

POLICE

Sniper Attacks Terrorize Maryland Suburb

String of mystery murders investigated by former Portland Police Chief

(AP)— A 13-year-old boy was shot and critically wounded as his aunt dropped him off at school Monday, bringing fresh terror to the Washington, D.C. area where a sniper killed six people last week. Another shooting Monday in the District of Columbia also was being investigated.

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose said a man sitting in a vehicle in Washing-

ton had also been shot, but the case's relationship to the others was unknown.

The boy was shot once, in the chest, and was in critical but stable condition and breathing on a ventilator following surgery, said Dr. Martin Eichelberger of Children's Hospital.

Eichelberger said he was optimistic about the child's chances for survival, though the boy has

a "significant injury" to a lung.

The doctor also said the surgery team made a special effort to find a portion of the bullet, which they gave to police.

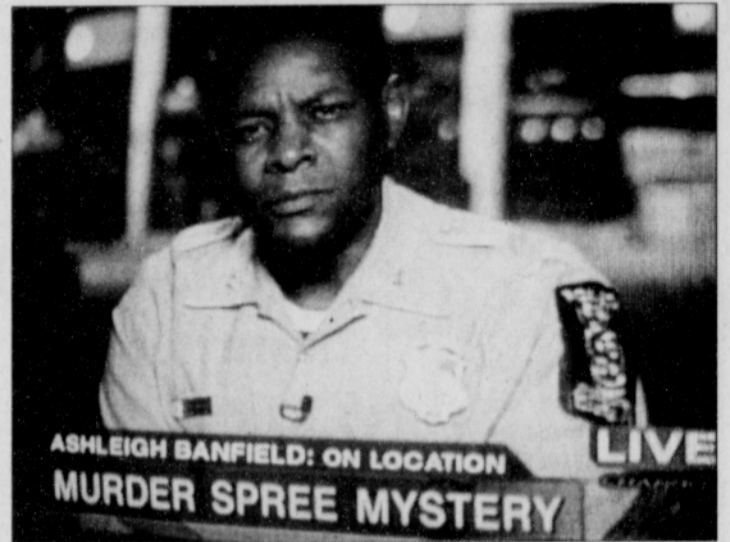
The shooting happened well before classes were scheduled to begin, so there were not a lot of witnesses, Prince George's County Police Chief Gerald Wilson said. A gunshot was heard, and the boy slumped over and

told his aunt he thought he had been shot, Wilson said.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, five people were shot to death by a sniper in a 16-hour span in Montgomery County. A sixth victim was killed Thursday in Washington, D.C. On Friday, a woman was shot and wounded in Virginia.

"All of our victims have been innocent and defenseless, but now we're stepping over the line," Moose said. "Shooting a kid—it's getting to be really, really personal now." At one point, tears streamed down his face.

But he stressed that it was too early to know whether the shooting of the boy was related to the sniper slayings.



Former Portland Police Chief Charles Moose gives frequent updates to the national media as the top law enforcement officer in Montgomery County, Md., where a string of deadly sniper shootings goes unsolved.

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Local Residents Accused of Plotting War

One suspect worked in mayor's office as college intern



A Portland and FBI investigation led to the arrest of Jeffrey Leon Battle (from left), Patrice Lumumba Ford, October Martinique Lewis and Muhammad Ibrahim Bilal on charges of conspiracy to wage war on the U.S.

(AP)— Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the arrests of four people in Oregon on Friday on charges of conspiring to wage war on the United States and support al-Qaida.

A fifth suspect in the case was arrested Monday in Malaysia, with another person still being sought overseas.

Five of the six defendants are U.S. citizens. According to prosecutors, some of them took weapons training and then tried to travel to Afghanistan to join up with al-Qaida and the Taliban, but could not get into the country.

Ashcroft said one of those arrested, Jeffrey Leon Battle, joined the U.S. Army Reserves to obtain

training in U.S. tactics and weapons. Ashcroft said Battle, who was discharged last January while in Bangladesh, intended to use that experience against American soldiers in Afghanistan.

Court papers identified the six as Battle, 32; Patrice Lumumba Ford, 31; Ahmed Ibrahim Bilal, 24; his brother Muhammad Ibrahim Bilal, 22; Habis Abdullah al Saoub, 37; and October Martinique Lewis, 25, the ex-wife of Battle.

All but Lewis, set out for Afghanistan in October 2001 and tried to enter the country by way of China but failed, Ashcroft said.

Lewis stayed behind and wired money to Battle eight times "with

the knowledge the money would be used to support his attempt to reach Afghanistan" to help al-Qaida and the Taliban, according to the attorney general.

Patrice Ford was raised in Portland and graduated from Lincoln High School.

Portland Mayor Vera Katz said he worked in her office for two months in 1998 and again in September 1999. He also worked as an intern for Portland Mayor Bud Clark in 1986.

Katz said Ford raised suspicions two years ago when he renewed interactions with her office staff, but would not discuss details on the matter because of a request by the FBI.

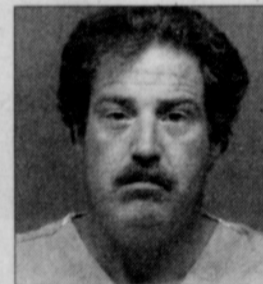
Weaver Charged in Oregon Murders

A Clackamas County Grand Jury has filed a criminal indictment against Ward Weaver in the case of two murdered Oregon City girls.

The 17-count indictment alleges that on Jan. 9, Weaver committed aggravated murder by intentionally causing the death of Ashley Pond while also committing the crime of sexual abuse. He's also

accused of aggravated murder for intentionally causing the death of Miranda Gaddis on March 8, while also committing the crime of sexual abuse.

In addition, the indictment accuses



Ward Weaver

Weaver of sexually abusing and attempting to rape Pond prior to her death. He's also accused of attempted aggravated murder and rape of Randi Oneida on Aug. 13 and the sexual abuse of a 15-year-old female victim on July 17.

The ultimate punishment for the crime of aggravated murder is death by legal injection. However, under Oregon Law, that will be decided by a jury.

safety matters

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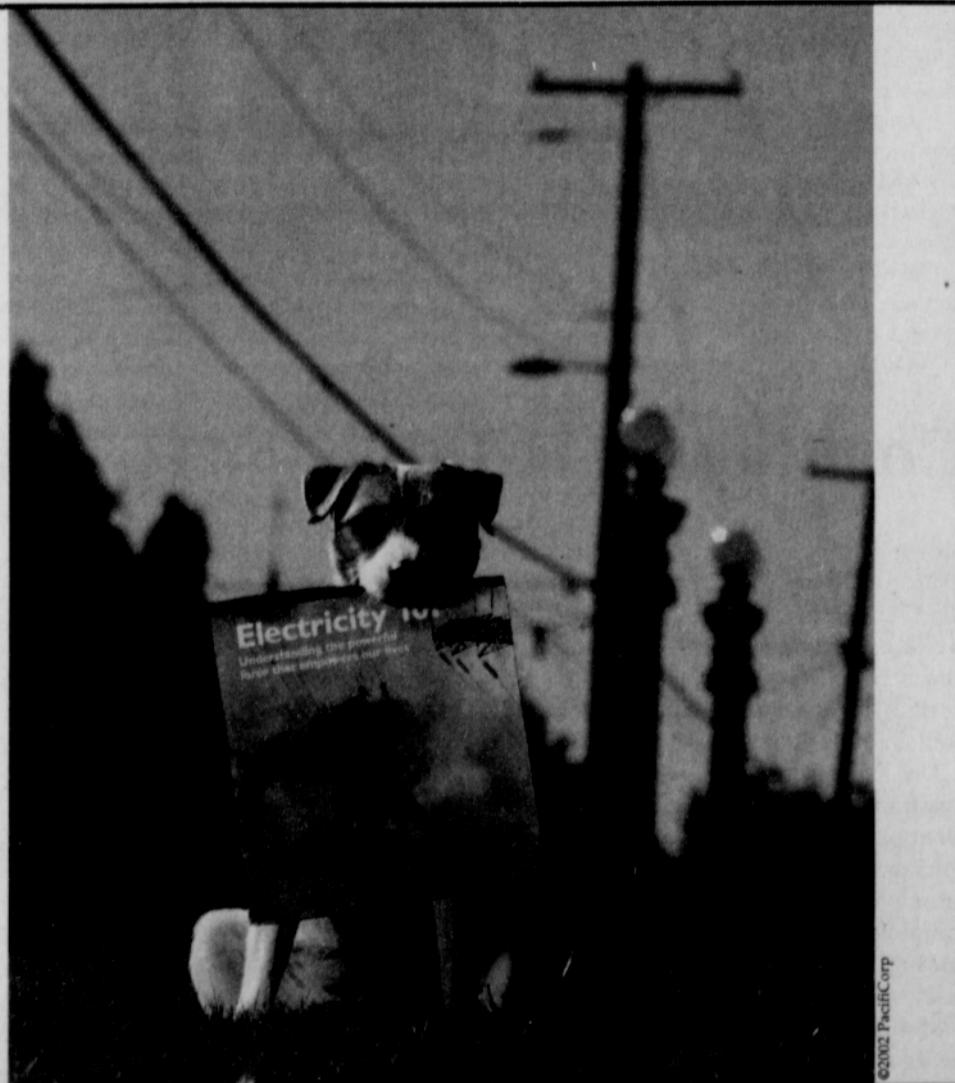
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