



# Police News/Vancouver

## Officers Won't Face Charges in Shooting Death

(AP) - Three Beaverton police officers who shot to death a 29-year-old man who charged at them with a knife won't face criminal charges.

Washington County District Attorney Robert Hermann said

he would not ask a grand jury to consider charges against the officers for the death of Sengsadaphet "Seng" Phongsavanh who was shot 10 times outside his apartment on July 1.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Rob Bletko said Phongsavanh was depressed, paranoid and delusional. He said Phongsavanh used the knife attack on the officers as a way to commit suicide.

Police received a call at 5:13 a.m. that morning from Phongsavanh, who said there was a "crazy dude" in his apartment wielding a knife. He went on to describe himself.

When officers arrived,

Phongsavanh charged at them with a 14-inch butcher knife.

The officers - Richard Rayniak, 40, Ty Hanlon, 31, and Nathaniel "Scott" Warren, 30 - said they did not have time to order Phongsavanh to drop the

knife. As the man got near, all three officers fired.

The shooting was "necessary to protect the lives of the officers involved," Bletko wrote in a letter to Beaverton police Chief David G. Bishop.



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## Ecstasy Death Leads to Criminal Investigation

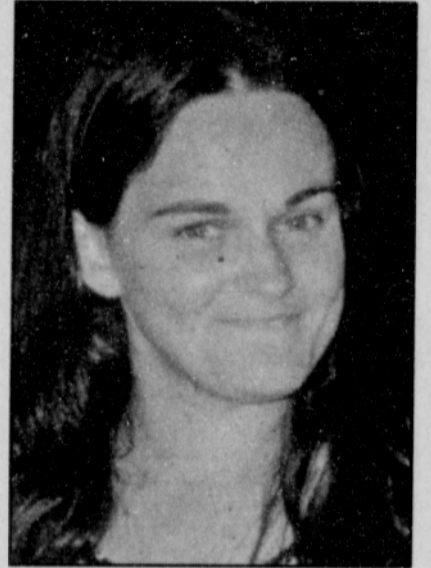
Portland Police Bureau Homicide Investigators, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in determining the circumstances surrounding the death of a young Clackamas woman.

On Saturday, March 3, 2001, 19-year-old Melissa Joy Flaherty and several friends attended a "rave" party where an estimated 3,000 people gathered at a warehouse at 1225 S.E. Water Ave. At 3 o'clock in the morning, she was found outside the building. Appearing sick, Flaherty was taken to the party's medical tent, but later in the morning her condition worsened and she was taken to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead.

An autopsy revealed that Flaherty died from an overdose of the designer drug ecstasy.

Investigators would like to speak with anyone who may have had contact with Flaherty, or know of her activities from midnight to 3 a.m. on the morning of the rave.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which leads to a resolution of this case, and you can remain anonymous. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP.



Melissa Joy Flaherty

## Shrapnel, Hot Liquid Spews From Ride

(AP) - Three people were taken to the hospital Saturday when they were injured in an explosion at the Clark County Fair near Vancouver.

A mechanical problem caused the Star Dancer ride to automatically shut down. Riders had exited the ride, and maintenance crews were working on the problem when a hydraulic pump exploded, sending shrapnel and hot liquid into the air.

Fair officials say that the ride had not had problems before.

Three victims were taken to Southwest

Washington Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries.

Eight-year-old Nathan Rogers was treated for abrasions and released. Larry Hagerdon, 52, complained of ringing in his ear and was in satisfactory condition. Carnival worker Michael Shaffer, 54, suffered a heel fracture and was also in satisfactory condition.

A fourth person was taken to Legacy Emanuel Hospital with unrelated health problems. He was treated and released.

The explosion is being investigated.

## DNA Shows Age of Theft Suspect

(AP) - The DNA test results are in, and teen impostor Treva Throneberry of Vancouver flunked.

The tests showed a 99.9 percent likelihood that Throneberry is the 32-year-old daughter of Carl and Patsy Throneberry of Comanche, Oklahoma, and not the motherless 18-year-old she

claims to be. Throneberry requested the test in May after she was accused of cashing in on state services for her high school education and foster care. She is charged in Vancouver with theft and perjury. Prosecutors say she's an emotionally disturbed young woman. She has been in pro-

tective custody in jail.

In April, a Camas man who was convicted in 1998 of having sex with a minor had his record cleared. The victim was Throneberry, who was 28 at the time.

## Woman Wanted for Bank Fraud

The Portland Office of the FBI, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Beverly Lois Waldo.

Waldo, 46, has an outstanding arrest warrant for using more than 20 false identities to steal \$100,000 in a bank fraud scheme from July 1996 to August 1999.

An indictment alleges she

obtained driver's licenses and state ID cards in false identities, then used this identification to open numerous checking accounts in Oregon and Arizona. The theft occurred by depositing counterfeit checks and then withdrawing the money. Waldo is described as 5' 8" tall, weighing 250 to 300 pounds, with brown hair, brown eyes and scars on her left ankle, right eye and

left eye. Crime Stoppers is offering a 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.

## Man Shot in Vancouver Neighborhood

A man was critically injured in an Aug. 8 shooting inside a vehicle traveling through the Rosemere neighborhood of Vancouver. Police said he was not expected to recover from the head wound.

The victim was identified as Dylan R. Beck, 20, of the Salmon Creek area. Beck was found by officers inside of a vehicle on "P" Street with a gun-

shot wound to his head.

Tommy A. Gordan, 18, also of the Salmon Creek area, was arrested and charged in the shooting. Police said the two men knew each other.

Detectives are interested in hearing from anyone that may have seen a red colored 1984 Honda Prelude vehicle, with a sunroof, in or near the Rosemere neighborhood between

6:55 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Aug. 8. The specific area of interest is the I-5 south exit at 39<sup>th</sup> continuing onto "P" street.

Anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Vancouver Police Detectives unit at 360-696-8822 or 360-696-8226.

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