

Portland **POLICE / VANCOUVER**  
Observer

## Seven People Overdose on GHB Club Drug

(AP) - Portland police and emergency services personnel are warning people about the club drug GHB after seven people overdosed on the drug, including two who suffered convulsions and stopped breathing.

The recent cases raised concerns among police and county health officials that the drug is gaining in popularity.

"More likely than not, somebody mixed their own batch and thought they were going to go and make their own money," said Officer Pat Walsh of the Police

Bureau's drugs and vice division.

The two who went into convulsions were in critical condition when they arrived at hospitals and had to be resuscitated, said Dr. John Jui, director of Multnomah County's Emergency Medical Services.

GHB, or gamma hydroxybutyrate, is a colorless, odorless liquid that can cause nausea, vomiting and respiratory arrest. It has been in the Portland area for at least the past five years, law enforcement and medical authorities said.

The drug and other substitutes are often used in combination with other recreational drugs such as Ecstasy that are commonly used by people in their late teens and early 20s at all-night dance parties known as raves.

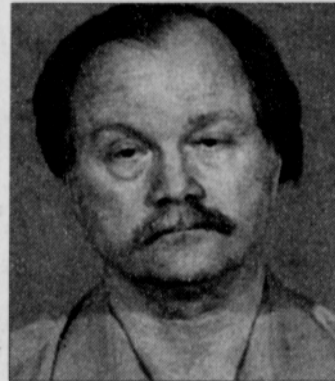
"We've seen this drug for a while, but I think it's now hitting the rave scene," Jui said. "We really don't know the extent or severity of it, but it's certainly escalating. We need to join forces with law enforcement to educate the public and determine its sources."

The drug was legal until 1990 and used as a nutritional supplement for body building and weight loss.

It first gained notoriety in the mid-1990s when men slipped it into women's drinks and then sexually assaulted them after they lost consciousness. Hence, it was known as a "date rape drug."

Depending on the dose, the user falls into a dreamy stupor within 15 to 30 minutes. It's considered addictive and causes withdrawal symptoms.

## Crusader Jailed for Contempt of Court



Lon Mabon

(AP) - Anti-gay rights crusader Lon Mabon was arrested and placed in jail last week after a Multnomah County Judge ruled he was in contempt of court.

Mabon, director of the anti-gay Oregon Citizens Alliance, must remain in jail until he agrees

to appear at a judgment debt hearing, or for six months, whichever comes first.

His wife and OCA's executive treasurer, Bonnie, was ordered to report to jail in 10 days to serve the same sentence.

"I can assure you, Mr. Mabon, that it is not a pleasant thing to do, but I feel that it's my duty to make this system work the best way I know how and I find no alternative," said Judge Ronald E. Cinniger.

The Mabons are fighting a court-ordered judgment for \$30,000 in damages in favor of a gay rights activist who was roughed up at an anti-gay event. The Mabons claim the judge has no power in the case because he took an improperly worded judicial oath.

## New System Tracks Criminals

Phone call gives victims information on the status of offenders

(AP) - Crime victims and the general public now can get updated information on the status of criminal offenders under a new system launched on Thursday.

"This will be a major new resource for crime victims and other concerned citizens in Oregon," Attorney General Hardy Myers said at a news conference. "Access to offender information is a critical step as these victims reconstruct their lives."

Callers to a computerized answering center, by entering an offender's name or state offender identification number, will be able to find out information including what institution the person is in,

whether he or she is on probation or in a community corrections program and any expected prison release date.

The free service is available 24 hours a day, in both English and Spanish.

Citizens also can register in the system, known as Victim Information Notification Everyday, and be automatically notified by phone if the status of an offender changes. The system is operated by the state Corrections Department.

"This is a good day for crime victims," said Steve Doell of Lake Oswego, president of Crime Victims United. "There aren't many

good days for crime victims."

The system includes data on more than 41,000 felony and misdemeanor offenders under state supervision, including those on parole and probation.

By October, the system will add another 7,500 offenders who are in county jails and juveniles supervised by the Oregon Youth Authority.

The system is budgeted to cost about \$338,000 a year, paid for from the State's crime victims' fund that comes from such sources as fines and other penalties and restitution.

The toll-free number is 1-877-674-8463.

## Crime Stoppers Clues Sought in Police Impersonation

The Portland Police Bureau Elder Crimes Response Team, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in identifying the individuals responsible for falsely presenting themselves as members of a crime prevention unit.

On Tuesday, Feb. 19 at about 12:45 in the afternoon, a white van with "Portland Police Crime Prevention Bureau" in blue letters on the side, pulled into the driveway of a home in the 4500 block of Southeast 99th Avenue.

Two men wearing what appeared to be uniform style shirts with badges stated they were there to conduct a security survey of the house. As one man reportedly stood by the door, the other examined doors and windows before leaving.

One of the suspects is described as a white male in his mid 20's, 5'9" tall, with a heavy build. The other is described as a white male in his mid 30's, 6'1" tall, with a thin build.

Although the Portland Police Bureau has a locks program with uniformed personnel, they carry police bureau identification, and would not contact a homeowner without a prior appointment. They operate a van with multi-colored, police bureau markings on the side.

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

## Agents Raid Home of Iraqi Native

(AP) - U.S. Customs Service agents raided the Tigard apartment of a 71-year-old Iraqi immigrant Feb. 20 as a part of a nationwide move against people suspected of illegally sending money to Iraq.

Hiwaidi Al-Sheikhly fled Saddam Hussein's Iraq in 1992, a year after the Persian Gulf War, according to his daughter, Zeineb Alturky.

She said the officers woke her father, then searched his apartment for several hours, taking \$2,125,

receipts and other documents.

Agents served 19 warrants in 14 states on the same day. No one was arrested.

Officials said those targeted were agents for Alshafei Family Contact Inc., a money transfer business created in 1998 to serve Iraqi refugees in the United States who wanted to send money home to their families.

Alturky said she regularly sends money to her sister, who also has diabetes. "What's going to happen to her? She depends on us."

## Police Catch Fleeing Suspect

Vancouver police captured a man who ran from a suspected residential burglary last week.

Craig Douglas Stewart, 23, was arrested shortly after neighbors reported suspicious activity in front of a home in the 4800 block of East Fifth Street at about 1 p.m. on Feb. 15.

Police said when they responded to the complaint, Stewart attempted to run away from the back of the house. He was captured after a foot chase up a steep embankment. Stolen property, including a camera, jewelry, power tools, vehicle titles and identification were recovered.

## Burglar Rapes Vancouver Woman

Vancouver police are looking for a man who broke into a residence through an open window and raped a woman inside.


Police say it happened during the predawn hours on Jan. 26 in the 3100 block of Southeast 168th Avenue.

The victim did not know the

suspect, police said. He was described as a Hispanic male, 18-30 years of age, with a heavy build, dark complexion and dark hair.

Those with information on this case are asked to call lead detective Jane Easter at 360-735-8822 or Detective Sgt. Lou Braafadt at 360-696-8226.

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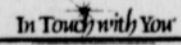



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