

Portland blues musician deLay booked for coke possession

Failure to quit using drug one of many shortcomings

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland blues musician Paul deLay told his parents and friends he planned to quit using cocaine on his 38th birthday.

The promise came too late.

DeLay was arrested last week on federal drug charges and he more than likely will spend his birthday Wednesday in the Multnomah County Justice Center jail.

"He said: 'I can kick this. I can do it myself. I'm going to walk away from it on my birthday,'" said his mother, Mary deLay.

DeLay and his wife, Peggy, each face five criminal counts, including conspiracy, distribution of cocaine and possession of cocaine with the intent to distribute it.

"They have been found to be a danger to the community and they've been ordered held

pending trial," Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth C. Bauman said Monday. Trial has been scheduled for March 13, he said.

However, the deLays filed a motion Monday appealing for their release, he said.

Many goals in deLay's life have been cut short.

Due to what his mother said was the influence of friends who viewed school with contempt, deLay quit attending school shortly before he was to graduate from Milwaukie High School in 1969.

"He quit high school 10 weeks before graduation because they didn't think it was cool to wear a suit and go up on stage to do that," Mary deLay said.

Paul deLay's marriage followed a similar route. After he and Peggy deLay married in

1976, they lived together about five years before separating. They remain married, but have lived together only sporadically since the early 1980s, his mother said.

Throughout his life, music remained the one steady influence on deLay.

Allan deLay bought his son a drum set when Paul was about 15. He remembers Paul sometimes would sit down at the drums as soon as he got home from school.

"He has always been heavy, and he pounded out all his frustrations one time when an athletic director made him run around the school track," Allan deLay said.

Paul deLay was still in high school when he began teaching himself to play the harmonica. His father said he soon dropped the drums and began playing the harmonica in his first band, Mixed Blood.

have a Criminal Record."

Mary deLay said her son told her about three weeks ago that his band seemed ready for a big break and things were "looking great."

"He said, 'We're booked for the next six months, we're playing in better clubs, in bigger rooms and we just raised our price,'" Mary deLay said.

Now he's been booked elsewhere.

"It's not the end of his life, but it might be the end of an era for the band," said Paul Jones, the group's drummer and business manager. "No Paul deLay, no Paul deLay Band."

Supermarket taking credit cards

SALEM (AP) — Short of cash at the checkout stand? No checks, no Cheerios? Too tapped out to buy Twinkies? Just pull out the plastic and say, "Charge it."

Specialty shops and stores have taken credit cards all along, but industry officials in Oregon say they believe Orcutt's Super Valu in Keizer is the first supermarket in the state to accept Visa and MasterCard.

"And I'd like to think it will make it a little easier on the credit shoppers — especially on days when people are short of cash," said store owner Andy Orcutt.

Steve McCoid, the president of the Association of Oregon Food Industries, said he was not aware of any other conventional supermarket in the state accepting credit cards.

Stroheckers, an upscale gourmet grocer in Portland, has been accepting credit cards for eight or nine years, said store manager Steve Peters.

Oscar Katov, spokesman for the Food Marketing Institute in Washington, D.C., said a few supermarkets in large metropolitan areas in California and on the East Coast have been accepting credit cards for a few years.

But Katov isn't sure whether it will become a national trend.

Credit cards have been slow to gain acceptance in the grocery industry because banks charge 2 to 5 percent for handling each purchase, too high for the industry's low profit margin of 1 or 2 percent, McCoid said.

"People get a good price for

food in this nation," McCoid said. "They really don't believe that, though."

Orcutt said the Commercial Bank is waiving his fees for the first three months. After that, he is hoping to negotiate with the bank for reasonable fees, he said.

Bridget Flanagan, the public affairs manager for Safeway stores in Oregon and southwest Washington, said the company was watching operations that accepted credit cards.

"But so far we haven't seen a lot of demand for it," she said. "The jury is still out for that."

Arnie Atkins, the owner of Atkins Thriftway stores, said he planned to wait and see how Orcutt's experiment works.

"It's a concept that's been thought of before, but nobody's ever went out and gave it a try," he said.

Orcutt said only a handful of people used credit cards during

the first week.

"The grocery business is getting to be so much more competitive with more and more players out there," Orcutt said. "And the technology is just getting so competitive as well."

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SELECTION PROCESS: Will begin February 12, and should be completed by the end of Winter term.

MANDATORY MEETING: Tuesday, February 13, 4pm. Housing Office, Walton Hall.

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