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ARRESTS

Continued From Page 1

Elstad's case and have him tried as an adult. He said that his office would have to continue to check into Elstad's criminal record to determine whether he will be tried as an adult.

Friday detectives searched the residences of both suspects, seeking evidence in the case. Investigators have been unable to locate the murder weapon, they searched the Willamette River Saturday and Sunday without any luck.

According to published reports, Iturra may have known that someone was out to get him, police would neither confirm or deny this during Friday's news conference. In an interview published in *The Register-Guard* Saturday, Oct. 8, Iturra's mother Janyce Iturra-Holland expressed shock and disbelief at the arrests of Elstad and Brown. "(James Elstad) has been in and out of my house for years as Aaron's friend. I liked this kid. I feel betrayed. Very betrayed and very violated."

The arrests came four days after 18-year-old Iturra was shot in the head as he slept in the converted garage of his Bethel-area home. Iturra's girlfriend was in bed with him at the time of the shooting. The police are not identifying the girl whom they are treating as "a material witness to the homicide." Police refused to comment on what the girl had or had not seen, but Gilliam stressed that the girlfriend was not a suspect in the investigation.

According to Sgt. Rick Gilliam of the Eugene Department of Public Safety, Elstad was an acquaintance of Iturra's. The two had, from what police can discern, had a falling out. Police believe that the falling out is the reason for the killing. Gilliam said the police knew there was some animosity between the victim and the suspects.

Though investigators have not been able to determine whether the shooting was gang related, Elstad and Brown were both "self-proclaimed Crip members," Sgt. Gilliam said.

Both Elstad and Brown bragged to their friends about being gang affiliated, but those close to the young men say that neither seemed capable of the kind of violence that was illustrated by the killing of Iturra. In another interview with *The Register-Guard* published on Saturday, Oct. 8 Bobby

Young, an acquaintance of Elstad's, said that Elstad was "just trying to act tough."

Harclooad also used the news conference as a platform to encourage the public to take gang activity in Eugene more seriously. He said that law enforcement officials working on the Iturra case logged many, many hours. In addition he said that his office and the Department of Public Safety are oftentimes in a reactive rather than a proactive role when it comes to cases such as this one.



ELSTAD



BROWN

"We kind of backed into this case. We operate after something occurs, we are not able to do much in the way of prevention."

"The quality of life in our community goes down when the incidents of violence go up. What's going on here today is not enough and the resources available are not enough," Harcleroad said.

He went on to say that in order for law enforcement to work at the rate that the public would like more people must be added.

Bethel School District Communications Director, Craig Hawkins said school's in his

district are providing many services for students that were not required in the past, but as funding has been cut so have services aimed at helping at-risk children

"Society is so different than it was just a few years ago for many of the adults who were there and remember the school and how kids behaved there, its just so different," he said.

"We are real committed to doing everything we possibly can beyond even the resources we have. We find every resource we can, we pull in outside programs. In our district we used to have counselors working in every school, as funding has been cut, we haven't just lost librarians teachers we've lost counselors, and they were a very vital part of our schools," Hawkins said.

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