

POLICE

Con Artists Wanted in African American Seniors Scam

Portland Police, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identifying and apprehending con artists who are African-American and appear to be targeting senior African-Americans in a scam known as "The Jamaican Switch."

Since Aug. 21, Portland Police have taken three reports from people in northeast Portland who have fallen victim to the scam. In July, the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office had a case with some similarity.

The suspect who makes initial contact with the victim has sometimes been male, sometimes female, but the story is always the same. They claim to be from South Africa, where they say they must return immediately. They also claim to be in possession of a large sum of cash (sometimes as much as several hundred thousand dollars) and show the victim a large "wad" of what appears to be rolled-up money.

The money reportedly cannot be taken back to South Africa, therefore the suspect

has decided to give it to charity and asks the victim's help in getting it there. But, before the suspect will hand over such a large sum of money to the victim, the victim must prove they are honest by putting up their money.

As the victim soon learns, the large "wad" of money that is supposedly wrapped in the bandanna they have been given turns out to be cut newspaper.

The male is described as in mid-30s, approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall, medium build, short



Police released the sketches above to depict a man and woman accused of targeting senior African-Americans in a scam known as "The Jamaican Switch."

hair and a very dark complexion. The female is described as in her 30s, approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall, medium build, medium complexion, and black hair that is just long enough to be worn in a pony tail. Both are always well dressed.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, which 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.

White Men Stand Trial in 1969 Murder

(AP) — Jury selection began Monday in York, Pa., in the murder trial of three white men, including the city's former mayor, accused of the fatal shooting of a black woman during 10 days of paralyzing race riots in 1969.

Prosecutors say Charlie Robertson, a young police officer who later became mayor, gave ammunition to white gangs that ambushed a car in which Lillie Belle Allen was riding with relatives. The other two men are accused of taking part in the ambush.

The slayings of 27-year-old Allen and a white rookie police officer during the riots helped fuel a subsequent effort to build bridges between blacks and whites, even as the truth of the killings remained elusive.

"I think it's important for all Yorkers to know the truth, to know what happened in 1969," said John Brenner, York's current mayor, who was just a year old when the riots erupted. "I think we all want the same thing: who did it, who's responsible for both murders. And we want them to be held accountable."

Allen's shooting remained unsolved until late 1999, when prosecutors say new information surfaced and investigators reopened the case.

Since then, 10 white men have been charged in Allen's killing.



Charlie Robertson

Six pleaded guilty to shooting at the car or being gang look-outs. Some may testify. A 10th man is to be tried separately. One former white gang member killed himself in April 2000 after talking to prosecutors.

Two black men await trial in the killing of the white rookie officer, 22-year-old Henry Schaad.

Years of tension found a spark on July 17, 1969, when a black youth said he had been set on fire by whites, a story he later recanted. The same day, white gang member Robert Messersmith shot two black youths. Rumors spread that a white police officer was responsible for the shootings and rioting broke out.

Terrorism Force Renewed

Complaints of police surveillance fail to sway city leaders

(AP) — Portland city commissioners voted unanimously Thursday to renew the city police's contribution to an FBI terrorism task force.

Mayor Vera Katz said she had a "responsibility to the citizens of Portland," to ensure their safety.

The City Police Bureau contributes eight officers to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, a group coordinating federal and local law enforcement work in the metropolitan area.

Similar arrangements exist in 55 large cities, according to Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker.

But in Portland's case, a state law against wide-rang-

ing police surveillance raises concerns about whether the city is contributing officers without ensuring that they uphold state civil liberties guarantees.

The 1981 law restricts police from gathering information about individuals or groups unless there is reasonable cause to suspect them of specific crimes.

The same law brought Portland national attention last fall when City Attorney Jeff Rogers instructed police not to question 23 Middle Eastern immigrants on a list provided by the U.S. Justice Department.

Portland was the first city to opt out of the national drag-

net.

Also an issue at the meeting Thursday was the Portland Police Bureau's Criminal Intelligence Division history of collecting files on activists such as the Black Panthers, environmentalists and peace groups in past decades.

Files dating from the 1960s to the early 1980s from the division were taken illegally by former officer Winfield Falk, who died in 1987, and stored in a barn.

The files included surveillance on 576 groups and more than 3,000 individuals. One file held a picture of a young Vera Katz speaking at a grape boycott rally.



Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker

Kroeker Misses LA Cut

(AP) — For the third time, Portland Police Chief Mark Kroeker has come up short in an attempt to get the top job with the Los Angeles Police Department.

Kroeker listened to the Los Angeles Police Commission's announcement via his cell phone Thursday to find out he is not one of the three finalists.

"I've been honored to be the chief here in Portland and to serve the people in Portland," Kroeker said. "It appears I'm going to be doing just that."

Kroeker, 58, was among the 13 semifinalists interviewed this month.

No Proof in Allegation Against Cleric

Tests show Muslim leader's bags free of explosive residue

(AP) — Tests that found explosive residue on the bags of a Muslim cleric arrested at the Portland International Airport have been thrown out after they were reviewed at an FBI crime lab.

Stanley Cohen, a New York civil rights attorney who took the case of Sheik Mohamed Abdirahman Kariye, said the FBI tests showed the bags were free of explosives residues.

Kariye, who served as an

imam at the Islamic Center in Portland, was arrested Sept. 8 as he tried to board a flight to the United Arab Emirates with his brother and four children.

Kariye, 41, is accused of using false information — including a changed name — while applying for and receiving three different Social Security cards between 1983 and 1995. The federal indictment also alleges Kariye used an

altered birth date in a 1998 asylum application.

Police have not said they suspect Kariye of terror-related offenses, other than to say that the FBI-led Joint Terrorism Task Force detained him. Kariye's supporters question why the task force was even involved, because Kariye has been charged only with Social Security fraud.



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