

Body of woman dead four years discovered

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — One neighbor had Adele A. Gaboury's lawn mowed for her. Another took care of a pile of mail. A utility company was called to tend to her broken pipes.

All the while, the 73-year-old recluse lay dead, for probably four years, in a pile of trash on the kitchen floor. Authorities found her body Monday with a phone nearby, as if she had been trying to make a call when she died.

"She didn't want anyone bothering her at all," said an old friend, June Tsiokas. "She just wanted to be left alone. I guess she got her wish, but it's awfully sad."

Neighbors had inquired about Gaboury about four years ago, after they noticed she was missing. But one of her brothers, with whom she wasn't close, told police she had gone into a nursing home.

"A brother had located a woman with the same last name and assumed it was his sister. It wasn't," said police Capt. James Gallagher.

With the search for Gaboury ended, neighbors began to tend to her two-story house that stood out in its decay in a middle-class neighborhood of the central Massachusetts city.

The mailman kept delivering her mail through a slot in the door, until neighbor Michael Crowley noticed a pileup. He opened the door and hundreds of pieces of mail fluttered into the yard. Crowley notified police, who had the deliveries stopped. Subsequent mail was stamped return to sender.

Next-door neighbor Eileen Dugan, assuming Gaboury was in a nursing home, started paying her own grandson \$10 twice a month to mow Gaboury's lawn because the property was such an eyesore.

A utility company was called to shut off the water when Dugan's son noticed Gaboury's pipes had frozen and sent water spilling out the door.

No one could imagine Gaboury was inside. Even when police searched the home Friday, after a neighbor complained about it as a health hazard, they missed her badly decomposed body in 6 feet of trash.

Authorities still suspicious returned Monday for another look and found the body.

Police said they believe Gaboury died of natural causes four years ago, when her bank transactions ended. The state medical examiner's office was investigating.

A brother, Joseph Gaboury, 70, of East Brookfield, said the family hadn't been close since their mother died in 1979. But he told the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, "Someone should have noticed something before now."

Gaboury apparently had worked at a nursing home and had been living with a male companion until he died six years ago. Florence Stearns, administrator of the Anna Marie Rest Home, said Gaboury worked there as activity director for about two years, leaving in 1986 after problems arose over her absenteeism.

Stearns said she knew little about Gaboury except that she had formerly worked on a cruise ship.

"She was rather a private person," Stearns said. "She kept her own affairs to herself."

Few others knew much about Gaboury, who lived on the street for 40 years.

"My heart bleeds for her, but you can't blame a soul," said Rose Girouard, who lives across the street. "If she saw you out there, she never said hello to you."

Justice may delay court order

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration asked a Supreme Court justice on Tuesday to delay a lower court order banning discrimination against homosexuals in the military.

The emergency order, if granted, would enable the Defense Department to implement its new policy on homosexuals, which states that recruits will not be asked their sexual orientation but that openly declared homosexuals will not be permitted to serve.

The Justice Department filed its request to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, requesting a partial stay of a U.S. District judge's order while the administration appeals it. The aim is to limit the judge's ruling to Navy Petty Officer Keith Meinhold, a gay sailor discharged from the military in August 1992 after he disclosed he was homosexual.

The department contended in its application that U.S. District Judge Terry Hatter Jr. "clearly erred with respect to issues of great importance" when he ruled Sept. 30 that the Pentagon could not deny enlistment or promotion, or change enlistment status or duty assignment because of someone's sexual orientation.

The Pentagon has instructed units to suspend the ban on homosexuals in the military while it pursues the case.

"The entry of a nationwide injunction in this non-class action conflicts with decisions of this court and numerous courts of appeals holding that an injunction may not be broader than nec-

essary to provide relief to the party before the court," the Justice Department said.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund, an 80,000-member gay rights lobbying organization, criticized the government's application as unnecessary.

"This is not an emergency," said spokesman Gregory King in Washington. "Judge Hatter's ruling has been in effect for three weeks with no decline in morale or unit cohesion."

Hatter, who earlier declared that the ban on homosexuals in the military is unconstitutional, also prohibited the military from creating or keeping records of a service member's sexual orientation.

The judge, of Los Angeles, threatened to impose fines of at least \$10,000 a day if the Pentagon fails to comply.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals refused on Oct. 8 to suspend the decision while it considers the Pentagon's appeal. The appellate court is scheduled to hear the appeal in December.

Meinhold filed a lawsuit challenging the ban on homosexuals, and Hatter ordered him reinstated last November.

The Clinton administration had planned to implement a new "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy on Oct. 1, but that policy has been placed on hold.

Truckers find support for likely strike

PHOENIX (AP) — Jim Bowman has some advice if his fellow truckers go on strike: "Tell your momma to stock up on groceries because ... there won't be anything in the stores."

Bowman's wife, Doris, has passed out fliers at truck stops across the country to garner support for a nationwide industry shutdown Nov. 11-17. Truckers are also spreading the word on CB radios and a network of toll-free numbers.

Big trucking companies and the Teamsters union oppose the effort organized by independent truckers to protest rapidly rising diesel fuel prices.

Independent trucker Bob Mackin is one of those ready to park his 18-wheeler for a week. Mackin says rising fuel prices amount to a \$10,000-a-year pay cut.

"This will be a big bite in my pocketbook, but it's worth it," Mackin said.

It's unclear how many of the nation's estimated 4.5 million truck drivers — including as many as 500,000 independent owner-operators — might participate.

In the past, wildcat attempts to halt truck traffic gained sparse support.

Spokesmen for the American Trucking Associ-

ations, which represents big trucking companies, and the Teamsters, which represents about 100,000 long-haul drivers, said they oppose the plan and expect few employee drivers to take part.

But the Owner-Operators Independent Drivers Associations, a Grain Valley, Mo., group that represents 20,000 independent truckers, is getting many supportive calls, said Todd Spencer, executive vice president.

Some protest organizers say thousands of independent operators, who account for much of the long-haul truck traffic, are expected to pull their rigs off the road for a few days.

"You better tell your momma to stock up on groceries because it's gonna happen, and there won't be anything in the stores," said Bowman, an independent trucker from Greenville, Texas.

Diesel prices jumped at the beginning of this month when the federal fuel tax rose 4.3 cents a gallon and federal clean-air rules required refiners to replace their old product with cleaner-burning, low-sulfur fuel.

Shortages of the new fuel and distribution problems have added to the price spiral, the American Petroleum Institute said.

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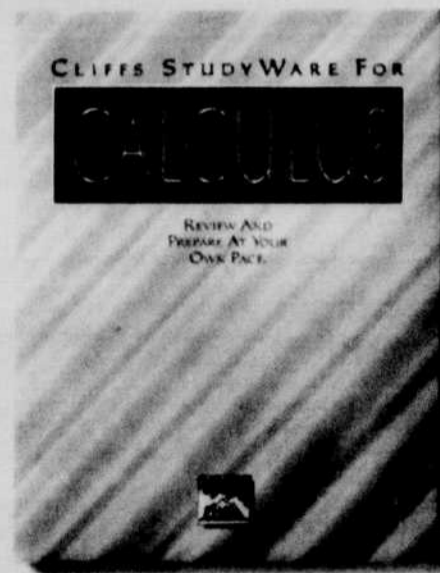
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