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Portland cars stolen one an hour

PORTLAND (AP) — At 17, Demetrius Vaughn was so accustomed to car theft that he stole cars just to avoid a short walk.

Vaughn, who doesn't even have a driver's license, figures he stole 100 cars in the past two years.

Police say he is no worse than many youths who have helped increase Portland's car-theft rate by 36 percent this year. Residents reported 4,983 car thefts through July 24 — that's one an hour.

"I used to sneak out of my house every night and steal a car just to go to my girlfriend's house," Vaughn said.

The bus doesn't run after midnight, he said, and "I didn't feel like walking."

While Vaughn may be an experienced car thief, he is not a particularly adept one. He was arrested by Portland police four times last year.

But those arrests and others for assault and harassment never landed him in a state training school.

"They just gave me a lot of chances," he said in an interview at his juvenile counselor's office.

The car theft problem has infuriated residents and prompted Mayor Vera Katz to appoint a special task force to tackle a situation she calls "intolerable."

Juveniles like Vaughn account for almost half of the theft. They steal cars with near impunity because they know that the juvenile system is so clogged with violent offenders that few judges will send a mere car thief to Hillcrest or MacLaren, the state training schools.

Vaughn, who said he has given up stealing cars, thinks those judges are making the wrong choice.

"I'd just tell 'em to be real hard on them, because they weren't hard on me," he said.

Prosecutors say the juvenile system allows even

repeat offenders to avoid punishment. "I don't think the general public has any idea what's going on in the juvenile system until they're victimized, their car's stolen," said Mark McDonnell, a deputy district attorney. "Then they come to court and see what's happening and they're extremely angry."

McDonnell traces the problem to 1985, when the Legislature — with the support of then-House Speaker Katz — cut the number of beds at MacLaren and Hillcrest by about one-third. The move reflected a belief still held by many experts that children should not be institutionalized.

Almost overnight, the state shrank its juvenile capacity from 750 to 513.

The high rate of juvenile crime in Portland is related to those missing beds, said Hillcrest Superintendent Mary Ellen Eiler.

"Capping at the '85 number, when gangs were just a glimmer in Oregon's eye and when the population was beginning to skyrocket, just made no sense at all," she said.

Vaughn's counselor, Laura Burgess, defends the current system. She said Vaughn suffered substantial penalties for his thefts and benefited when he finally was sent to Son Village, a group home on the Salmon River.

"People think automatically that kids should just do time," she said. "I think this was far more beneficial to him."

Vaughn credits counselors at Son Village for persuading him to give up car theft. One thing they told him was that with one more offense he could go to MacLaren.

"Three hours of fun for three years in jail," he said. "It's not worth it."

Former Rajneeshees fight extradition

PORTLAND (AP) — Two former Rajneeshees charged in an alleged plot to kill a U.S. attorney in Oregon have fought efforts to extradite them from Britain in court — and now are enlisting the British press.

Sally-Ann Croft, also known as Prem Savita, and Susan Hagan, also known as Anand Su, face murder conspiracy and firearms charges. The pair contend they would not be able to get a fair trial in Oregon because of their past ties to the sect led by Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

Croft now works as an accountant in London. Hagan is an aromatherapist in Hertfordshire. But prior to September 1985, they were among the leaders of the Rajneesh Neo-Sannyas International Commune at Rancho Rajneesh.

The federal murder conspiracy and firearms charges allege that Hagan and Croft, along with the Bhagwan's chief aide, Anand Sheela, and several others, formed an elite hit squad, acquired false identification, bought guns and then planned to kill former U.S. Attorney Charles H. Turner in an underground parking garage near the federal

'... it is the quickest route to the hearts and votes of the redneck residents of America's Bible Belt.'

— *The Daily Telegraph, London newspaper*

courthouse in Portland.

The Daily Telegraph in London criticized the attempt to extradite the women: "As to why the Oregon authorities should be interested in prosecuting members of a cult which left the state eight years ago, the answer seems to be that it is the quickest route to the hearts and votes of the redneck residents of America's Bible Belt."

Byron C. Sheldahl, chief criminal assistant U.S. attorney in Oregon, said he was startled to see Oregon identified as the Bible Belt. "If they're trying to make a legal point that we waited too long, the answer is no, we did not," he said.

According to *The Independent*

newspaper in London, the British High Court on July 29 ruled that former British Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke "had not properly tested the reliability of American evidence" before he signed the extradition order in April. A review of the order is to take place this fall.

Clarke told *The Daily Telegraph* in April that "the charge is a serious one. This is a case where guilt ought to be finally determined by a competent court of law and not by me no by the judgment of various distinguished people whose letters I have also read and considered carefully."

Both Croft and Hagan have insisted that they dropped out of the murder plot when they left Rancho Rajneesh.

But Sheldahl said "once you join a conspiracy, you've committed the crime at that point."

One of their attorneys, Andrew McCooey, has suggested that British authorities are pursuing the extradition for political reasons. McCooey urged Clarke this past spring "not to sacrifice the lives of two innocent British women for the sake of Anglo-U.S. relations."

Bruce Lee note sells for \$29,000

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — A note written in 1969 by Bruce Lee predicting he would become famous and worth \$10 million went for \$29,000 at an auction attended by collectors and fans of the late actor and martial arts legend.

The personal, handwritten note, catalogued as worth up to \$15,000, read:

"I, Bruce Lee, will be the first highest-paid Oriental superstar in the United States. In return I will give the most exciting performances and render the best of quality in the capacity of an actor. Starting in 1970 I will achieve world fame and from then onward till the end of 1980 I will have in my possession \$10,000,000. I will live the way I please and achieve inner harmony and happiness."

Lee grew up in Hong Kong and lived several years in Seattle and California before returning to Hong Kong. He died in 1973 of acute cerebral edema, possibly caused by an allergic reaction to a prescription painkiller.

The auction was authorized by his widow, Linda Lee Cadwell, who said she felt it was time to

give fans a more complete picture of the star of the movie *Enter the Dragon* and *The Green Hornet* television series.

Lee's Hong Kong driver's license, estimated to be worth about \$1,200, brought \$8,000. His old reading glasses, held together with wire in the days before he could afford new ones, went for \$6,000 in the Saturday bidding, which attracted about 150 people.

Items for sale included Lee's essays, autographed pictures and movie contracts. His martial arts outfits, trophies, and the training records of two of his most prominent students, actor Steve McQueen and basketball star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, were also included.

The reading glasses were particularly significant, his widow said, because Lee held them together with wire during the late 1960s, when he had trouble getting acting jobs and couldn't afford new ones.

After he became a star, he pledged to always keep them to remind him of the hard times.