

# POLICE

## GUARDSMEN CHARGED IN OREGON HATE CRIME

(AP) — Three National Guardsmen beat up or harassed minorities and others in a "mission" to clean up the community, and one of the suspects killed himself at the scene of the most recent attack, Medford police said Friday.

The National Guard said the three men had recently returned from peacekeeping duty in the Middle East.

Two guardsmen were arrested at a Medford motel where they allegedly beat the Indian owner, whom they had mistaken for an Arab. The owner suffered cuts and bruises.

In earlier attacks, a homeless white man was beaten with a club and called a disgrace to his race, and black teenagers were menaced by

white men who showed a gun and shouted, "White pride!"

Guardsman Chad Ritchie, 21, was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after running from the motel early Thursday, police Lt. Mike Moran said. Andrew Lee Patterson, 23, and Aaron St. James, 25, were

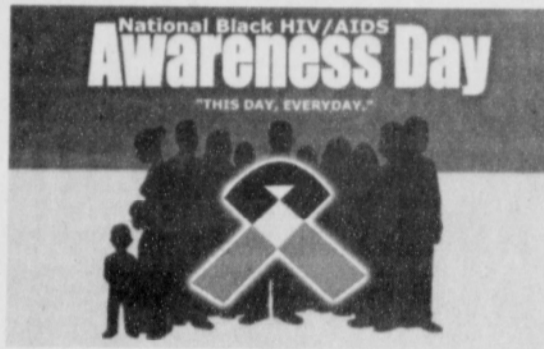
waiting in a car when police arrived, Moran said. They were charged with assault.

"This is a bias-related crime," Moran said. "Patterson drove and he knew Ritchie would assault the owner because of his ethnic origin."

Police believe that Patterson and Ritchie had

gone out before to attack homeless people. Moran said Patterson described the forays to investigators as "missions" intended to clean up the community.

Patterson also was charged with kidnapping and assault in the Jan. 15 attack on the homeless man.



**Celebrate National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day**

**Friday, February 7, 2003**

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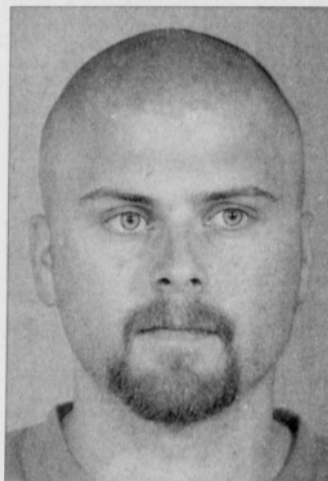


## CRIME STOPPERS

(503) 823-HELP 111 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

### Man Wanted for Multiple Thefts

Suspect allegedly embezzled \$60,000 from his father's business



Michael Alvin Schmale

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, is asking for your help in locating and apprehending Michael Alvin Schmale.

The 26-year-old is charged with aggravated theft, forgery, computer crime and identity theft. Police said he embezzled money and failed to pay both income taxes and business debts at his father's business. The total loss

was placed at over \$60,000.

In addition, Multnomah County holds a warrant for Schmale's arrest on a charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants.

Schmale is six feet tall and weighs 165 pounds with brown hair and green eyes. Authorities say he likes to frequent bars and play video poker. He may be driving a red 1989 Ford 4X4 pickup with Oregon plates QCS 924.

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. You need not give your name. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-HELP.

### Suspects in Southeast Beating Wanted

Portland Police, in cooperation with Crime Stoppers, are asking for your help in identify four individuals involved in an assault that left a man in critical condition.

On Saturday, Jan. 18 at about 2:45 a.m. near the Texaco station at Southeast 84th and Foster, the victim, Joseph Claude Maestas, 44, and another man had a verbal exchange with four individuals in a car.

The four suspects started to get out of the vehicle, at which

time the man with Maestas ran from the area. He assumed Maestas had done the same, but when he did not see Maestas, he returned to the scene where he found Maestas lying critically injured in a pool of blood, police said.

The wanted men are described as white males with Russian accents. The driver was approximately 20 to 25 years of age, 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 7 inches tall, with a skinny build, light brown hair and clean-shaven.

The vehicle they were driving

is described as a medium-red 1990s four-door imported sedan with a dark gray or black interior. The vehicle is reportedly in "good shape" and has license plates that are white with blue numbers.

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.

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### Bullet Just Misses Sleeping Girl

(AP) — A stray bullet ripped through an 8-year-old girl's pajamas, but the sleeping child wearing them was not hit.

The bullet came from a gun fired early Thursday in the Salem apartment above Brenda Rojas' bedroom, police said.

Sgt. Mike Scanlon said the gun's

discharge might have been accidental. Police were looking for the occupants of the upstairs apartment

The bullet traveled down through the ceiling at an angle; then through a colorful Winnie the Pooh blanket, Roja's pajamas, a set of Pooh sheets and the girl's mattress. It left an-

other hole in the outside wall of the apartment.

Roja slept through the gunshot. She woke up when her mother and grandmother charged into her bedroom to check on her.

Officers arriving after the shooting saw people from the upstairs apartment leaving, police said.

Neighbors said the upstairs unit has been a source of complaints of loud parties lasting into the early hours and people coming and going at all times.

### Inmates Released

(AP) — The first wave of inmates were released from the downtown justice center Wednesday as state agencies across Oregon began implementing spending cuts following voters' rejection of a temporary income tax hike.

"It's a party atmosphere at the jail today," lamented Multnomah County Sheriff Bernie Giusto as he announced the release of 31 inmates — among 114 scheduled to be freed by Thursday.

Some of the freed inmates had been in jail pending trial. Others were serving time for crimes ranging from assault to drug manufacturing to sex abuse.

Giusto, the sheriff, said he may be forced to release up to 500 inmates before the end of his budget year in June because of a \$1 million shortfall.

The inmate release is one of the first cost-saving measures to follow the failure measure 28's proposed tax hike, put on the ballot to stave off \$310 million in spending cuts.

## safety matters

**Look up before you go up.**

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