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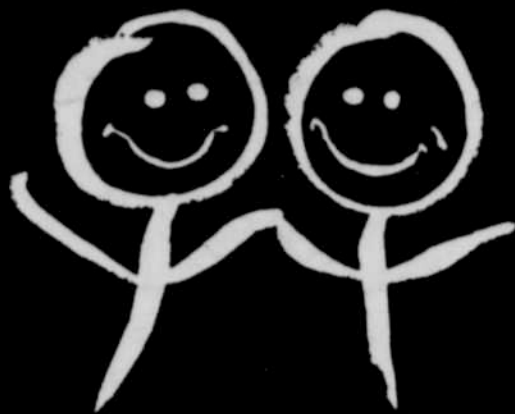
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Just news

Judge refuses light sentence for Doney's killer

Darrell B. Monical, charged with strangling and slitting the throat of Eugene Doney in Couch Park last February, may get another day in court. A Multnomah County Circuit Court judge refused last month to accept a plea arrangement for the case, saying the agreed-upon sentence was too lenient.

Monical, 19, who was charged with murder in the case, pleaded guilty to the lesser crime of manslaughter last December, noting on the plea agreement that, "I caused the death of Eugene Doney while under the influence of alcohol after he accosted me and attempted to have homosexual contact with me, while under the influence of an extreme emotional disturbance."

Monical's attorney, Wendell R. Birkland, and Deputy District Attorney Charles M. Kokes had agreed to recommend a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, with a five-year minimum term before Monical would be eligible for parole. But Judge Stephen S. Walker refused to approve the sentence, saying it was too light.

"I didn't think it was appropriate . . . I thought a five-year minimum was frankly too short a time," he said in an interview. Walker said he favored the maximum sentence for manslaughter one, 20 years in prison with a minimum of ten years served before attaining parole eligibility.

Birkland asked that the case be assigned to a different judge for sentencing, and, at press time, it had been sent back to presiding judge Donald H. Londer for re-assignment. Birkland refused further comment on the case.

Under the plea agreement statute, if a judge refuses to approve the recommended sentence, the defendant may withdraw his or her guilty plea, and the case may go to trial, according to Marilyn Curry, a deputy district attorney. At press time, Monical had not withdrawn his plea.

— Anndee Hochman

Our House

Joining the growing list of Portland AIDS hospices is Our House. A licensed foster care home, Our House provides long-term living arrangements and supportive care, as well as gay care for persons who need occasional outside help.

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For more information contact Our House, PO Box 42381, Portland, OR 97242; telephone 234-0175.

— K.C. de Gutes

Burnside 18 (minus two) trials pending

On February 22, sixteen of the original 18 persons arrested "for improper position on a highway" on the Burnside Bridge will have their day in court. The other two had separate trials earlier — Clinton de Longpre pleaded guilty and charges against Sweed Short were dropped.

The remaining defendants will plead not guilty, according to Frodo Okalum, one of the sixteen. The trials are scheduled at the Multnomah County Courthouse on February 22, at 2 pm. A demonstration in support of the Burnside 18 (minus two) is scheduled simultaneously and will be held in Lownsdale Square across from the Courthouse.



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