

Police News

Help Sought To Arrest Bicycle Robber

Portland Police detectives are seeking assistance from the public in their investigation of a series of armed robberies in northeast Portland.

The robber, distinguished by his use of a bicycle, is suspect in nine armed robberies since July 31. All of the crimes have occurred in the area of Northeast Broadway, between 26th and 34th avenues.

The suspect is described as being an African-American male, late teens to early 20s, about six foot tall with a thin to medium build and fine features. Hair is said to be black with two-inch braids or dreadlocks. He wears dark clothing and often a hooded sweatshirt.

The suspect has ridden up to the victims on a dark colored bicy-

cle, described as a mountain bike or BMX style. He has been armed with a small semi-automatic pistol.

Typically, the suspect will ride up to lone pedestrians at night from the rear and then demand money at gunpoint. In some cases, the victims have been carrying groceries from nearby markets.

The incidents have occurred between 8:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. and have involved male and female victims of varied ages. No one has been injured in the incidents, however, in one case the suspect fired several gunshots into the air.

Robbery detectives Erin Kelley and Matt Horton (823-0479) are the investigating officers. Reward money is available through the Crime Stoppers Program at 823-HELP.

Homicide Investigation

Portland Police are investigating a Monday morning shooting that left a southeast Portland man dead, and his female friend wounded.

Southeast Precinct officers responded to 2025 S. E. Ash St. about 1:15 a.m. after a neighbor called to report the sound of several gunshots and a woman screaming.

Upon arrival, officers found that the shooting had occurred at an individually numbered apartment. Inside they found the resident, Anthony Sherman Branch, DOB 10-19-58, dead of multiple gunshots. A friend, Felicia Allyn, DOB 10-23-68

was wounded in the incident and was transported to Oregon Health Sciences University.

Reportedly, two to four suspects entered the apartment by throwing a large rock through a glass sliding door. Once inside, the suspects confronted branch and fired multiple shots before fleeing the scene.

The motive for the shooting is still undetermined, but detectives believe that the suspects specifically came to Branch's home, and this was not a random encounter.

Detectives Kerry Taylor and Derek Anderson are the investigators.

Two Suspects Charged In Shooting

Gang Enforcement Team officers have charged two people in connection with the Tuesday shooting incident near Madison High School. A third has been charged with Hindering Prosecution in connection with the investigation.

Gang enforcement officers made the arrests Thursday night after stopping a vehicle that matched the description of the suspect vehicle in the shooting incident.

The officers made the stop at 5712 S. E. 84th Ave. During their contact with the occupants of the car, the officers ultimately conducted searches of the vehicle, residence and grounds. During that search they recovered two semi-automatic pistols in a pile of wood.

After interviews with lead Detective Kelly Scott and other Gang Enforcement Team Detectives, two of the suspects, Li Van Vo, DOB 10-29-74 and Hai Quoc Pham, DOB 12-31-78, were charged with Attempted Murder and First Degree Assault.

A third suspect, Lam Nguyen, DOB 01-24-79, was charged with Hindering Prosecution in connection with the investigation. A fourth suspect initially arrested was later released.

The investigation is still continuing as to the identities of other individuals involved in this incident. Additional arrests are expected.

White And Black Teens Say Racial Attitudes Have Changed In Alabama

Attitudes among young people in Montgomery, Alabama, have changed considerably since 1955 when Rosa Parks was arrested there for refusing to move to the back of the bus, according to a group of black and white teenagers, who participated in an interview for this Sunday's Parade magazine.

"Me and Kanika have been in school together since elementary school," 18-year-old Jennifer Griffin, who is white, said of her friend Kanika Walcott, also 18, who is black. "We cheered together through junior high. And if school was just being integrated, and I saw Kanika get beaten or something because of her color, I would die. I could not stand to see it. I would try to help her."

William Blair, who is also 18 and white, agreed. "Yeah, we'd stick up for our black friends. But back then it was ingrained in the white people's heads that black people were inferior. You wouldn't help them.

No matter how much you liked them, you just didn't do that."

The teens, who were all students at Robert E. Lee High School when the interview took place, said although things are better, they still are not perfect. "I'm a cheerleader," Kanika said, "and there are only two black cheerleaders. And some people—mostly black friends—tell me that I'm a sellout because I'm going to cheer with the white people, and I talk white and I dress white." Somebody had the nerve to tell me I wear silver jewelry because I want to be white."

Shauntice Allen, who is black and had a similar experience, asked, "What does that mean? And what is 'acting black'?"

"There was this boy who used to go to our school," commented Griffin. "He was just known to hate black people. He'd wear rebel flag shirts that said, 'You wear your X (Malcolm), I'll wear my cross.' And one

time this white girl came in, and she was dressed in the 'gangsta' look, with the big football team jacket and the baseball hat. And he goes, 'Look at her, there's a nigger.' And I turned around, 'What is that?' and he said, 'oh, that girl is just trying to be a nigger.' I've heard it many times since. It's supposed to be a white person acting like a black person."

Griffin said she thinks the phrase 'acting like a black person' evolved out of the fact that "hip-hop and the whole rap scene was brought on by black people. They have their own kind of dress, their own kind of slang. So if a white person does this, they're 'acting like a black person'—they 'want to be black.'"

Robert D. Nesbitt, Sr., who is 86-years-old and worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, moderated the discussion. "Change will depend on people like you," he told the teenagers. "But we don't have enough of you."

Observing Vancouver

City Initiates New Billing Procedure

The new bill format and handling system is expected to reduce costs, save staff time and better accommodate laser printing to speed up the remittance processing system.

"We expect a one-day shorter turnaround for customer payment to be posted, and for payments to be processed," says Rich Golze, utility

administration manager.

The new bills are being printed at Poorman-Douglas Corp., Portland; remittance processing will be handled by the Clark County Treasurer's office.

The city bills over 48,200 accounts on an every-other-month basis. Starting this week, the city of Vancouver's utility division will distribute

water, sewer and storm drainage bills in a new, streamlined format.

Utility customers will notice that the main difference in the bill is its reduced size, trimmed down from 8 1/2 X 14 inches to 8 1/2 X 11 inches. Usage history on residential accounts will continue to be printed on the bills for the prior 24-month period.

Fashion Show Supports Disabled Citizens

On Saturday, Sept. 30 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Luepke Center, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department's Citizens of Disability program will sponsor the fourth annual fashion and entertainment presentation, "It's a Fashionable Life."

The event features modeling and entertainment presented by people of all ages and abilities through-

out Clark County. Fashions will be featured from Mariposa, Ross Dress for Less, The Foot Locker, Fitting Image and Gingiss Formal Wear.

This year's Master of Ceremonies will be Mike Wilson, Vancouver City Council, Mistress of Ceremonies will be Sandra Monson.

Dance to music by Sound Supply from 8 to 10 p.m. after the performance. Tickets are \$5 per person and

are on sale at Marshall and Bagley centers.

All proceeds from the program will help support special events, trips, dances, social enrichment and inclusive activities provided by Vancouver Parks and Recreation for people with disabilities.

For more information call Connie Irwin 696-8218.

Kick Up Your Heels

Kids six years of age and older and their families can have fun learning country-Western line dancing. This new class from the Vancouver Parks and Recreation Department is taught on Saturdays from Sept. 23 to Oct. 28 at Bagley Center, 4100

Plomondon.

Kids learn from 9 to 10 a.m. Open dance is from 10 to 11 a.m. and families get a lesson from 11 a.m. to noon.

Cost is \$28 or \$20 for city residents. Call 696-8065 for details.

City Invites Applications For Parking Commission Vacancy

The City of Vancouver is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the Parking Commission. The term is four years. Members may serve a maximum of two terms.

The Parking Commission is a five-member citizens group appointed by city council to advise on policy issues related to all city-owned street and off-street parking facilities. The commission makes recommendations on development of additional facilities and parking regulations.

Members must be a city resident, property owner, business own-

er, or an officer or partner in a city resident, property owner, business owner, or an officer or partner in a city business, except for one member who may be a downtown business employee.

The Parking Commission meets in Council Chambers at City Hall at 7 a.m. as needed.

For applications or further information contact Marie Day in the Mayor's Office at City Hall, 210 E. 13th St., P.O. Box 1995, Vancouver, WA. 98668 or call 696-8211 (FAX 696-8049). Applications must be submitted by Friday, Nov. 24, 1995.

Correction City Seeks Ghostly Volunteers

Volunteers with a spooky sense of humor are being sought by the city's Office of Heritage Services to portray ghosts and tell stories of past Officers Row residents. The "Ghost Stories on Officers Row" event is Monday, Oct. 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Storytellers of all shapes, sizes and ages are needed to tell stories of former residents of Officers Row.

"Not all the stories include guts and gore; some are tearful, others are charming," says Jane Morrison, city heritage coordinator.

Volunteers will need time to practice the stories and attend a few rehearsals. Guides, behind-the-scenes help and costume makers are also needed.

For a roster of available characters and more information, call the city's Office of Heritage Services at 699-5288.

Paulus Releases Annual Report Card

Norma Paulus, state superintendent of public instruction, today released the Oregon Report Card, an annual report on trends in Oregon schools.

This year's report is a portrait of the 1994-95 school year. It captures finance and enrollment trends, progress in implementing the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century and other details of Oregon's public school system.

In the 1994-95 school year, schools received good news in terms of funding and improvement efforts. The 1995 legislature for the first time made education its first funding priority and renewed its commitment to the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century, the four-year-old school improvement law.

Here are highlights of this year's report:

After a \$58 million cut in 1993-94, schools in the 1994-95 school year operated with \$109 million more than in 1993-94.

School districts drafted their first plan, describing how they will implement the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century.

In the coming year, the Department will award \$4.6 million in grants to train teachers and improve local educational programs, as part of the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century.

More than 4,000 businesses in Oregon are helping students learn how technology and academic subject are applied in the world of work.

Teachers face increasingly crowded classrooms as Oregon's population continues to grow. The number of Oregon students has risen by 7.7 percent since 1990-91, while the number of teachers has risen by only 0.1 percent. Student enrollment is expected to continue to climb through the rest of the decade, in other areas:

The state legislature this year approved a bill giving school districts greater authority in disciplining violent, disruptive students.

The Oregon Department of Education and school districts in Albany, Central Point, North Clackamas, West-Linn Wilsonville and elsewhere promoted character education.

25th Anniversary

CELEBRATION of
The Portland Observer

PROGRAM GROWTH FACTORS

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