

Police say hotel suspect may have killed ex-wife



PORTLAND (AP) — A man accused of killing his former girlfriend with a series of shotgun blasts at a Portland hotel is suspected of killing his ex-wife earlier in the day in Pullman, Wash., police said Wednesday.

Kevin Carl Lust was also convicted in 1982 of assaulting a previous wife in Junction City, Ore.

Lust, 35, was charged with murder in the death of Bridgette S. Nelson, 28, of Portland. Lust is accused of walking into the Red Lion Inn on the Columbia River Tuesday and shooting Nelson at her office desk, said police Sgt. Derrick Foxworth.

Tuesday evening, Teia L. Pingree was found dead at her Pullman home after a co-worker reported she had not come to work. Pingree, 35, also appeared to have

been killed by a shotgun blast but an autopsy was pending, police said in a statement.

Police said neighbors reported hearing gunshots early Tuesday morning.

Lust was believed to have been in the Pullman area recently, but had not been charged in his ex-wife's death, the police statement said.

Lust pleaded guilty to choking his wife Deborah Lust into unconsciousness 11 years ago in Junction City, after she had filed for a divorce. He was sentenced to a year in prison and five years' probation.

Junction City police said he tried to hang himself in his jail cell after the 1982 arrest.

Lust was arrested Tuesday after he was tackled by a hotel security guard who pinned him against a wall and handcuffed him, Foxworth said.

The quick action by the unarmed chief of security probably saved the lives of at least two witnesses, Foxworth said.

The gunman apparently asked for directions to Nelson's office about 2:20 p.m. before he walked in and fired at least four shots with a shotgun, Foxworth said.

The security chief, who was not identified, told police he was standing at the top of a flight of stairs that lead from the lobby to Nelson's office when he heard the first two gunshots.

He ran down the stairs and looked in the office, where he saw a man reloading a shotgun. He heard two more shots moments later, before he rushed into the office through another door and subdued the gunman, Foxworth said.

Nelson's parents, Terry and Bette Nelson of The Dalles, said Wednesday their daughter spent last weekend at home with them.

Nelson's father said she had talked about Lust, complaining that "somebody had been calling and hanging up."

Foxworth said Nelson and Lust had worked together at the Red Lion Hotel in Modesto, Calif. He said Nelson and Lust had a relationship but that Nelson had called it off in October.

Kim Hansink, a Red Lion spokeswoman, said Lust worked in purchasing at the Modesto Red Lion. He began work there in May 1990 and quit a year ago.

Nelson had worked as a catering sales manager for the Portland Red Lion since the beginning of January.

The shooting apparently did not disrupt nearby meetings. Guests who wanted to use the barber shop next door to Nelson's office were told they would have to reschedule. Most people in the hotel apparently were unaware of the shooting.

"We heard two low sounds like hammering on pipes. Boom. Boom," said Erika Stephens, 18, who was in the room next to the shooting for a cosmetics seminar.

No-pet policy snags retired guide dog

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — When the man known as Dr. Peter died of AIDS last November, a close friend promised to care for Harvey, his guide dog.

But when Harvey retired from active duty, his legal status as a guide dog retired with him, which meant he could no longer enter or live in places normally off-limits to dogs.

Equitable Real Estate Investment Corp. of Vancouver sees Harvey as a pet rather than a guide dog.

Equitable manages the building where Andy Hiscox, 43, and Harvey lived with Dr. Peter Jepson-Young, best known for a personal televised diary in which he documented the progress of his disease.

Animal advocacy and tenants' rights groups recently asked the British Columbia government to amend the Residential Tenancy Act to permit pets, but were turned down. Landlords may legally evict pet-owning renters.

Equitable wants Harvey out under the terms of its no-pets policy. But Hiscox and Harvey will both have to move.

"Giving Harvey up isn't an option," Hiscox said Tuesday. "He's part of my life, my life with Peter and that family we were. It would be like giving up a member of my family."

"We're not cruel landlords — we understand the situation," said Gordon Hill, Equitable property manager.

"The dog was a working dog before. Now he's not." While Hiscox hasn't yet received an eviction notice, Equitable has raised the subject with him three times.

Hiscox has lived in the building just over two years and Harvey, who is part-Lab, several months longer than that.

Following what urban planner Hiscox calls "one little wee barking incident" several weeks ago, Harvey each day accompanies him to his downtown Vancouver office.

Equitable allowed pets in its 28 Vancouver buildings several years ago but the situation "got out of hand" and the company is now phasing them out by not allowing new pet acquisitions among its 1,000 tenants, Hill said.

"I've just had a case where it cost me several thousand dollars for an eight-month-old carpet that was ruined by a pet," he said.

"To a certain extent, I can see the landlord's perspective," Hiscox said. "It's not pets who are the problem, but pet owners."

Court hears public beach challenge

SALEM (AP) — Oregon's law ensuring public access to beaches shouldn't be used to ban all commercial projects on dry sand areas, the Oregon Supreme Court was told Wednesday.

The court heard arguments in a challenge to the milestone law that guarantees a public easement to the beaches.

Property in the dry sand area, generally between the average high tide mark and the vegetation line, can be privately owned. But owners can't block public access to the beaches.

Irving "Bud" Stevens of Cannon Beach appealed after state and local officials prohibited him from building a sea wall as part a 30-unit motel he wants to build in Cannon Beach. The property is near the Ecola Inn Motel, which he operates.

The Oregon Court of Appeals ruled against Stevens last August, saying the public's rights prevail over his property rights.

Stevens' attorney, Garry McMurry of Portland, said the Supreme Court should decide if the state can regulate uses on dry sand areas but cannot block all development.

Stevens claims he's being deprived of his property rights and should be reimbursed if he can't go ahead with the project. He contends the 106-by-65-foot parcel is worth about \$500,000.

But Michael Reynolds, an assistant state attor-

ney general, said ownership of beachfront acreage does not allow Stevens to use it any way he wants.

Reynolds said there's no government "taking" of private property for which compensation might be owed unless a property right is denied. Stevens' property rights "simply do not include development rights," he said.

The proposed sea wall would exclude the public from 12,500 square feet of dry sand area, Reynolds said, creating a major obstacle to beach access.

The Legislature passed the beach law in 1967 after an outpouring of public support. The state Supreme Court upheld the statute in 1969.

McMurry said that court decision shouldn't apply retroactively to Stevens because he bought the property in 1957.

He also contended that photos show the state has allowed two commercial developments on dry sand areas, one in Lincoln City and one in Florence.

Several Supreme Court judges indicated they might favor deciding the case on narrower grounds of whether the trial court had authority to dismiss the appeal in the first place.

"I'm not interested in where lines ought to be drawn in the sand," said Justice Michael Gillette.

Washington debates gay rights bill

OLYMPIA (AP) — Before an often unruly and out-of-order audience, a late-night hearing by the House State Government Committee heard testimony on a measure to ban discrimination against gays and lesbians.

Chairman Cal Anderson, D-Seattle, the main sponsor of HB1443 and the Washington Legislature's first openly gay member, was frequently shouted down as he tried to preside over the Tuesday night meeting.

A estimated 700 people crowd-

ed the House Chambers and galleries, where the hearing was moved because of the large audience. Supporters and opponents of the bill objected often and loudly to testimony with which they disagreed.

The measure would give gays and lesbians the same protections against discrimination now granted other people based on religion, race, sex, ethnic origin or disability.

The committee is scheduled to vote on the bill this afternoon.

Opponents of the bill called homosexuality sinful and perverted. Lawmakers were repeatedly urged to vote against what opponents called "special rights."

The bill's supporters asked the committee to vote in favor of justice and against those who "peddle hate and perpetuate fear."

"We simply ask to be treated like everyone else," said Kathleen Conroy, vice president of the Privacy Fund, a lesbian and gay political action committee.

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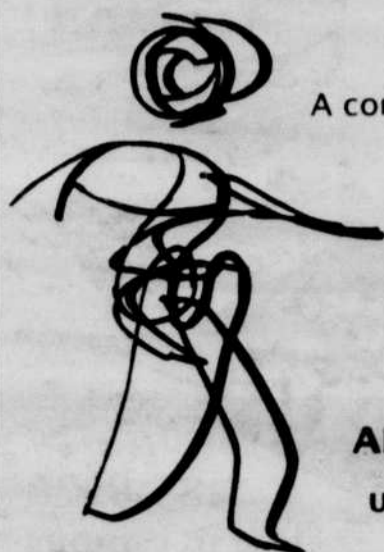
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