

Man charged with murder acted alone, police say

□ Wife of suspect says he suffered "fits of violence"

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — The man arrested in the slaying of a doctor outside his abortion clinic apparently acted alone, police said Thursday. His wife said he had suffered "great fits of violence" and threatened her and their children. The man was ordered held without bond.

In the wake of what's believed to be the nation's first killing stemming from an abortion demonstration, clinics around the country tightened security and women's groups urged Congress to approve legislation making the blocking of clinics a federal crime.

At conservative Pensacola's two abortion clinics, police increased security. The clinic where Dr. David Gunn was killed was closed, and a candlelight vigil in his memory was planned for Thursday night.

Gunn, 47, was shot three times in the back with a .38-caliber revolver at point-blank range as he was getting out of his car at the back door of the Pensacola Women's Medical Services. Anti-abortion demonstrators were picketing the clinic.

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Photo by Anthony Forney
Kitty Piercy, Oregon National Abortion Rights Action League president, and Sally Sheklow, Eugene Feminist Women's Health Center development director, spoke out Thursday on the murder of Dr. David Gunn, an abortion provider in Pensacola, Fla.

Murder angers local activists

□ Local clinics have increased security since the murder of a doctor Wednesday

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

The fatal shooting in Florida Wednesday of an abortion provider has provoked outrage from local pro-choice advocates; the state's most prominent anti-abortion group also denounced the murder.

At a press conference Thursday at the Eugene Feminist Women's Health Center, Sally Sheklow, the center's development director, said she is appalled at the murder of Dr. David Gunn, but not surprised.

"Frankly, we're amazed that something like this didn't happen earlier," she said. "The Feminist Women's Health Center and other clinics who provide abortion services have survived violent attacks for years."

In September, Sheklow said, the center was set on fire. Sheklow blamed anti-abortion groups and the "religious right" for creating a climate of violence that fosters such attacks.

"(Wednesday's) murder is the most serious form of violence to come out of the anti-abortion movement," Sheklow said. "The anti-abortion movement has created a wave of terror in this country and it is these people who are responsible for the murder of Dr. Gunn."

Kitty Piercy, president of Oregon National Abortion Rights Action League, said anti-abortion groups in general and the Reagan-Bush administrations have fostered an atmosphere in which harassment, rather than protection, has been encouraged.

Becky Moore, spokeswoman for Oregon Right To Life, responded that simply having a position on an issue does not

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Groups deny stories of serial rapist

□ Rise in local sex crimes lead to increased fear among women

By Rebecca Merritt
Emerald Reporter

The Eugene police department believes there is not a serial rapist in the area even though one suspect has been linked to four different sex crimes, an EPD spokesman said Thursday.

Sgt. Dave Poppy said despite increasing fears and rumors among local women, the police department has not been withholding information regarding any reported sexual assault. However, he said, the department realizes that most sex crimes are unreported and is working to increase rape awareness.

Thursday's news conference, representing the Sexual Assault Support Services of Lane County, Self Defense from the Inside Out and the Eugene Office of Public Safety, was organized in response to the recent scare created by rumors and media attention surrounding recent sexual assaults.

"Rumors, false information and a belief in the myths and stereotypes about rape and rapists have served, in our community, to keep people's fear

level high and restrict people's lives," said Erin Collier, program coordinator for Sexual Assault Support Services.

Calls to the support service's crisis line have increased by 25 percent since the media publicized information about a series of rapes committed in North Eugene that involve a white male suspect in his mid-30s with shoulder-length brown hair and a thin beard.

The first of these rapes occurred Nov. 30 near Trend College, Poppy said. The next two victims were raped in a parking lot near the Santa Clara Fred Meyer Dec. 26 and Feb. 2. The fourth sex crime was committed Feb. 3 in front of Sheldon High School.

Poppy said four sexual assaults were reported last weekend. However, the police department is certain the crimes are unrelated to previous assaults.

"There's no reason to believe they are connected," Poppy said.

The demand for self-defense classes has also grown because of the large number of rapes. Calls to Self Defense From the Inside Out have increased by 50 percent.

"Many calls are from people who want to know

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Rainmakers



Photo by Anthony Forney
Don Delaplain (right), crew leader for Grant's Landscaping, helps Monte Crase install the new sprinkler system between Gilbert and Fenton halls.



WEATHER

All of the Northwest will enjoy fine weather Friday and Saturday as a dry air mass will bring sunny and pleasant weather. High temperatures will be in the upper 60s.

THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN

HAYWARD, Calif. (AP) — The geese in Patrick Swartz's yard look like barnyard birds, but they're really playing watchdog.

The four geese, along with a tough Peking duck named Yacky, have trapped at least four suspected burglars with their loud honking and wing flapping since he started his flock five years ago, Swartz said.

"They're the urban watchdogs of the '90s," said Swartz, a retired mortician. "If they see anything weird, they'll alert us."

The 45-pound geese made their latest collar last month, honking to alert police to an armed robbery suspect behind their pen. Nine months ago, they cornered a man who allegedly broke into a neighboring house.

SPORTS

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The UNLV basketball program, dogged by problems the past 10 years, has been jolted anew with a report that an instructor was pressured into giving a passing grade to leading scorer J.R. Rider.

"I find it unimaginable that any instructor would let anyone pressure them into giving a grade," UNLV President Robert Maxson said Thursday.

Vicki Bertolino told the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* she was pressured by two people in the athletic department to give Rider a grade even though he had not completed his course work. She said the pressure came at a time when her husband was recovering from a heart attack.