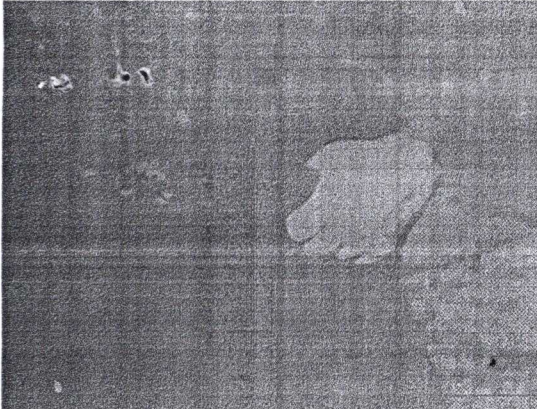




The Associated Press
honour in a 1983 self-portrait.

back him again.

The decline in Reagan's support outside his own party could impede his ability to draw non-Republicans to Vice President George Bush, who has locked up the 1988 GOP presidential nomination. Bush needs outside votes to win.

In another finding, three-quarters of the 1,204 respondents said a vice presidential candidate's race or sex did not matter to them. However, some independents and Republicans were less likely to support a black, and some Republicans were less likely to support a

situational attachment to two four-year terms in office, and roughly 65 percent of Democrats and 67 percent of Republicans said they would not. The total was 32 percent for Reagan, 64 percent against.

Majorities of conservatives, moderates and liberals alike opposed a third Reagan term. Women and

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Pair of grisly serial killers seek release from prison

By MARK BERGSTROM
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Edmund Kemper and Herbert Mullin — two serial killers from the blackest part of Santa Cruz County's dark criminal past — will seek their release from prison this week.

A parole hearing for Kemper, who was convicted of killing and mutilating eight women, including his mother, will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the state Medical Correctional Facility at Vacaville.

The hearing for Mullin, who murdered 11 people, including a Catholic priest, will be held at 8:30 a.m. Thursday at the California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo.

Both men were sentenced to life in prison in 1973 at a time when the

death penalty had been abolished and parole was possible for serial killers.

The Board of Prison Terms has rejected a number of bids for release from both men. It is unlikely a release date will be set this week for either man.

By the time Kemper and Mullin started their killing sprees, Santa Cruz County already was known for one bizarre mass murder. In October 1970, John Lindley Frazier killed local eye surgeon Victor Ohta, his wife and two children and the doctor's secretary, and dumped their bodies in the swimming pool at the Ohta home near Aptos. Frazier said the killings were a payback for damage Ohta had done to the environment.

Mullin was 25 when he testified

at his murder trial that he received "die songs," telepathic messages to offer sacrifices to prevent a catastrophic earthquake on the San Andreas Fault.

Mullin's first offering was his priest, who he stabbed to death in a confessional at a Los Gatos church. Mullin, who had been raised in Felton and graduated from San Lorenzo Valley High School, went on to kill nine more people before slaying his final victim, including a high school chum and his wife, four young campers at Henry Cowell State Park and a mother and her two children in a cabin near the Mystery Spot.

The final victim was 72-year-old Fred Perez, who was shot down as he worked in the front yard of his

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Killings/ Parole hearings set

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home on Lighthouse Avenue on Feb. 13, 1973. A neighbor saw a station wagon speeding away and gave police a description of the car. Mullin was arrested a short time later.

As Mullins' victims were being discovered, the hand of a missing Santa Cruz woman washed up on a local beach. It was the first of another string of gruesome discoveries.

A hiker found the body of a missing Cabrillo College student in a shallow grave near Bonny Doon.

The headless bodies of two UCSC students were discovered in Castro Valley.

Kemper, then 24, would testify at his murder trial that he had wanted those women for himself — as possessions. "They were going to be mine; they are mine," said Kemper, a 6-foot-9, 280-pound giant of a man.

Kemper said he visited the

graves of those victims. He said he even buried one woman in the back yard of his mother's house at Seaclyff. He said he buried the head with the face turned toward his bedroom.

"I talked to it. I said affectionate things like you would say to a girlfriend or a wife," Kemper testified.

Kemper put the head of one of his victims in the trunk of his car when he drove to Fresno to have a hearing on his juvenile criminal record. Kemper killed his grandparents when he was 15 and wanted to get that record sealed. He appeared before a panel of psychiatrists and psychologists who agreed at the time he was no longer a threat, and the record was sealed.

Kemper followed news accounts of his latest killings and even discussed details of the cases with police officers at the Jury Room bar on Ocean Street, then a popular hangout for off-duty cops.

The string of killings of women

students led police to issue urgent warnings for women not to hitchhike to the UCSC campus.

Kemper's mother, Clarnell Strandberg, worked on campus and, at his request, furnished her son with a staff parking sticker.

Ironically, women students said they felt safe accepting rides in cars with the red staff stickers.

In time, Kemper feared his mother would learn of his murderous rampage so, he testified, he spared her the misery by killing her, too.

He hid in a closet in the house and bludgeoned her and a co-worker when they came home from dinner.

After mutilating his mother, Kemper testified, he put her head on the mantle and threw darts at it.

Kemper fled Santa Cruz after those final killings. He drove east through Nevada and Utah before he stopped in Pueblo, Colo. and called Santa Cruz Police to confess.