

# Yashanee Vaughn Case Update

## Details revealed in bail hearing for accused teen

In an all-day bail hearing on Friday, prosecutors argued that 16-year-old Parish Bennette Jr. should remain in jail with no bail due to strong evidence that he killed 14-year-old Yashanee Vaughn and disposed of the Portland girl's body, which has not been located.

Homicide detectives suspect Bennette Jr. shot and killed Vaughn in the bedroom of his father's northeast Portland home on the evening of Saturday, March 19.

A forensic analysis of blood spatter on the floor and wall of the Bennette Jr.'s bedroom indicated that Vaughn was struck or beaten and left on the floor, bleeding profusely, said prosecutors.

The suspected murder weapon, a .38 revolver, passed through at least three people before police recovered it and matched a spent shell casing with a .38-caliber bullet found in Bennette's house.

The gun also matched the .38 caliber that Bennette Jr. held up in a self-photo taken in front of a mirror on his cell phone the night before the suspected murder, authorities said. Testimony also included a recorded statement of Bennette boasting to a friend that he was a pimp.

Bennette Sr., father of the suspect, returned home from a Tacoma trip March 19 around 7:45 p.m., and told police he witnessed his son going up and down the stairs and coming in and out of his room sev-

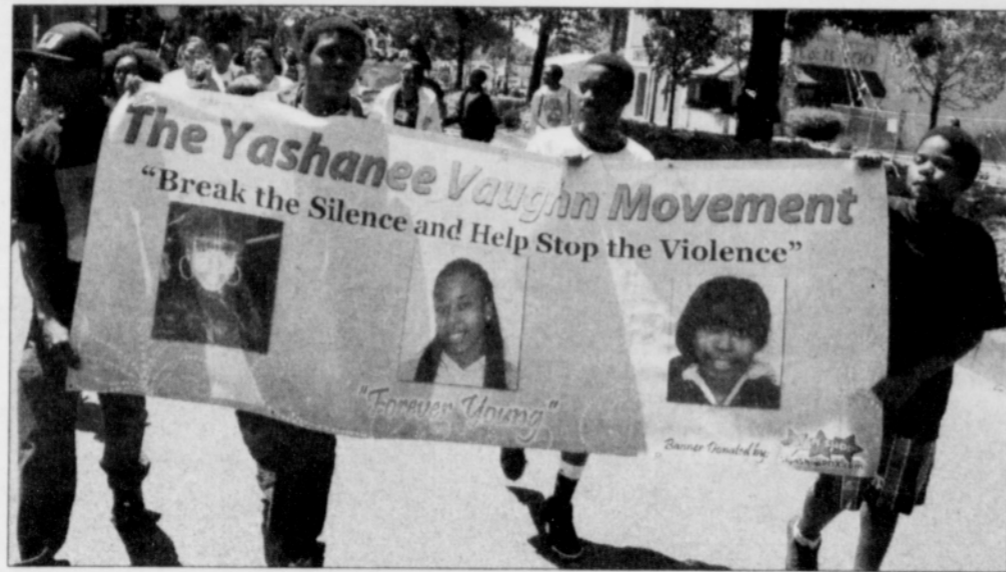


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Dozens of family and friends of Yashanee Vaughn keep the missing 14-year-old girl's case out in front of the public by marching in Saturday's Good in the Neighborhood parade on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

eral times. He also noticed a stench of bleach coming from his son's room, but he did not enter his room.

Staying at his grandparents' house after a week-long trip to California and on account of increased suspicions of his involvement with Vaughn, Bennette Jr. described for the first time to his father what happened:

"He described what happened as an accident, that he had a gun, and it went off, and it struck her," Detective Mark Slater testified, "He said he got rid of her."

After his father's girlfriend testified that she urged Bennette Jr. to speak up about Vaughn's whereabouts, she told police he said, "They won't go up there."

# One Killed, Two Hurt in Weekend Shooting

Leonard James "LJ" Irving, 34, died from a gunshot wound to the neck on Sunday at 12:37 a.m. on Northeast 82nd Avenue and Thompson Street.

A second man, identified as Lamar Lovette Hill, 21, was seriously injured. A third man, Jeray Lashawn Jessie, 21, suffered a gunshot wound to the forearm.

Detectives have determined that there was some sort of disturbance that resulted in the gunfire. An autopsy determined that Irving died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Homicide detectives are asking for the public's help in the investigation. They have not determined if the gunfire was gang-related.

Anyone with information about the shooting contact Det. Erik Kammerer at 503 823-0762 or email erik.kammerer@portlandoregon.gov

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, and you can remain anonymous.

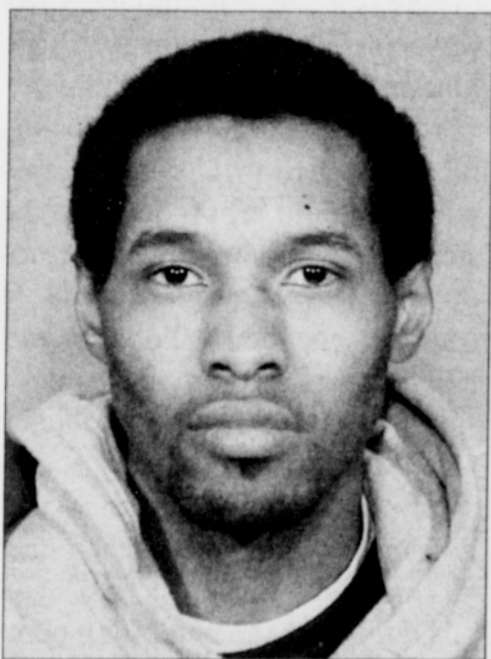
# Men Arrested in Bias Crime

A gay man walking from a downtown club was harassed and called derogatory names by two men who initially asked for directions.

When police arrived at 2:57 a.m. Sunday, they found another man lying in the street at Northwest Second Avenue and Flanders. A witness told police the man on the ground was a "good Samaritan"

who was assaulted after coming to the aid of the initial victim.

The good Samaritan suffered non-life threatening injuries. As officers talked with witnesses, the suspects returned to the scene and were taken into custody. Shawn Siefke, 28, was charged with assault and intimidation and Christian Sanchez-Villavencio, 21 was charged with assault.



Charles Earl Howell

## Cat Burglar Arrest

A man was arrested by Portland police on Thursday in connection to several "cat burglaries" in the southwest Portland hills over the past two months.

Tipped off by the community, police arrested Charles Earl Howell, 26, as he was walking down the street in north Portland and charged him with four counts of burglary. He was also wanted on an outstanding warrant for robbery.

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