

POLITICS & THE NATION



LINDA DAVIDSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Dogs get jealous, too

An Australian sheepdog, left, frolics with a brindle Shar-Pei mix at a dog park in Arlington, Va. A new study by a psychology professor at the University of California at San Diego, published Wednesday in the journal *PLOS One*, suggests that complex cognition isn't a requirement for feeling jealous. Christine Harris, the study's author, had dog owners devote attention to a picture book, which they read aloud; a toy dog that moved and barked; and an object that their dog had never seen before — a Halloween candy bucket. The owners treated the toy dog and the bucket like dogs, petting them and talking to them. The dogs reacted least to the book and had the most negative response when their owners appeared to be coddling a fellow animal.

Execution takes nearly two hours

Arizona murderer gasped and snorted; governor orders review

BY MARK BERMAN

The execution of a convicted murderer in Arizona lasted nearly two hours Wednesday, and witnesses said he gasped and snorted for much of that time before dying.

The drawn-out process prompted the governor to order a review, and it renewed criticism of lethal injection, the main method of execution in the United States, just months after a botched execution in Oklahoma.

Joseph R. Wood III was pronounced dead at 3:49 p.m., an hour and 57 minutes after the execution began at the Arizona State Prison Complex in Florence, the office of Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne said.

"I've witnessed a number of executions before, and I've never seen anything like this," Dale Baich, one of Wood's attorneys, said in a

phone interview. "Nor has an execution that I observed taken this long."

Wood was sentenced to death for the 1989 fatal shooting of his ex-girlfriend Debra Dietz and her father, Eugene.

During the execution, Wood's attorneys filed a request to halt the lethal injection because he was awake more than an hour after the process began.

Shortly after the execution began, Baich said, Wood's lips started to move, and he was "struggling to breathe." Baich said he watched Wood "gasp and breathe heavily" for more than an hour and 40 minutes.

Reporters for the Associated Press and the Arizona Republic also reported seeing Wood gasp more than 600 times before dying. Michael Kiefer, a reporter for the Arizona Republic, said he counted 660 gasps, according to the newspaper. "I just know it was not efficient," Kiefer said. "It took a long time."

Charles Ryan, director of the Arizona Department of Corrections, said in a statement Wednesday

night that Wood did not suffer during the execution.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer (R) ordered the Department of Corrections to conduct a review of the execution and said in a statement that she was "concerned by the length of time" it took.

Wood was the third inmate executed in Arizona since October and the first put to death using a combination of the drugs midazolam and hydromorphone.

Attorneys for Wood had argued that more information was needed regarding the drugs that would be used in the execution.

A panel of judges with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit agreed with Wood over the weekend, staying the execution, and the full court upheld that decision Monday. But the U.S. Supreme Court vacated the stay and denied a stay request Tuesday evening.

Shortly before the scheduled execution, the state Supreme Court stayed the execution to consider his petition, but it later denied the request.

mark.berman@washpost.com

Glenn Beck takes to theaters to criticize Common Core

The commentator offers ideas for fighting academic standards

BY LYNDSY LAYTON

Conservative media commentator Glenn Beck led a national strategy session to kill the Common Core State Standards on Tuesday night, using a two-hour simulcast into movie theaters across the country as a way to embolden critics of the standards and recruit foot soldiers to the cause.

"This one is being won," Beck said from a soundstage in Texas, his image broadcast to audience members who paid \$20 a ticket. "It's being won and these are your allies in the fight. You've felt alone, but we have lots of allies."

The 17 people gathered at the Regal 13 Cinema in Rockville, Md., might be forgiven for feeling alone. The audience was sprinkled throughout the rows of the darkened theater, and when Beck implored his viewers to turn to their neighbors and introduce themselves, most people faced empty seats.

Ryan Miner, 28, traveled to Rockville from Hagerstown and sat in the middle of the theater with his girlfriend, Kim Euler, who was eating popcorn.

Miner is running for the board of education in Washington County, Md., on an anti-Common Core platform. "I wanted to be able to talk more intelligently about it," he said, explaining why he came.

Euler has two children in elementary school in Montgomery County, and she blamed Common Core for the fact that her son, an advanced math learner, is bored in class. "The teachers are so busy trying to learn the standards, they can't offer him anything advanced," Euler said. "There's nothing to challenge him."

Laura Ford, 60, of Silver Spring bought a ticket after getting an e-mail reminder earlier in the day from Beck. None of her seven grandchildren attend schools that use Common Core, but Ford said she still is concerned. "I know how bad it is," she said, holding a large soda.

At the end of the event, a man stood up and suggested that audience members might want to join the Montgomery County Conservatives, before quickly leaving.

Spokesmen for Beck and Fath-

om Events declined to say how many tickets were sold for the simulcast, which had showings in about 700 theaters nationwide.

"The fan experience in theaters was truly interactive and engaging," said John Rubeys, a Fathom spokesman.

During the program, Beck said the fight against Common Core transcends politics and ideology, but his program featured conservatives such as David Barton, a prominent Republican who is an evangelical minister and historian, and Michelle Malkin, a right-wing pundit.

They shared tips on how to fight Common Core, from political strategies to talking points, borrowing ideas from Saul Alinsky, the community organizer who inspired countercultural radicals of the 1960s.

Becky Gerritson, president of the Wetumpka Tea Party in Alabama, suggested that people

"You've felt alone, but we have lots of allies."

Glenn Beck, conservative pundit

fighting Common Core avoid using the term "Obamacore" — a play on "Obamacare" — because it is too inflammatory and might alienate the public.

Emmett McGroarty of the American Principles Project, a right-wing think tank, said parents need to tell state lawmakers and governors to fight Common Core. "This is a litmus test," he said. "A litmus test of whether they're fit for office."

The Common Core State Standards spell out the skills and knowledge students should possess at the end of each school year, from kindergarten through 12th grade. The standards are not curriculum; decisions about what is taught and how are left to states and school districts.

The standards were created by a bipartisan group of governors and chief state school officers as a way to inject some consistency into academic standards, which vary widely from state to state. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation largely funded the effort to write Common Core, as well as the process to get the standards adopted and implemented.

Although the federal government had no official role in developing the standards, the Obama administration has supported

them, giving \$360 million to groups of states that are writing new Common Core tests. It also used Race to the Top, its competitive grant program, as an inducement, saying that states adopting "college- and career-ready" standards had a better chance of winning federal dollars under the program. Most states understood that phrase to mean Common Core.

Maryland adopted the standards in 2010, along with 44 other states and the District of Columbia. As states have been implementing them, criticism has been building on the right and the left. Conservatives say the standards represent federal overreach, while teachers unions and progressives are concerned about new standardized tests. Parents have been complaining about poorly-designed classroom materials.

This year, lawmakers in Indiana, South Carolina and Oklahoma repealed the Common Core State Standards, while the legislature in North Carolina ordered a review. In Louisiana, Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) wants to pull out of the standards and has been warring with his state board of education and state school superintendent, both Common Core backers.

Beck titled his event "We Will Not Conform" after a book of the same name he has published about Common Core, a copy of which he waved for the cameras. He said families should boycott the new standardized tests being developed to align with Common Core.

"The day we're all willing to peacefully go to jail for our children, like Martin Luther King did, is the day we win," Beck said.

The Common Core standards do not mean additional testing. Since 2002, federal law has required public schools to test students in math and reading once a year in grades three through eight and once in high school. As states change from their old standards to Common Core, they are replacing old tests with new ones aligned to the new standards.

The event was sponsored by FreedomWorks, the tea party umbrella organization, and Liberty University, the Christian university founded by Jerry Falwell. A segment of the program — labeled by Beck as alternatives to the Common Core — suggested that viewers could home-school their children and buy online curricula from Liberty University, which has a K-12 division.

lyndsey.layton@washpost.com

POLITICS & THE NATION

Drawn-out execution renews abolishment calls

Ariz. governor orders review; unclear what changes could follow

BY MARK BERMAN

For the third time this year, an execution in the United States went awry, prompting outrage, questions and calls to get rid of the death penalty. But yet again, experts said it was unlikely that the episode would lead to widespread changes or prompt states to seriously alter their policies.

The execution of Joseph R. Wood III, who was killed by lethal injection Wednesday in Arizona, took nearly two hours. Witnesses reported that Wood was gasping and struggling to breathe, although state officials and other witnesses argued that he was only snoring. But the amount of time it took Wood to die, which lasted for so long that his attorneys were able to file requests asking for a stay while the execution was ongoing, prompted Gov. Jan Brewer (R) to order a review.

"Any time there's a significant event like this one, it carries some weight," said Deborah W. Denno, a Fordham University professor and expert on the death penalty.

In particular, she said, Wood's prolonged death could increase scrutiny of how states use the sedative midazolam in executions. That drug was used, along with hydromorphone, during the execution at the Arizona State Prison Complex an hour outside of Phoenix. Wood's attorneys had argued that more information was needed about these two drugs, which were combined for the first time in an execution in Arizona.

The state altered its lethal injection protocols to use these two drugs because the ongoing shortage of lethal injection drugs left it unable to find pentobarbital.

"Neither of these drugs are designed to kill," said Joel Zivot, an assistant professor of anesthesiology at the Emory University School of Medicine. "Companies create and sell pharmaceuticals where their purpose is to heal. The state takes these pharmaceuticals and tries to imagine a different purpose for them, and to see if they can turn these medicines into poisons."

Midazolam also factored into two other episodes this year that provoked concern. In Ohio, witnesses said Dennis McGuire repeatedly gasped during his January execution, which lasted for almost half an hour.

And a botched execution in Oklahoma drew worldwide attention in April, with witnesses reporting that Clayton Lockett was grimacing and clenching his teeth before the execution was called off. Lockett died a short time later, and an independent autopsy pointed to problems with the IV placement, rather than the drugs used.

The drawn-out execution in Arizona renewed calls for the United States to do away with capital punishment.

"Capital punishment is cruel,

inhuman and degrading, and the distressing case of Joseph R. Wood III's potentially botched execution in Arizona is only the latest example of why this abhorrent practice must be abolished in the United States," Steven W. Hawkins, executive director of Amnesty International USA, said in a statement.

But officials in states that conduct the most executions said they did not plan to change how they carry out the death penalty. Missouri said it is still prepared to hold its seventh execution of the year on Aug. 6 using the same drug protocol — an injection of pentobarbital — it has used since last year. That would tie it with Florida and Texas for the most executions so far this year.

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice said that it would continue to use a single dose of pentobarbital, spokesman Robert C. Hurst said in a statement. "The agency has used this protocol since 2012 and has carried out 33 executions without complication," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Corrections said that the state is always evaluating its policies but declined to comment further because there is a pending lawsuit against Ohio by McGuire's family.

On Thursday, Dale Baich, an attorney for Wood, called for an independent investigation into the execution. While Brewer has ordered the state Department of Corrections to conduct a review, Baich argued that an outside inquiry is needed to find out much more about the drugs that were used "following an execution cloaked in secrecy that went wrong."

Wood's attorneys had filed a request for an emergency stay of execution an hour into the procedure, saying that Wood remained alive and was gasping. They also filed a stay request with Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, who is the justice assigned to hear emergency requests from the West. Supreme Court personnel said it was extremely rare for a justice to receive a request to stop an execution already underway and were unable to recall a similar instance.

Wood's attorneys filed the stay request with the Supreme Court at 6:27 p.m. Eastern time. The clerk's office informed the lawyers at 6:46 p.m. that Kennedy had denied the stay, three minutes before Wood was pronounced dead.

Executions are, by nature, carried out far from public view, witnessed by a handful of individuals in small rooms inside prison complexes. Many occur without much notice. It often takes a gruesome episode to capture public attention.

The prevalence of the death penalty, meantime, is in decline. A third of the 18 states to abolish the practice have done so since 2007. The number of executions has also dropped, with the average number of executions falling significantly after a surge in executions in about 2000.

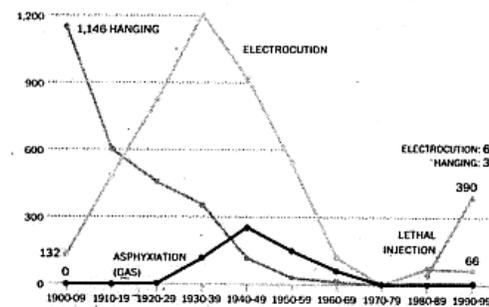
"The death penalty has become less relevant," Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty



ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Zemblidge, right, of Phoenix leads about a dozen death penalty opponents in prayer as they protest Joseph R. Wood III's execution.

Methods of execution in the United States



Note: The categories "shot" and "hung in chains" are not included because the numbers are too small to be visible in the chart. Source: Procon.org. TORREY/THE WASHINGTON POST



The execution of Joseph R. Wood III, who was killed by lethal injection Wednesday in Arizona, took nearly two hours.

Information Center, said in an interview after the Ohio episode. "For most of the country, it's just not used enough to be a regular part of the criminal justice system."

Meanwhile, even as a majority of Americans still support the

For two hours, she watched man who killed her family die

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE

Jeanne Brown sat in the front row. She wanted to watch this man die, up close. She wanted to look him in the eyes.

Brown, 44, waited 25 years for the execution of Joseph R. Wood III, who in 1989 fatally shot her sister and father in a Tucson body shop. On Wednesday, at 1:50 p.m., she listened to his last words in an Arizona prison: "May God forgive you all." She swore she saw him laugh. She felt her heart pound.

Nearly two hours later, the 55-year-old Wood still clung to life.

Lethal injections are supposed to end quickly. Wood's punishment is now considered the country's third prolonged execution this year. In January, an Ohio inmate took 26 minutes to die. In April, an Oklahoma inmate died of a heart attack minutes after prison officials called off a botched execution.

Wood was pronounced dead at 3:49 p.m. Wednesday, state Attorney General Tom Horne said. An Associated Press reporter said he gasped 600 times. Gov. Jan Brewer (R) ordered the state's Department of Corrections to conduct a review of the execution. But a spokesman for the Arizona attorney general said Wood wasn't gasping or snorting — he was snoring.

Brown didn't think about that Wednesday. Flanked by her husband and younger sister, she kept her eyes on Wood. "I kept wondering, 'What's happening?' He

was snoring. That was it. He was just snoring."

Wood was sentenced to death in 1991 for shooting and killing Debra Dietz, his longtime girlfriend, and her father, Eugene, who disapproved of the relationship. He shot Debra twice, Brown said, as she begged for her life.

Brown's husband, Richard, who worked the body shop at the time, hid under a car and saw it happen. Now he sat beside her at the prison, holding her hand. Ten feet away, Wood seemingly snored.

Brown was almost 19, at home with her 1-year-old daughter, when a police officer knocked on the door and said, "You need to come with me." What followed is now a blur: tears, sympathy cards, calls from reporters, the funeral.

She learned Wood's execution date three months ago and took a couple days off from her work at a body shop in Tucson.

"I had to go see Joe die and get right back to normal," she said. "I wasn't going to cry. I was there for closure, not to give him any more of my time."

Brown was not concerned about the length or nature of Wood's death. "He gave his life up when he killed my sister and my dad 25 years ago," she said. "This day was not about him. The real pain is losing your sister. Losing your father."

danielle.paquette@washpost.com

Excerpted from Storyline, at washingtonpost.com/news/storyline.

Robert Barnes contributed to this article.

mark.berman@washpost.com