



POLICE / VANCOUVER

REWARD

\$10,000

For information leading to the arrest and conviction in the murder of Melissa Bittler.



Murder Suspect

black male, 33-50 years of age
5'9" to 6', medium build, receding hairline

On December 13th, 14-year-old Melissa Bittler was murdered near her home at the 4500 block of Northeast 35th Avenue in Northeast Portland. The Portland Police Bureau has released this sketch to help find Melissa's killer, and a local chapter of CrimeStoppers is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to his capture and conviction. If you have seen this man or have information that could help lead to his arrest, please call CrimeStoppers or the Portland Police Department's Tips Hotline. Callers do not have to give their names, and rewards are paid in cash with no questions asked.

Crimsstoppers
503-823-4357

Tips Hotline
503-823-4731

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PORTLAND OBSERVER NEWSPAPER

Four Charged in Tavern Robberies



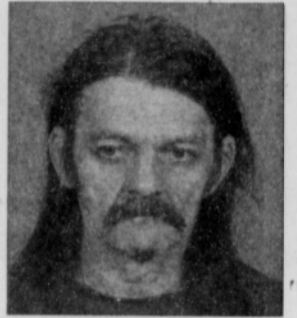
Darryel Lee



Desiree Lamorte



John Walter



John Whiley

Four people have been arrested and charged in a string of armed robberies at Portland area taverns.

The suspects are identified as 43-year-old John Gregg Walter, 50-year-old John Whiley, 38-year-old Desiree Lamorte, and 46-year-old Darryel Glenn Lee.

They are accused of 10 tavern robberies between Oct. 22 and

Nov. 26.

In the first eight robberies, detectives believe that Whiley, who worked as a taxi driver, and Lamorte walked through a tavern to scout out the tavern floor plan along with information about the number of patrons and employees.

Police said Walter would then

enter the tavern and commit an armed robbery, and exit the establishment by jumping into Whiley's taxicab for a quick getaway.

After Walter was taken into police custody, detectives believe Whiley, Lamorte, and Lee used the same method and handgun to commit two additional tavern robberies.

Roommate Killer to Serve 8 Years

(AP) — A young woman has been sentenced to eight years in prison for the death of her former roommate in what she said was an attempt to scare him into giving her money.

Kimber Douglas, 23, of Vancouver, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Alex Smith, 19, received an unusually short sentence because



Kimber Douglas

she turned herself in and cooperated with investigators, lawyers said.

Smith was found dead in his apartment near the Vancouver Mall on Feb. 4, 2000, a few months after Douglas moved out. Police said the investigation was stalled

until Douglas confessed to her role 11 months later.

Police said Douglas told offic-

ers she and Christopher Neil Ladner, a friend from the Washington State School for the Deaf, planned to scare Smith into giving them money when they took two loaded guns and a knife to his apartment.

Instead, deputy prosecutor Mike Kinnie said, the situation "got out of hand real fast." In a confession, Douglas said Ladner stabbed and shot Smith.

Ladner is in prison until at least 2005 on an unrelated assault and has not been charged in the case.

Chief Proposes Hiring Freeze and Staff Cuts

(AP) — Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker has proposed a hiring freeze and the elimination of precinct desk clerks to deal with a \$3 million shortfall this fiscal year.

Kroeker would also cut some part-time and full-time staff.

Firing the desk clerks would save an estimated \$248,272 be-

tween now and the end of the fiscal year. It would also be the second time the chief has targeted civilian desk clerks within a year.

In July, the bureau eliminated 21 of 46 front-desk clerk jobs, effectively reducing the hours that four of the bureau's five precincts are open to the public.

Getting rid of the remaining 25 desk clerk jobs would further scale back precinct hours to a 6 p.m. closure on weekdays.

"This has just kind of stunned us here," Northeast Precinct Cmdr. Derrick Foxworth said. "These cuts are deep, and they're going to hurt us all."

NEW SEASONS MARKET

Finger Food

OLIVE TASTING
saturday & sunday
11:00am - 5:00pm



The friendliest store in town.

EASY & FUN TO SHOP • LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

CONCORDIA
NE 33rd & Killingsworth
Portland OR 97211
503.288.3838
Open 8am-10pm

ORENCO STATION
NE 61st & Cornell Rd
Hillsboro OR 97124
503.648.6968
Open 8am-10pm

RALEIGH HILLS
7300 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy.
Portland OR 97225
503.292.6838
Open 8am-9pm

SELLWOOD
1214 SE Tacoma
Portland OR 97202
503.230.4949
Open 8am-10pm