



Police News/Vancouver

Bush on Guns: Hire More Prosecutors

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — President Bush unveiled a new initiative to combat gun violence Monday, pledging an "unprecedented partnership" between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

"It will send an unmistakable message: If you use a gun illegally, you will do hard time," Bush said.

Bush used National Police Week to renew his call for tougher enforcement of existing gun laws, and said his "Project Safe Neighborhoods" would accomplish that.

The two-year, \$550 million effort will help pay for the hiring of new federal and state prosecutors, with U.S. attorneys in all regions of the

country heading "strategic partnerships" on gun violence with area law enforcement, said Attorney General John Ashcroft.

The federal and local authorities will work together to review and prepare gun cases for prosecution, and map out ways to prevent firearms violence, he said.

The administration will measure the impact of the programs by gauging whether they reduced gun crimes, Ashcroft said.

The president pledged to hire 113 new assistant U.S. attorneys and 600 new state and local prosecutors to handle gun cases; \$44 million to improve criminal record-keeping so

convicts cannot legally buy guns; nearly \$29 million to expand ballistics testing so illegal guns and ammunition can be traced; \$19 million for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for a youth gun interdiction initiative.

Bush said that between 1989 and 1999, the violent crime rate dropped 20 percent.

"That's a huge accomplishment. It really is," he said, with police officers standing beside him.

"But unfortunately, American society is still far too violent," he said, pointing to 12,658 murders in America in 1999, two-thirds of which he said were shooting deaths.

Four Killed After Collision

(AP) — Four people were killed when a small pickup collided head-on with a semi-truck near Portland International Airport were all farmworkers who lived and worked nearby, police said.

The pickup driver passed another vehicle in a no-passing zone and was in the oncoming lane when collision occurred about 9 p.m. Sunday, said

Lt. Mike Hefley, a Portland police spokesman.

The small truck was caught under the semi's front axle, and both vehicles erupted in flames, Hefley said.

The pickup driver was identified Monday as Isidro Santillan Chavez, 29, an employee of Rossi Farms. His passengers were Alalos Misael Garcia, 18; Rogelio Ceja Adrian, 42;

and his son, Jose Antonio Adrian Garcia, 18. All three lived and worked at Garre Farms.

Police said toxicology tests would be conducted on the driver of the pickup to determine if drugs or alcohol were involved.

The driver of the semi-truck, Alvin Earl Hill, 40, of Moses Lake, Wash., was in serious condition at Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

Clinton Brother Targeted by Police

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) — Tape recordings indicate that former President Clinton's brother, Roger, was illegally targeted by officers who arrested him on charges of drunken driving and disturbing the peace, his lawyer told a judge Monday.

Clinton, 44, was arrested Feb. 21 in Hermosa Beach. Police said they did not know who he was when he was pulled over for

erratic driving.

Clinton was not present Monday as attorney Mark Geragos entered an innocent plea. A hearing was set for June 26.

Geragos said an audiotape he acquired from another police department shows Hermosa Beach officers discussing Clinton 90 minutes before the arrest.

Geragos would not release the tape to the media but told report-

ers it shows officers saying:

"There he goes, do you recognize him?"

"Does he have Secret Service protection?" "No, but his brother sure does." Clinton has been free on his own recognizance. If convicted, he could face a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine. He was arrested less than a month after his older brother pardoned him for a 1985 drug offense.

Crime Stoppers Double Murder Unsolved

Portland police, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending the person or persons responsible for a double homicide.

Just after midnight on Sunday, April 15, a security officer found a car in the parking lot of the former Eastgate Theater, 2025 SE 82 Ave. The car had crashed into an embankment on the northwest corner

of the lot, and was found with the motor still running.

Seeing someone inside, the security officer called 9-1-1 and police responded.

On arrival, officers found the bodies of two deceased individuals, later identified as 34-year-old Ramona L. McGee, and 44-year-old Terry Lee Spencer, both of northeast Portland, inside the car. It was later determined that both sub-

jects died of gunshot wounds. Investigators would like to hear from anyone who may have information on 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 of any involved felony crime, and you need not give your name. Call crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.

Washington County Deputies Under Fire

(AP) Washington County sheriff's deputies are under fire for training practices at the Oregon National Guard base at Camp Rilea on the Oregon Coast.

In a letter to Washington County Sheriff Jim Spinden, Rilea commander Colonel David Lay criticized the safety practices of the county's SWAT

team.

The Guard commander said deputies failed to get permission to use some areas of the camp or communicate with guard officials during exercises. And he said deputies training in a light armored vehicle were under the influence of alcohol when the vehicle ran over a bunch of logs.

The sheriff's office said the driver of the armored vehicle hadn't been drinking, though the passengers may have been.

The Guard also said sheriff's deputies left live rounds of gas grenades and other lethal ammo in a place where hundreds of high school students gathered later on.

Accused Mother Plans to Use Insanity Defense

Lawyers for a Washington County woman who has pleaded not guilty to killing her nine-year-old daughter have filed a notice they plan to use insanity in her defense.

Karen Lee Huster's daughter Elisabeth disappeared in 1996. The 41-year-old Huster claimed she was with relatives, and spent two years

in prison on charges of custodial interference.

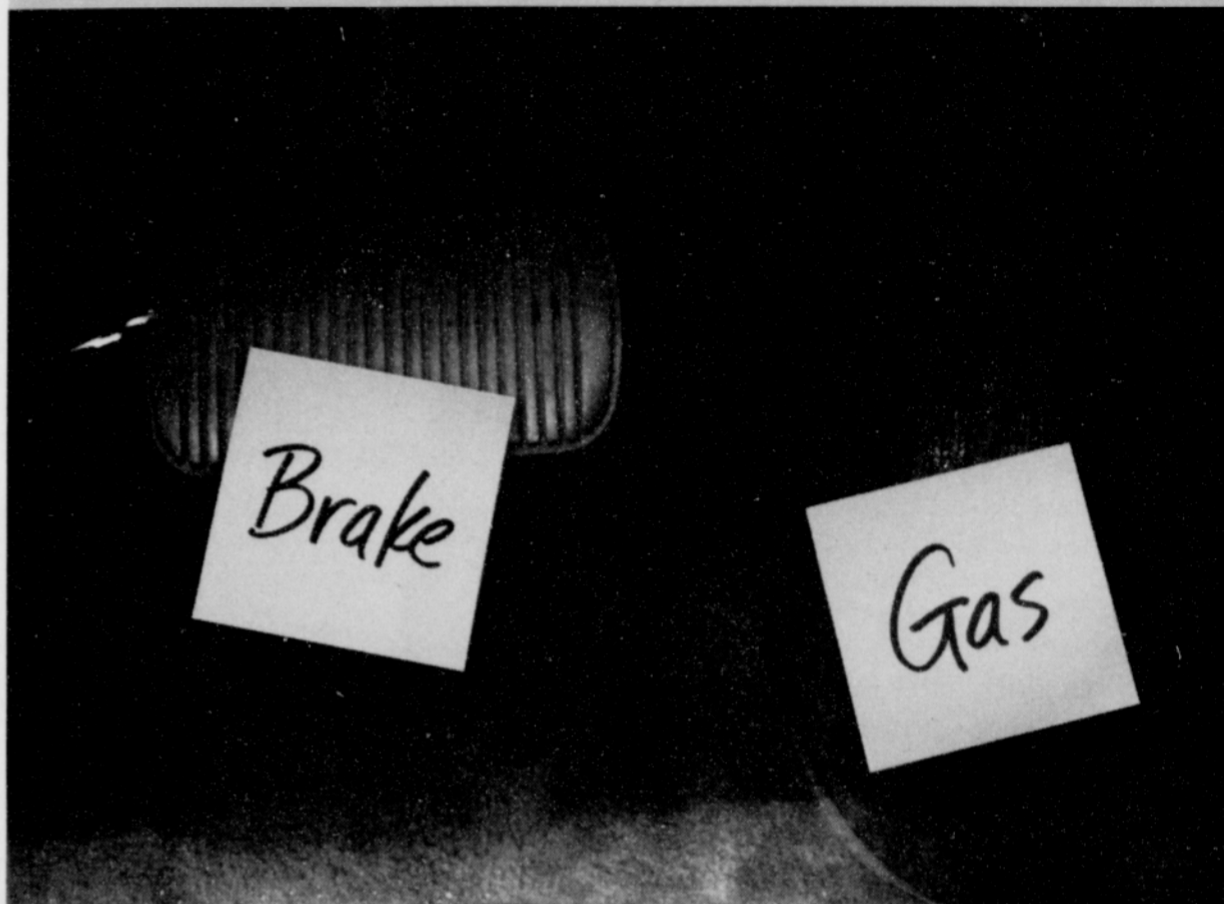
After being indicted for her daughter's murder, Huster fled her Tigard home in April 2000. In November, she was arrested in a Los Angeles suburb after police found a man's body parts in the apartment she was sharing with a family friend.

Huster appeared in a Hillsboro court on Friday. Her trial was set for Jan. 8, 2002.

The notice filed Friday also says Huster's attorneys plan to present evidence on whether she intended to commit murder.

A defense psychiatrist will examine Huster in the next few weeks. Prosecutors also will examine her.

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