

Portland POLICE / VANCOUVER

Counselor Admits to Sexual Abuse

(AP) - A former female counselor at St. Mary's Home for Boys admitted to sexual involvement with a 16-year-old resident and to helping him and a friend escape.

Heather Stewart-Barrett, 29, admitted Monday to having sex with a boy under 18. She also said she helped the boy and a 15-year-old friend from the school evade authorities by allowing them to stay at her Aloha apartment.

The two boys were taken into custody and Stewart-Barrett was arrested Jan. 7. The school fired her that day.

Stewart-Barrett pleaded guilty to contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor and sexual abuse, both misdemeanors. She also pleaded guilty to escape, a felony.

At her July 8 sentencing, Stewart-Barrett faces a maximum of nine years in prison and a \$120,000 fine. She is free on her own recognizance.

After the hearing, she broke down crying in the arms of a friend outside the courtroom.

The unguarded school is for boys who have emotional or behavioral problems. It houses 54 youths and is one of the state's largest homes for violent youth offenders.

The boys escaped Dec. 29 while attending a girls' basketball game at Lake Oswego High School with mentor Steve Duin, a columnist for The Oregonian.

Man Charged With Shooting Priest

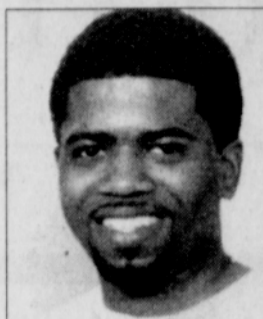
(AP)—A judge set bail of \$150,000 Friday for a Baltimore man charged with shooting a priest he accused of molesting him.

The ruling came after a psychiatrist testified that 26-year-old Dontee D. Stokes posed no danger to himself or others.

District Judge H. Gary Bass ordered Stokes to remain under house arrest at an aunt's home far from the neighborhood where the Rev. Maurice Blackwell was shot Monday. Blackwell, 56, was in fair condition Friday.

Stokes will be fitted with an electronic monitoring device.

Dr. Stephen Siebert testified he talked Thursday to Stokes for about 2½ hours in jail and he was "coherent and easy to follow." "He is



Dontee Stokes



Rev. Maurice Blackwell

dedicated ourselves to seeking solace for victims and fair punishment for perpetrators, goals which we have pursued but have not always succeeded in achieving, for many years," Keeler wrote in The (Baltimore) Sun. "I apologize for instances in which our efforts have failed."

praying for his recovery, and he is remorseful for his actions," Siebert said.

Meanwhile, Cardinal William Keeler apologized Friday for the first time to those sexually abused by Roman Catholic priests and said he regrets reinstating Blackwell back in 1993 after Stokes accused him.

"We know that there have been painful breaches of trust, and have

Keelersaid Blackwell was restored to priestly duties after three months of psychiatric evaluations. Blackwell remained a pastor until 1998, when he was removed after admitting to a relationship with another teen-ager, according to the archdiocese.

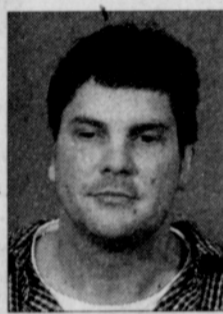
"In light of what has occurred and of what was revealed in 1998, I would not make the same decision today," Keeler said.

Suspect in Theft, Fraud Wanted

The Portland Police Bureau's Financial Elder Crimes Unit, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Richard Paul "Rick" Anderson.

A felony no-bail arrest warrant, charging Anderson with first-degree theft on file in Multnomah County. In addition, Clark County, Washington holds an arrest warrant charging Anderson with forgery of checks.

According to investigators, one of Anderson's scams involved advertising a cabin for rent. When a person sent their money to Anderson, to rent the cabin, he would send



Richard Anderson

them back "a key." Upon arriving at the cabin the person would find, not only did the key not work, other "renters" were also there.

Anderson is a 34-year-old, white male with a date of birth of June 17, 1967. Anderson is 6 foot 2 inches tall and weighs approximately 220 pounds, with brown hair, blue eyes, and a scar on his right ear.

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.

State Violates Rights of Mentally Ill

(AP) - A federal judge has ordered the Oregon State Hospital to find a bed for any mentally ill inmate who is unfit to stand trial within one week.

U.S. District Judge Owen Panner issued the order last week. He says the state is violating the due process rights of mentally ill inmates by making them wait in county jails for weeks or months before getting a transfer to the state hospital for psychiatric care.

He says the state's behavior "demonstrates a deliberate indifference" to the mentally ill and

their rights.

The Oregon State Hospital is required by law to treat inmates found mentally unfit to stand trial.

Panner's opinion was a response to a lawsuit filed March 19 by attorneys for the Oregon Advocacy Center and the Metropolitan Public Defenders Service in Multnomah County. The suit argued that dozens of mentally ill inmates languish in county jails across the state for as long as a month on average.

Hoffman to Build Student Center

Hoffman Construction Co. of Portland has been selected as the general contractor for a new students services center on the Vancouver campus of Washington State University.

The project includes a new 17,700 square foot two-story building, as well as renovation and expansion of the adjacent bookstore building.

The new building will house student services staff, including admissions, financial aid, regis-

tration, and career services. The remodeled bookstore will be used for multi-purpose training space. The building is set to open in the fall of 2004, depending upon funding.

Hoffman has completed a number of university projects, including recent projects at Reed College, University of Oregon Law School, Oregon Health Sciences University's School of Nursing and University of Idaho.

This project is Hoffman's first with WSU.

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