



# POLICE / VANCOUVER

## Burglar Suspect Killed

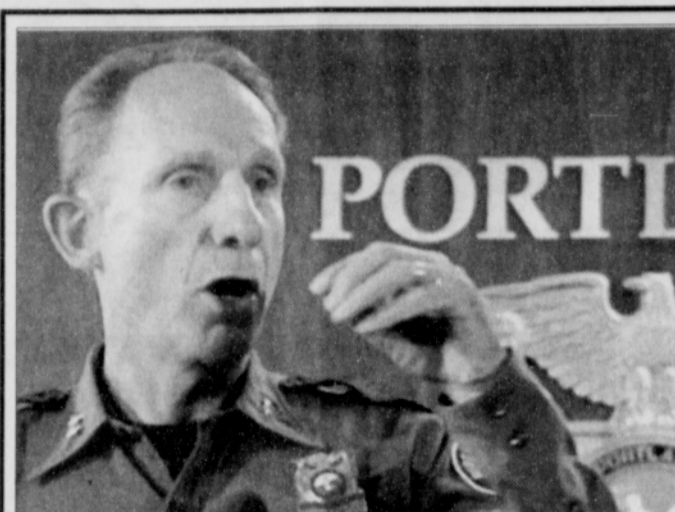
(AP) - Police shot and killed a suspected burglar Sunday afternoon. The 29-year-old man, was shot after he appeared on the front porch of a southeast Portland home waving a gun, said Officer Henry Groepper.

Officers were called to the house after the owner returned from a walk with his two young children and saw blood in the garage, Groepper

said. The homeowner thought he heard two men's voices coming from inside the house, Groepper said. When the owner called out, one of the men said: "Don't come in or I'll shoot."

When officers later saw the suspect on the porch, they repeatedly told him to drop the gun, Groepper said. When the man refused and pointed a gun at police, one officer fired several shots.

Concerned about another burglar, police left the body on the porch for several hours. Officers eventually fired tear gas to try to lure the possible second suspect from the house, but no one appeared.



Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker

## Kroeker Considers L.A. Chief Job

(AP) - Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker says he might apply for the Los Angeles police chief job.

Kroeker says he's happy in Portland, with a position he's comfortable in. But he adds that (quote) "I will look it over. I am considering it."

Kroeker, who is 58, is in his third year as Portland's top cop. He unsuccessfully sought the Los Angeles police chief's job

twice during his 32-year career with the department. He retired in 1997, then spent a year in Sarajevo working to build a police force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He and his wife, Diane, still own a home in Los Angeles that they rent out.

The Los Angeles job opened April 9 when the Los Angeles Police Commission rejected current LA Police Chief Bernard Parks' bid for a second term.

## L.A. Police Cleared in Actor's Death

(AP) - The Los Angeles district attorney, following an 18-month investigation, concluded that a policeman was justified when he shot and killed a black actor at a Halloween party after the actor pulled a realistic looking movie prop gun and aimed it at the officer.

The report also said Anthony Dwain Lee, arising star in Seattle's theater scene before he moved to Los Angeles, had alcohol and cocaine in his system and was clutching fragments of a pill found to be the drug known as Ecstasy when he was killed in October 2000.

The conclusion was essentially the same one reached by police Chief Bernard Parks shortly after the shooting.

Parks said Officer Tarril Hopper was justified in believing the weapon brandished by the 39-year-old actor was real.

Seeking to explain why Lee was killed by shots to his back, the report said that five of the shots

missed him and he was turning to his left and "ducking down" when the other four shots found their target.

"When Mr. Lee turned, drew the replica gun from his waistband, pointed it at and advanced on the glass doors, Officer Hopper was faced with a situation that posed, on its face, a grave danger to his safety and the safety of his partner and the civilians nearby."

While living in Seattle from 1988 to 1994, Lee won praise for several stage performances, including roles in Shakespeare's "Othello," Lorraine Hansberry's "Raisin in the Sun" and "The Kentucky Cycle," a Pulitzer Prize-winning drama staged by Intiman Theater.

He had a small role in the film "Liar Liar" and appeared in episodes of such TV shows as "NYPD Blue" and "E.R."

His friends described him as a devout Buddhist and a peacemaker who taught theater arts to inner-city youth.

## Ecstasy Dealer Sent to Prison for Rave Death

Jeremy Tomsha found criminally responsible for drug's deadly result

(AP) - A Multnomah County judge sentenced a Portland man to four years in prison for selling drugs to a woman who died following a rave party.

Jeremy Michael Tomsha pleaded guilty to criminally negligent homicide last Wednesday and accepted the sentence in the death of 19-year-old Melissa Joy Flaherty.

Flaherty died March 3, 2001, the morning after taking a drug called MDA, a methamphetamine derivative that is similar to Ecstasy, the widely popular club drug.

Tomsha, 21, was charged last fall with second-degree manslaughter for selling Flaherty the drugs that killed her.

His conviction makes him the first person in Multnomah County, and possibly all of Oregon, to be held criminally responsible for selling the drugs that caused another person to die.

Prosecutors had obtained a photograph of Tomsha taken by Flaherty and her friends right after he'd sold them the drugs. The women told police they'd snapped the photo in case something went wrong or the drugs were bad.

Undercover officers eventually set up five drug deals and bought 100 Ecstasy pills from Tomsha. On May 11, they were set to buy another 200 pills but instead raided Tomsha's apartment and arrested

him.

By pleading guilty, Tomsha avoided a trial and a possible 75-month maximum sentence for second-degree manslaughter. Six counts of manufacturing and delivering a controlled substance were dropped as part of the deal.

Flaherty was among about 2,000 people who attended the rave in a rented warehouse in the southeast Portland waterfront district. She was with two friends who bought four gold tablets that they thought were Ecstasy. She took one at about 11:30 p.m. and another half at about 1 a.m., the women said.

An hour later, she was found slumped outside near a portable toilet. Security guards took her to a medical tent, where volunteers monitored her. They called 911 at about 6 a.m. when Flaherty's oxygen levels dropped and her complexion changed. She died at a local hospital just after 8 a.m.

Flaherty, who moved from Hawaii to Portland in 1998, was a nursing student at Clackamas Community College. She left behind a 2-year-old daughter.

Multnomah Circuit Judge Julie Frantz called Flaherty's death an avoidable tragedy and admonished Tomsha for his behavior.

"It caused a senseless and meaningless death of a human being as well as your being sent to prison," she said.

## Woman Attacked Near Clackamas Town Center

Police are looking for a suspect after a woman reported being attacked near Clackamas Town Center.

The victim told Clackamas County deputies that she was walking around 3:30 p.m. April 2 on Southeast 147th just north of Sunnyside Road. A man passed her and then grabbed her from behind.

The unarmed suspect pulled her toward the bushes, but she yelled for help. Two people heard her cries and the suspect ran away.

The suspect is described as a Caucasian male between 15 and 19 years old, no more than 5 feet, 7 inches tall with a

stocky build. The woman says he was wearing a white jersey shirt with a number on the back - possibly 56.

Detectives believe the man may be the same suspect who sexually assaulted a 52-year-old Clackamas woman in her home last November.

The first victim did not get a good look at the attacker, but the suspect's mannerisms match.

A \$1,000 reward is offered. Anyone with information is asked to call 503-823-HELP or the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office at 503-655-8218.



An artist's sketch of the attacker.

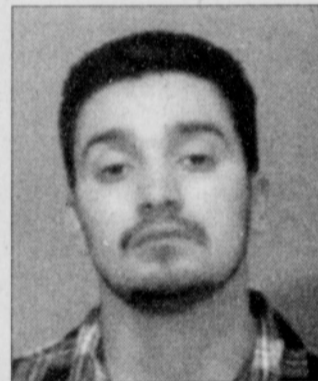
## Man Wanted for Church Carjacking

Tigard Police and the Washington County Inter-agency Gang Enforcement Team, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in locating and apprehending 20-year-old Luis Manuel Fuerte-Coria, street-name "Gremlin."

Fuerte-Coria and two other men are charged in connection with an armed car jacking, robbery, assault and kidnapping that occurred on Easter Sunday in the parking lot of a church in Tigard.

The other suspects, 18-year-old Edgar Filadelfo Hernandez, street-name "Silent," and 18-year-old Juan Torres, have been arrested.

Fuerte-Coria is approximately 5 foot 4 inches tall,



Edgar Filadelfo Hernandez

115 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to an arrest in this case, or any unsolved felony crime, and you need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at (503) 823-HELP (4357).

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