

LAW & JUSTICE

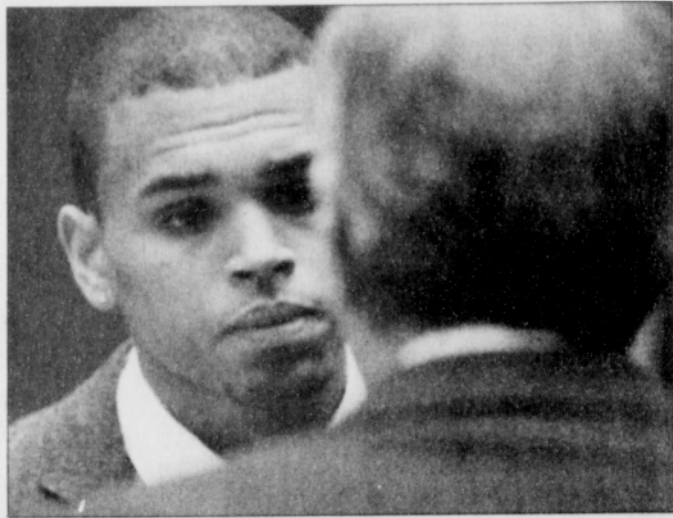
Charges Filed in Assault on Rihanna

Chris Brown free on bail

(AP) — Chris Brown has been charged with two felonies stemming from what a police detective describes as a brutal argument between the singer and his girlfriend, Rihanna.

Brown's arraignment was postponed until April 6 on charges of assault likely to cause great bodily injury and making criminal threats. The 19-year-old R&B singer remains free on \$50,000 bail.

A court commissioner ordered him not to harass, threaten or harm anyone. At the request of Donald Etra, an attorney representing Rihanna, the commissioner did not order



Singer Chris Brown, 19, faces his attorney Mark Geragos in Los Angeles Superior Court last Thursday on charges of assaulting his girlfriend, the pop star Rihanna.

Brown, wearing a three-piece gray pinstripe suit with gray tie and cream shirt, clasped his hands behind his back as he walked into the courtroom

Thursday. He answered a few questions from the commissioner as his mother watched from the front row along with a group of family members.

Details released Thursday offer a starkly different portrait of Brown than the squeaky-clean image he has cultivated. The young man once praised for his Michael Jackson-esque dance moves is described in a detective's affidavit as punching his girlfriend, biting her ear and trying to choke her until she nearly lost consciousness.

He rose to fame after the 2005 hit "Run It!" and his popularity has only grown. He was nominated for a Grammy for "No Air" with Jordin Sparks and named Billboard's top artist in 2008.

The couple were among the marquee names scheduled to appear and perform at the



Rihanna

Grammys Feb. 8, but the alleged attack forced both to cancel their appearances.

A Barbados-born pop singer, Rihanna recorded one of 2007's

most popular songs with "Umbrella" and has numerous other hits. Her stunning looks have made her a cover girl for magazines, as well as a pitchwoman for Cover Girl cosmetics.

According to Andrews' affidavit, Brown and Rihanna started dating about a year and half ago. The couple have never officially confirmed their romance, but have been frequently spotted together, cuddling or holding hands.

Brown issued a statement a week after the incident saying that he was "sorry and saddened" about the incident. Rihanna also later issued a statement, saying she wouldn't comment on the alleged beating at the request of authorities. She thanked fans for their support.

High Speed Drivers Slowed

Oregon State Police statistics involving high speed traffic stops shows a nearly 25 percent drop in citations issued to drivers traveling 100 mph or faster and fewer traffic fatalities in 2008.

In January 2006, a new law took effect providing tougher penalties for drivers convicted of traveling over 100 mph. At a time when there was a noticeable diminished enforcement presence on Oregon roads, the strong penalties were passed in effort to save lives endangered by drivers traveling at dangerous high speeds.

Last year, Oregon State Police troopers cited 376 drivers for driving 100 mph or faster, an



approximate 25 percent decrease over the number cited in 2007 when 494 citations were issued. Driving a vehicle over 100

mph carries a mandatory minimum 30 to 90 day suspension in addition to a \$1,103 fine. Figures show that excessive

speed is a factor in half of all traffic fatalities, and it is the only factor in about 30 percent.

Ex-Cop Arrested for Arson

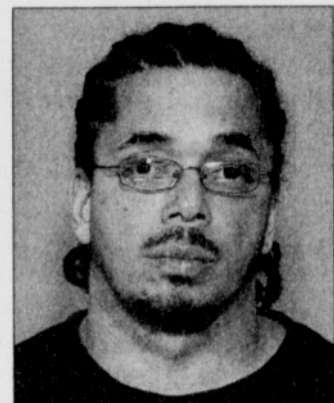
A former Portland police officer has been charged with trying to burn down an apartment complex with people inside.

Steven Brian Gomez, 43, was arrested March 3 and charged with three counts of arson and attempted assault. The charges are based on an incident that occurred on Nov. 7, when a fire was started at a triplex located at 2121 N. Kilpatrick St.

Police said there were three occupants in the residence when the fire was started and one victim sustained minor burn injuries.

Detectives believe Gomez knew the victims inside the residence.

Gomez worked for the Portland Police Bureau for five



Steven Gomez

years. He resigned in 1997 after confessing to shooting his wife in an incident he claimed was an accidental shooting. His wife survived, but he spent 90 days in jail for assault and resigned from the force.

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PDX Baggage Handlers Arrested

Two baggage handlers have been arrested on theft charges at Portland International Airport.

Bridgette Denise Bunnell, 43, Molalla, was arrested Feb.

18 on eight counts of theft. Jose Trejo Romero, 46, Vancouver, was arrested Feb. 14 on charges of aggravated theft.

The arrests result from a

two-week investigation by Port of Portland Police. Some 200 items believed to have been stolen have been recovered ranging from laptop computers and jewelry,

to hand bags and clothing. Travelers who believe they may have had baggage or items from baggage stolen are urged to contact Port Police at 503-460-4747.

Scam Warnings from Attorney General

Jury Duty

Oregon Attorney General John Kroger is warning about a jury duty scam that seeks to trick people into providing personal, confidential information.

The scam involves emails and telephone calls that claim recipients have missed jury duty and will be arrested or face other legal sanctions if they do not turn over Social Security numbers, bank accounts information or dates of birth.

Oregonians recently have been receiving fraud emails with what appear to be subpoenas from the U.S. District

Court. These are invalid and may contain harmful links to viruses and identity thieves. Most of the bogus emails come from "uscourts.com," which is not a government Web site.

Oregon residents receiving jury scam calls or emails should contact local police or the Attorney General's consumer protection hotline at 1-877-877-9392 or online at doj.state.or.us.

Consumers who think they may have turned over personal financial information to jury duty scammers should go to the Federal Trade Commission's website at ftc.gov/idtheft for

specific directions in defending themselves against ID theft.

Check Scam

Oregon small businesses, churches and non-profits continue to be tricked into contracting for unwanted services by depositing small checks that arrive in the mail, according to the Oregon Attorney General.

The checks appear to be refunds or payments on small debts, but depositing a check signs up the victim for unwanted Internet access or yellow page advertising and

obliges payment, officials said.

Oregon law generally prohibits what are known as "activation checks" or "live checks." The Oregon Department of Justice recently took court action against three companies that profited from check activation schemes.

Consumers, businesses and non-profit groups wanting more information about check activation scams and other consumer protection issues may call the Attorney General's consumer hotline at 1-877-877-9392 or visit the office online at doj.state.or.us.

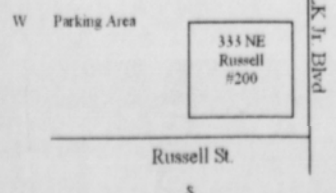
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