

POLICE

Slain Woman Broke Rules of the Street

Friends say Jessica was murdered because she talked to police

(AP)— There are two unbreakable rules on the street that the homeless say can cost you your life — don't snitch and don't lie.

Jessica Williams was killed because she broke both rules, according to a friend who claims he also warned police about her "street family" of homeless teenagers and young adults.

"The moment she said something to the police, they were going to nail her right then and there," said Jeff Cameron, 19, as he stood

outside the courtroom where two of the three main suspects in the slaying appeared on aggravated murder charges.

"Jessica was labeled as a liar and a snitch," Cameron said. "They were going to finish the job. Why not just kill her."

Danielle Marie Cox and Jimmy Aaron Stewart, both 18, are accused of killing Williams, 22, a tall young woman who allegedly had the mental capacity of a 12-year-old because she suffered from fetal alcohol syndrome.

Cameron claims Williams was killed because she told police that another member of her street family had tried to make her into a prostitute. Some members of the family beat up the young man before they



Carl Alsup (left) is wanted for the murder of Jessica Williams (right).

found out it wasn't true, Cameron said.

Ten other young people, ranging in age from 16 to 27, also face charges in the death of Williams, whose body was found May 23 after a railroad engineer spotted it near the only downtown bridge that carries both rail and vehicle traffic across the Willamette River.

An autopsy showed Williams

had been stabbed and bludgeoned.

Cameron said members of the street family kicked Williams, hit her with a belt, burned the palms of her hands with lighters and burned her face with cigarettes before one of the family leaders ordered her killed.

Cameron said the person who gave the order to kill Williams still has not been arrested. But shortly after the court appearances of Cox and Stewart, police announced that a Multnomah County grand jury had indicted a 17-year-old boy, Carl Richard Alsup, with aggravated murder.

Alsup remained at large Monday, described only as a white male with blond or brown hair going by the street name "D.K."

Williams was not homeless but worked downtown and had befriended young people who were in and out of homeless shelters. Eventually, she began spending time with a street family that had developed a reputation for violence.

Williams, however, was a gentle giant at 6 feet 4 and 230 pounds, according to family and friends.

Her sister, 18-year-old Noel Williams, described her as "a big teddy bear, the sweetest, most kind person."

Her friend, Amanda Nelsen, 21, who lived on the street for four years before finally finishing her high school degree and enrolling in college this fall, said Williams "would never hurt anybody — she was always so nice to everybody."

Nelsen said that the street family had a saying for members who betrayed it — "snitches get stitches."

Port Awarded Security Grant

The Port of Portland learned last week that the Department of Homeland Security has awarded \$510,000 in federal grant money for security improvements at the Port's Terminal 6-Oregon's only container terminal for loading and unloading ocean-going vessels.

The money will be used for entry and exit gate upgrades, for monitoring and surveillance equipment and installation of new sensor alarms on perimeter fencing.

"Our Terminal 6, which handles more than 400 container, automobile and breakbulk ships per year, is small in comparison to ports like Los Angeles and Seattle, but it's arguably the highest profile marine facility in Oregon and on the Columbia River," said Bill Wyatt, Port of Portland executive director.

Police Review Board Seeks Volunteers

The Independent Police Review Division of the Portland City Auditor's Office is seeking volunteers to serve on the Citizen Review Committee.

Applications are available at

www.ci.portland.or.us/auditor/ipr. Call IPR Deputy Director Michael Hess with questions at 503-823-4126.

The auditor's office said qualifications would include the demographic and ethnic diversity of Portland.

Attempted Kidnapper Caught

(AP)— A Vancouver man is in jail after a woman watched the stranger enter her home — and try to grab her infant daughter.

Police say 30-year-old Jeremy Wall is being held on charges of attempted kidnapping, burglary and malicious mischief.

The mother, who police would not identify, told detectives she was working in her



Jeremy Wall

back door.

Vancouver Police Sergeant Mark Rigali says the mother quickly ran inside to find Wall in her baby daughter's bedroom, reaching into the crib.

The woman screamed and the stranger fled into the surrounding neighborhood.

She called police and officers chased him on foot through several nearby yards before capturing him.

Texas Dozen Freed Pending Appeals

Convictions based on discredited undercover agent

(AP)— Hours after he and 11 others were released from prison on questionable drug convictions, Freddie Brookins Jr. enjoyed the simple pleasure of holding his wife's hand at an indoor picnic.

"It feels so good out here," Brookins said as he stood with his wife, Terri, about a block from the Swisher County Courthouse, where a Texas judge released all 12 on bond Monday pending a ruling by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. "It's weird. It's been so long. I'm so excited I can't even eat."

The defendants had been sent to prison on the testimony of a now-discredited undercover agent in a case that divided this town of 5,000 people and led to investigations by the U.S. Justice Department and the Texas Attorney General's office.

Forty-six people, 39 of them black, were arrested in July 1999 and accused of possessing cocaine following an 18-month undercover operation. Undercover agent Tom Coleman, who is white, said he bought drugs from the defendants, but he worked alone and used no audio or video surveillance. No drugs or money were found during the arrests.

Monday's prison release comes while the appeals court considers a judge's recommendation that all the convictions be overturned. A special prosecutor has said he will dismiss all charges if the court orders new trials.

"We don't have victory until they are rid of these convictions," said Elaine Jones, president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

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Clues Sought in Beating Death

Portland police and Crime Stoppers are asking for your help in locating witnesses to a fight between two men that resulted in death.

On Thursday, May 29 at 11:50 p.m., Central Precinct Officers were dispatched to a fight on the 1300 block of West Burnside. Upon arrival officers found 47-year-old Joseph Michael Paulson, unconscious on the sidewalk.

Paulson was transported by ambulance to a local hospital, where he died from injuries associated with the altercation. Paulson had been living in transitional housing in downtown Portland.



Joseph Paulson

While the fight drew a crowd, and 9-1-1 received several calls, including one from someone who said his name was "Nathaniel," the crowd quickly dispersed, leaving officers with few actual witnesses.

The other man involved is described as a 28 to 35-year-old black man, 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighing 155 to 165 pounds. At the time, he was wearing a silver jacket, long silver basketball style shorts, silver baseball style hat and black tennis shoes with short white socks. He left the area with two other black males in an unknown American made vehicle with Oregon plates beginning with VAT.

Crime Stoppers is offering a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information, reported to Crime Stoppers, that leads to the resolution of this case. Call Crime Stoppers at 503-823-4357.

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Men Sent to Prison in Cross Burning

(AP)— Two white men have been sentenced to 8½ and 11½ years in prison for burning a cross in the yard of a white woman whose black friends visited her at home.

Michael Allen White, 21, and Benjamin Michael Sloan, 20, pleaded guilty to federal charges of conspiracy and intimidation. They were sentenced Thursday.

A co-defendant, Lee Wayne Bray, 20, was sentenced last month to six years in prison.

He said the cross-burning was a drunken prank.

Authorities said the men burned the cross at the Huntsville, Ala. home of Rhonda Kay Lyle last summer and smashed windows and a glass door with a shovel.

Lyle and her two children moved out the next day.

Authorities said White bragged to people about the crime.