

# Prosecution closes in Cosby extortion case

A woman claiming to be Bill Cosby's daughter became an "extortionist driven by greed" when she demanded \$40 million from the actor, a prosecutor concluded Tuesday at her trial.

In his closing argument at U.S. District Court, Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Engelmayer described for the jury how Autumn Jackson and two co-defendants in effect told Cosby, "Show me the money, or you will be sorry."

Jackson's attorney, Robert Baum, countered by urging the jury not to "convict a daughter for what you may perceive to be the sins of her mother."

Baum reminded jurors that for 22

years Cosby paid Jackson's mother more than \$100,000, or \$91 a week. That created, a "story of betrayal, abandonment, deceit and manipulation," kept alive with "threats by Bill Cosby," he said.

But Engelmayer accused the defendants of using a series of menacing letters and phone calls to Cosby's attorneys, sponsors and the actor himself early this year to warn him that they would sell Jackson's story to the tabloids unless he paid them the \$40 million.

"Autumn Jackson made that threat over and over and over again," despite warnings she was engaging in extortion, Engelmayer said.

At one point, Engelmayer held up

a blown-up photo of a 34-acre estate he alleged Jackson and her boyfriend planned to buy with Cosby's money, saying the motive was about "greed, not need."

He also argued that even if Cosby really is Jackson's father - which he has denied - she would still be guilty.

"There is no 'father exception' for extortion," he said.

Fed up, Cosby finally called the FBI, which arrested Jackson, 22, Jose Medina, 51, and Boris Sabas, 42, on charges of extortion, conspiracy and traveling across state lines to commit a crime. If convicted, each could get up to 12 years in prison.

The defense used only one wit-

ness before resting its case Monday. Jackson's maternal grandmother, Lois Maxfield, recalled that the girl was told when she was 5 that the man behind the cartoon character Fat Albert was her own father.

She also described shooting the videotape of Jackson and Cosby joking around during their first face-to-face meeting, backstage after a 1991 taping of "The Cosby Show."

In the 15-second video shown to jurors, Cosby put his arm around Jackson and encouraged her to become "an honor student - and if she doesn't, watch this."

He then throws a fake punch at Jackson, who bursts into laughter.

Maxfield testified Jackson

learned as a young child that her mother "was told not to put (Cosby's) name on the birth certificate," but the grandmother did not indicate who gave that instruction.

In testimony last week, Cosby admitted having sex with Jackson's mother, Shawn Upshaw, in the 1970s and later paying her \$100,000 over 20 years to keep quiet about the fling.

He acknowledged covering Jackson's education expenses, but said he told her he is not her father. Before the trial began July 7, U.S. District Judge Barbara Jones ruled that the question of whether Cosby is actually Jackson's father was irrelevant.

But the defense was allowed to argue that Jackson was raised to believe Cosby is her father and thought she was legally negotiating for her birth rights when she demanded the \$40 million.

Earlier, prosecutors concluded their case by playing a tape of a phone conversation between Mrs. Upshaw and Medina.

Told by Cosby's attorney that Jackson's threats constituted extortion, Mrs. Upshaw tried to reach her daughter through Medina to relay the lawyer's message.

"Autumn has painted herself into a corner," Upshaw is heard saying on the tape. "She has tried to blackmail him."

# E d u c a t i o n

## Story van making summer deliveries

Kids can take a break from bikes and basketball and discover adventure with volunteer readers this summer.

Local parks turn into an outdoor library when the SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) story van delivers books and volunteer storytellers to Portland kids on summer vacation.

The program helps more than 600 children improve summer reading skills, making them better prepared for school in the fall.

A summer outreach program of the Oregon Children's Foundation SMART program, the Story Van, sponsored by Washington Mutual, is a partnership between the Portland Police Bureau, Portland Parks Bureau, Multnomah County Library and SMART.



Adam Wilson of northeast Portland does well at Drake University.

## Portland's Wilson honored at Drake

Adam L. Wilson of Northeast Portland, has been named to the Dean's List at Drake University.

Wilson earned a grade-point average of 3.57 during the spring 1997 semester to achieve this academic honor at Drake. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade-point average of at least 3.50 (4.0 is straight A's). Drake is a private, independent university in Des Moines, Iowa, with an enrollment of approximately 3,100 full-time undergraduate students from 46 states and 50 countries.

## Bond levy renovations

### Portland schools push to complete summer repairs

School's out for summer, but school buildings are shaking and buzzing as workers hustle to complete major construction projects before kids come back in the fall.

Some \$3 million a week in building improvements and renovations - \$30 million over the entire summer -- is provided by a \$196 million bond passed by Portland voters in November 1995.

The seven-year bond targets updating wiring for technology, seis-

mic strengthening, accessibility improvements, deferred maintenance, and improvements for fire and life safety.

Funding also is included in the bond for new computers and technology in schools.

"Summer is a big push time to complete a lot of these major construction projects in our schools," says Reg Martinson, Portland School District Physical Plant Director. "There's a tremendous amount of work going on right now with major projects underway in 14 buildings and minor work ongoing in another 54 facilities. Much of

the work is within walls that will be sealed up again before school starts in September."

Design projects took up much of the first year of the bond, so current work represents some of the first significant construction undertaken. Currently Jefferson Marshall, Benson and Franklin high schools are in the midst of major construction activity, along with Buckman and Rose City Park elementaries, and Hosford and Sellwood middle schools.

To take a firsthand look at some of these school renovation projects, call the school district's Public Information Office, 916-3304.

## First Andrea Redding law scholar named

Jennifer K. De Wald, a third-year student at Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College, received the first Andrea Swanner Redding Scholarship.

The \$2,500 scholarship recognizes a law student with a commitment to Northwestern School of Law and the legal profession demonstrated through involvement in

activities designed to enhance the profession and to help those who are not always in a position to speak for themselves. Redding, a former law dean at the school died in 1996.

# POLICE NEWS

## Suspicious death investigation classified as manslaughter

Autopsy determines young woman died by strangulation

An autopsy, conducted by the Medical Examiner's Office, determined that the 20-year old black female, identified as Rasheedah R.

Taylor, of 2404 N. Vancouver Ave., died of asphyxiation by strangulation. The 23-year old black male, identified as Cameron Lee Andrews,

who also lived at the address, has been charged with manslaughter and lodged in the Justice Center Jail.

The investigation is continuing.

## CRIME STOPPERS

### Man wanted in escape from prosecution



The Portland Police Bureau Auto Theft Task Force, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Troy Leigh Crasper.

Felony arrest warrants are on file charging Crasper with Parole Violation and Failure to Appear on an original charge of Unauthorized use of a Motor Vehicle.

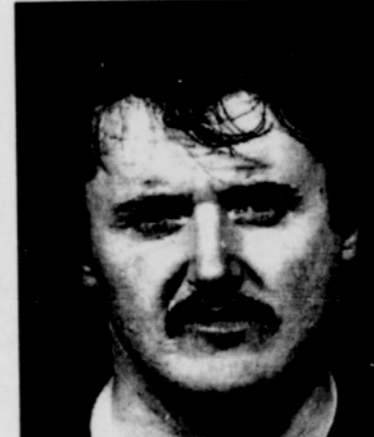
Investigators believe Crasper may be living in the Southeast Portland area.

Troy Leigh Crasper is a 30-year-old white male, with a date of birth

of February 2, 1967. Crasper is 5'10 tall, weighing 210 pounds with brown hair and brown eyes.

He has a tattoo on the right hand and a scar on his right ankle. Aliases used by Crasper include Travis Childres, Tony Hunt and Stephen Occhi.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information which leads to an arrest in this case or any unsolved felony crime, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.



Troy Leigh Crasper

## Dunthorpe murders laid to divorce

### Doctor kills his children in wealthy suburb

A wealthy doctor in the middle of a bitter divorce killed his three young daughters by giving them overdoses and then asphyxiated himself, officials said Friday.

The bodies of Dr. David Cornwall, 45, and his three daughters, Lauren, 9, Ashley, 5, and Caitlin, 4, were found Thursday in the home of his

mother and stepfather in Dunthorpe, a wealthy suburban community south of Portland.

The children, whose bodies were found on the second floor of the home, were killed in a manner "consistent with an overdose of medication," the Multnomah County coroner's office said in a report.

The type of medication was not immediately identified. The deaths were ruled as homicides.

Cornwall, who had a practice on Oregon's coast, was found in the

garage, dead of asphyxiation from carbon monoxide from car exhaust fumes.

The coroner's office said there was a possibility the physician also had taken medication.

Cornwall's wife, Karen, found the bodies early Thursday.

The two had been involved in a divorce and bitter fight over custody of the girls. Cornwall's mother and stepfather were in Canada at the time of the deaths, according to local news reports.



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