

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Michigan Date Rape Drug Trial Opens

DETROIT - Jury selection begins in one of the first trials in a death related to the so-called "date-rape drug." Four men are accused of manslaughter in the death of 15-year-old Samantha Reid, and authorities say the men spiked the girl's soft drink with a fatal dose of the drug known as GHB. Police say Samantha was one of three girls who unknowingly ingested the drug at a party. GHB has no odor or taste, and just a few drops can make someone pass out within 20 minutes. The drug is legal in 30 states and is used by body builders as a steroid.

Rescuers Search for Crash Survivors

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast - Guided by spotlights from helicopters above, rescuers in boats scoured the waters for survivors of a Kenya Airways jetliner that crashed into the Atlantic Ocean. At least 10 people survived. By late morning, 86 bodies had been brought to shore, rescue workers said. The cold ocean temperatures made it unlikely anyone could be alive after a few hours, officials said. The Airbus 310 was on its way to Nigeria with 179 people on board.

Mauritiana Holds Bomb Plot Suspect

NOUAKCHOTT, Mauritania - A man suspected of plotting a bombing attack in the United States has been arrested in his native Mauritania, security officials said. The officials said Mohambadou Ould Slahi was arrested after leaving Senegal. Slahi, who had been living in Canada, left the country in part because of the investigation into an alleged bombing plot U.S. authorities say was tied to Saudi millionaire Osama bin Laden, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service said.

Clinton To Seek \$350B Tax Cut

WASHINGTON - President Clinton proposed a \$350 billion tax-cut package in his final State of the Union address, urging relief from the marriage penalty and a new program of retirement savings accounts. The president has also proposed tax breaks for education, including a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 for college tuition, and philanthropy. The president has said that the nation stands at a moment of great prosperity and promise, and urged Americans to take a long look ahead to the challenges of the 21st Century, White House chief of staff John Podesta.

World's Top Execs Meet for Forum

DAVOS, Switzerland - Top executives from some of the world's largest corporations and government leaders gathered for an annual meeting that gives both groups a chance to discuss subjects ranging from business challenges to scientific breakthroughs and social problems. President Clinton, Tony Blair, Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat will join the heads of Ford Motor Co., BP Amoco and Dell Computer Corp. at the World Economic Forum. Reacting to the recent riots at the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, the Swiss army and a U.S. military helicopter have been dispatched as part of the preparations.

NASA Says Space Safe for Seniors

BETHESDA, Md. - Healthy Senior citizens can safely travel in space, although NASA has no immediate plans to duplicate the space shuttle mission that made 77-year-old John Glenn the world's oldest astronaut, space agency scientists said. During a nine-day trip into space in 1998, Glenn served as a guinea pig to see what effect zero gravity has on older people. NASA scientists didn't release test results - Glenn planned to discuss them this afternoon - but said they were pleased with what they learned.

HIV Cases in Japan Hit Record

TOKYO - The number of people in Japan testing positive for HIV or developing AIDS in 1999 reached a record high of 780, the Health and Welfare Ministry said. A total of 491 people tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, in 1999, up 16 percent from 1998, the ministry said. The report also said that the number of people tested for HIV and AIDS in 1999 dropped to 48,218. Down 5,000 from 1998.



Police News/Vancouver

Assault of two women results in arrest

CONTRIBUTOR STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

On Thursday, January 27, 2000, at 7:00 p.m., 33 year-old Eugene Boe Thwaits was taken into custody in connection with the sexual attack of two women in separate incidents. Thwaits is a white male, 5'11, 165 lbs., with long brown hair and a mustache.

The first incident occurred on January 7, 2000, at approximately 9:45 p.m., when a 20 year-old woman accepted a ride from Thwaits in the area of S.E. 122nd Avenue / Stark Street. Thwaits drove the victim to a secluded area in Southeast Portland where he sexually assaulted her.

The second incident occurred on January 20, 2000, at approximately 5:30 p.m., when another 20 year-old woman accepted a ride from Thwaits in the area of N.E. 82nd Avenue / Pacific Street Thwaits again drove the victim to a secluded area, in Northeast Portland where he sexually assaulted her. In both cases Thwaits displayed a weapon.

Thwaits has been charged in the first case with Kidnap I, Sodomy I, Unlawful Sexual Penetration I, Sex Abuse I, and Unlawful Use of a Weapon. In the second case he was charged with Rape I, Sodomy I, Sex Abuse I, Unlawful Sexual Penetration I, and Unlawful use of a Weapon. Thwaits was lodged at Multnomah County Detention Center and was arraigned on Friday, January 28th.

Portland Police Detectives are attempting to locate anyone with information concerning Thwaits, or anyone whom Thwaits may have approached, offering them a ride. Thwaits is known to have operated a white over maroon 1979 Ford LTD four door sedan, as well as a 1983 cream colored Honda Civic hatchback. Thwaits frequented East Portland as well as Vancouver, Washington. Anyone with information is ask to call Portland Detective Sergeant Amber Lewis at (503) 823-0400.

Crime Stoppers

Homicide

The Lincoln County District Attorney's Office and the Oregon State Police, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in solving a double homicide.

On Saturday, January 28, 1995, at about 1:30 in the morning, two sixteen year old girls, Kara Leas and Jennifer Esson, left a home in the Agate Beach area north of Newport Oregon, and walked east toward Highway 101 to hitchhike. On Wednesday, February 15, 1995, the bodies of both girls were found in a remote wooded area to the east of Highway 101, several miles from where they were last seen alive.

Investigators are looking into the possibility that the person or persons responsible may have approached and contacted other females while hitchhiking or walking in the area in 1994 or 1995. These contacts most likely occurred during nighttime



Jennifer Keri Esson



Kara Christine Leas

hours. Investigators wish to speak with anyone, especially females who may have experienced such a contact, who may have information in this case.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash

reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, 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.

Mill Plain extension phase done

CONTRIBUTOR STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

City of Vancouver Transportation and Construction Services and Nutter Underground Construction Co. have completed the second urban/downtown phase of the \$34 million Mill Plain Extension Project. The Industrial first segment was

completed in 1998. A ceremony at the completion of the third phase Bridge segment, now under construction, will mark the completion of the three-phase project in the fall of 2000. Work on the project began in 1992 with environmental assessment, citizen involvement and preliminary design work.

The four-lane arterial provides turning and bike lanes and a wide, paved bike/pedestrian trail. This trail will eventually link with the Renaissance Trail, which runs along the waterfront and north up Columbia St.

Design of the urban segment involved many partners, including the Hough, Esther Short, Armada and Fruit Valley Neighborhoods.

Vancouver Housing Authority staff, City staff and citizens from these neighborhoods spent many hours working together to decide on the design of the tile-decorated noise walls. These walls with their ball-topped corner posts are intended to capture neighborhood characteristics such as previously adorned the 15th Street retaining walls. The tiles are meant to replicate area chimney features.

Also included in the project are: double acorn lighting; landscaping; lighted, protected pedestrian access to the walkways; signalized pedestrian crosswalks; bus accommodations, bicycle lanes and limited auto access to the Hough neighborhood.

Vancouver Briefs

City seeks applicants for Building- Fire Code Board of Appeals

The city of Vancouver is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on Building-Fire Code Board of appeals. Applicants with expertise in the following area are sought: professional mechanical engineer, plumbing contractor, industry construction union, professional structural engineer or an at-large member. This seven-member board makes recommendations to the Vancouver City Council regarding building and fire codes and proposed code change. It hears appeals on code enforcement and interpretation; investigates building code, fire and construction-related problems; and recommends uniform constrictions and fire-prevention regulations. Board members can serve a maximum of two six-year terms. The board is "on call and meets as needed. City residency is not a requirement. The mayor and City Council select members. Applications are available by contacting Peggy Furno, Vancouver City Hall, PO Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98668-1995 or by calling 696-8484 (FAX 696-8049). The deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 1. For further information about boards and commissions, visit our web page at <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/volunteers/index.html>.

City invites applications for position on Vancouver Urban Forestry Commission

The city of Vancouver is seeking applicants to fill two vacancies on the Urban Forestry Commission. The seven-member committee was established to enhance the city by managing and conserving trees in Vancouver's city-owned parks, public area and public rights of way. It also helps property owners and public agencies in Vancouver improve and maintain trees, consistent with adopted City policies. Applicants should have a demonstrated interest in urban forestry and the beautification of Vancouver and are appointed by the mayor subject to confirmation by city council. Members serve four-year terms. The commission meets monthly. Applications are available by contacting Peggy Furno, Vancouver City Hall, PO Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98668-1995 or by calling 696-8484 (FAX 696-8049). The deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 1. For further information about boards and commissions, visit our web page at <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/volunteers/index.html>.

City invites applications for City/County Cable Television Commission Vacancy

The city of Vancouver is seeking applicants to fill three vacancies on the City/County Cable Television Commission. The commission serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners on matters relating to cable telecommunication issues. The commission makes report, monitors compliance and establishes rules and regulations regarding cable television and telecommunications. The City Council appoints four members and the Board of county Commission appoints four members. Applicants must be city residents and AT&T of Southern Washington Cable subscribers. Commission meetings are conducted the first Wednesday of each month at 7p.m. at City Hall. Applications are available by contacting Peggy Furno, Vancouver City Hall, PO Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98668-1995 or by calling 696-8484 (FAX 696-8049). The deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 1. For further information about visit our web page at <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/volunteers/index.html>.

City invites applications for Project Review Committee Vacancies

The city of Vancouver is seeking applicants to fill four vacancies on the Project Review Committee. The Project Review Committee is a nine-member citizens group appointed by City Council to review plans for building and remodeling in Vancouver's downtown, waterfront and Central Park area. The committee goal is to maintain and improve the appearance and architectural tone of those areas, and to encourage innovation and flexibility in design. Experience in a design-related profession such as architecture, -planning or landscape architecture is desired. Members serve four- years terms, with two terms maximum. The Project Review Committee regularly meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month, 4-6. In City Hall council Chambers. Applications are available by contacting Peggy Furno, Vancouver City Hall, PO Box 1995, Vancouver, WA 98668-1995 or by calling 696-8484 (FAX 696-8049). The deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 1. For further information about boards and commissions, visit our web page at <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/volunteers/index.html>.

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