



# POLICE / VANCOUVER

## Skinheads Convicted of Beating Woman

(AP) — Two men described as racist skinheads have been convicted in the November beating of a woman who refused to fight anti-racist skinheads.

A jury found James David Torkelson, 24, and Gary C. Brown, 33, guilty last week of kidnapping, assault, robbery and coercion.

Multnomah County Circuit Judge James Ellis set sentencing for June 4.

The victim, Lindsey Ulrich, 19, was beaten at a Portland apartment after she refused to join a planned

attack on anti-racist skinheads at a northeast Portland bar, police alleged. The group then allegedly took her to her apartment in Clackamas County where they held her for four days before she escaped and called Clackamas County sheriff's deputies.

Torkelson and Brown were among five people whom a Multnomah County grand jury indicted in the case. Shiela McKenzie, 25, has pleaded guilty in the case and testified during the trial. Dimitri Tash, 34, and Pamela Bailey, 28, are wanted on felony warrants, according to Tom Cupani, the deputy district attorney who is prosecuting the case.

Torkelson and Brown said they were innocent because they didn't hit Ulrich. But the prosecutor said they had put the others up to it.

Police near South Bend, Ind., arrested Torkelson on Jan. 1. They said he had stayed off and on at the home of Richard Loy, a Ku Klux Klan leader.

## Liquor Control Works Local Dances

Inspectors hold sobriety checks to halt underage drinking

Oregon Liquor Control Commission inspectors have been working with high school students, teachers and parents to put a damper on young people drinking during campus events.

Inspectors Linda Koppes, Karen Keith, Lynne Nelson and Jackie Paul recently conducted sobriety checks during dances at Roosevelt and Grant high schools in north and northeast Portland. They were invited on campus by school officials.

During Roosevelt's Sadie Hawkins dance, the OLCC inspectors tested five students with a

calibrated portable breathalyzer. One student blew into the device and tested positive with a .10 percent blood alcohol content. The legal limit for anyone under 21 is .00 percent.

A week later at a Grant High dance, the inspectors cited four 14-year-old girls for minor in possession of alcohol. Later, the 18-year-old sister of one of the four was cited into North Northeast Community Court for furnishing them with a fifth of vodka. She faces a \$350 fine for the first offense.

The four girls were cited and

referred to Multnomah County Juvenile Court.

Koppes told a reporter for Roosevelt High's student newspaper that the OLCC was invited "as a tool to deter underage persons from drinking alcohol and attending a school function."

The inspector said students selected by school staff for the breathalyzer test showed one or more of the 50 signs of visible intoxication, such as loud or slurred speech, stumbling, strong odor of alcohol, bloodshot or glassy eyes.

## Identity Thief Sentenced

(AP) — A man who stole personal information from nearly 3 million Oregonians was sentenced to nearly 4½ years in jail.

Jody Gene Oates, 44, pleaded guilty Friday to identity theft and other forgery-related charges.

Police last winter searched his apartment on a tip and found computer disks that contained the Oregon Division of Motor Vehicles database.

At the time of Oates' Nov. 14 arrest, Hillsboro police also confiscated death certificates, medical files, stolen credit cards and blank checks. The seized items could have been used to steal the identities and credit of people

across the state.

Police never proved Oates used the DMV database, but the "potential was horrendous," said Dan Thenell, deputy district attorney.

Based on Oates' extensive history of drunk driving, theft and forgery convictions going back to 1977, Washington County Circuit Judge Kirsten E. Thompson sentenced him to 13 months in prison on each of 13 identity theft counts. She ordered that four of the sentences run consecutively and the rest run concurrently, along with the forgery sentences.

"You have been carefully making your reservation for prison over the last 25 years," Thompson said.

Oates told the judge that he had been a heavy machinery operator in Portland and Eugene and worked on the light-rail line that runs past the Washington County Jail. But he developed pneumonia in August and had open-heart surgery not long before his arrest, he said, forcing him to quit his job.

"Tough, golly, that's too bad," Thompson said. "Because illness happens. It's part of life, it's no excuse."

Thenell said there was no way to know how much money Oates and others stole, but he estimated that three banks lost about \$10,000.

## Police Crack Identity Theft Ring

(AP) — Police say they cracked an identity theft ring that's bigger than any other busted in Portland before.

Nine people have been charged with conspiracy, bank fraud and identity theft by a federal grand jury. The suspects made fake checks and driver's licenses from a small truck, according to investigators.

According to the indictment,

the group stole personal information from Washington Mutual Bank customers by picking through trash bins behind a bank branch in southeast Portland.

Members of the group cashed checks worth a total of \$270,000 over two years.

Police say this is the biggest identity theft ring they've cracked so far in Portland.

They believe the suspects

used the money to fuel drug habits.

Named in the indictment are 37-year-old Michael Siegelbaum; 41-year-old Susan Vefik; 37-year-old Jeanine Waugh; 34-year-old Jennifer Robinson; 42-year-old Sharon Egger; 41-year-old Ronald Watson; 38-year-old Lance Shaw; 40-year-old Donna Johnson and 36-year-old Gracie Beeler.

## Arson Suspected in Art Gallery Fire

(AP) — Firefighters suspect arson was the cause of a fire that damaged a downtown art gallery early Thursday, forcing the evacuation of several upstairs apartments.

No one was hurt. Portland fire officials estimated

\$100,000 in damage to the building housing the Silk Road Gallery and \$200,000 in damage to paintings and other items in the gallery at 333 S.W. Oak.

Portland television stations reported that witnesses said they saw someone throw a flaming

object into the building shortly before the fire began at about 3 a.m.

Many of the upstairs residents are disabled and remained in their apartments during the fire.

The fire was under investigation.

## Firefighters to Test 15,000 Hydrants

Portland Firefighters will be checking over 15,000 fire hydrants in the next four weeks.

Fire department officials said homeowners can help by trimming the grass and other plant growth within three feet of any fire hydrant.

Although firefighters can trim vegetation, they can't haul away

debris, a fire department spokesman said.

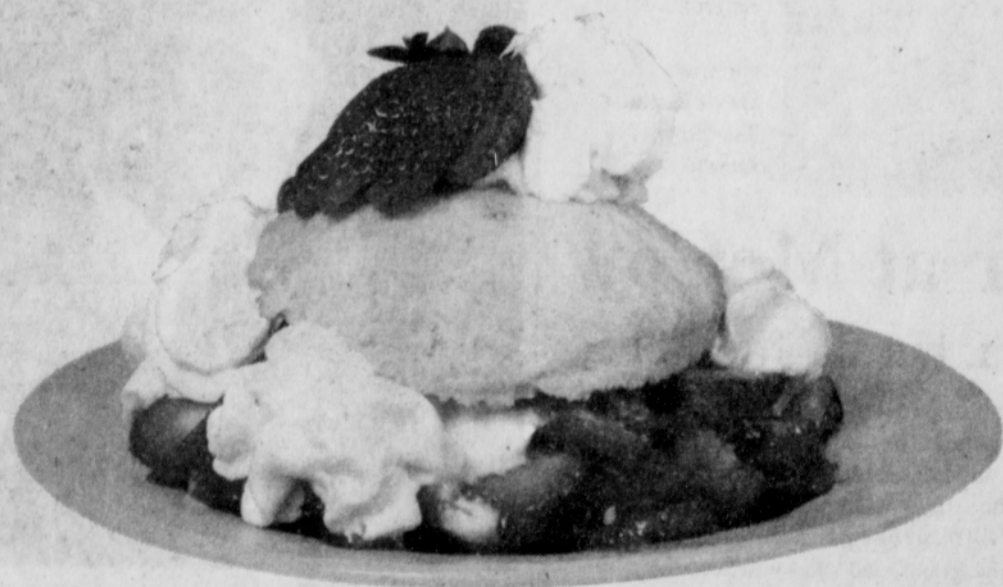
Fire crews will not flow water out of the hydrants during this test, but will be turning on the valves, checking the drains and lubricating the hydrant caps with environmentally friendly food grade grease.

Residents may notice a small amount of sediment in their water temporarily, but the tap water will run clear after flowing a few minutes.

Fire hydrants in Portland belong to the Portland Water Bureau, but are used by the Portland Fire Bureau to fight fires.

## NEW SEASONS MARKET

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