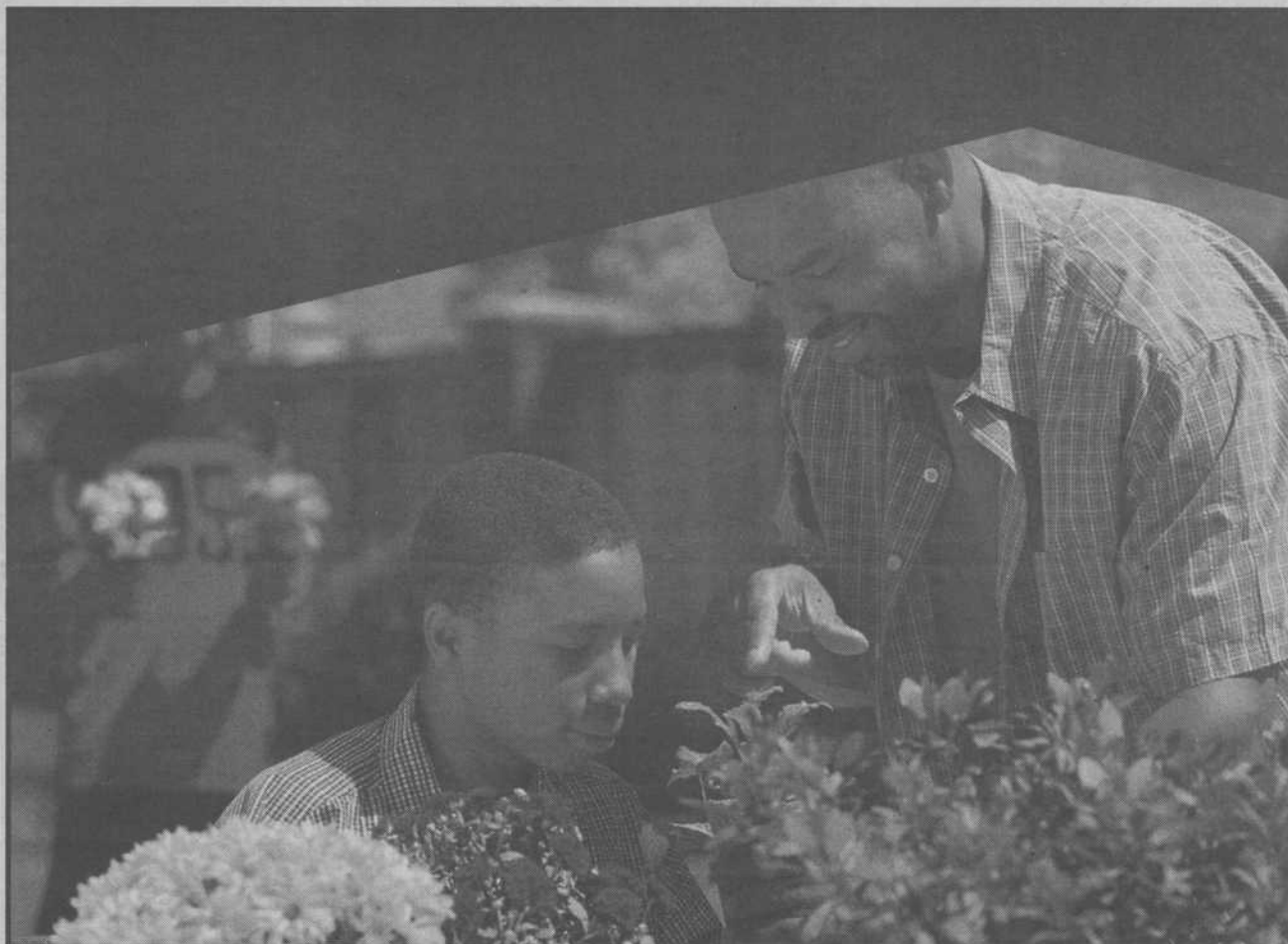
Tyson made the comments during a recent interview in Miami Beach with Greta Van Susteren, who was taking a look back at the circumstances of Tyson's 1992 trial that ended with him convicted of rape and sentenced to six years in prison. He served three years of the sentence before being released on parole.

A call for comment to Tyson's adviser, Shelly Finkel, was not immediately returned. The interview will be shown Thursday night (9 p.m. EDT) on "The Pulse" on the Fox network.



HOW SWEET IT IS...

Oscar De La Hoya, left and "Sugar" Shane Mosley pose during a news conference in Beverly Hills, Calif. last week where it was announced the two will meet at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Sept. 13, 2003.



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