

# Roommate charged in man's slaying

By SALLIE JAMES

Staff Writer

**WILTON MANORS** — A 41-year-old man was stabbed to death early Saturday and his roommate was charged with the killing after an argument in the man's rented trailer erupted in violence, police said.

Valerie Sanford, 26, is accused of plunging a kitchen knife into Constantin Basceanu's chest while the two quarreled in his trailer at the Middle River Trailer Park in

the 1200 block of Northeast 22nd Street, Detective Sgt. Rick Wierzbicki said.

Sanford was charged with first-degree murder, Wierzbicki said.

Wierzbicki said the 2:45 a.m. stabbing occurred after the two got into a physical argument for some unknown reason.

"It was also learned the parties had been drinking together prior to the homicide occurring, and the knife, that was possibly used in murder, was recovered inside the

trailer," Wierzbicki said.

Police, who received a call from a neighbor, found Basceanu dead on the kitchen floor of his trailer.

Basceanu, who moved into the park on March 24, shared his trailer with Bob Bernicki, the park register showed. Sanford was not registered as a resident and her name was unfamiliar to the park owner.

Owner Sandy Yawt said Saturday was the third time police had been called to the trailer park since Basceanu moved in.

@ 1989

## DIGEST

Staff and wire reports

### Pastorius' killer sentenced

A Wilton Manors bottle club manager was sentenced on Monday to 21 months in state prison and five years of probation for the beating death of jazz guitarist Jaco Pastorius.

Luc Havan, 26, had been charged with second-degree murder but pleaded guilty last month to manslaughter. Pastorius, 35, died in September 1987 from a beating by Havan outside the Midnight Bottle Club, managed by Havan and owned by his mother.

The altercation occurred after Pastorius, who lived the last years of his life on the streets of Fort Lauderdale, was refused entry into the club and began kicking the door in anger.

Pastorius had toured with such groups as Weather Report and Blood Sweat and Tears.

12-6-88

## Man pleads guilty in death

Timothy Ott, charged with first-degree murder in the strangling death of his girlfriend's husband, pleaded guilty on Monday to a lesser charge in exchange for testifying at her trial in October.

Ott, 34, of Fort Lauderdale, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder before Broward Circuit Judge Stanton Kaplan. The judge scheduled sentencing for Jan. 5.

Under state guidelines, Ott will be sentenced to 12 to 17 years in state prison. Kaplan can sentence Ott to a maximum of 40 years if the judge departs from the guidelines.

Ott testified during his girlfriend's trial in October that he clubbed her husband, Bernard James, 37, of Wilton Manors, in the head with a baseball bat, then strangled him. Ott testified that the killing was plotted by Patricia James, with whom Ott fell in love.

Patricia James, 38, was convicted of first-degree murder in the slaying and sentenced to life in prison.

12-6-88

# Innocent man jailed

The Miami Herald Section BR

## for 19 hours

One phone call would have verified story

By CHERYL MATTOX BERRY  
Herald Staff Writer

Through no fault of his own, Angel Edgardo Valentin ended up on the wrong side of the law and spent 19 hours in the Broward County Jail.

He is angry at Wilton Manors police for not listening to his side. And police can't explain why no one in the department made one phone call to verify Valentin's story.

Valentin, 25, a Miami air traffic controller, was arrested at 2:51 a.m. Thursday on southbound Interstate 95 for grand theft auto. The car was impounded and 15

## Innocent man jailed for 19 hours

NO FAULT / from 1BR

my driver's license."

Unbeknown to Valentin or the rental agency, a client who had rented the car earlier had kept it longer than his contract allowed. The rental agency hired a "repo" contractor to find the car and bring it in. The client, Rhinehart Pearson, of the Bahamas, reported it stolen to Metro-Dade police.

He could not be reached for comment.

Meantime, Dollar continued to rent the car out, not knowing it had been reported stolen.

"Valentin didn't do anything wrong . . . the police didn't do anything wrong," said Bill Flynn, vice president of Dollar. "The only thing

wrong about this other than the inconvenience to Mr. Valentin is Mr. Pearson didn't report the car stolen to us."

Flynn said the company tried to correct the mistake as soon as Valentin phoned the agency around 8:30 a.m. Thursday. The company posted a \$1,000 bail when it became evident that red tape might delay his release. Valentin was freed at 9:58 p.m. Thursday.

If Dollar had not stepped in, Valentin may have stayed overnight in jail because the Clerk of Court's Office closed before doing the paperwork necessary to drop his case.

"It was a very disgusting experience," said Valentin, "especially when you sit there and you haven't done anything."

"If there's an injustice that has been done we want to correct it."

Valentin wants the incident investigated, too, and the charge removed from his record. He has been relieved of his regular duties at Miami's air traffic control center and given a desk job. His security clearance has been suspended until the matter is cleared up.

minutes later, officers found papers in the glove compartment that showed he had rented the car. The officers didn't call Dollar Rent-A-Car in Miami when the papers were found. Wilton Manors Lt. Jac Vastine said he would investigate why that was not done.

"We're not out to zing innocent folks," Vastine said.

While on patrol, Wilton Manors officer Fred Stenger ran Valentin's car tag number through the National Crime Information Center computer. It came back as a stolen auto.

Valentin had rented the red 1988 Dodge Daytona on Nov. 6 and had extended his contract through Nov. 21. His car was totaled in an accident a month ago.

"I was never given a chance to show my contract," Valentin said Saturday. "They didn't even ask me for

Turn to NO FAULT / 8BR



# Woman gets life in prison <sup>11-11-88</sup>

## Judge hands down sentence in intricate murder plot

By KEVIN ALLEN  
Staff Writer

A Wilton Manors woman convicted of the first-degree murder of her husband in an intricate plot of deception and conspiracy was sentenced to life in prison on Thursday by Broward Circuit Judge Stanton S. Kaplan.

Patricia James, 38, agreed to waive a penalty hearing, and Kaplan sentenced her to life with no chance of parole for 25 years.

James, who answered Kaplan's questions in a whisper, declined to make a statement. Her only request, to have her three children visit her in jail, was denied by Kap-

lan.

James was convicted on Nov. 1 of the murder of her husband, Bernard James, 37, a state park ranger who was found dead outside the couple's home on March 24, 1987.

At first, James told police that her husband had been killed by a robber, but later she said that the killer was Timothy Ott, an ambulance dispatcher with whom she had carried on a telephone romance for seven months.

Authorities, though, say they discovered that James had persuaded Ott to beat and strangle her husband to death. She had concocted a fantasy world of fictitious characters to aid in her plot to collect on

her husband's \$145,000 life insurance policy, prosecutor Pete LaPorte said.

Ott, 34, was charged with first-degree murder after police said he confessed that he beat Bernard James with a baseball bat in his apartment while Patricia James was in the bathroom.

Ott, whose trial is pending, testified that he fell in love with a woman named T.J., whom he had never met.

T.J. made Ott believe that the children's father, Bernard James, was a child abuser, Ott testified. She also persuaded Ott to kill Bernard to protect the children, Ott said.



Patricia James

Ott got in touch with T.J. through a woman named Demi, whom he met in person. It was Demi who lured Bernard James to Ott's apartment the day of the slaying.

It was only after his arrest that Ott realized that he had been tricked.

## **Man charged in fraud**

**WILTON MANORS** — A man accused last month of cheating tenants out of \$150 to \$200 after offering to help them in eviction cases was formally charged by police on Thursday with fraud and practicing law without a licence.

Detective David Jones said he charged John Harold Maguire, 32, with one count of organized fraud, eight counts of communications fraud and eight counts of unauthorized practice of law.

Maguire was arrested by Wilton Manors police early last month on a warrant from grand theft charges involving bad checks from Miamisburg, Ohio.

At the time of Maguire's arrest, Jones also was investigating complaints that Maguire had represented himself as a lawyer to people facing eviction and charged them fees to represent them in court.

**4B** Fort Lauderdale News, Friday, November 11, 1988

# Woman guilty of murder in plot to kill husband

By CECILIE DITLEV-SIMONSEN  
Staff Writer

Patricia James, a Wilton Manors woman who lived in a fantasy world of telephone romances and fictitious characters, sat stone-faced on Tuesday as jurors found her guilty of first-degree murder in her husband's death.

James, 38, whispered a few words to her older brother but showed no emotion as a court deputy led her to jail.

The jury deliberated for more than seven hours before reaching the verdict in James' three-week retrial. Her first trial ended with a hung jury last fall.

James, eager to benefit from her husband's \$145,000 life insurance policy, "participated in a horrible murder," prosecutor Pete LaPorte told the jurors in closing arguments before Broward Circuit Judge Stanton S. Kaplan.

In nightly telephone conversations, the stocky, gray-haired James persuaded a man who fell in love with her soft voice and a photograph of a pretty blonde to kill her husband, LaPorte said.

The judge scheduled a Nov. 10 hearing for the jury to recommend a death sentence or life imprisonment.

Bernard James, 37, a state park ranger, was found dead outside the couple's home on March 24, 1987.

James initially told police that her husband had been murdered by a robber but later identified the killer as Timothy Ott, an ambulance dispatcher she had maintained a telephone romance with for seven months.

Ott, 34, was charged with first-degree murder after he confessed to police that he smacked Bernard James in the head with a baseball bat, then strangled him, in Ott's apartment while Patricia James

was in the bathroom.

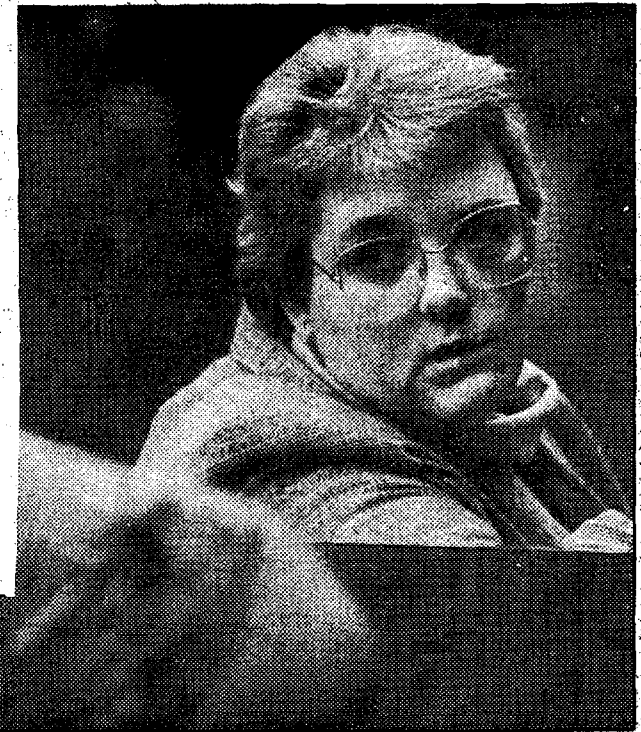
James told police that she drove her husband home thinking he was only hurt.

"I did not see the beating. I did not hear the beating. I did not know it was going to take place," James said in a tape-recorded statement played before the jurors.

Defense lawyer Barbara Ann Heyer argued that Ott did not implicate James in the murder until after he cut a deal with the state in exchange for his testimony against James. Ott will stand trial later.

"Timothy Ott is a liar and a killer," Heyer told the jury. "Without his testimony, Patricia James would not be here today. The killing was solely Mr. Ott's doing."

Ott testified that James told him over the phone that her name was "T.J." He said he never met "T.J." but wanted to marry her and help raise her three children.



Staff photo/SUSAN GARDNER

Patricia James, right, speaks to her brother, Mike Donahue, after the verdict on Tuesday.

"T.J." made Ott believe that the children's father — Bernard James — was a child abuser and that his death was the only way to protect them, he said.

Ott got in touch with "T.J." through her friend, whom Ott knew in person as "Demi." "Demi" lured Bernard James to Ott's apartment on the pretext of discussing bowl-

ing, court documents state.

Not until after his arrest did Ott say that he realized that both "T.J." and "Demi" were the same person — Patricia James.

# Teens face charges in Wilton Manors burglaries

■ FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS/SUN-SENTINEL ■ WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1988

By KEVIN DAVIS  
Staff Writer

**WILTON MANORS** — Two teenagers who moved here from New Jersey about two months ago have been arrested and charged with burglarizing several homes and selling the stolen property to undercover police.

The two are responsible for at

least five burglaries and as many as 15, said Detective Mark Shotwell.

Arrested were Dale Stamile, 18, and his roommate, Thomas Rose, 18. Both were taken to the Broward County Jail where they face charges of burglary, dealing in stolen property and grand theft. Further charges are pending, Shotwell said.

Shotwell began investigating a series of burglaries that occurred in the city during the last few months. While working undercover, Shotwell said he was introduced to the two men who offered to sell him some goods.

From Oct. 1 to Oct. 6, the two sold Shotwell a variety of items, including video cassette recorders, watches and martial arts equip-

ment, he said.

A check on those items revealed that they had been stolen. In addition, Shotwell said the two sold some of the stolen items to local pawnshops.

"The burglaries have been confined to Wilton Manors," he said. "We don't suspect they went beyond a three mile radius. They were home burglaries done in the

day time and early evening."

Shotwell said the burglars drove to about a block from the homes they picked. Then they walked to the home and brought the goods back to the car.

Residents who recently have been victims of burglaries and are missing items such as jewelry and video cassette recorders should call Shotwell at 390-2150.

10-12-88



# Murder retrial begins

## Wife charged with slaying of husband in complex case

By CECILIE DITLEV-SIMONSEN

Staff Writer

Timothy Ott confessed that he smacked Bernard James in the head with an aluminum baseball bat and then strangled him with a wire and a clothesline, police say.

But Ott said the killing was plotted by his girlfriend and another woman, according to records.

Ott knew his girlfriend as T.J., a divorced airline stewardess who lived on a ranch in Texas. He never met her, but Ott said they fell in love over the telephone and planned to marry, according to court documents.

Ott got in touch with his girlfriend through the other woman, a friend of T.J.'s whom he knew in person as Demi.

Not until after he was arrested in connection with the slaying of Bernard James did Ott discover that both "T.J." and "Demi" were, in fact, James' wife, Patricia. The retrial of Patricia James, who was charged with first-degree murder in her husband's death, began on Monday in Broward Circuit Court before Judge Stanton S. Kaplan.

Kaplan was forced last December to schedule a new trial after one of 12 jurors refused to participate in a verdict. The first trial lasted nearly three weeks, featuring 37 witnesses, 90 exhibits and 2,400 pages of testimony about romance and deceit.



Ott



P. James

## for woman charged in husband's death

side, she found her husband dead in his car, according to a court affidavit.

Ott, 34, testified against James last fall and is on the state's witness list for the retrial, Assistant State Attorney Pete LaPorte said.

Ott also was charged with first-degree murder in Bernard James' death. His case is pending.

Ott said that Patricia James, as his girlfriend "T.J.," told him that her ex-husband had abused their children, who were 6, 7, and 8 years old at the time.

Ott and "T.J." agreed that Bernard James' death would be the only way to protect the children, whom they planned to raise together, court documents show. Ott said James had not abused the children. During the first trial, a Georgia prison inmate, John Pugh, added another twist when he testified that he had maintained a romantic relationship with Patricia James while she was married to Bernard James. Investigators said she visited Pugh at least four times, and court files state that he made at least 200 phone calls to the James home during a six-month period.

Patricia James told Pugh that she was divorced and that her ex-husband had been institutionalized for molesting their children, according to court documents. She also said he had recently earned visitation rights and that she was going to have him killed to stop him from seeing the children, court records state.

SEE RETRIAL /4B 10-11-88

"It's one of the most interesting and complex cases I've ever worked on," said Detective Don Scarborough, a 15-year veteran with the Broward Sheriff's Office, who investigated the case. Patricia James' lawyer, Barbara Heyer, declined to comment on the case. The body of Bernard James, 37, was found on March 24, 1987, outside the couple's home in the 800 block of Northwest 29th Street in Wilton Manors. Police say Patricia James initially said her husband, a park ranger, had been killed during a robbery outside their home. Police said she later told them that she had removed his wallet from his front pocket to make it look like a robbery because Ott had threatened to kill her if she told anyone what happened. "I didn't know how else to explain the beating because I was scared to tell," Patricia James testified last November. On the night Bernard James died, Patricia and Bernard James went to Ott's home in Fort Lauderdale, apparently to discuss bowling, according to court files. Patricia James told police she was locked in the bathroom. When Ott unlocked the door from the outside, she found her husband dead in his car, according to a court affidavit.

# Man charged with murdering wife



File photo

Hock at his arraignment in 1985 on charges of killing his foster child.

By KEVIN DAVIS  
Staff Writer

Jeffrey Lynn Hock, acquitted in 1986 of beating his 7-year-old foster child to death, was charged on Thursday with murdering his estranged wife.

Hock, 39, surrendered about an hour after heavily armed police and SWAT team members surrounded his apartment in the 1900 block of Southwest Second Street in Fort Lauderdale.

His wife, Sondra Hock, 30, was found dead inside her Oakland Park apartment on Monday after a friend became concerned after not hearing from her and called the apartment manager.

Oakland Park police had been called to Sondra Hock's apartment on Saturday night by a neighbor who complained that there had been a domestic disturbance there, Detective Glenn Osani said.

Police arrived at the apartment in the 3400 block of Northwest 44th Street about midnight. An officer knocked on the door, but no one answered. Osani said the officer looked in the window and saw Jeffrey Hock, who would not let him in.

"There was nothing the officer could do," Osani said.

Osani said he thinks that Sondra Hock was killed about the time police were called. He said that she had been strangled by bare hands.

A neighbor who lives in the apartment complex and

who asked that her name not be published said she had heard the disturbance on Saturday night.

"I heard them fighting," she said.

The woman said she had heard the couple arguing on other occasions, but not as loudly or violently as on Saturday.

"Before, it was just verbal," she said.

Sondra and Jeffrey Hock had been separated for five months, Osani said. She wanted a divorce and he did not, he said.

Sondra Hock, a pharmacist, lived in the apartment with her cocker spaniel for about two months, neighbors said. The apartment is part of a newly built 272-unit complex.

Oakland Park Public Safety Director William Strachan said police officers are empowered to arrest a spouse in a domestic disturbance if the officer sees evidence of physical violence.

"If an officer responds and is able to ascertain that there has been violence, or there has been a battery . . . he can make an arrest" even if the other spouse doesn't request it, Strachan said.

Strachan said he could not talk specifically about the Hock case.

Oakland Park police issued a warrant for Hock's arrest on Wednesday night and went to pick him up on Thursday. When police surrounded his apartment,

SEE CHARGE /4B

10-7-88



## CHARGE

FROM PAGE 1B

### Man charged with slaying estranged wife

Hock refused to come out.

Osani phoned Hock's apartment several times, and when he finally answered, "I told him who we were and I told him for his own safety to come out with his hands up," Osani said.

Hock was charged with first-degree murder.

Hock, an insurance salesman, was found not guilty by a Broward jury on March 14, 1986, on charges of killing foster child Reed Hauff. Hock broke down in tears when the verdict was read and thanked the jury.

Hock's attorney at the time, H. Dohn Williams, was shocked to learn that his former client had been arrested again on a murder charge.

"I had seen him off and on every once in a while," Williams said. "He was doing odd jobs. He had lost everything when his first wife divorced him. He basically had to start all over."

Hauff, a mildly retarded child, died on April 30, 1985, of six blows to the head. Jeffrey Hock had blamed his former wife, Linda, for the child's death. He testified that he lied to police about the incident to protect her.

Linda Hock had been granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for her testimony against him. She told the jury that the child

had complained of head pains shortly before she found him unconscious.

Dr. Ronald Reeves, an associate Broward medical examiner, testified that the child had been abused for months before his death. In addition to the head injuries, Reed had two broken ribs and bruises over much of his body.

10-7-88





Staff photo/JOHN CURRY

Fort Lauderdale SWAT team members escort Jeffrey Lynn Hock on Thursday after arresting him on charges of murdering his estranged wife.



# Police solve 1983 murder; suspect buried in Tennessee

By RENEE KRAUSE  
Staff Writer

**WILTON MANORS** — Police have found the man responsible for a 1983 murder. He's buried in Knoxville, Tenn.

Abe Mauk, who fled to his home town after killing Michael D. Pedro in February 1983, committed suicide two years ago, police Detective David Jones said on Monday.

Jones said he thought it strange that Mauk shot himself between the eyes, the place that Pedro had been shot.

The case dates back five years, when Jones was a patrol officer and Pedro had just celebrated his 23rd birthday. On his birthday in January 1983, Pedro left his Massachusetts home and headed

for South Florida. He moved into an apartment in Oakland Park while he looked for work.

On Feb. 10, Pedro went to Meyers' Pizza & Tavern, in the 1400 block of Northeast 26th Street, Jones said. After arguing with a man in the bar, Pedro left at the 2 a.m. closing time. In the parking lot, the man shot Pedro, Jones said.

A few weeks later, after talking to witnesses, police identified Mauk as the murder suspect and issued a warrant for his arrest. Soon after, police learned that Mauk had fled the state.

When Jones moved into the detective bureau four years ago, he said, he decided that the murder could be solved, and he started looking over the case file.

Jones was obtaining another warrant against Mauk for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution when the case took a strange twist.

Fellow Wilton Manors police Detective Mark Shotwell arrested Steven Pollard in March on a cocaine trafficking charge.

Shotwell said he recognized Pollard's name as having something to do with the murder case, and police questioned Pollard about it. Police knew Pollard was the man who drove Mauk to the airport when he fled the state, Jones said.

About a month ago, according to Jones, Pollard answered the police's questions. He informed police that his friend had committed suicide and was buried in Knoxville, Tenn., Jones said.

The FBI in Knoxville, Tenn., sent pictures of Mauk's grave to Jones, but the detective wasn't satisfied. He contacted the Knoxville Police Department and asked for the police report and the death certificate. He received the documents on Friday.

"The case is closed," Jones said on Monday.

As a result of the case, Jones said, the Wilton Manors Police Department plans to run the names of people who die in the city through the national police computer to see whether the person was wanted for any crimes.

"Here's a murder suspect who has been dead for two years," Jones said. "It's kind of a weird thing."

4B Sun-Sentinel, Tuesday, August 2, 1988



Mauk  
Police have found the man responsible for a 1983 murder. He's buried in Knoxville, Tenn. Abe Mauk, who fled to his home town after killing Michael D. Pedro in 1983, committed suicide two years ago. 3B

Tues Aug 2, 1988

# Teen's concern for girl, family cost him his life

By KEVIN DAVIS  
Staff Writer

**WILTON MANORS** — Allan Owens went to visit his girlfriend and ended up getting killed — an innocent victim of a family quarrel that erupted into a night of violence.

Owens, a 17-year-old high school senior, had been concerned about the safety of his girlfriend and her mother after police were called to their home for domestic disputes on Thursday, family and friends said.



Owens

He visited the home that night and was stabbed repeatedly when his girlfriend's stepfather, Edward Savory, broke in and went on a rampage with a kitchen knife, police said.

Police said Savory thought Owens was a friend of his wife's.

As he lay bleeding that night, Owens kept asking about the others.

"I told him to hang on, and that help was on the way," said Constance Savory, the mother of Owens' girlfriend, Annie, 17. "I can't forget this boy was lying out there dying and was worried about my safety."

Annie, who had gone to the store when the stabbing occurred, said Owens had made a promise to her a long time ago.

"He told me, 'I would give my life for you, your mother and your baby sis-

ter,' " she said.

The couple had been dating for about a year.

Edward Savory, 46, of the 300 block of Northeast 20th Street, was originally charged with attempted murder. He now faces a murder charge, police said on Tuesday.

On Tuesday morning, Fort Lauderdale High School Principal Jacquelyn Barber read a statement over the school's public address system informing Owens' classmates of his death.

"Even under attack, his concern was for others who were present," she said.

One of Owens' brothers, Tim, 33, visited the school on Tuesday, the day after Owens died at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale.

"A girl came up to me with money she collected to buy flowers," he said.

The events that ended with Owens' death began on Thursday when Constance Savory called police twice to the family's home in the 300 block of Northeast 20th Street.

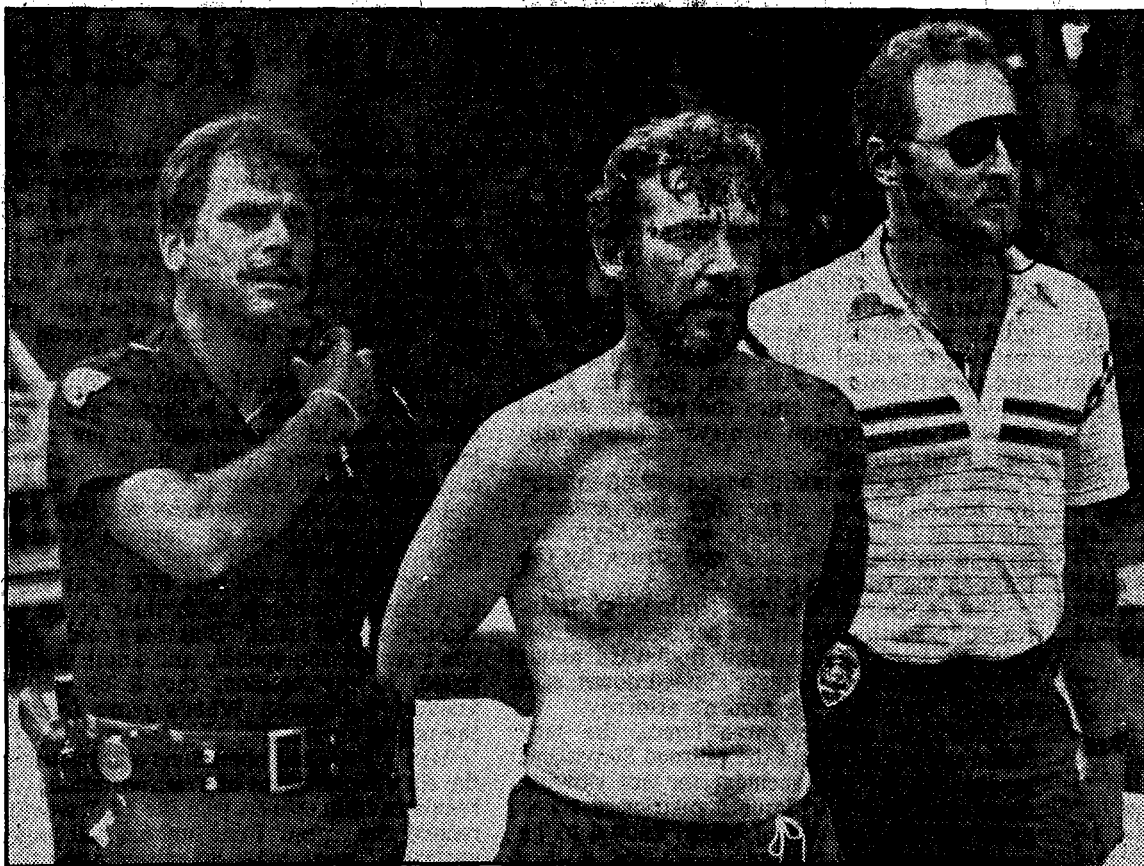
The first time she said she called after her husband slashed Annie's waterbed. The second time she called after Annie reported she had seen her stepfather enter the house with an unidentified woman.

When police arrived, she said they found the woman hiding in Annie's bedroom. Both he and the woman were asked to leave.

She said her husband later returned to the home and began pounding on the door. He forced his way inside through the back door, she said.

She then called police.

9-28-88



JOE RIMKUS JR. / Miami Herald Staff

5/20/88

## After the chase

Fort Lauderdale patrolman M.G. Smith, left, and Wilton Manors detective Dave Jones, right, accompany Lee James Kershaw, 41, after a chase Friday. The chase began after Fort Lauderdale patrolman Scott Nagele tried to stop Kershaw, a suspect in a Thursday night robbery. When they reached the top of the Oakland Park Boulevard bridge, Kershaw aimed his car at Nagele, who was standing next to his cruiser, police said. Nagele shot to disable the car and Kershaw took off running. Residents of high-rise condos shouted directions to police from their balconies as they watched the chase. Police found Kershaw hiding in a garbage can at 3029 Center Ave. He was arrested and charged with attempted first-degree murder, fleeing a police officer, reckless driving and driving without a license.



# Carol City-Opa-locka News

## COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

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South Miami, Florida 33143

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Post Office Box 43-1010  
South Miami Florida 33143

30c a copy by subscription (\$15.60/year)

Published Thursday

Administration 665-8214 — Retail Advertising 667-7481 — Classified Advertising 366-5821 — Editorial 667-7484 - 665-8214

Thursday, November 29, 1979

# Police Reject Jones For Job

David Jones, son of Opa-locka City Commissioner Kyle Jones has been turned down for a position with the City's Police Department, according to the Commissioner.

Commissioner Jones noted that his son has served for 18 months as a reservist with the Opa-locka police. Jones said that any

discrimination against his son must be politically motivated.

According to Jones, former Opa-locka Police Chief Ruben M. Greenburg had recommended David Jones for full time police officer position. Jones cited as evidence of his son's qualifications reports that the Department had

recommended his son to other police agencies.

Some people have suggested that Jones had a conflict of interest in seeing his son work for the city he governed. Jones flatly denied any wrong doing and declared, "I have never under any circumstances recommended to any city manager that he hire

anyone, whether it be my son, or your son, or anyone else."

Jones did say that he met with Opa-locka City Manager Newall Daughtrey after his son had been turned down. Jones said that he met with Daughtrey to learn the reasons for his son's rejection because his son could not visit City Hall.

David Jones is attending a police academy in Ft. Lauderdale weekdays.

Jones said that he would attempt to get Daughtrey to give his reasons for turning down David Jones for the position in writing.

Daughtrey was not available for comment.



# Former Plantation Officer Charged With Sexual Battery

By Vikki Alexander

A departmental investigation is being conducted by the Wilton Manors police department after an officer was charged with sexual battery and indecent assault on an eight year old girl, a police spokeswoman said.

Richardson Basil Albury was arrested last Thursday around 7 p.m. for allegedly

molesting a neighborhood girl that he baby-sat, Fort Lauderdale police spokesman Ott Cefkin said. Police allege that Albury molested the girl twice.

Albury, 39, admitted to detectives that he did baby-sit the girl, but denied sexual battery charges.

"Obviously we don't believe him," Cefkin said.

"Sexual battery on a child is a very serious charge."

Albury was suspended by Wilton Manors Assistant Chief Steve Kenneth around 10 p.m. on Thursday. He had been employed with the Wilton Manors police department since December 15, 1986.

According to Cefkin, the young girl's mother had a

polygraph test performed on her daughter. An examination was also made by a sexual assault center confirming that she had been abused, he said.

Albury was previously employed by the Plantation Police Department for 14 years before going to Wilton Manors as a uniform patrol officer.

While at Plantation, he

received commendations for arresting a burglary suspect in November, 1978. In September, 1982, he received another commendation for apprehending two men in the process of stealing more than \$12,000 in construction material.

Albury was suspended on February 5, 1976 for a shooting incident that involved a juvenile. His suspension lasted six days, after the outcome of the Broward County Grand Jury.

Albury was also placed on

a twelve month special probation period in September, 1981, as a disciplinary action for engaging in sexual related conversations with a female juvenile police cadet. The memo stated that the conversations were suggestive in nature and made without discretion. He was transferred from the juvenile division where he worked.

According to reports, Albury was nominated as Plantation Officer of the Month for his outstanding

Continued on page 4

Weekly

# Plantation-Sunrise

STAR

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A Gulfstream  
Newspaper

Zone 28

4th Year Number 19

Week Of May 26-June 1, 1988



Marvin Bush with his grandson, Jimmy Tilton, under ficus tree.

# TREASURED TREE

The ficus tree in the Wilton Manors yard becomes centerpiece for children to gather.

By VICKI McCASH  
Staff Writer

Thirty years ago, Marvin Bush planted a tree by the side of his house. It was a twig, no bigger than his finger.

Today, that tree is the center of the neighborhood, a place where children beg their parents and baby sitters to let them go to play.

"I call it my grandchildren's park," says Bush, Wilton Manors' vice mayor. "Everybody is a grandchild, so everyone can come to the park."

The tree, a huge ficus, fills the corner of his corner lot. The neighborhood children and his own grandchildren frequently can be seen in the tree's branches.

"We're a bunch of monkeys. We love trees," says Erica Wienants, 9.

"It's fun. There's lots of climbing spots," says Casey Bush, 8, who lives down the street from the tree. She is not related to Marvin Bush.

Bush always has had a play area beside his house on Northeast 27th Street. His daughter Margaret Bush Tilton remembers climbing in a Florida holly tree. All that's left of that tree is the trunk, cut, carved and painted for a bench under the ficus tree.

"I call that 'Grandmother's Seat,'" Bush says. His wife, Mary, sometimes sits there to watch the children play.

The corner park is enclosed by a picket fence, made from wooden sticks once used to hold up campaign posters.

"We've got all winners in there," Bush says of the fence. He picked up pickets from Mayor Tracy Stafford, council members Sandy Steen and Susan Olson and from his own campaign four years ago. "That's my political fence," he says.

Another feature of the park has significance only for his family. Each of his four grandchildren have their footprints in cement in the park. At his parents' house, each of his children have their footprints in cement.

"Whenever we'd go by my grandparents' house, we'd show my kids our footprints," Tilton said. "They understood once Dad made their footprints."

The park also has a table and bench under the tree, which serves as a step-up for the little climbers, and as a place for the Bushes to serve refreshments.

"Come on everyone," Mary Bush calls into the tree, "time for ice cream." She brings out a tray of ice cream cones and soda on ice.

The children come out of the tree long enough to eat, but before all of them are finished, three boys are dangling from the lower branch.

"We had to get notes to be sure their mothers knew where they were," Bush said.

No one has ever fallen out of the tree, Bush said, but there are close calls from time to time.

"A lot of the kids learned to climb in this tree," he said. "We love having them here."

Cover photo by Susan Gardner

1-6-88





Staff photos/SUSAN GARDNER

Jimmy Tilton, 4, and Erika Wienants, 9, enter Marvin Bush's "park."

# Men seek help from wrong car

## Officer arrests 4 after drug request

By VICKI McCASH  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — Four North Carolina men have learned the hard way that South Florida cops do not act like Sonny Crockett on *Miami Vice*.

It was broad daylight on Monday and the traffic, as usual, was backed up on East Oakland Park Boulevard when the four construction workers from Maxon, N.C., asked a man in a car next to them where they could buy marijuana and cocaine.

The man in the car was Mark Shotwell, an undercover Wilton Manors detective.

"At first I waved them off," Shotwell said. "I was working on some other things and didn't want to deal with it."

But the four men in the black van were insistent, he said.

Finally, he pulled into a parking lot at 50 W. Oakland Park Blvd. and asked them to show him their money.

"I wanted to see if these guys were serious," Shotwell said. They were.

Shotwell left the four men in the van and went to the Wilton Manors police station, where he took an "eight-ball of cocaine," 3.5 grams or one-eighth of an ounce, out of the narcotics safe.

He and several uniformed back-up officers returned to the van, where Shotwell sold the four men the cocaine, then arrested them and charged them with possession. He confiscated their van and almost \$1,200.

They immediately began to protest, Shotwell said.

"They said they'd been watching *Miami Vice* and I couldn't arrest them because I didn't tell them I was a cop. They said Sonny Crockett always either says he's a cop or he hedges," Shotwell said.

The Broward State Attorney's Office confirmed that he did not have to tell the suspects he was a police officer.

The four men arrested are Vardell Locklear, 34; Jerry D. Scott, 29; David E. Scott, 27; and Steve R. Deese, 20.



# CITY Plus

■ FORT LAUDERDALE NEWS/SUN-SENTINEL ■ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1988



## Chief among his peers

**B**ernard Scott, Wilton Manors police chief, is retiring after 30 years in police work, including 22 as chief. He made a rapid rise up the ranks, and became highly respected.

—Page 3—

Serving Fort Lauderdale, Lazy Lake, Oakland Park and Wilton Manors

# After 30 years, Manors chief turns in badge

By STEPHEN D'OLIVEIRA  
Staff Writer

Wilton Manors Police Chief Bernard Scott has seen law enforcement take giant strides toward professionalism in three decades.

But after 30 years of police work, including 22 as chief, Scott is turning in his badge. His retirement becomes official at midnight, Dec. 31.

"When I say 'Happy New Year,' I'm going to mean it," said Scott, 52.

The chief can tell you exactly how many days he has left, but his eagerness to end his career shouldn't be misinterpreted.

"I have some emotional feelings about leaving, but I can't think of anything else I would have done and enjoyed more than working in the city of Wilton Manors," he said.

A native of St. Louis, Scott was 17 when he moved to Broward County in 1953 with his parents. He was a welder, but developed an interest in police work while working as an auxiliary officer for the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.

"It got into my blood," he said.

Scott applied to Fort Lauderdale, but on his application he specifically requested that his present employer not be contacted.

But the department did anyway, and Scott soon found himself unemployed. He applied to Wilton Manors, and after getting a nod of approval from then-Mayor Frank Starling, Scott was hired in 1958.

His weekly take-home pay of \$58.60 was less than what he had earned as a welder.

Fort Lauderdale called a few days later with an offer, but feeling a certain loyalty to Wilton Manors,

he turned down the job.

"I'd probably still be a patrolman in Fort Lauderdale," he said, jokingly.

Scott was promoted to sergeant in June 1963. He was named chief in 1966, and at the age of 30, Scott was the youngest police chief in Florida.

Time has changed all that. Scott is now the dean of police chiefs in Broward, and his 22 years on the job is tops among his county peers.

For the past 10 years, Scott also was chairman as the Broward County Chief of Police Association's Educational Committee.

"The committee has had a great deal to do with the improvement of the police academy and raising the standards of professionalism," said Lauderdale-by-the-Sea Police Chief Joseph Fitzgerald, president of the association.

"He runs a very good police department," said Fitzgerald. "They've assisted us on numerous occasions. He's a very forceful guy, a good chief."

Fitzgerald credits Scott with persuading Wilton Manors and other Broward County police departments with providing money for psychological tests for all police applicants.

Scott strongly pushed for the tests after Gerald Shaeffer, a former Wilton Manors officer, was convicted of the mutilation-murders of two Broward County girls in 1973, Fitzgerald said.

Scott fired Schaeffer in 1972 after several months on the job. At the time, he said Schaeffer had "some very strange ideas about



Staff photo/LOU TOMAN

See SCOTT, page 4

Bernard Scott, Wilton Manors police chief, is retiring after 30 years of law enforcement.



## SCOTT

Continued from page 3

law enforcement."

When Scott began his police career in 1958, the Wilton Manors Police Department employed 10 people. Today, it employs 40, including 29 sworn officers.

"I think a police officer today does a much more effective and efficient job than when I started," he said. "There was a great need for professionalism."

It wasn't encouraged, but Scott remembers signing up for classes at the Broward police academy shortly after he was hired. Back then, most cops believed you learned all you needed to know about the job on the street.

Scott didn't agree, and his studious habits earned him the nickname "Book Cop."

His fellow officers weren't laughing, however, when Scott scored high on the sergeant's exam and was eventually selected as chief over older and more experienced officers.

"I saw the need to learn more than I was learning here," said Scott.

To improve the criminal justice system, Scott said society needs more prisons and tougher sentences.

But nothing will improve until the public demands change.

His long career has also had its lighter moments.

As a patrolman in the early 1960s, Scott was directing traffic at the Five Points intersection when a man driving by stopped and asked for directions to Federal Highway.

Scott pointed east down Northeast 26th Street to Fort Lauderdale.

Several minutes later, Scott's sergeant dropped by with a description of a suspect who had just robbed a local finance company.

He recognized the man and the car immediately.

"I gave an armed robbery suspect directions out of town," Scott said.

As police chief, Scott also supervised the long-awaited expansion of the police station in 1983.

He has also tried to impress his management style on the department.

"Anyone who can't stand to be told by a taxpayer, 'You work for me,' should get out of law enforcement," Scott said. "I demand courtesy and respect for the public, as long as they are deserving of it."

Oakland Park City Manager J. Scott Miller worked with Scott when Miller was Wilton Manors' city manager in 1985.

"I had excellent cooperation with Chief Scott," said Miller. "He was a man who thoroughly understood police work. He knew what needed to be done and he did it."

Wilton Manors City Manager Wally Payne said Scott will be succeeded by Assistant Chief Stephen Kenneth, a 15-year department veteran.

When Scott retires in three weeks, he and his wife will leave South Florida for a home in rural northern Georgia, a far cry from urban Broward.

"I want to plant that garden I've always thought about," he said.

January 28, 1988

## Suspected Burglar Charged

By Vikki Alexander  
NEWS Staff Writer

A suspect who was shot in the chest and hospitalized after struggling with an Oakland Park police officer this past Sunday was charged, police said.

According to police, the officer, Thomas Steele, was investigating an alarm call at approximately 5:40 a.m. at the Crab Pot restaurant, 4300 block of N. Dixie Highway.

Detective Glenn Osani, who has been investigating the incident, told the NEWS Steele was checking out the restaurant where an alarm went off an hour earlier, when he arrived the alarm was set off again.

Officer Steele noticed the back door was pryed open. He called for back-up

then proceeded to the back with his .38 caliber in hand, police reported.

Inside, the suspect Robert F. Mobley, 23, jumped Steele, police said, and the two men struggled over control of the gun, when the gun went off shooting Mobley in the chest. Mobley was taken to North Ridge Medical Center and charged on Monday.

Mobley was charged with burglary, resisting arrest with violence, and battery on a police officer, said Osani.

Steele has been with Oakland Park Public Safety department for the past two-and-a-half years, said Osani. Steele—who was put on administrative duties—will continue those duties until the state attorney's office reviews the case, said Osani.

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## DIGEST

Staff reports

### Brother held in shooting

WILTON MANORS — An argument between brothers on Tuesday sent one to the hospital in critical condition with a gunshot wound and the other to Broward County Jail, charged with attempted murder, police said.

Detective Sgt. Rick Wierzbicki said Frederick Gruninger, 30, and his brother, Edward, 20, were arguing about their home reconstruction business when Edward Gruninger picked up a .22-caliber rifle and shot his brother in the chest.

The shooting occurred about 7:30 p.m. in a mobile home the two men share at the Trailer Haven trailer park, in the 2000 block of Wilton Drive, Wierzbicki said.

1988

# Bassist Jaco Pastorius dead at thirty-five

Influential stylist's problem-plagued life ended violently

**J**ACO PASTORIUS, A FORMER MEMBER of Weather Report who is credited with revolutionizing the electric bass in the 1970s, died in a Fort Lauderdale, Florida, hospital September 21st from head injuries suffered during a fight outside a bar ten days earlier. He was thirty-five.

Pastorius was unconscious when he was admitted to the intensive-care unit of Broward General Medical Center with a fractured skull, fractured facial bones, internal bleeding and other injuries. His condition later worsened after he suffered a stroke. He was in a coma when he died.

The Broward County medical-examiner's office has ruled the death a homicide. The police arrested Luc Havan, the twenty-five-year-old manager of the Midnight, a private after-hours club in neighboring Wilton Manors. Havan was charged with aggravated battery, but the police are seeking to upgrade the charges.

Pastorius's volatile career was one of triumphant world tours, Grammy nominations and fan adulation; of drugs, alcoholism and manic depression; of innovation and insecurity. At his peak, the self-taught Pastorius was acknowledged as the pioneer of the fretless electric bass and acclaimed as a gifted composer and arranger. But he was also diagnosed as an alcoholic and a manic-depressive; he was hospitalized on at least three occasions for treatment of those illnesses.

With Weather Report, he spearheaded an approach to jazz fusion that utilized the bass guitar as a solo instrument. His sound — a stinging, vibrato-laden attack — and animated technique influenced a whole generation of jazz-fusion musicians.

"There hasn't been any other musician of our generation in jazz or rock who appeared on the scene with a message so fully formed and so amazingly eloquent," says guitarist Pat Metheny, who began playing with Pastorius in south-Florida bands in 1972. "It affected everybody."

For bass players, Pastorius's influence was inescapable. "That's all I did, was play like him," says bassist Marcus Miller, who has worked with Miles Davis and David Sanborn. "Jaco was a composer. He made me and a whole lot of other people learn music. To play what he played, you had to understand music."

Pastorius was never shy about extolling his own abilities. After a Weather Report concert in Miami in 1975, Pas-



torius, then an unknown, approached group cofounder Joe Zawinul and said, as Zawinul recalls, "My name is Jaco Pastorius, and I'm the world's greatest bass player." "We had a great bass player [Alfonso Johnson] at the time, so that was meaningful," says Zawinul. "I liked it." Pastorius joined the group the following year.

The same passion and devil-may-care attitude that fueled Pastorius's music also led to his downfall. Friends and colleagues were rarely surprised by Pastorius's often embarrassing antics: appearing onstage uninvited at concerts, getting thrown out of clubs for obnoxious behavior, trashing hotel rooms. In 1987 alone, he was arrested nine times in south Florida on charges ranging from common vagrancy to auto theft.

For years colleagues and family members searched for the reasons behind Pastorius's decline. "In some countries, like Japan, he's a god," says his second wife, Ingrid Pastorius. "What kind of pressure would that put on you?"

"He hated the fact he wasn't bigger," says former Blood, Sweat and Tears drummer Bobby Colomby, who

got Pastorius his first record contract. "He wanted to be a rock star, the Jimi Hendrix of the bass. But that wasn't natural to what his gift was."

"He never got the recognition he deserved," says pianist Herbie Hancock, who played on Pastorius's first album. "Unfortunately, when someone is at that level, that's the rule rather than the exception. It must be hard to rationalize the two things: the effort and what he got out of it. It must play havoc on someone who may be insecure or place great value on like return for effort."

John Francis Anthony Pastorius III was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, in 1951. His family moved to Fort Lauderdale when he was seven. Inspired by his father, Jack, a jazz drummer, he learned to play the drums but switched to bass in high school in order to play with a local band.

In 1972, Pastorius joined Wayne Cochran and the C.C. Riders. During his eight months with the group, he would often play rhythm-guitar parts on bass while rhythm guitarist Charlie Brent played one-string bass lines. While the rest of the band sported tuxedos, the

C.C. Rider rhythm section was dressed in T-shirts and jeans; Pastorius claimed that sashes, buttons and cummerbunds impeded his playing.

Pastorius carried all his belongings in his bass case: a pair of sneakers, two pairs of corduroy pants — both too short — two T-shirts and two rubber balls, which he used for strengthening his hands and fingers.

In 1973, Pastorius joined the Peter Graves Orchestra, backing name acts at Bachelors III, in Fort Lauderdale. During his stint there, Pastorius's first wife, Tracy, a waitress at the club, told Colomby that she was "married to a bass player who's the best in the world."

Colomby had a production deal to bring acts to Epic Records, and he auditioned Pastorius. "He sat there and started to fool around," says Colomby. "It was something to behold. He was absolutely amazing." Colomby brought Pastorius to New York to record his first solo album, which featured some of Pastorius's favorite musicians: Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, David Sanborn and Sam Dave.

Later that year, Pastorius replaced Alfonso Johnson in Weather Report. The group's first album recorded entirely with Pastorius, *Heavy Weather*, which featured the FM-radio favorite "Birdland," brought the already well-respected band commercial success. The album illustrated the spontaneous group interplay that Weather Report had been developing for years. Pastorius's fluid lines and penchant for musical risk taking pushed the band to a new threshold: his band nickname was the Catalyst. "I remember Jaco, Joe and Wayne [Shorter] laughing after the shows because of the ingenious good luck at the harmonic choices that were being made," says drummer Peter Erskine, who played with Weather Report. "It was completely open music. . . . These guys were winging stuff around on an incredibly high level."

Pastorius was also a catalyst on albums by Pat Metheny, Al DiMeola, Ian Hunter, Tom Scott, Jimmy Cliff, Mike Stern and, perhaps most notably, Joni Mitchell. Pastorius played on four of her albums. "At the time I began to work with him," Mitchell says, "I was having problems with the bottom end of my music. I had this idea that the bass should not only anchor the music, by playing the root, but wander up into the melody register." It was a style Pastorius had already mastered.

His three solo records — *Jaco Pastor-*

BY SCOTT BENARDE AND TOM MOON



# MUSIC

ius, *Word of Mouth* and *Imitation* — are further evidence of his bass pyrotechnics and his ability to integrate his ideas into almost any style: rock, country, pop, calypso or jazz. They also demonstrated Pastorius as a forward-thinking arranger and composer.

It wasn't long, however, before Pastorius began to succumb to the pressure of trying to surpass his own work. He was reportedly unable to handle drugs of any kind. Friends say Pastorius's real problems began in 1982. During a European tour, Pastorius fell from a balcony in Italy, injuring his left arm and shoulder so severely that a steel pin had to be inserted to help it heal. Prior to his *Word of Mouth* tour of Japan, Pastorius threw tantrums at the Los Angeles airport, whining that he wasn't going to go. In Osaka, the second night of the tour, the bassist simply walked off the stage. While traveling on the country's bullet trains, Pastorius would draw on his face — and then the train's interior — with a Magic Marker.

New York musicians reported seeing Pastorius living as a vagrant in Greenwich Village. He was a fixture at the West Fourth Street basketball court, where he was not always welcome. After fifteen-hour party binges he would pass out in Central Park, leaving his basses unattended. On at least

two occasions, they were stolen.

Friends tried to help him. They encountered a difficult and stubborn man, the kind musicians tend to be wary of on a gig. One of the last bands Pastorius played in was a power trio with guitarist Hiram Bullock and drummer Kenwood Dennard. "The only time he was relatable was when he was actually playing," Bullock says.

Pastorius's drug and alcohol problems seemed to worsen. He spent most of the summer of 1986 in the psychiatric ward of Bellevue, a hospital in New York. On one occasion, Pastorius called a friend, guitarist Mike Stern, and told him that he knew even one beer would send him over the edge.

Stern, himself a former substance abuser, recalls the time when "I was worse than him. It was like looking in a mirror to look at him. I went in a different direction. I cooled out, and he didn't. He would come up to me and say, 'Man, you look great,' and I would say, 'You want to hear what you got me do?' He knew what was wrong, but he didn't want to give that up."

Pastorius returned to Florida in early 1987 to "get my Florida sound back," he said during one of his last interviews. There ensued a period of promise. For several weeks he remained sober, worked out daily, rehearsed with local

musicians and cut a deal for an electric-bass instruction book. Record-company executives even showed interest in unreleased record projects, including one nearly complete album called *Holiday for Pans*, featuring Pastorius's compositions for a steel-drum orchestra.

By the end of the summer, Pastorius had worn out his welcome with family and friends and took to sleeping in Fort Lauderdale parks. He was arrested several times on charges ranging from breaking and entering to driving a stolen car around a jogging track. Once he even fell asleep on a set of railroad tracks and, according to friends, didn't seem to care.

Pastorius disagreed with those who said he was self-destructive, laughing at that idea earlier this year during an interview in a local park. "I'm not an alcoholic," he said. "I'm not a drug addict. I am a partier. I take chances."

Pastorius was probably just looking to party with fellow musicians when he jumped onstage at the Sunrise Musical Theatre, near Fort Lauderdale, during an Alphonso Johnson bass solo at a September 11th Santana concert. Security guards had no idea who he was. They escorted him from the stage and, after a struggle, threw him out of the hall.

About four hours later, Pastorius

was face down outside the Midnight bottle club — in a pool of blood the police said was "so deep you couldn't tell where he was hurt." Havan, the club's manager, told the police he had gone outside to stop Pastorius from entering the members-only club, and then Pastorius took a swing at him. According to Havan, Pastorius missed, and the force of the swing carried him around. Havan says he then pushed Pastorius, who stumbled and fell face down on the concrete pavement. Despite the stroke Pastorius suffered while in the hospital, the report of the Broward County medical examiner lists "blunt head trauma" as the cause of death.

Pastorius was buried on September 25th. Survivors include four children, ages five to sixteen, from his two marriages. At a tribute that night, Metheny mused about his friend's significance. "The electric bass was around for twenty-five years before he came along. It sounded a whole different way until he showed up. I always got mad at guys — and still do — when I hear them sound too much like Jaco. I think that really hurt Jaco a lot, that people would just sort of cop his shit. Style ain't something you get royalties for. If it was, you know he'd be the richest cat on the planet." ■

## D'Arby

[Cont. from 17] melodic nuance of jazz vocalists like Jon Hendricks and King Pleasure. Although *The Hardline* occasionally seems longer on prowess than memorable melodies, it is clearly the formative work of an important young artist who may well end up rejuvenating a few earlier vocal styles and applying them to a contemporary context and modern tempo.

Still, on the evening of D'Arby's American debut, *The Hardline* had not yet been released in the U.S., and most of the audience assembled at the Roxy — which included numerous industry heavies and celebs like Madonna and Sean Penn — hadn't heard much beyond the hype that attends any new big deal. Could D'Arby dazzle an American crowd largely unfamiliar with his work? Or for that matter, would the singer (who has been outspoken in his disdain for America as a "racist, sexist, homophobic, violent society") even seriously try to work his charms here?

As things turned out, D'Arby made his case with resounding effectiveness and surprising modesty. Beginning the show with his album's opening track, "If You All Get to Heaven" (about a sinner who mourns the world's march to extinction), and flanked by an extraordinarily tight pop-punk band and backup singers, the lithe D'Arby planted himself at the center of the stage and steadily



Onstage at the Roxy in Los Angeles, D'Arby proved he has the right stuff.

moved his way through the song's grim but hopeful scenario, building toward a full-throated, high-pitched roar that was as startling for the singer's poised delivery as it was for his passion and dynamics.

It was as if D'Arby wanted to make plain his expressive abilities as matter-of-factly and nontheatrically as possible. In any event, the effect was of watching a man who concentrates on connecting with every moment in his music, who appears to want to think and feel his

way through each song as if he were discovering its revelations for the very first time. At the same time his performance was hardly cerebral: when he slipped into more kinetic material, like "Dance Little Sister," D'Arby pulled off a series of James Brown-like slides and Prince-style shimmies that suggested that when the time is ripe, he can appeal to an audience's earthier instincts as well.

But D'Arby's most potent moments came toward the end of the evening's

program, with a handful of covers. "Sexual jealousy is one of the most powerful emotions known to man," he said in a high, almost shaky voice that was a surprising contrast to his fiery singing manner. Then he launched into a spellbinding, hurts-so-good rendition of Smokey Robinson and the Miracles' "Who's Lovin' You," which he performed as if its painful disclosures had been written for him and him alone to muse over. In the encore, he followed it with another soul homage — a dreamy, high-ranging version of Sam Cooke's "Wonderful World." And finally, with a fierce and gleeful smile, D'Arby and his band cast aside all the notions of heartaches and dreams and vaulted into a brutal cover of "Under My Thumb" that left the Rolling Stones' best live versions hurting.

In the span of those three covers, D'Arby seemed to be saying that he understood and loved the whole emotional range that rock & roll, at its best, can encompass. But he was also saying something more: that if he is to win a place in this music's history, he clearly expects to master that spectrum as effectively as did the models he reveres. In those moments, as he was appropriating indelible songs from the past, Terence Trent D'Arby was also serving us with fair notice of what we might expect from the face and the voice of tomorrow's best pop music. ■

# Noted musician listed as critical after altercation

By RENEE KRAUSE  
Staff Writer

Hours after making an appearance at the Sunrise Musical Theatre, world-renowned bass guitarist Jaco Pastorius lay unconscious in a pool of his blood outside a bar in Wilton Manors.

Pastorius suffered head injuries early Saturday after he took a swing at the manager of the Midnight Bottle Club, in the 2200 block of Wilton Drive, and the manager pushed him away, police said.

Pastorius fell to the sidewalk, but police would say little else about the incident.

On Tuesday, Pastorius was in critical condition in a coma in the surgical intensive care unit at Broward General Medical Center, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Police said Pastorius was refused entry into the club at 4:20 a.m. because he is not a member. Pastorius "got angry and kicked the front door," police said.

The manager, who was not named by police, then came out and told Pastorius to stop. It was then that Pastorius tried to hit the manager, police said.

The investigation into the cause of Pastorius' injuries was continuing on Tuesday, police said.

Meanwhile, Gregory Pastorius, Jaco's brother, said he believes his brother was beaten.

"This is very hard for me to talk about," Gregory Pastorius said Tuesday night, just before leaving his Fort Lauderdale home to visit Jaco at the hospital. "There is a police investigation into it."

Jaco Pastorius, 35, who grew up in South Florida and graduated from Northeast High School in Oakland Park, is probably best known for his work with the band Weather Report. Over the years, he has worked on albums with Joni Mitchell and Al DiMeola.

More recently, though, his reputation in South Florida has been more for his run-ins with police than for his musical prowess.

In March 1982, Pastorius pleaded guilty to resisting a police officer with violence after he argued with his wife in Pompano Beach.



File photo

Jaco Pastorius: Musician had head injuries.

While on probation, he was arrested in Key West for public intoxication and riding nude on the hood of a pickup. He also violated his probation by traveling outside of Broward County in 1983 without notifying his probation officer.

For the past few months, Pastorius has not been welcome at the Musicians Exchange Cafe in Fort Lauderdale. "We kind of banned him from here," employee Glenn Epstein said. "He tried to force himself on the stage when Stanley Turrentine was playing."

Epstein also said he understands that Pastorius, who has been nominated for Grammy awards and was named Musician of the Year in Japan in 1982, has been living on the streets of Fort Lauderdale for several months.

"I just know he's been having a rough time," Epstein said.



## Manors turns down employees' request for insurance

By VICKI MCCASH  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — Police and other city employees are surprised and disappointed that the City Council refused to provide long-term disability insurance for a third year in a row.

"I personally was shocked that the council voted this down," said Rick Wierzbicki, union representative for the police. "It was agreed upon, but we got the impression we were going to get it this time. It really was a

priority item with us."

The council approved spending \$6,000 in the 1987-88 budget to pay for long-term disability insurance for police and general employees. But when the authorizing resolution reached the council on Tuesday, three council members voted against providing the coverage. Council members Richard Mills and Susan Olson and Mayor Tracy Stafford said the employees benefit package is good enough as it is.

"This is considered by many to be one of the most generous packages offered by anybody," Stafford

said.

Employee representatives agree their benefits are good, but they say the additional benefit is something they need. If the disability insurance had been approved, it would have been the first time the general employees were provided with any disability coverage. The police have a short-term disability clause in their contract.

"We're looking for protection for our futures and the futures of our families," Wierzbicki said. "It's the nature of our jobs. We're out there risking our lives every day." Be-

sides, he said, the insurance is not expensive. "The benefit would outweigh the cost," he said.

The police union has asked for the insurance since 1985. The insurance they want would cover injured employees after they have used up any short-term disability coverage, or have been ill more than three months.

The general employees also have requested the coverage. "We will continue to ask for it," said Ann Barnes, assistant to the community services director and a member of the general employees grievance

committee.

Both police and the general employees' Quality of Work Life Committee will meet within the next month to decide what course of action they will take regarding the disability insurance.

Stafford said he probably will not agree to long-term disability insurance any time soon. "To provide long-term disability would be considered by many as something above and beyond our call of duty. We need to pay our people competitively, but once you start a new benefit, you can't stop it."

# Kittles held without bail

By AVIDO D. KHAHAIFA  
Staff Writer

Vikki Kittles, who disappeared for two years after being arrested in 1985 for keeping 42 animals in her Wilton Manors home, was ordered held without bail in the Broward County Jail on Monday, officials said.

The whereabouts of her elderly mother, Jean Sullivan, remains a mystery.

Kittles, 40, appeared on Monday before Broward County Court Judge Geoffrey Cohen. He determined there was probable cause for her to remain jailed without bond. She was returned on Sunday to Broward from the Manatee County Jail.

Manatee County officials, with the

help of a private investigator hired by Kittles' sister-in-law, found and arrested Kittles on Sept. 4 in Ellenton, near Bradenton.

She was living in a van with 35 to 40 dogs and cats, police said. The Manatee County Sheriff's Office is investigating the disappearance of her mother, who left Wilton Manors with her.

"We don't really have anything. We're still looking at it," said Dave Bristow, spokesman for the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

Sullivan's daughter-in-law, Carol Kittles, is trying to persuade Broward officials to investigate the disappearance. She plans to meet with deputies today to file a missing person report, she said.

Carol Kittles, who was married to

Vikki's brother, Rex, when he died in March, had tried to file a missing person report in Wilton Manors on Monday, but police there said they could not help her because Vikki Kittles and her mother left the city two years ago.

Police had been searching for Vikki Kittles since late 1985 after she was arrested for failing to appear in court that September on a charge of animal cruelty and was released on bail. She also had failed to show up for her original trial date, Aug. 6.

Kittles was first arrested on May 18, 1985, at her Wilton Manors home, where she had kept two horses, three cats and 37 dogs. She also is accused of threatening a neighbor with a gun.

Tues Sept. 15, 1987



Vikki Kittles

# Animal-case fugitive from Broward held

## Mother's disappearance also probed

By JACQUEE PETCHEL  
Herald Staff Writer

Elusive Vikki Kittles, the Wilton Manors woman who vanished two years ago after enraging neighbors with her home menagerie of animals, has been arrested in rural Manatee County, where she was found living in a filth-ridden van full of cats and dogs.

But Kittles' 73-year-old mother, who Kittles fled with her daughter in September 1985, is missing — and police say they are investigating whether she was the victim of foul play.

Kittles, who once lived in her Wilton Manors home with two horses, several cats and 35 dogs, is being held without bond in the



Manatee County jail, arrested on four outstanding warrants — for aggravated assault, battery and improper exhibition of a deadly weapon — issued in Broward County two years ago.

Manatee County authorities said they also are conducting a criminal investigation of Kittles regarding the whereabouts of her mother, Jean Sullivan. Sullivan last was seen in February camping with her daughter outside of Bradenton, authorities said.

When police arrested Kittles Friday night, they found 12 dogs and 10 cats living in a shed that Kittles rented from a local beekeeper, with more animals inside a station wagon and a battered Dodge van. Kittles — and before she disappeared, her mother — apparently slept in the van on a rotting wooden bed, police said.

Manatee Sheriff's Capt. Gary Wells said authorities found Kit-

Please turn to ARREST / 25A

Sunday, September 6, 1987 / The Miami Herald



# Twin City NEWS

Weekly

Volume 37 Number 10

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A Goldstein Newspaper Publication.

Week Of September 3-9, 1987

## Suspect Takes The Cake

By Vikki Alexander  
Some people just can't resist sweets.

Police nabbed an alleged burglar last week who broke into a Wilton Manors resident's home and helped himself to a coconut cake and jewelry, police reported.

Detective Mark Shotwell spotted a suspicious-acting man in the vicinity of 2700 block of N.W. 9 Avenue. According to police the suspect was looking over his shoulders and going to neighborhood houses knocking on doors.

Police called in back-up units and surrounded a house that the suspect was thought to have entered. Police noticed a glass panel was broken, leaving a hole directly adjacent to the dead-bolt. Police tried the door and found that it was unlocked.

When entering the house,

police found the suspect, Kenneth Leroy Howard inside a bedroom closet, police said. Several pieces of jewelry were taken from his pockets, police said.

Howard was visually identified as the suspect by Detective Shotwell and taken into custody. According to police, the owner was then notified and she positively identified the jewelry.

Howard was charged with one count of burglary, one count of theft, and one count of loitering and prowling, police reported.

Police said that Howard confessed to eating the cake "because he was hungry."

"The golden rule is to double dead-bolt your door if glass is within 40 inches of the door," advised Lieutenant Jack Vastine of the Wilton Manors police department.

9-57

# Obscenity arrests take pressures off police



**KEN KAYE**

With a great sense of purpose, police in Fort Lauderdale, Wilton Manors and Margate have been cracking down on video stores carrying obscene materials.

But in Sunrise, one city official has raised a voice of dissonance. Council President Steve Effman has called busting video stores "a total waste of time."

A waste of time? Really now.

Effman thinks police should be spending their time on more hazardous criminals. "We should concentrate on criminal acts such as breaking and entering, car theft, drug trafficking," he said.

Unfortunately, I think Effman has missed the point. Police officers are not cracking down on video stores due to a strong desire to protect, serve and uphold state pornography laws.

They are cracking down on obscenity due to a strong desire to remain healthy.

You see, police officers have very stressful, demanding jobs. If they spent all their time in high-speed chases with murderers, rapists and robbers, they would burn out and quit. Then where would we be?

So, it is well-known in law enforcement circles that an activity such as cracking down on video stores is an essential part of maintaining a healthy police force.

Because it is so easy and so much fun to crack down on

obscenity, it provides a break in the otherwise brutal pressures of the job.

A waste of time? Hardly, Mr. Effman.

In fact, I can demonstrate that cracking down on video stores is vital to the good morale and physical conditioning of your average police officer.

What I did was take a normal police activity and calculated a stress quotient, taking into account the officer's heart rate, blood pressure, number of calories burned and whether he or she enjoys watching blue movies.

In the following chart, the activity is listed in the left column, the stress quotient on the right. In general, the higher the quotient, the more stressful and dangerous the activity:

## HEALTHY POLICE ACTIVITIES

Cracking down on a video store	5
Taking a nap after lunch	10
Chewing the fat with fellow officers	15
Calling girlfriend/boyfriend to say hello	20
Jogging and lifting weights	25
Showering after work	35
Taking a doughnut break	50
Having a beer with the boys/girls	75

## NOT-SO-HEALTHY POLICE ACTIVITIES

Calling wife/hubby to say hello	100
Lying in wait for speeders	125
Listening to a motorist protest a traffic ticket	150

Getting chewed out by sergeant	200
Appearing in court to defend a citation	225
Doing paperwork for police reports	250
Reading newspapers	275
Settling a domestic dispute	350
Watching <i>Hill Street Blues</i> reruns	375
Subduing an angry crowd	400
Calling mother-in-law to say hello	450

## DANGEROUS POLICE ACTIVITIES

Watching the video, <i>Wanda Does Washington</i>	500
Chasing burglary suspect on foot	600
Watching the video, <i>Candy Strippers</i>	700
Working an undercover drug bust	800
Watching the video, <i>Debbie Does Dallas</i>	900
Chasing suspect at high speed	1,200
Watching the video, <i>Behind Green Doors</i>	1,400
Taking this column seriously	1,800
Watching the video, <i>Flesh Gordon</i>	2,000
Exchanging gunfire with fleeing suspects	2,500
Watching the video, <i>Deep Throat</i>	3,000

It can be seen conclusively that cracking down on the stores is a healthy thing to do and should by no stretch of the imagination be called a waste of time.

On the other hand, it also can be seen that if police officers happen to watch some of these obscene videos before, during or after a bust... they may not have any energy left to deal with the real criminals.



# Broward animal-case fugitive held

## ARREST /from 1A

ties Friday night with the help of a Miami private investigator hired by Carol Kittles, Sullivan's daughter-in-law. Wells said authorities searched the van, the shack and the nearby properties looking for Sullivan, but Kittles has refused to give any information about her mother.

"She's just still missing. There may be something more to this," Wells said, adding that a homicide detective has been called into the case. He said Kittles had been "less than cooperative with us."

Kittles used the back of the white station wagon as a kennel for at least four dogs, and stored 50-pound sacks of Purina Dealer's Pride dog food on the front seat. Nine large mongrels were led yelping and straining on choke pulls Saturday as Manatee County Animal Control officers hauled them from the van, which also had been turned into a makeshift kennel.

In all, detectives found more than 40 dogs and cats on the quarter-acre lot in Ellenton, a remote area just north of Bradenton.

Manatee County Sheriff's Maj. Newton Murdock said authorities are holding Vikki Kittles without bond on Broward warrants for two counts of aggravated assault, battery and improper exhibition of a deadly weapon. At least one of those warrants was issued in connection with an argument she had with a Wilton Manors neighbor, whom she allegedly threatened with a gun.

Carol Kittles, who lives in Kendall with her 13-year-old son, said she hired the private investigator in June. She has not seen or talked to Vikki Kittles or to Sullivan in almost two years. Carol was married to Vikki's brother, Rex Kittles, who died in March.

The detective, Kent Gilpin, has

been tracing the pair since May, Carol Kittles said. He finally found them after Vikki Kittles purchased a station wagon that she used to tow her van — and her animals.

"My concern is for my mother-in-law, and it has been from the beginning," Carol Kittles said. "My husband died in March, and I have been looking for them for several months."

Two years ago, Vikki Kittles became the nemesis of her Wilton Manors neighborhood after residents complained of the noise and smell at her home at 1818 NE 27th St.

Shunned by her neighbors, Vikki Kittles often complained of conspiracies against her. She once told a judge that she stabled two Appaloosa horses in her bedroom to protect them from being poisoned by the enemy.

"Many times when we would go up to Fort Lauderdale, there were animals everywhere. Once the bathroom was full of sea gulls," Carol Kittles said.

In May 1985, Vikki Kittles was charged with cruelty to animals, and her band of animals was hauled away by authorities. However, she failed to show up for her October trial. She vanished, a fugitive, and her mother, whose Social Security check was their only known means of support, disappeared with her.

"The amusement quickly fades when you think of the elderly woman who out of fear was trying to help Vikki and left with her," Carol Kittles said. "I hope we can find her. It's beyond upsetting."

In the van where she lived in Ellenton, Vikki Kittles used an oscillating fan, which sent the stench of dog fur and feces swirling through the van. She had hooked an orange extension cord from a power line to the van and had a five-inch TV. She drew her water from a garden hose.

The dogs defecated beneath her



Miami Herald

**Vikki Kittles, who fled Broward County animal cruelty charges, leads horse from Wilton Manors house in 1985.**

bed, and slept alongside her on the narrow cot, authorities said. removed from the vans.

"I wouldn't treat a dog like that," Detective Ned Foy said as he waited for the animals to be

Knight-Ridder News Service reporter Marty Rosen in Bradenton contributed to this report.



## **Homeowner Shoots Suspected Robber**

**By Vikki Alexander**

An Wilton Manors resident shot an alleged burglar in the chest last week, police said.

Jerome Lovett of the 2100 block of NE 27 Dr. in Wilton Manors fired twice at an intruder identified by police as James C. McClendon, 21, hitting him in the chest.

According to police, Lovett awoke to find the suspect in his bedroom, and the subject lunged at Lovett before being shot.

Police reports indicated that the suspect was recently released from prison.

McClendon--despite being shot--managed to escape the scene, but police said they followed a trail of blood to find him.

5-7-1987  
Twin City News

# Resident shoots intruder

## Burglary suspect undergoes surgery

By STEPHEN d'OLIVEIRA  
Staff Writer

**WILTON MANORS** — A homeowner awakened by the sounds of a burglar rummaging through his bedroom shot and wounded him Wednesday morning with a revolver he keeps on his waterbed, police said.

The intruder was shot in the chest about 4:28 a.m. with a .38-caliber revolver by Jerry Lovett, 56, a marine engineer who lives alone in his waterfront home in the 2100 block of Northeast 27th Terrace, Police Sgt. Donald Ridenour said.

"To see someone in your bedroom is an unbelievable sight," Lovett said. "I'm just a citizen. This is my castle. This is my home and, damn it, in my bed I was being attacked."

Police identified the suspect as James C. McClendon, 21, of the 400 block of Northwest First Terrace, Deerfield Beach. He was listed in serious condition after undergoing surgery at a Fort Lauderdale hospital.

After consulting with the Broward State Attorney's Office, Ridenour said charges won't be filed against Lovett. Police, however, did press burglary charges against McClendon.

"If someone breaks into my house, he better have made his peace with the Lord," Police Chief Bernard Scott said.

Lovett, a gun collector who occasionally practices target shooting, was visibly shaken on Wednesday.

"I'm not happy I did it, but he just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time," he said. "I'm glad I didn't kill him. I was thrust into a position where I had to defend my life. Nobody wants to shoot anybody."

Police said McClendon entered Lovett's home in a quiet neighborhood on the shores of the north fork of the Middle River, after cutting through a screen with a razor blade and climbing through a Florida room window.

Police said McClendon took about \$4 in cash from a kitchen counter before entering the bedroom, where Lovett was sleeping.

Lovett, a light sleeper, said he woke and saw McClendon crouching near his bedside nightstand. He then reached for the gun he keeps tucked between the headboard and the mattress.

"I knew I had to get the gun," Lovett said. "I knew my life was in danger. I had to keep my cool. As far as I was concerned, he was armed."

When McClendon became aware Lovett was awake, Lovett said, the suspect "lunged" at him. In the dark bedroom, Lovett said he could see only "shapes" and a "blob."

Lovett said he thought McClendon was holding an object. He said police later found a dish towel in the bedroom that McClendon had removed from the kitchen. McClendon hadn't been carrying a gun, police said.

Lovett said he fired one shot at McClendon when he lunged at him from three feet away. Not knowing if he hit him, Lovett said, he fired a second shot as McClendon fled the bedroom.

After being shot, the bleeding McClendon left Lovett's house and walked about one block east on Northeast 27th Drive. Police followed the trail of blood and found him.

Ridenour said Lovett's first shot went through McClendon's chest and arm. The second shot missed McClendon altogether, he said.

"I am not a hero," said Lovett, an Air Force veteran. "This was a life-and-death situation. I had no alternative but to defend myself."

Lovett, a New York City native, has lived in Broward County for 17 years.

"I think it's great," said neighbor Sheryl Wunsch. "He did the only possible thing. Maybe it'll deter somebody else."

The Broward Sheriff's Office said McClendon was arrested on Nov. 16, 1982, on armed burglary and grand theft charges; on Oct. 28, 1985, on grand theft and probation violation charges; and on Dec. 22, 1986, on charges of burglary of an occupied dwelling and grand theft in Deerfield Beach.

*Sun Sentinel*  
4-30-87

# Police, Manors reach impasse

BY RANDY HODER

Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — The next time the city and the Police Benevolent Association meet, it is likely it won't be at the negotiating table, but rather at a special hearing with an independent arbitrator.

For the second year in a row, the city and the police union have not been able to work out their differences and have had to call a special hearing.

All we are asking for is a reasonable wage," said Rick Wierzbicki, a PBA representative. "We want the city to bring us up to par with the rest of the cities in the county. It's embarrassing to have to go before a special arbitrator for the second year in a row, and it should be embarrassing for the city, too."

City Manager Wally Payne thinks the issue is more than an embarrassment.

"I think it is unfortunate that the city went through a special master last year and here we are doing it again," Payne said. "It creates a hardship for the city and for the Police Department."

Payne, who has been city manager for about one month, said he thinks part of the problem has been the instability in the city's administration.

The city has been through a transition period, Payne said. "They've gone through four managers in less than two years. That kind of instability in the administration of a city breeds uncertainty and uncertainty makes it hard to deal at the negotiating table. I can only hope my tenure with the city will be long enough to restore needed confidence."

The deadlock between the city and the PBA is over money.

Wilton Manors police are among the lowest paid in Broward County, according to a survey done by Cody & Associates, a management consultant firm hired by the city.

In a survey that shows starting salaries ranked from highest to lowest in 19 Broward County de-

## POLICE

Continued from page 3

Although they are at the bottom for starting salaries, the difference between the top and bottom rung is not that wide. Fort Lauderdale patrol officers at the top of the list start at \$23,948. Wilton Manors officers start at \$20,098.

But it is not the starting salaries that concern the police association. The real gap is with maximum salaries. The survey shows Wilton Manors patrol officers top out at \$26,000, while Fort Lauderdale officers can make as much as \$34,000. Wilton Manors sergeants' highest salary is \$28,418, while in Fort Lauderdale sergeants can make \$38,795.

Wierzbicki said the association is not asking for salaries comparable to Fort Lauderdale or other larger cities in the county, but rather for parity within the law enforcement community in Broward County.

Payne said he agrees that Wilton Manors officers should be brought up to scale. He said that, although the city and the PBA have reached

an impasse, it is still possible for them to come to an agreement.

"There is nothing under state law that says we can't sit down at the table any time before the special master hearing," Payne said. "If I were to get any indication from the PBA that they were willing to sit down and at least look at the issues I'd welcome the opportunity to do that."

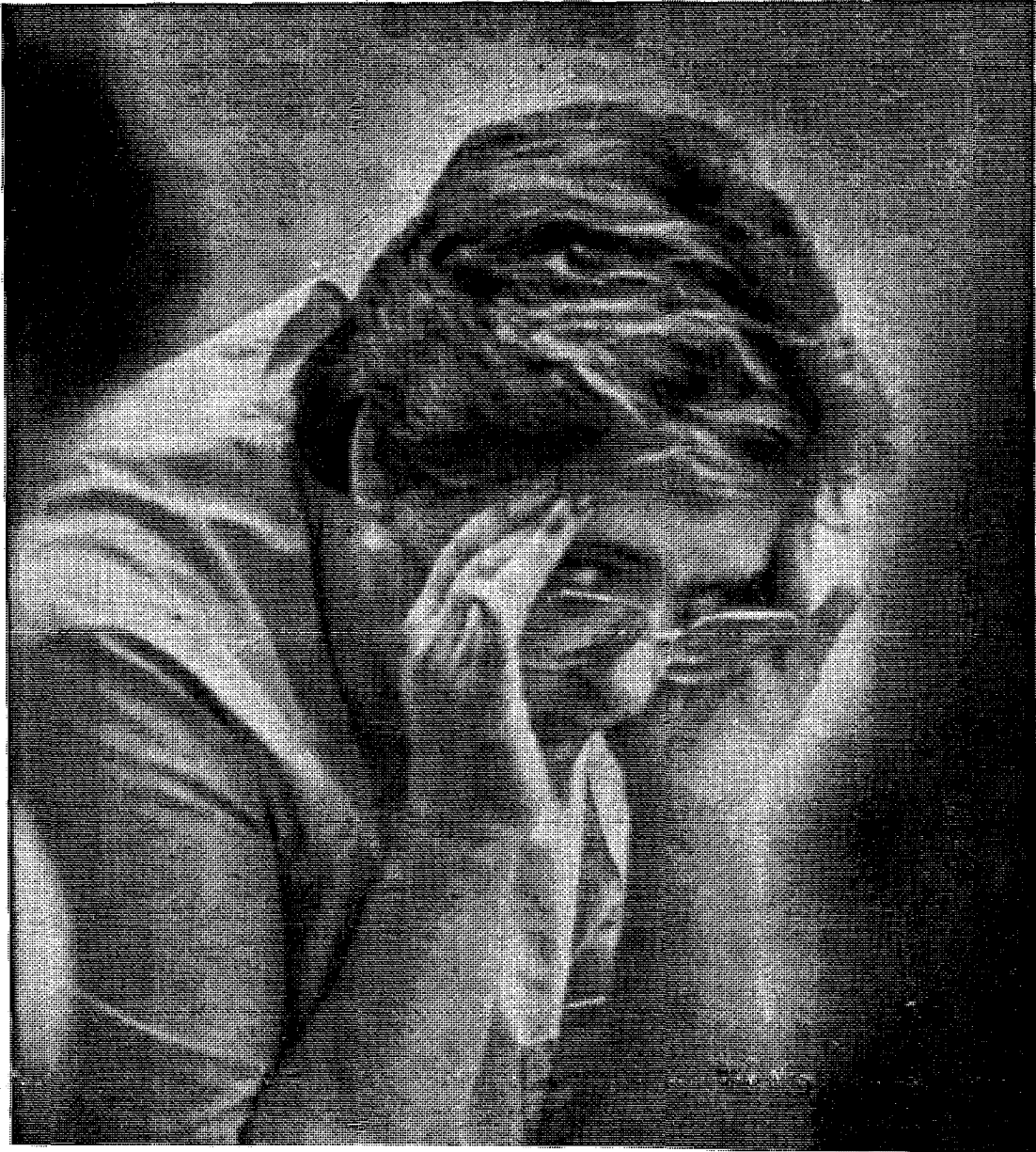
Payne said the arbitration process could take as long as three months by the time a date is set for the hearing and the city and PBA prepare their sides for the hearing.

"That's just too long a period of time," Payne said. "We're already six months into the fiscal year. That doesn't make me happy, the city happy or the PBA happy. Frankly, three months from now I'd like to be done with negotiations for next year's contract."

Although all sides agree that negotiations have gone on too long, Payne hopes to change the feeling that the city does not want to cooperate with the PBA.

"We are going to do everything we can to make sure this doesn't happen again," Payne said.





## Police accuse friend, wife in slaying of park ranger

By EMILIA ASKARI  
*Herald Staff Writer*

Originally, police believed Patricia James' story about a mysterious robber who wandered into her quiet Wilton Manors neighborhood last month and strangled her husband, Bernie James, a popular state park ranger.

As the investigation wore on, however, the wife's story broke down. On Thursday, she was booked into Broward County Jail on charges of being an accessory to her husband's murder after the fact.

A friend of the family, Timothy Ott, was charged with committing the murder. He told

police that he bludgeoned and strangled Bernie James because the ranger had been physically abusing his own children.

Sheriff's deputies and the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services are investigating that allegation and other aspects of the case, sheriff's Sgt. Tom Carney said.

Ott, a dispatcher for Atlantic Inter-City Ambulance Service, was being held without bail in the Broward County Jail. Patricia James, 36, was being held on \$5,000 bail.

Arrest affidavits prepared by Carney and

Please turn to **ARREST/9BR**

**FRI. APR. 10, 1987**

# Wife's tale fabricated, police say

## Story of murder doesn't hold up

**ARREST** / from 1BR

Sheriff's detective Don Scarbrough gave this account of how James died:

On the night of March 24, Bernie and Patricia James drove to Ott's home at 1730 NE 13th St. Apt. A in Fort Lauderdale.

Bernie and Ott got into a fight — detectives won't say about what.

Patricia, an unemployed office worker, went to the bathroom. While she was there, Ott hit Bernie in the back of the head with a blunt object as he sat in a living room chair. Then Ott told detectives that he strangled Bernie with wire and rope, dragged the body back out to Bernie's car and propped it up on the front passenger seat.



**Ott**

When Patricia returned, Ott told her what he had done. She drove back to the family's home at 816 NW 29th St. in Wilton Manors. There, she took her husband's wallet out of his pocket, removed the cash, and threw it on the driveway to simulate a robbery. Then she called police with a story about a man who supposedly killed her husband — after asking him for a light — as the victim was returning from a nearby 7-Eleven store.

Patricia and Ott both confessed during follow-up interviews Wednesday, according to arrest affidavits.

Carney said Ott had known the James couple for "a short amount of time." The detective declined to say how the three had met, or why Patricia would lie to protect Ott.

Bernie had three children ages 6, 7 and 8 from a previous marriage. Patricia adopted the children several years ago.

Bernie's former co-workers were shocked by the news of Patricia's arrest and by Ott's allegations against Bernie.

"I was wanting to hear that they'd arrested someone, but I wasn't anxious to hear this kind of news," said John Griner, a ranger at John U. Lloyd state park in Dania, where Bernie worked until he was reassigned to Jonathan Dickinson state park near Fort Pierce a few months before his death. "He was real nice people."

"Good God almighty," said a woman who answered the phone at Mac's Towing in Dania, where Bernie worked full-time before becoming a ranger three years ago. At the time of his death, he was still working part-time for the company, said the woman, who refused to identify herself.

"He was the kindest, gentlest man that you ever knew," the woman added. "He had three of the best kids you've ever seen. He would never, never do a thing like that [assault children]."

At Patricia's hearing Thursday afternoon before magistrate Judge June Laran Johnson, Patricia's mother dabbed her eyes with a pink tissue before dissolving in tears and fleeing the courtroom when a reporter inquired about her daughter.

Patricia said little before the judge as she tried to hide her face from a photographer.

"As far as I know, she was a good mother and a good person," her attorney, Douglas J. Glaid, said later. "It was a very normal relationship and marriage."

Patricia's brother, Mike Donahue, sat stonily on a courtroom bench in a dark, pinstriped suit. On the day after Bernie's murder, Donahue had described his brother-in-law as "just the nicest guy you ever met. A real sweetheart."



# METRO

Sun-Sentinel, Friday, April 10, 1987 Section B

c

## Two held in Manors killing

By TED CILWICK  
Staff Writer

Moments after park ranger Bernard James was strangled in a Fort Lauderdale apartment last month, his wife drove his body back to their home in Wilton Manors — then called police to report he had been killed during a robbery outside the home, police said on Thursday.

Patricia James, 36, of the 800 block of Northwest 29th Street, was charged on Thursday with accessory after a murder in the death of her husband. Timothy Ott, 32, of Fort Lauderdale, was charged with first-degree murder.

Bernard James, 37, an ex-Marine and

Vietnam veteran, was a ranger at Jonathan Dickinson State Park near Fort Pierce. He previously had worked at John U. Lloyd State Park near Dania.

When Patricia James arrived home with her husband's body on March 24, she removed the contents of his wallet and placed the empty wallet on the ground outside their home, Broward sheriff's detectives said.

Then, while her husband's body was slumped in the front seat, she went inside and waited about 15 minutes before calling police.

She told police her husband was approached outside their home by a 6-foot black man with a medium Afro, who

asked him for a light for a cigarette.

Based on the wife's description, a police artist sketched a picture of the "assailant." Police circulated the photo and began investigating the case.

But neighbors told police they had not heard or seen anything unusual in the Jameses' neighborhood. Neighbors said they became suspicious when Patricia James gave them what they said were statements inconsistent with her initial report. Police would not elaborate.

George Crollius, a Sheriff's Office spokesman, said what really happened was that the Jameses had visited Ott's apartment in the 1700 block of Northeast 13th Street. Ott told police that he had a disagreement with Bernard



P. James



Ott

James over how he mistreated the James children. Three children from Bernard James' previous marriage lived with the couple.

SEE MURDER /58

### MURDER

FROM PAGE 1B

### Two charged with murder of Manors man

The reason for Ott's interest in James' children was unclear, officers said.

"Ott slipped up behind James as he sat in a living room chair, struck him once with a blunt object and then strangled him with a length of

rope," Crollius said. The blunt object was a baseball bat, he said.

After initially fabricating details of her husband's death, Patricia James this week told detectives "she went to use the bathroom and when she came out, her husband was in the car, already dead," Crollius said.

Ott and James remained in the Broward County Jail on Thursday. If convicted, Ott faces a maximum sentence of death, and James faces up to five years imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine.



# State park ranger strangled near his Wilton Manors home

THURS. MARCH 26, 1987

By EMILIA ASKARI  
Herald Staff Writer

**WILTON MANORS** — A state park ranger was strangled near his home after being accosted by a stranger while returning from a trip to buy groceries, police said Wednesday.

Robbery may have been the motive for the murder in a quiet neighborhood between Andrews Avenue and Northwest Sixth Avenue, said Sgt. Donald Ridenour.

"It's just like any other place," Ridenour said. "In this day and age, you've got to keep looking over your shoulder. If you don't, you haven't been listening to the news or reading the papers or watching TV."

Bernie James, 37, had just returned from a trip to a 7-Eleven at Andrews Avenue and Northwest 29th Street when a stranger approached his beige, one-story house on Northwest 29th street.

As James — a ranger at

Jonathan Dickinson State Park near Fort Pierce — handed a sack of milk and bread to his wife, Patricia, the stranger asked for a light, according to police and the victim's brother-in-law, Mike Donahue.

James, who did not smoke, told Patricia to go inside to put the groceries away, Donahue said. She obeyed after getting a good look at the stranger — a black man about six feet tall, 160 pounds, with a medium Afro and missing or decaying front teeth. He wore dark, tight-fitting pants and a light-colored shirt.

About 15 minutes later, Patricia wondered what was keeping her husband. She stepped outside to find his body slumped over in the front seat of his car, Donahue said.

The money from James' wallet was missing, as well as a gold chain with a cross-shaped pendant, Donahue said.

Police were still seeking the

suspect Wednesday night.

"Bernie was just the nicest guy you ever met," Donahue said. "A real sweetheart. Bernie wouldn't hurt a fly. He loved to be outside and he loved working with kids."

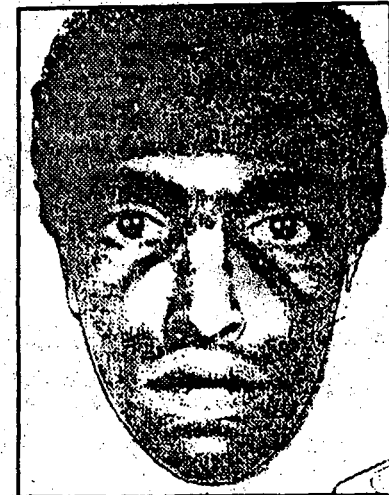
James, who was previously married, had three children of his own — a girl, 8, and two boys, ages 6 and 7.

James and his family moved into the Wilton Manors house — where Patricia's parents had lived for many years — when Patricia's father died of a heart attack about six months ago, Donahue said.

"I've got a black cloud following my family," said Donahue, a former paramedic who lives around the corner from his mother. When Patricia found James' body, she called Donahue for help.

"I gave him CPR, but there was just no way to get him started again," Donahue said. "He was gone."

James, an ex-Marine and Viet-



**Police released this composite of slaying suspect.**

nam veteran, had lived in the Fort Lauderdale area for about five years, Donahue said. He had also worked as a ranger at John U. Lloyd state park near Dania.

Services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at Kalis Funeral Home, 2505 N. Dixie Highway, in Wilton Manors.

Anyone with information about the crime or the suspect is asked to call Wilton Manors police at 566-1556 or sheriff's homicide detectives at 765-8900.

# Navarro calling halt to deputy program

By EMILIA ASKARI  
Herald Staff Writer

Sheriff Nick Navarro, increasingly at odds with Broward's police chiefs, said Thursday that he is ending a 7-year-old program that gives countywide arrest powers to some local police officers.

Broward's sheriff has traditionally "cross-deputized" a handful of officers from each of the county's police departments. These municipal deputies have the same arrest powers throughout the county that they would normally have only in their cities.

Navarro said Thursday that

the program has "gotten out of control," with cities failing to notify the sheriff's office before their officers use their municipal deputy status.

That was the case Saturday night, Navarro said, when an undercover Wilton Manors officer acting as a municipal deputy traveled to Fort Lauderdale, bought a Cadillac from a suspected car thief, pulled his gun to make an arrest and was fired on five times by a backup Fort Lauderdale officer who mistook the undercover officer for the

FRI MARCH 13, 1987

Please turn to DEPUTY / 10BR

## Navarro nixing deputy program after shooting

DEPUTY / from 1BR

suspect.

No one was hurt in the incident, which is under investigation by detectives from Fort Lauderdale, Wilton Manors and the sheriff's office.

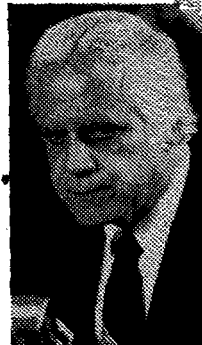
Because the Wilton Manors officer was acting as a municipal deputy, Navarro said, the sheriff could have been held responsible if the officer had been injured or killed.

"There is a problem of liability that occurs in these matters," Navarro said. "I am the sheriff of the county and a constitutional officer. The buck stops here. Any action by the deputy is an action by me ...

"I don't want to create any more problems between this office and the chiefs of police, but if they

take that attitude, let that be ... I'm not looking for popularity. I'm looking for professionalism."

Broward's police chiefs voted earlier this year to censure Navarro after he wrote to the county's 28 mayors hint-



Navarro

ing that he would "re-evaluate" the municipal deputy program if the mayors approved a mutual aid pact pro-

Eventually, the pact could have made the municipal deputy program obsolete by extending municipal officers' arrest powers to all cities signing the document.

So far, all but a handful of Broward's cities have signed the pact, which most police departments have not yet put into effect. Navarro has declined to sign it, saying it would do him no good because his deputies already have countywide arrest powers.

Plantation Police Chief Morris Meek, president of the Broward Police Chiefs' Association, said the sheriff's action Thursday was not entirely unexpected.

"I guess he finally found an excuse" to cancel the municipal deputies' program, Meek said. "What can I say? It's unfortunate because it will affect the unincorporated areas most ... With his attitude, I think the only thing we can do is ask the legislative delegation to make the mutual aid agreement a state law."

State Rep. Jack Tobin, D-Margate, said the delegation would be happy to discuss the idea with the chiefs at a planned April 2 breakfast meeting.

Fort Lauderdale Deputy Chief Joe Gerwens was fuming over the sheriff's latest action.

"He's done a disservice to every police department," Gerwens said. "It's going to make it difficult to follow up cases in the unincorporated area" that abuts Fort Lauderdale's Northwest section.

Added Fort Lauderdale Mayor Bob Cox at his own afternoon press conference: "In my opinion, the sheriff is shooting from the hip and may possibly be shooting himself in the foot." 3-13-87

## METRO EXTRA

# Navarro takes away badges deputizing police officers

By JONATHON KING  
Staff Writer

Citing a lack of control, communication and delegation of authority in Broward's Municipal Deputy Program, Sheriff Nick Navarro on Thursday began recalling 120 sheriff's badges that gave city officers countywide jurisdiction as law enforcement officers.

"After conferring with my legal advisers and supervisory personnel, the consensus was to take back the badges and discontinue the program," Navarro said during a news conference.

"Crime will be fought in Broward County as it always has, and I will continue to respond to any requests by any other agency for assistance. But the clear lines of responsibility, and liability, will now be drawn."

Within the last several years, the Municipal Deputy Program, begun under former Sheriff George Breshler, had come in direct conflict with a countywide Mutual Aid Agreement backed by the Broward County Police Chiefs Association.

Under the agreement, officers's investigation and arrest powers are expanded beyond their city's boundaries to include all municipalities that sign the document. Most of the county's police agencies have entered into the Mu-

tual Aid Agreement, but currently sheriff's deputies are the only local law enforcement officers who can make arrests throughout the county.

In making his announcement, Navarro cited a shooting incident last weekend in which a Wilton Manors officer, who had been deputized through the sheriff's program, was shot at by a Fort Lauderdale officer during an undercover operation.

No one was injured in the shooting, but investigators were unable to determine after the incident whether the Wilton Manors officer was acting as a municipal deputy or under the Mutual Aid Agreement.

"I spent several sleepless nights just thinking about what we would have been up against if, God forbid, that officer would have been severely injured or killed," Navarro said. "I have the responsibility for everyone who carries that sheriff's badge and I will have to answer if that deputy is injured on the street."

Although he said the question of liability was secondary, Navarro agreed that legal responsibility entered into his decision to disband the program.

Navarro's decision to eliminate the deputy program was expected by the county's chiefs of police.

"It really comes as no surprise," said

Plantation Police Chief Morris Meek, who is head of the Police Chiefs Association. "I think the sheriff was just looking for an excuse to do this."

"It's unfortunate, but nothing we didn't expect," said Fort Lauderdale Deputy Chief Joe Gerwens. "It's unfortunate because if you have problems with a program, you correct the problems. You don't throw out a good program."

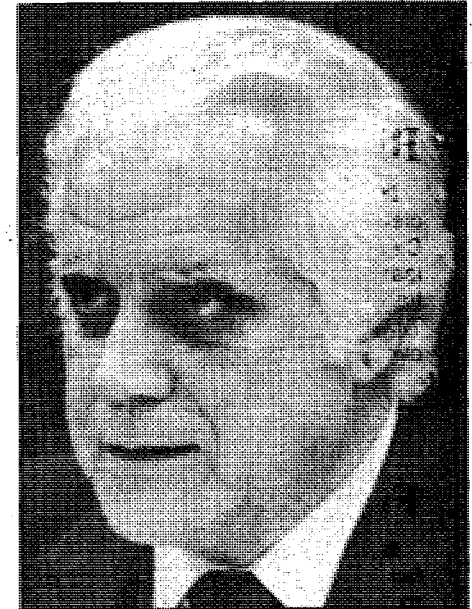
Gerwens said disbanding the program will particularly hurt drug investigations in northwest Fort Lauderdale, which borders on the sheriff's jurisdiction.

"It's definitely going to hamper our effort," Gerwens said. "To what degree remains to be seen."

Meek said that the Mutual Aid Agreement should serve the cities' jurisdictional needs and that the lack of deputized officers would not prevent "sticking our necks out" in unincorporated areas.

"If there's a problem, we're not going to turn our backs," Meek said. "We're all still in the law enforcement business."

Navarro was censured in January by the Police Chiefs Association for trying to kill the organization's proposed aid agreement.



**"Crime will be fought in Broward County as it always has, and I will continue to respond to any requests by any other agency for assistance. But the clear lines of responsibility, and liability, will now be drawn."**

— Sheriff Nick Navarro



# Officer reassigned in shooting inquiry

By JONATHON KING  
Staff Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — A city police officer who mistakenly fired five shots at a Wilton Manors detective during an undercover operation has been assigned to a desk job while the shooting is being investigated, police officials said.

No one was hurt in the Saturday night incident in which Fort Lauderdale officer Charles Harrington mistook Wilton Manors Detective Mark Shotwell for a car theft suspect.

Harrington, acting as a uniformed backup officer during the operation, saw Shotwell draw a weapon to make an arrest and fired at the detective.

"I just thank God he was a bad shot and no one was hurt," Shotwell said Monday. "It obviously could have been disastrous, like the Miami deal last month."

On Feb. 27, two Metro-Dade officers were wounded and a suspect was killed by police bullets during a reverse drug sting in north Dade County that erupted in gunfire and confusion. Both officers are recovering from their wounds.

Saturday's operation had been set up to arrest Michael Arthur Martin as he sold a stolen Cadillac to Shotwell in a parking lot in the 400 block of Seabreeze Boulevard, police said. After the tape-recorded transaction took place, officers

moved in to make the arrest.

When Shotwell began to reach for his service weapon, Harrington mistook him for the suspect drawing a weapon and fired.

"It all happened so fast, I wasn't sure how to react," Shotwell said. "I crouched down and checked to see if I was hit. I couldn't really believe that what I thought had happened had really happened."

Shotwell, who has a long beard and wears an earring, admitted that he looks a lot more suspicious than Martin, who is stocky, clean-cut, "and looks like a cop."

"I probably would have made the mistake too," Shotwell said. "But we did make sure everyone was briefed on clothing and descriptions."

Harrington was put on office duty for at least three days, Fort Lauderdale police spokesman Ott Cefkin said.

As standard procedure, a police shooting team is investigating to determine if there was any criminal wrongdoing in the incident. That investigation will be followed by an internal affairs review to determine if Harrington violated any police rules and regulations.

Because Shotwell was acting as a Broward County municipal deputy while working outside his city, the Broward Sheriff's Office is also contemplating an investigation of the incident, Sheriff's Office spokesman George Crolius said.

MARCH 10, 1987

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# METRO

Sun-Sentinel, Monday, March 9, 1987 Section B

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## Cop shoots at cop during arrest

By STEVEN GIRARDI  
Staff Writer

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — A Fort Lauderdale police officer who mistook a Wilton Manors detective for a suspected car thief fired five shots at him in an undercover operation that went awry, police said.

No one was hurt in the Saturday night incident, Fort Lauderdale police spokesman Ott Cefkin said.

The shooting by officer Charles Harrington, a three-year member of the police force, is under investigation by the

department, Cefkin said.

The incident began with a meeting at 6:30 p.m. between Wilton Manors detective Mark Shotwell and a suspected car thief. Shotwell arranged to meet the man at a charter boat parking lot in the 400 block of Seabreeze Boulevard where he was to buy the suspect's 1987 Cadillac Seville, Cefkin said.

The car was reported stolen on Friday from the Southport Shopping Center on Southeast 17th Street in Fort Lauderdale, he said.

Two Fort Lauderdale officers, Harrington and Sgt. Greg Kridos, were as-

signed to back up the operation. They waited outside while Shotwell, equipped with an electronic listening device, arranged the deal, Cefkin said.

But Shotwell, who had never met the suspect, could not give Fort Lauderdale officers a description of the man before the meeting, Cefkin said.

Minutes later, after negotiating the sale, Shotwell gave the signal for the Fort Lauderdale officers to move in.

Kridos walked toward Shotwell, drew his gun and pointed it at the suspect, Cefkin said. Shotwell, dressed in street clothes, also drew his revolver and took

a sudden step backward, Cefkin added.

But Harrington, who did not know Shotwell, mistook him for the thief, Cefkin said. He pulled his gun, yelled, "Don't do it," and fired five shots at the bewildered detective, Cefkin said.

Two shots hit a curb in front of Shotwell, two others hit a tree behind the detective and the last shot hit a metal fence, Cefkin said.

When the shooting was over, Shotwell arrested Michael Arthur Martin, 32, of North Carolina, who was charged with grand theft auto and dealing in stolen property, Cefkin said.

## Hero is tired of praise, but it keeps on coming

By DARRELL EILAND  
Herald Staff Writer

Everybody except Richard "Rocky" Nesbitt thinks he is a hero.

Shortly after Thanksgiving, his school held a "Rocky Nesbitt Day" celebration. His parents told him how proud they were of him. And Wednesday morning, Sheriff Nick Navarro presented the 13-year-old Wilton Manors boy with a plaque at the sheriff's monthly staff meeting at the Plantation Holiday Inn.

Rocky said he's sick of the attention he has received since he saved 15-year-old Patricia Augustine's life in late November.

"I'm not a hero anymore. It's over," he said Wednesday.

There was a lot of coincidence involved in what happened that day, he said. For one thing, he had been suspended from school for misconduct.

Because of that, Rocky's father, Richard Roberts, told Rocky he could not ride his silver dirt bike to school anymore.

So, Rocky was walking that morning on his way to Sunrise

Middle School in Fort Lauderdale when he saw three girls he knew walking to school. He joined the group.

Near Colohatchee Park in Wilton Manors, the group decided to take a shortcut across the railroad trestle in the 2000 block of Old Dixie Highway.

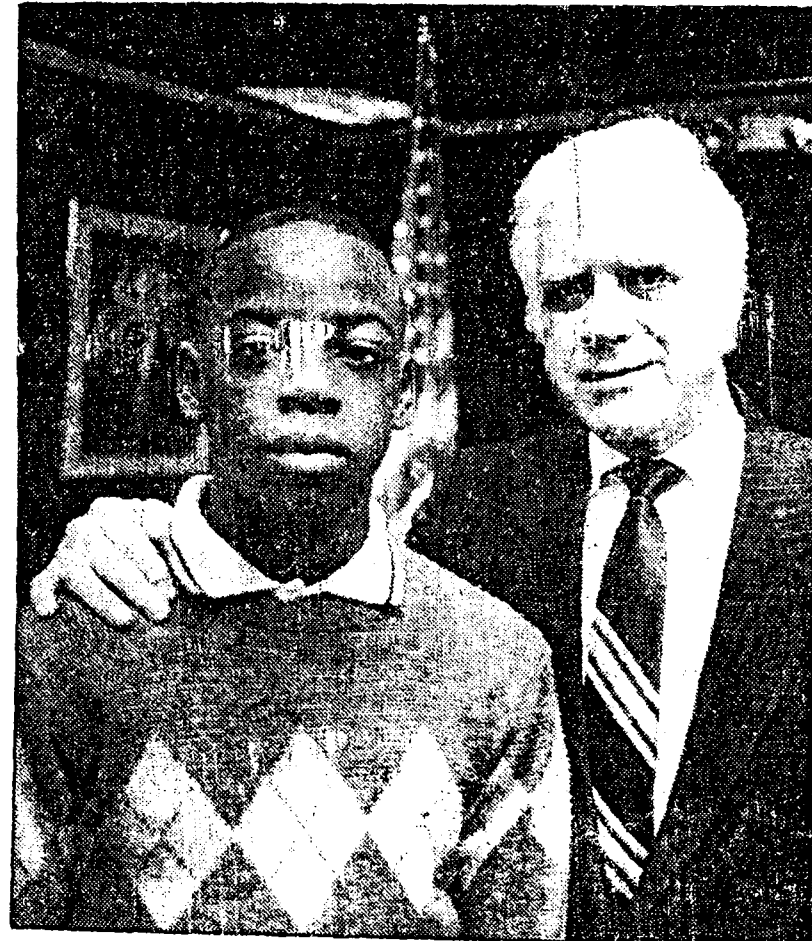
Part of the way across, they heard a train coming. Rocky and two of the girls jumped off the trestle. Augustine panicked and fell from the trestle eight feet into shallow water. She broke a leg and an arm and was drowning.

"She was wailing and screaming and no one else knew how to swim, so in I go and bring her to the bank," Nesbitt said.

Augustine is still in Broward General Medical Center, recuperating from her injuries.

The boy's parents thought what he did was great, Rocky said, and he was glad to do it. But now he wants to put it behind him.

"He's been very quiet about the whole thing," Sunrise Assistant Principal Doug Iscovitz said. "He doesn't go around bragging about it at all."



BOB EIGHMIE / Miami Herald Staff

Sheriff Nick Navarro gave Richard 'Rocky' Nesbitt an award for saving a 15-year-old classmate.



# Quick response foils mugging attempt

By Jack Brennan

Staff Writer

The two robbers had a daring plan: They parked their 1981 Cadillac in front of the Wilton Manors police station, walked around back and mugged a man as he washed his car Saturday morning.

Good as it was, however, it was also dumb. Police arrested two suspects, Jerome A. Jones and Isom J. Gross, both 21, after a brief car chase and a foot race in the city.

"They must have figured nobody would be around because everybody was out on patrol," said Police Officer David Jones. "We were just right there. The right place at the right time."

The victim, James Louisignau, 60, of Wilton Manors, said he always figured the neighborhood was one of the safest around because of all the police officers passing through.

"Good God, I never thought of anything like that before. But I will now. I was right behind the police station, less than a block away," Louisignau said.

But he also said the robbers figured wrong when they tried to pull off a mugging near 2100

Wilton Drive, just a short distance from the police station at 524 NE 21st Ct.

"The Wilton Manors police did an excellent job," Louisignau said. "That was the quickest thing I've ever seen. They did a tremendous job."

Louisignau said he was washing his car when the two robbers came up from behind him and hit him on the head, apparently with some kind of wooden club or stick.

"I was just completing the shammying job on a wheel, squatting down, when they hit me on the head," Louisignau said. "I didn't see what they hit me with, but I've got a big lump on my head."

Police said the robbers reportedly got a small amount of money and ran west. Louisignau said he began chasing the suspects himself, but soon lost them in the residential area.

Someone called the police and officers began their search as the culprits apparently circled back to the station, got into their luxury car and took off, police said.

But the pair was spotted and a description of the car was broadcast over the police radio just as Officer Jones and his partner, Steve Chusimer, saw the car near Wilton Drive and Northeast 21st

Court.

"We were already en route when the description came over the air," Officer Jones said.

A chase ensued on Northeast 21st Court, with speeds reaching 55 miles an hour on back streets, until the robbers' auto veered and hit a telephone pole at Northeast First Avenue, police said.

"They bailed out of their car and there was a foot chase," Officer Jones said.

Officer Jones then found robbery suspect Jones (no relation) hiding under a car where he had crawled in a futile attempt to evade capture, according to police.

Gross continued running until he reached a nearby unoccupied house, shattered a window pane and hid under a bed, where Officers Jones and Lon Guarino found and arrested him, police said.

Gross and robbery suspect Jones, both from an unincorporated area west of Fort Lauderdale, were charged with armed robbery, burglary, fleeing police and a number of traffic offenses.

They were being held at the Broward County Jail.

**ANNIVERSARY NAME**

Algonquin Avenue  
Altamaha Avenue  
Apache Avenue  
Cherokee Avenue  
Chippewa Avenue  
Choctow Avenue  
Coweta Avenue  
Hiawasee Avenue  
Iroquois Avenue  
Ludowici Avenue  
Mohawk Avenue  
Nakomis Avenue  
Navajo Avenue  
Ocmulgee Avenue  
Oconee Avenue  
Okalona Avenue  
Senaca Avenue  
Sioux Avenue  
Suwanee Avenue  
Wabash Avenue  
Wilton Boulevard

**CORRECT NAME**

NE 5 Avenue  
NE 9 Avenue  
NE 1 Avenue  
NE 25 Street  
NE 8 Avenue  
NE 21 Court  
NE 3 Avenue  
NE 11 Avenue  
NE 23 Street  
NE 22 Drive  
NE 6 Avenue  
NE 20 Street  
NE 21 Street  
NE 8 Terrace  
NE 7 Avenue  
NE 21 Drive  
NE 24 Street  
NE 9 Avenue  
NE 23 Drive  
NE 22 Street  
Wilton Drive

South of Wilton Drive

NE 20 Drive-E of 7 Ave

North of Wilton Drive

## *Its Strategic Location*

On a wooded highland with-  
in the northern city limits of  
Fort Lauderdale.

Two miles north from the  
city's business center.

Fronting on both the East  
and West Dixie Highways,  
and a part on the Florida  
East Coast Railway.

Five minutes drive from  
the ocean by way of Ocean  
Boulevard.

Close to Floranada Club,  
America's elite social center  
of wealth and culture, where  
millions of dollars are being  
spent for improvements.

## *Its Splendid Improvements*

15 miles of paved streets.  
30 miles of cement side-  
walks.

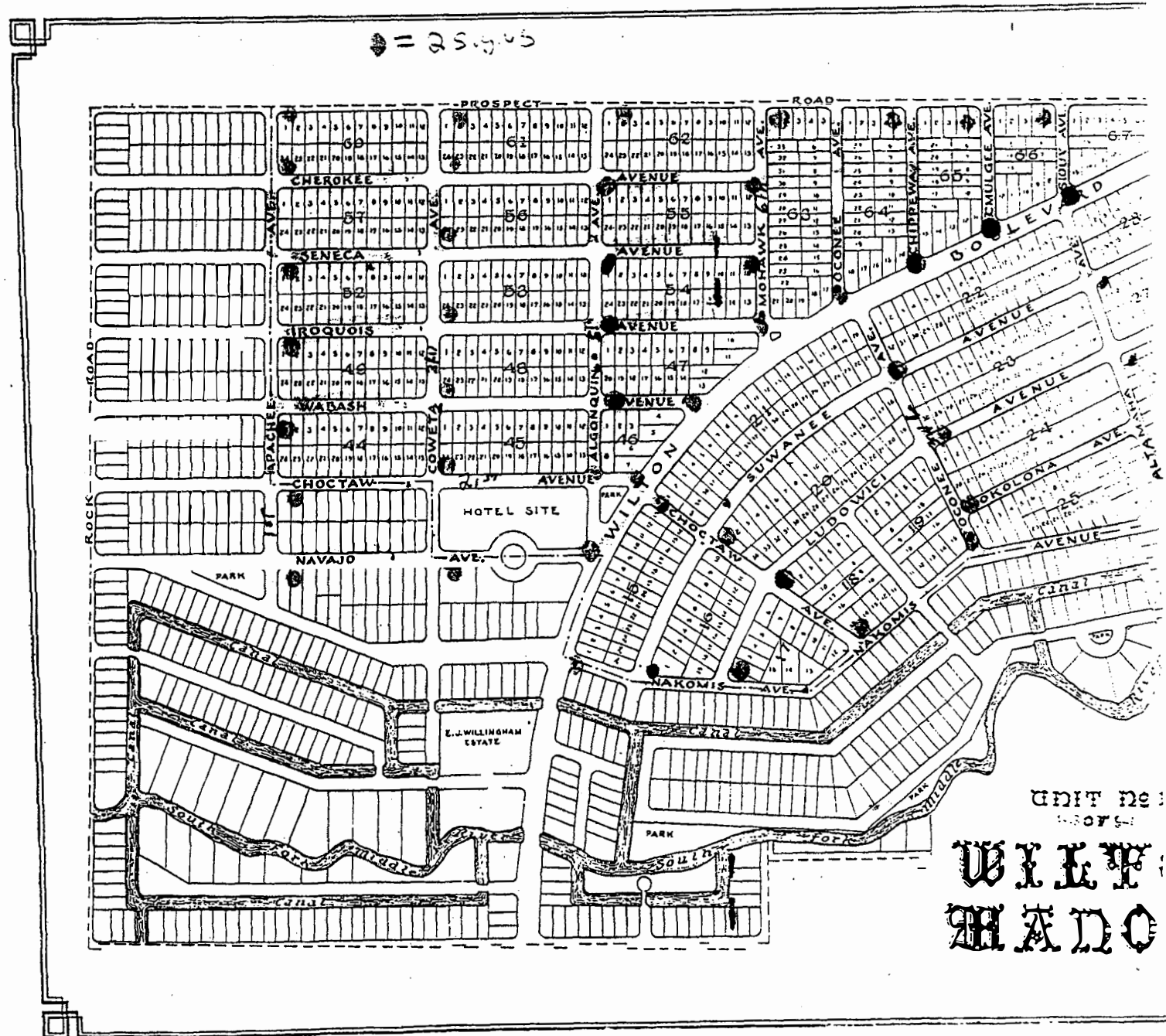
15 miles of white-way lights.  
30 miles of parkways.  
No paving will be under  
30 feet wide.

Five beautiful parks.

Excellent water.

Electricity.

Landscaping.



A PLAT OF FORT LAUDERDALE'S BEAUTY SPOT



# Jury recommends death for murderer

## Accomplice in case may hear fate today

By HENRY FITZGERALD JR.  
Staff Writer

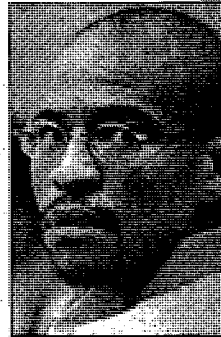
A 12-member jury on Thursday recommended 9-3 to a Broward County Circuit Court judge that convicted murderer Robert Rimmer be sentenced to die in the electric chair.

The same jury convicted Rimmer, 31, and an accomplice, Kevin Parker, also 31, in January of two counts of first-degree murder. Aaron Knight and Bradley Krause Jr. were shot and killed during a robbery at the Audio Logic store, 1008 W. Oakland Park Blvd., at noon on May 2.

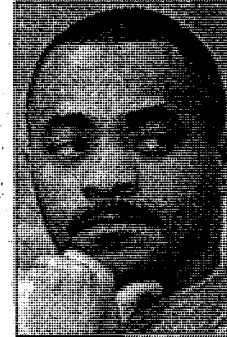
According to testimony, the men entered the store, then bound the hands of Knight, 31, the store owner, and Krause, 19, an employee, behind their backs with duct tape. They then ordered them into a back room and onto their knees.

Three customers who came in during the 10- to 20-minute robbery also were taken to the back room and bound.

Rimmer was identified as the man who shot Knight and Krause in execution style. The customers, who were spared, watched. One of them cowered with her



Rimmer



Parker

3-year-old child. Before he left the store, Rimmer had a message: "Thank you for cooperating. Have a nice day."

Judge James Cohn will make the final sentencing decision, but judges rarely overturn jury recommendations.

Attorneys for Rimmer and Parker argued at trial that neither men committed the crime because both were elsewhere. However, the other victims identified Rimmer and both men's fingerprints were found on the \$12,000 to \$17,000 of stolen stereo equipment.

Parker also was convicted of first-degree murder. He could hear today if he will be sentenced to life in prison or death in the electric chair.

CRIME SPREE, FROM 1B

hose."

Garvin, suspicious, called her husband. She was on the phone with him when the man kicked the door in — frame and all. He grabbed the phone away, demanding money and jewelry.

"He pretended to have a gun," she said. "I never saw one."

When he put the phone down, Garvin dialed 911 and left the phone off the hook as the man continued his demands. He ransacked a jewelry case, then grabbed her keys. He and his accomplice, who waited outside, sped away in Garvin's navy blue Ford Explorer.

Next stop: 504 NE 13th Ave., where the men dumped the Explorer and stole a white BMW from Pam Whitaker, who received minor injuries in a scuffle with one of the men, police said.

From there, they raced to the Tennis Club apartments at Northwest 19th Street and Seventh Avenue.

"I had just fixed the gate," said Rudolph Valentino Vittorio, a property manager at the Tennis Club. "I saw him go through the fence, heard the car

*'He said he'd kill me, that he had nothing to lose. He kept reaching in back, like he had a gun. I think he might have been on drugs.'*

DEBBY SIMEON,

owner of car stolen by home-invasion suspect still at large

slide sideways and he rammed through the wrought-iron gate."

The men jumped out and demanded Vittorio's Explorer.

"He said he had a gun. He said, 'I'll blow your head off,'" Vittorio said. "I told him I'd blow his head off. He was totally out of control."

The men tried to grab another car from a woman who was driving away.

"Go, go, go!" Vittorio yelled at her.

She did.

"She stepped on the gas, dragging him down the street," he said.

Eventually, he let go. Both men jumped into a canal behind the complex and swam across, emerging in Wilton Manors.

At 2101 N. Andrews Ave., they tried to steal Ed Canales' van outside the Dart Building, an office building in the area.

"I was here to detail some cars. The one guy got in to steal

it, but it wouldn't start," Canales said. "They took my cellular phone."

Canales dashed across the street to an office and called police as the pair tried unsuccessfully to break into several cars in the parking lot.

At that point, the duo apparently split up. One ran to a nearby gas station and offered a motorist \$100 for a ride. The driver declined the offer.

The other man, later identified as Anthony Crisante, 22, was picked up by Wilton Manors police as he strolled shirtless and barefoot along Andrews Avenue.

As police were arresting Crisante, who served two years for burglary convictions in 1994, his pal was breaking into a house at 117 NW 22nd St., where Debby Simeon was taking a shower.

She heard a crash and stepped out of the bathroom wearing only a towel. She found a man

crawling through a small window into her house.

"He said he'd kill me, that he had nothing to lose," Simeon said, hearing the whump-whump-whump of a helicopter overhead.

Simeon, 42, headed for the front door and ran outside, the man on her heels.

"He kept reaching in back, like he had a gun," Simeon said.

The man grabbed Simeon's keys and headed for her 1986 cream and brown Oldsmobile Delta 88.

"God knows, I didn't want to stand between him and the car," she said she thought as he drove away.

Late Wednesday, police were still looking for the man, described as six feet tall, 170 pounds, with short brown hair.

Crisante was charged with home-invasion robbery and faces additional charges. He was being held Wednesday in the Broward County Jail.

The other man is unidentified because Crisante claimed he didn't know his name.

The pair "met up last night. They were doing crack all night," said Wilton Manors Police Sgt. Pete Bigelsen. "This is the way they started their day."

# Cops nab suspect in crime spree

## Second man still loose in Broward

By TRISH POWER  
Herald Staff Writer

The whole thing only took a half-hour.

And when it was done, a two-man crime wave left a wake of three home-invasion robberies, three stolen cars and attempts to steal a half-dozen others. Wednesday night, one of the men was in jail, and the other was on the run.

The spree started at 8:57 a.m. at 1404 SE 11th Ct., said Detective Clinton Ward, Fort Lauderdale police spokesman.

One of the men — the one who hasn't been caught — knocked on the door and asked to use the telephone, saying his car had broken down. Resident Terrence Knight handed him a portable phone. The man then asked for a can of oil, and with that, pushed his way into the home in southeast Fort Lauderdale.

He demanded money, jewelry



**CHARGED:** Crisante, being shown to witnesses after his arrest, is charged with home-invasion robbery and faces additional charges.

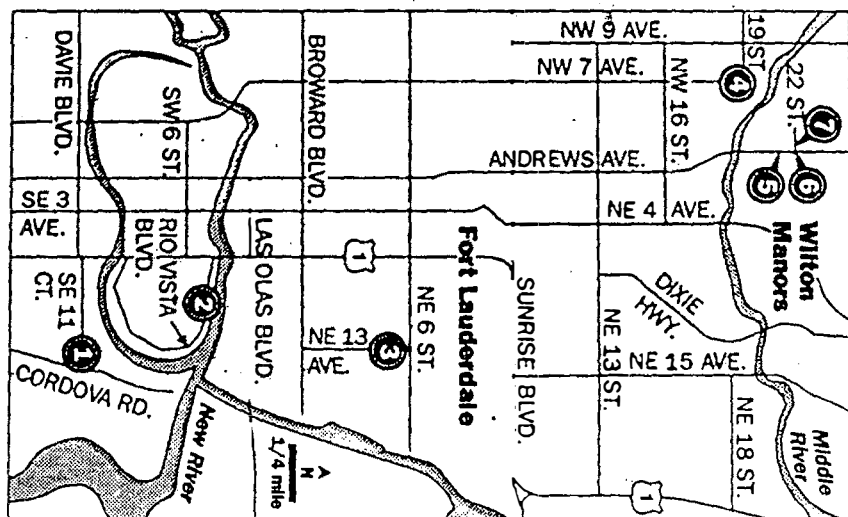
and the keys to Knight's car. Knight refused and fought back. The intruder ran off with pocket change, police said.

Seven minutes later, the pair were knocking on the door of Sonali Garvin's home at 1025 S. Rio Vista Blvd.

"He knocked on the door and said his car was overheating," Garvin said. Through a small window in the front door, Garvin saw a car in the driveway with the hood raised. "I told him he could use the

PLEASE SEE CRIME SPREE, 2B

BR071797



### CRIME SPREE

Two men who police say were looking for money to buy drugs set off on a home-invasion crime spree Wednesday morning. In half an hour the men stole three cars, wrecked one and broke into three homes in Fort Lauderdale and Wilton Manors, police said.

1. (8:57 a.m.) Crime spree started with a home invasion at 1404 SE 11th Ct.
2. (9:04) Home invasion at 1025 Rio Vista Blvd.: 1994 Ford Explorer stolen.
3. (9:15) Stole BMW at 504 NE 13th Ave.
4. Crashed BMW into a fence at Tennis Club Apartments, tried to steal other vehicles, jumped into canal and swam across to Wilton Manors.
5. (9:30) Attempted to steal vehicles from an office building, parking lot and from a gas station.
6. Anthony Crisante is picked up by police in the 2200 block of Andrews Avenue.
7. (9:36) Home invasion at 117 NW 22nd St.: Suspect chases homeowner out of the shower, escapes in her 1986 Oldsmobile Delta 88.

CHRIS STEINKEN / Herald Staff



## Train victim identified

WILTON MANORS — A woman who was killed Feb. 21 after walking into a south-bound freight train has been identified by police as Cheryl Lynne Noell, 51, of Fort Lauderdale.

The death was ruled suicide.

A witness told police Noell was between the tracks of the Florida East Coast railroad line that Friday morning and walked directly into the train as it neared a trestle on the south fork of the Middle River, parallel to the 2000 block of north Dixie Highway.

# Man spent widow's settlement, police say

By DONNA PAZDERA  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — In just a few weeks, police say Arthur Louis Kosa Jr. went through about \$1 million of someone else's money.

He had promised a widow he befriended that he would invest her late husband's \$1 million life insurance payout, police said.

Instead, he bought cars, a home and paid off his parents' \$87,000 mortgage, said Wilton Manors Police Detective Daniel James.

"He was spending like a riverboat gambler," James said.

On Friday, Kosa, 51, was arrested and charged with first-degree grand theft.

It appears unlikely, though, that Judy Tillman, the widow who won a civil case against Kosa, will ever see her money, James said.

In fact, Kosa told Broward County Judge Miette K. Burnstein during the civil trial, "I don't care if you wait until the Second Coming, I ain't got the money to pay," James said.

According to James, this is what happened:

Kosa met Tillman in December 1994 at various society functions in Fort Lauderdale. She befriended Kosa and told him of problems with her husband. When her husband committed suicide a few months later, Tillman received a \$1 million life insurance settlement. She planned to sink the money in a trust fund, but Kosa told her to invest it for her instead.

Kosa handed over two checks — one for \$250,000 and another for \$750,000 — to Kosa. From Jan. 12 until Jan. 27, 1995, Kosa squirreled the money in a secret account and stalled a settlement. Concerned Tillman, James

He bought two Lexus cars, a vintage Camaro and several Corvettes for himself and relatives. He bought and renovated a home and paid off his parents' mortgage.

By the time Tillman caught on, there was only \$3,500 left in the account, James said.

Kosa was previously convicted of dealing in stolen property, grand theft and possession of machine guns, James said.

Tillman could not be reached for comment.

Kosa is being held in the Broward County Jail in lieu of \$500,000 bail.

# Police: Intruder tied up woman

Injured victim freed  
herself 10 hours later

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By DONNA PAZDERA  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — A 77-year-old woman lay tied up for about 10 hours early Monday after an intruder broke into her home, beat her and tied her up with a telephone cord.

The woman freed herself about noon, walked to a neighbor's house and asked him to call for help, Wilton Manors Police Sgt. Pete Bigelsen said.

The victim appears to have been repeatedly struck with a telephone or a flashlight, Bigelsen said.

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**The motive for the  
attack is unclear,  
and she appears to  
have been chosen at  
random, police say.**

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The motive for the attack is unclear, and she appears to have been chosen at random. Police are withholding the victim's name until her family can be notified.

The woman remains in stable condition at Broward General Medical Center. Because the woman suffered serious injuries to her face and head, police have not been able to ask her how many people broke into her house or whether anything was taken, Bigelsen said.

Neighbor Joe Cook, who lives in the 600 block of Northwest 25th Street, was standing in his yard and was startled when he turned around and saw the woman.

"I didn't know what the heck to think," Cook said. "I didn't recognize her. It looked like she was wearing a mask. She was covered with blood."

The woman said she had been robbed and wanted Cook to call the police. Then, she walked back to her house.

"We have a very quiet street, and



## Wilton Manors heist interrupted

A Wilton Manors pizzeria was robbed by a gunman who was almost captured when the restaurant's owner happened through the front door, police said Tuesday.

The thief, armed with a handgun, ordered all the employees of Bona Pizza, 2468 Wilton Dr., into the kitchen. As a worker emptied the cash register, the restaurant's owner walked through the front doors, police said.

"Fearing for his employees' safety, he grabbed the gun being

used by the robber," police spokesman Pete Bigelsen said. "A brief struggle ensued, with the robber being able to escape with the money."

The gunman was last seen after the Nov. 26 robbery running south on Northeast 11th Avenue, Bigelsen said.

Investigators asked anyone with information about the robbery to call Crime Stoppers at (954) 493-8477 or Wilton Manors police at (954) 390-2162.

# Pompano commission rethinks psychic law

By LANE KELLEY  
STAFF WRITER

POMPANO BEACH — City officials are having second thoughts about allowing soothsayers to set up shop in the city after the recent arrest of a fortune-teller.

Commissioners voted last week to allow such businesses in Pompano Beach, which has banned psychic, palm-reading and fortune-telling businesses since 1958.

On Sept. 11 police in Wilton Manors arrested a fortune-teller related to the woman who was largely responsible for getting Pompano Beach officials to consider changing the city's law.

Vice Mayor Herb Skolnick, who moved to toughen the new law before voting to approve it, said the arrest could affect his vote when the commission votes on final approval of the ordinance on Tuesday.

Skolnick said the only reason he supported allowing fortune-tellers was because he was concerned banning them might be unconstitutional.

"If it can't be translated into a First Amendment violation, then I would certainly vote against it," Skolnick said.

Wilton Manors detectives arrested Cindy Mitchell, 23, for trying to bilk a woman out of \$16,400, under the guise of purifying her spirit. Mitchell, whose family owns Psychic Readings by Lisa,

2650 N. Andrews Ave., was charged with two counts of grand theft by deception.

Mitchell's sister-in-law, Bridget Mitchell, is challenging Pompano Beach's ban on psychics by applying for a license to open a store there. Bridget Mitchell, who wants to open a shop at 3218 E. Atlantic Blvd., said that she didn't work in the Wilton Manors shop. Wilton Manors police detectives found a phone bill at the Andrews Avenue office addressed to "Bridgette" Mitchell.

Pompano Beach is one of the few cities in Broward County that still outlaws psychics. The city's proposed ordinance, which is similar to Broward County's law, requires psychics to be licensed, registered and fingerprinted, to have lived in Broward for two years and be a registered voter. The license will cost \$150.

The new ordinance also requires all psychics to display a sign saying that the business is for "entertainment only."

Commissioner Pat Larkins said the only reason he supported the proposed law is because City Attorney Gordon Linn

"doesn't think our position would withstand a legal challenge. If it weren't for that then I absolutely would not have voted for it."

## LOCAL

# 2 convicted of double murder

By HENRY FITZGERALD JR.  
Staff Writer

Attorneys for Robert Rimmer and Kevin Parker, both on trial for murder, told jurors their clients were elsewhere when the incident happened.

But the 12-member jury chose to believe the eyewitnesses who identified the men as the robbers who entered the Audio Logic Store in Wilton Manors and killed two people who worked there. On Thursday, the jury convicted each of them of two counts of first-degree murder for killing Bradley Krause Jr. and Aaron Knight.

"I wouldn't say I was surprised with the verdict, but rather disappointed," said Ray Miller, who represented Parker. "He admitted to being at the store [earlier in the day], but his con-

## Pair could be executed for killing store employees in Wilton Manors

tention throughout the trial was that he didn't participate in any way in any pre-planned robbery or homicide."

Parker and Rimmer could get the death penalty. Broward County Circuit Judge James Cohn set Feb. 25 as a date for jurors to return for a sentencing hearing to recommend life in prison or death in the electric chair.

According to testimony, the men entered the store, at 1008 W. Oakland Park Blvd., at noon on May 2. They bound the hands of Knight, 31, the store owner, and Krause, 19, an employee, behind their backs with duct tape. They then ordered them into a

backroom and onto their knees. Three customers who came in during the 10- to 20-minute robbery also were taken to the backroom and were bound.

Rimmer was identified as the man who shot Knight and Krause in the back of the head as the other victims, who were spared, watched. One of them cowered with her 3-year-old child. Before he left, Rimmer had a message: "Thank you for cooperating. Have a nice day."

Richard Garfield, who represented Rimmer, argued during trial that his client was not at the store because he had taken his young son fishing that

day. "I think the magnitude of what happened would not allow the jurors to give my client the benefit of the doubt," Garfield said.

Prosecutor Peter Magrino told jurors in his closing arguments that there was much more to his case than eyewitnesses. There were fingerprints on the stolen equipment, found two weeks later in a warehouse, that matched those of both men. Also, Rimmer, during a police chase, was seen tossing Knight's gun, another gun identified as the murder weapon, and a wallet that belonged to one of the victims out of his car window.

"There is only one person who threw [these items] out of his car," Magrino said. "The people who committed these senseless murders are sitting right here in this courtroom."



## Autopsy finds man was murder victim

WILTON MANORS — Officials are investigating the homicide of a 69-year-old man found on Wednesday night in his home by his former lover.

Robert Wilber was found in his apartment in the Manor Groves Condominiums, said Wilton Manors police spokesman Sgt. Pete Bigelsen.

Police originally found no signs of trauma on the body, Bigelsen said.

They ruled the death a suspicious incident until they could get a ruling from the Broward County Medical Examiner's office.

The autopsy found his death was a homicide. Bigelsen declined to reveal the cause of Wilber's death, citing the pending investigation.

Bigelsen said personal items had been taken from the man's home.

Anyone with information about Wilber's death should call Detective Tony Lewis at 954-390-2162 or CrimeStoppers at 954-493-8477.

# Suspect to remain in jail

By DONNA PAZDERA  
Staff Writer

Reputed hit man Bernard Hunwick is the kind of guy who once bragged about forcing a drug debtor to hold shards of glass in his mouth while Hunwick punched his face, federal prosecutors said on Thursday.

He is accused of cutting a Wilton Manors bail bondsman's throat and stuffing his body in a car trunk in 1982.

And he said on tape to a confidential informant that if he ever got sent back to prison, he would kill a police officer and escape.

## Judge says alleged hit man is 'threat to the community'

But there is another side to the burly Hunwick. He was caught on videotape last year wearing his wife's wildly colorful oven mitts as he carried in a .22-caliber Ruger Model MKII equipped with a state-of-the-art silencer. He didn't want to leave his fingerprints on the pistol.

These tales and more were enough to convince U.S. Magistrate Judge Lu-

rana Snow on Thursday to hold Hunwick without bail on two counts of using interstate commerce to commit murder-for-hire and one count of using a handgun and silencer in a violent felony, plus two weapons counts.

"He is a threat to the community," Snow said.

Hunwick, 53, nicknamed "Barry the Bear," has been held in a federal de-

tention center since Nov. 17, 1998, when he was charged with seven others with trafficking cocaine. Hunwick recently was transferred from the center's general population into a special housing unit because Fort Lauderdale police had received tips that Hunwick was "reaching out" to friends, asking for cyanide — either for himself or to be used as retribution against others. Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Schwartz said.

During the 1970s and early 1980s, Hunwick was accused of, but never

PLEASE SEE **COURT** / 4B

FROM **PAGE 1B**

## Judge refuses to set bail for suspected hit man in murder-for-hire case

convicted of, numerous murders.

However, as a result of the work of a former Hunwick associate, Reid Hawley, a Broward grand jury is expected to indict Hunwick soon on murder charges stemming from the 1982 slaying of Richard Messina, a convicted cocaine smuggler and bail bondsman whose throat was slashed and body left in the trunk of a stolen car, Schwartz said in court on Thursday.

Hunwick, long a suspect in that case, as well as that of an unidentified man whose body was buried in the Everglades, resurfaced as a primary suspect in 1997 when the Fort Lauderdale Police Department's homicide squad teamed up with investigators from the Broward Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the FBI and others to open up "cold" homicide cases, Fort Lauderdale police Detective Mark Breen said.

Investigators relied on Hawley, one of

Hunwick's associates, to help them find out more about his involvement in two of the unsolved murder cases. Hawley, whose palm print was found on the trunk of the car where Messina's body was found, was given a choice by investigators: Fight murder charges or cooperate, Breen said. Hawley chose the latter.

Hawley, wearing a recording device, reunited with Hunwick in May 1998 at H2O, a swank Fort Lauderdale Beach eatery where Hunwick was the bar manager. The two hadn't seen each other in almost 20 years, but, according to court testimony, Hunwick brought up the old days without any prompting.

"We put Dickie in the trunk," Hunwick told Hawley, referring to Messina.

Dozens of tapes detail conversations between the two former comrades in crime, Schwartz said. They also talked about a pending cocaine deal that Hunwick was setting up.

It was here that Hawley drew Hunwick into a ruse: Hawley said he knew a man in Pittsburgh who had ripped off some of the same people they were dealing with in the South Florida cocaine deal. As a favor, Hawley asked Hunwick if he would kill the man in Pennsylvania.

"Good. That's what I know how to do," Hunwick said on tape.

Hunwick and Hawley flew to Pittsburgh to scope out the alleged rip-off man, who was actually an undercover FBI agent.

Later, Hunwick bought the high-powered pistol — which is used by the Navy SEALs — for \$4,000 from a man who later reported it stolen.

To be sure it could not be traced, Hunwick used a titanium drill to bore out the serial numbers on the weapon, Schwartz said.

Hunwick sported the oven mitts when he showed the gun to Hawley. He also was videotaped using the mitts to wipe off any fingerprints.

Just before he was to leave for Pittsburgh, agents charged Hunwick with planning the murder-for-hire, along with drug and weapons charges.

Hunwick despised returning to jail.

"You're better off going to hell," Hunwick told Hawley. "I don't know anyone in the other joint."

Thursday, before Hunwick was led back to the place he hated more than hell, his softer side emerged again.

He mouthed, "I love you," and blew a kiss to his wife, Lori.

02/10/99

## **Nursing home employee accused of forging checks**

WILTON MANORS — A nursing home administrator accused of pilfering more than \$18,000 from an elderly woman was arrested Tuesday and charged with exploitation of the elderly and with forgery.

Wilton Manors police say Jasmine Punsamy, 31, an assistant administrator at Windsor Place in Wilton Manors, confessed to forging the victim's name on five checks totaling \$18,030. The checks were collected and cashed between July 1997 and November 1998.

The victim's name was not released.



## Wilton Manors officers keep city, citizens safe

Several months ago, the Wilton Manors Police Department was successful in apprehending two individuals who allegedly killed a store owner on Oakland Park Boulevard. They recently were able to apprehend the two suspects involved in a violent crime at Red's Bar.

Our police officers should not be regarded as retired security guards or doughnut eating buffoons, but

should be observed as the dedicated professionals they are.

Thanks to Detective Tony Lewis and Sgt. Peter Fogelson for another fine job in protecting Wilton Manors and its citizens. I am proud of my Police Department and consider myself fortunate to live in a safe and caring community.

BARBARA BILUS  
Wilton Manors

## Fundraiser to benefit injured robbery victim.

WILTON MANORS.— An all-day fundraiser to benefit Michael Maguire, who was critically injured in a December armed robbery, will be held this Saturday at Red's Bar from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

There will be a barbecue starting at noon, and a free buffet and entertainment in the evening.

The bar is at 2610 N. Dixie Highway.

Fifty percent of all money raised will go to Maguire, 38, who was shot in the mouth and the shoulder in the Dec. 30 robbery at Red's Bar.

The money will be used to pay for his medical bills.

So far, more than \$3,000 has been raised through raffish at Red's Bar and through contributions from the Broward Roofing Contractors Association.

## LOCAL

# Witnesses wrong, suspects say

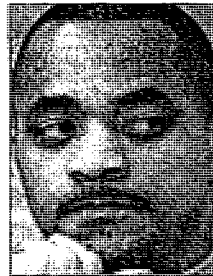
## Trial of pair in double murder gets underway

By HENRY FITZGERALD JR.  
Staff Writer

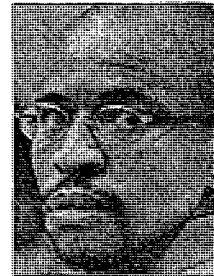
Eyewitnesses picked out Robert Rimmer and Kevin Parker as the perpetrators of an execution-style murder during the robbery of a Wilton Manors car stereo store in 1998.

But their defense attorneys say the eyewitnesses are mistaken. Rimmer and Parker were elsewhere when Aaron Knight, 31, owner of Audio Logic Store, and his employee, Bradley Krause Jr., 19, were killed, they say.

Both sides outlined their cases to a



Parker



Rimmer

Broward County jury Thursday as the trial began.

"Rimmer walked up to Aaron Knight and put a bullet into his head, then went up to Bradley Krause and executed him," prosecutor Peter Magrino told the 12-member jury.

Magrino said Rimmer and Parker entered the store at 1008 W. Oakland Park Blvd. at noon on May 2. They bound the victims' hands behind their

backs with duct tape. Then they ordered them into a back room and onto their knees.

Magrino said Rimmer asked Knight and Krause if they knew him before he shot them in the back of their heads.

Three customers who came in during the robbery also were taken to the back room and bound and gagged, but were not shot. The robbers left the store with stereo equipment worth \$12,000 to \$17,000.

Rimmer and Parker, charged with two counts of first-degree murder, face the death penalty if convicted.

Magrino said the three customers, Kimberly Davis-Burke, Joe Moore Jr. and Luis Rosario, identified Rimmer and Parker from police lineups. Fingerprints on the stolen equipment, found two weeks later in a warehouse, matched both men. Rimmer owned the getaway car, a purplish-blue Ford

Probe.

However, Richard Garfield, representing Rimmer, said Wilton Manors police and other investigators tainted the lineups. The fingerprints could be explained because Rimmer and Parker had been in the store as customers on at least three occasions.

Garfield said Rimmer's wife had the car that day from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., so he could not have used it to commit the noon robbery.

Parker's attorney, Ray Miller, said his client may have been identified as one of the robbers because he had been in the store earlier that morning.

The fingerprint evidence in the case is unreliable, Miller said, because testing occurred long after the crime.

"There's not a fingerprint expert in the world who can tell you when fingerprints were left on those boxes," Miller said.



## **Suspect in robbery found in jail on a misdemeanor**

WILTON MANORS — Detectives looking for the second suspect in the December armed robbery and shooting at Red's Bar didn't have to go far to find him.

Fritz Jackson Appolon, 22, was sitting in the Broward County Jail on a misdemeanor traffic warrant.

Sgt. Pete Bigelsen, spokesman for Wilton Manors police, said Appolon had been picked up Monday morning by another agency. He was placed on a no-bond hold pending charges of armed robbery in connection with the case.

Police think Appolon was one of two men who walked into Red's Bar, 2610 N. Dixie Highway, on the evening of Dec. 30 to rob patrons there. One of them, Michael Maguire, 38, was shot in the mouth and shoulder.

Bigelsen said detectives expect to question Appolon about the incident, as well as a rash of other bar robberies that have hit Broward County since October. Maguire remains at Broward General Medical Center in critical condition. 01/13/99 - Ft. Lauderdale

Sun Sentinel

## **Second suspect named in bar shooting, robbery**

WILTON MANORS — Police have named the second suspect they are seeking in connection with the Dec. 30 Red's Bar robbery.

Fritz Jackson Appolon, 22, is suspected in the armed robbery and attempted homicide at Red's. Patron Michael Maguire, 38, was shot in the mouth and the shoulder and remains in critical condition at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale.

He has "Fritz Dog" tattooed on his right arm and another tattoo on his right leg.

Police consider Appolon to be armed and dangerous.

Anyone with information on Appolon is asked to call Detective Tony Lewis of the Wilton Manors Police Department at 954-390-2162 or Crime Stoppers at 954-493-8477.

Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel  
January 12th, 1999

# One suspect in armed bar robbery is arrested

By KATHY BUSHOUSE  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — Police have arrested a man they think is one of two responsible for the Dec. 30 armed robbery and shooting at Red's Bar that left one patron critically wounded.

Edwin Sylvain, 20, of Fort Lauderdale, was arrested Thursday morning by Wilton Manors police. He was charged with armed robbery and attempted homicide for the early-morning incident at Red's. Another man still is being sought for the robbery, said Wilton Manors Sgt. Pete Bigelsen.

Bigelsen would not say on Thursday how police got the information that led to Sylvain's arrest. He also would

not say whether Sylvain is a suspect in any of the dozen similar robberies in Broward County since October.

"We don't know that yet," Bigelsen said. "Right now we were just concentrating on him relative to the Red's robbery."

Sylvain has an extensive criminal history, including auto theft, burglary, trespassing and traffic violations.

Police are investigating whether the Red's Bar incident is connected with about a dozen bar robberies across Broward. They think the same group may be committing these crimes.

"It's a loose-knit group of associated young adults . . . that are just using the same M.O. to do this," Bigelsen said.

In the Red's Bar robbery, police say

Sylvain and another man entered the bar at 2610 N. Dixie Highway and ordered patrons to surrender their wallets and purses. Michael Maguire, 38, resisted and was shot in the mouth and shoulder. He remains in critical condition at Broward General Medical Center.

Sylvain and the other gunman fled with about \$200 in a 1978 brown Cadillac, police said.

Bigelsen credited the work of two Wilton Manors detectives, Tony Lewis and Mike Hoelbrandt, with Sylvain's arrest.

"They've been going day and night," Bigelsen said.

Among the unsolved robberies are: the Sportsman's Lounge in Dania, the

Island City Lounge in Wilton Manors, Clover Bar in Oakland Park, Freddie's Anchor Inn and Sports Bar in Fort Lauderdale, and the Oasis Lounge and Panama Pete's Bar, both in Tamarac.

Red's Bar will hold a fund-raiser for Maguire's medical bills on Jan. 23.

On Thursday, patrons and bar employees rejoiced in the arrest.

"[The customers are] relieved. My wife is very relieved. It's good to know," said bartender Ben Shapiro, who was not at work the night of the robbery.

Shapiro said that since the robbery, the bar has taken several security measures, including the installation of lights in the parking lot, a panic button and a peephole on the front door.



## Bar owners focus on safety from bandits

By KATHY BUSHOUSE  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS. — Local bar owners are hoping to raise awareness — and reward money — in the wake of a string of increasingly violent robberies at area taverns.

More than 75 owners, managers and bar patrons crowded into the banquet room of the William Thies and Sons beer distributors in Wilton Manors to learn how to prevent robberies at their establishments, plus get progress reports from police.

The meeting came almost a week after the latest and most violent robbery at Red's Bar in Wilton Manors, where bar patron Michael Maguire, 38, was shot twice when he tried to hit one of the robbers with a chair. Maguire is still in critical condition at Broward General Medical Center.

"This is our responsibility, and I think we better start doing something about it before someone gets killed," said Joe Hernandez, owner of Island City Lounge in Wilton Manors. Hernandez' bar has been a robbers' target, and he organized the meeting with his colleagues as a show of force.

Since October, at least a half-dozen bars across Broward — from Pembroke Park to Wilton Manors — have been targeted by robbers, who typically wear ski masks and gloves to conceal their identities. The robbers usually strike in the early morning hours, but detectives said the time has varied from as early as 10:30 p.m. to as late as 2:40 a.m.

On Tuesday, bar owners agreed to hang up reward posters to help goad potential informants into calling police. So far, they've gotten a standard \$1,000 commitment from Crime Stoppers of Broward County toward their reward money for the capture of these robbers. However, Hernandez said they hope to raise thousands more.

Also, a Jan. 23 benefit for Maguire is being arranged by Red's Bar to help pay for his medical bills.

To prevent becoming victims, some bar owners like Linda Hicks, whose family owns Ye Olde Dugout in Pompano Beach, have already taken extra precautions. Although she knows most of the people that frequent her bar, she has installed motion detector lights outside.

"The customers, basically, we all know," Hicks said. "But that still doesn't stop a robbery."

# Robber shoots bar patron during \$200 heist

Police think incident is one of several by group targeting taverns

By DONNA PAZDERA  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — A bar patron was critically injured early Wednesday after he was shot while fighting a robber, police said.

Police think the culprits are part of a band of robbers who have been targeting local taverns for months, said

Wilton Manors police Sgt. Pete Bigelsen.

According to police:

About 1:30 a.m., two gunmen walked into Red's Bar, 2610 N. Dixie Highway, and ordered patrons to turn over their wallets and purses. One of the patrons, Michael Lee Maguire, resisted, grabbed a barstool and used it to push one of the gunmen against the wall. The gunman shot Maguire, 38, twice, once in the mouth and once in the shoulder. After the shooting, the robbers fled in a 1978 brown Cadillac. They made off with about \$200.

Maguire ran outside, flagged down a

motorist and was taken to Broward General Medical Center, where he was in critical condition.

Bigelsen said about a half-dozen area taverns have experienced similar robberies in recent months.

The other bars robbed in the same manner are: the Sportsman's Lounge in Dania, the Island City Lounge in Wilton Manors, Clover Bar in Oakland Park, Freddie's Anchor Inn and Sports Bar in Fort Lauderdale, and the Oasis Lounge and Panama Pete's Bar, both in Tamarac. All were hit in October.

The gunmen in Wednesday's robbery are described as black males.

One is in his early 20s, has a stocky build, is 5 feet 7 inches tall and 175 pounds. He has a mustache, gold teeth, wore an orange or red jacket and long denim shorts. The second man is in his early 20s, wore a white T-shirt and an orange ski mask.

Their car had primer gray paint on the roof, trunk and rear fenders. There was masking tape on the passenger-side parking light and a red Christmas ribbon on the grille.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call Wilton Manors police at 954-390-2162 or Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-8477.

09/22/98 SUN SENTINEL

# Man who ordered limo sought in Wilton Manors killing

By DONNA PAZDERA  
Staff Writer

**WILTON MANORS** — Police want to talk to a man who tried to use a homicide victim's credit card to order limousine service.

Investigators are looking for Floyd Scott Perkins, 44, whom police think used Charles Squires' credit card on Saturday night. Squires, 64, of the 800 block of Northeast 20th Drive, was found stabbed to death in his home on Saturday night, officials said. He was killed late Friday or early Saturday.

About 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, a man called for a white stretch limousine from Squires' home. When the chauffeur arrived, an unkempt man with matted shoulder-length brown hair,

blue jeans and a dark blue shirt met him and said he called for the vehicle, said the chauffeur, who asked that his name not be used because he feared for his safety with the suspect still at large.

"He said, 'I need girls, I need girls. Can you hook me up with girls?'" the chauffeur said. Then, the man said, "You're not going to say anything are you? I need you to be discreet."

The chauffeur said while he could not help the man with finding women, he could be discreet. The man entered the vehicle and gave the chauffeur a credit card. When the driver questioned the man about his appearance not matching the gray-haired man depicted on Squires' credit card, the man could not give a good explanation.

He gave the chauffeur Squires' driver's license, but that picture did not match either.

When asked for his signature, the man scribbled "Charles Squires," but it did not match the signatures on the driver's license or the credit card, the chauffeur said.

The man fled when the chauffeur would not accept the credit card. The chauffeur called Wilton Manors police because he was suspicious that the man walked in the opposite direction of Squires' house.

"I should have taken off after him," the chauffeur said.

When police arrived, there was no answer at Squires' door, so an officer went inside. There, he found Squires' body. Squires' body was wrapped in

plastic, according to neighbors and the chauffeur.

Police would not say how they deduced Perkins is the one who tried to use the victim's credit card. But, Perkins matches a general description given by neighbors and the chauffeur as the man last seen with Squires and as the one who called for the limousine.

Perkins is described as a drifter who has a criminal past in New York and Florida. He is 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs about 160 pounds. He has green eyes and brown hair.

Anyone with information about Perkins' whereabouts should call Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS or Detective Daniel James at 954-390-2150.



# Wilton Manors man killed

By DONNA PAZDERA  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — The driver of a white stretch limousine unwittingly led police to a murder scene late Saturday.

Charles Squires, 64, of the 800 block of Northeast 20th Drive, was found dead in his home.

Squires' neighbors said he was a retired social worker from New York, who moved to the quiet, Footbridge condominium community about two years ago.

Police and neighbors gave this account of events leading to the discovery of Squires' body:

The limo pulled into the parking lot of the condominiums about 6 p.m. at a customer's request. When the customer

## Limo driver's call leads police to homicide in condominium

tried to pay for the limo with a credit card, he was rebuffed because he did not resemble the photograph on the card.

The customer then fled. The limo driver called Wilton Manors police to report the incident. When an officer arrived, he discovered the card belonged to Squires. He knocked on Squires' door, got no answer and then became suspicious, Sgt. Pete Bigelsen said.

Police said it was a homicide, but would not disclose the cause of Squires'

death. They would not say whether they have a suspect.

Squires was a well-traveled and very articulate man who especially was fond of Turkish culture and music, according to neighbors, who did not want their names used.

A couple who lived next-door to Squires said he had an impressive collection of old art books and classic literature.

On Friday night, neighbors saw Squires with a young man, described as unkempt, with brown hair, a medium

build and about 5 feet 10. About 7:30 p.m., a neighbor saw the man trying to get into Squires' car. She said he seemed to have some trouble getting into the car but when he got inside, he sat there for a while.

About 1:30 a.m., a neighbor noticed the man walking behind the complex. A few hours later, other neighbors reported seeing the hood raised on Squires' car and the man crouching in the bushes outside.

When a neighbor approached Squires' home, the man came out from the bushes and said he was waiting for an auto club to show up.

Squires' vehicle remained in the lot until police discovered his body. The car has since been towed to police headquarters.

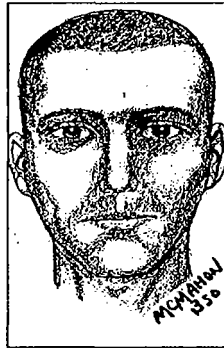
09/02/98

## DIGEST

Staff and wire reports

### Rapist breaks in, attacks woman in her apartment

WILTON MANORS — Police are looking for a man they say broke into a woman's apartment early on Monday and repeatedly raped her at knifepoint.



Sketch of suspect

The rapist picked his victim by trying various sliding glass doors at an apartment complex in the 2500 block of North Andrews Avenue in Wilton Manors, Police Sgt. Pete Bigelsen said. He forced open the door about 4 a.m. and armed himself with a knife.

He then raped the woman several times, forced her to clean herself up and threatened to kill her if she called police, Bigelsen said.

The rapist is white, 5 feet 8 inches tall, in his mid- to late 20s, with a muscular medium build, brown eyes, tan complexion and a close-shaved head. He speaks in street slang with a gang-type vocabulary. Before he would speak, his lower jaw would open and move sideways.

Anyone with information should call Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS, or Wilton Manors Police Detective Daniel James at 954-390-2161.

# Suspect in woman's murder kills self

By FRANK FERNANDEZ  
Herald Staff Writer

A Wilton Manors man suspected of killing his girlfriend shot himself to death after Georgia police cornered him at a convenience store just over the Florida line, police said.

James Tanzini, 48, was in a car reported stolen by a friend of his when he shot himself outside a Kingsland, Ga., convenience store, said Wilton Manors police Sgt. Pete Bigelsen.

Tanzini was sought in the slaying of his girlfriend, Donna Zarfes Driscoll, Saturday night in Wilton Manors.

"The motive was domestic violence," Bigelsen said. "She wanted the relationship to end, wanted him to move out, and he just wanted it to go on."

Days before the murder, Tanzini allegedly had talked to friends about killing Driscoll, Bigelsen said. The couple argued before the shooting Saturday in the home they shared with Anne Brandt.

Driscoll, 41, was shot five times with a .38-caliber gun, Bigelsen said. One slug sent her to the ground, then she was shot four more times as she lay on the ground, he said.

Brandt, who owns the house at 208 NW 22nd St., pounded on the door of her next-door neighbor, Horace Holmes, between 9:30 and 10 p.m., pleading for him to call 911.

Driscoll was declared dead at the scene.

Police traced Tanzini as he headed north on Interstate 95 in Florida. He made several telephone calls to friends asking about Driscoll's condition and found out she had died.

Friends urged him to surrender, then they called police, Bigelsen said.

Wilton Manors investigators alerted other police agencies in Florida and Georgia that a warrant for Tanzini's arrest had been issued. A Kingsland police officer on Sunday spotted the car that was reported stolen and called for backup.

Tanzini stepped out of the store as two more cruisers arrived, blocking him in the parking lot.

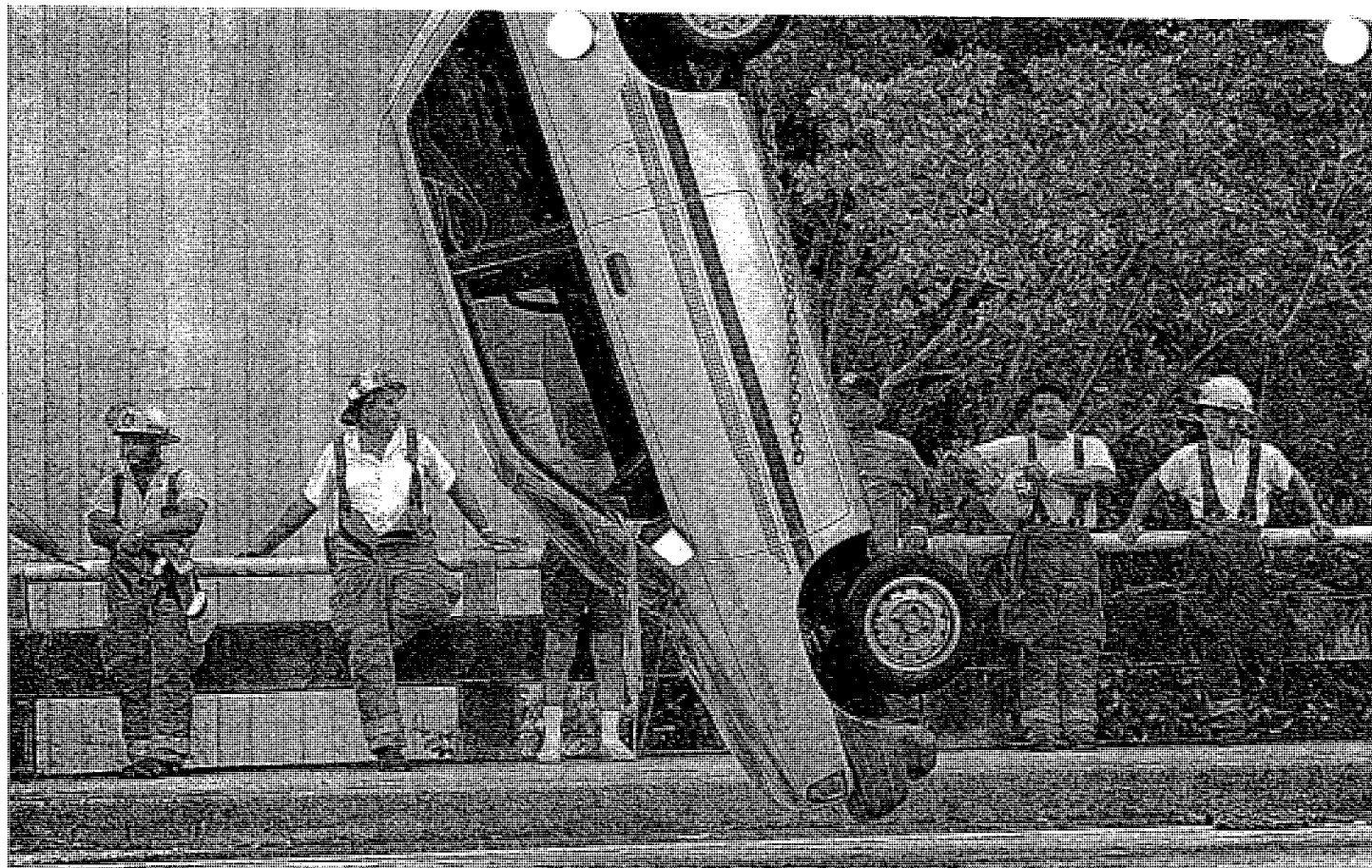
Tanzini then got back into the car and shot himself, Bigelsen said.

Wilton Manors investigators plan to test the handgun to see whether it also was used to kill Driscoll, Bigelsen said.





Firefighters watch from the Dixie Highway bridge as the Ford Festiva owned by Steven Trotter, above, is pulled from the north fork of the Middle River in Wilton Manors on Wednesday. The car crashed into the water, but Trotter told police he was not behind the wheel when the accident occurred.



Staff photo/SEAN DOUGHERTY

07/16/98  
Sun  
Sentinel

# Manors police: Car crash no stunt

By JODY A. BENJAMIN  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — Steven Trotter has catapulted over Niagara Falls in a barrel and dangled 203 feet from a cable off the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay.

On Wednesday, he crashed into the north fork of the Middle River.

But Wilton Manors police, who pulled Trotter's 1994 Ford Festiva out of the water in the 2800 block of North Dixie Highway, said this was no daredevil stunt.

About 6:45 a.m., the car careened off the road and plunged into 10 to 12 feet of murky water. Trotter, 38, freed

## Daredevil uninjured, but questions unanswered after underwater search

himself by crawling out the driver's side window. Then he called for help, police said.

"Soaking wet," is how Sgt. Peter Bigelsen described Trotter when police arrived. "But he was not injured."

According to police:

The bartender's breath smelled of alcohol. But Trotter, whose driver's license is suspended, told officers he was not behind the wheel at the time

of the accident.

Trotter said another man had been driving his car while a third rode in the back seat. Trotter said he did not know whether the other two had escaped the crash.

That set off a frantic two-hour search by police, who called in Broward Sheriff's Office divers, Fort Lauderdale police and the Fort Lauderdale Fire Department.

A couple of hours into the search,

Trotter changed his story, police said.

He said that there was one other man inside the car with him — the driver. He did not know the man's name. The two had just met.

Trotter said the man ran off after pulling himself out of the wreck.

Police never found the driver.

"We've got no witnesses to dispute what he's told us so we have to go with the facts as we have them," Bigelsen said. "Case closed."

Trotter walked away from the accident. He faces no charges from the incident.

He could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

06/11/98

**DIGEST**  
Staff reports

## **Part-time Manors worker electrocuted in his home**

WILTON MANORS — A part-time city employee was electrocuted on Tuesday while working on a home remodeling project, police said.

Kim Ronald Hansen, who also worked as a Miami Beach fireman/paramedic for the past 12 years, was working in an attic crawl space about 2:20 p.m. when the accident occurred, police spokesman Pete Bigelsen said.

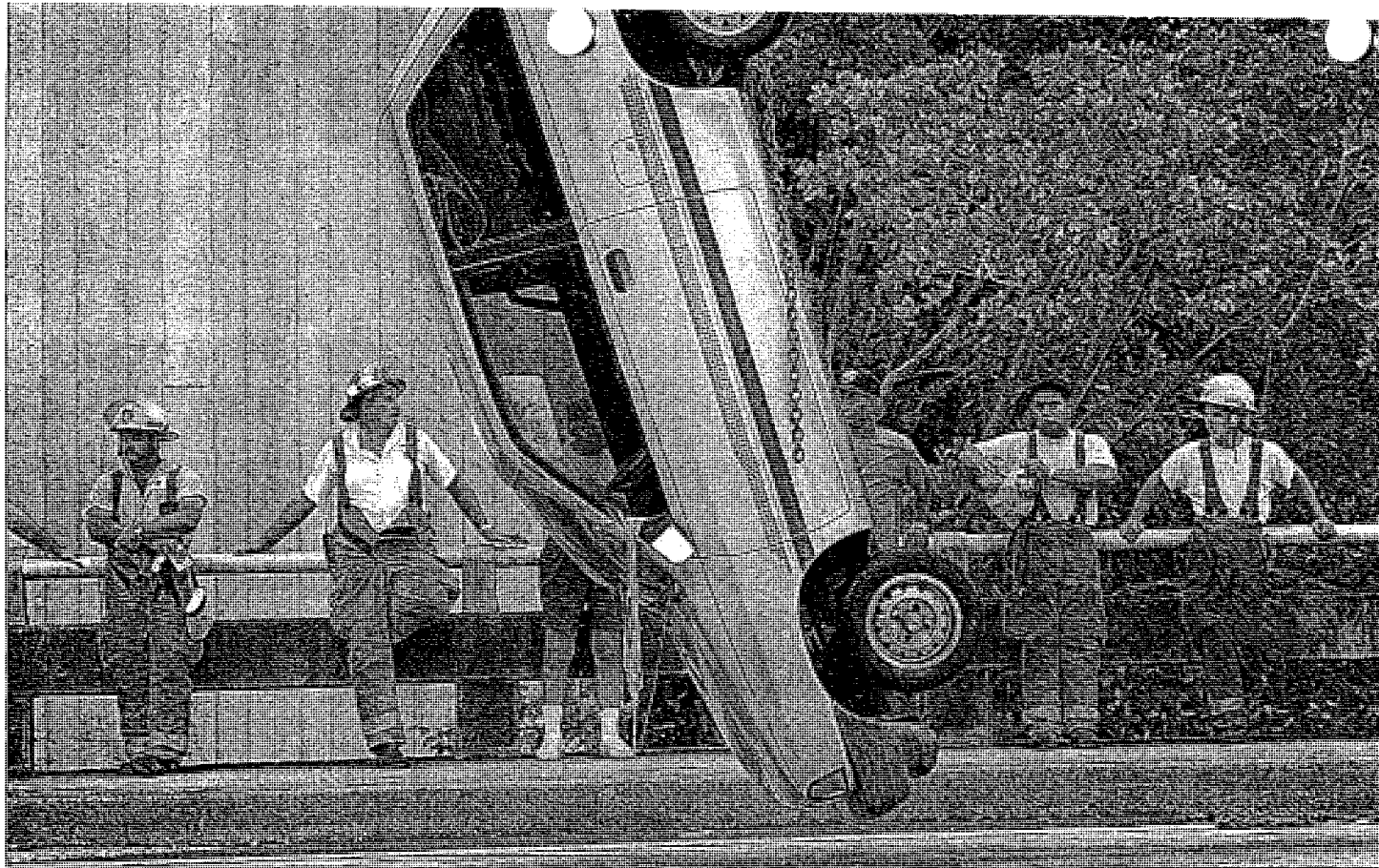
Hansen, 31, was treated on the scene by fellow paramedics, but was pronounced dead on arrival at Cleveland Clinic Hospital minutes later, Bigelsen said.

Funeral services for Hansen, a former member of the Wilton Manors Volunteer Fire Department, will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Clement's Catholic Church.





Firefighters watch from the Dixie Highway bridge as the Ford Festiva owned by Steven Trotter, above, is pulled from the north fork of the Middle River in Wilton Manors on Wednesday. The car crashed into the water, but Trotter told police he was not behind the wheel when the accident occurred.



Staff photo/SEAN DOUGHERTY

07/16/98  
Sun  
Sexton

# Manors police: Car crash no stunt

By JODY A. BENJAMIN  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — Steven Trotter has catapulted over Niagara Falls in a barrel and dangled 203 feet from a cable off the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay.

On Wednesday, he crashed into the north fork of the Middle River.

But Wilton Manors police, who pulled Trotter's 1994 Ford Festiva out of the water in the 2800 block of North Dixie Highway, said this was no daredevil stunt.

About 6:45 a.m., the car careened off the road and plunged into 10 to 12 feet of murky water. Trotter, 38, freed

## Daredevil uninjured, but questions unanswered after underwater search

himself by crawling out the driver's side window. Then he called for help, police said.

"Soaking wet," is how Sgt. Peter Bigelsen described Trotter when police arrived. "But he was not injured."

According to police:

The bartender's breath smelled of alcohol. But Trotter, whose driver's license is suspended, told officers he was not behind the wheel at the time

of the accident.

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He could not be reached for comment Wednesday.



## DEATHS

# Electrocuted firefighter Kim Hansen

By DEBRA FRANCO  
Herald Staff Writer

The firefighter's prayer described Kim Hansen's willingness to help people: "I want to fill my calling and give the best in me, to guard my every neighbor and protect his property."

But Hansen's colleagues at the Miami Beach Fire Department are reciting the verse's last two lines: "And if according to my fate, I am to lose my life, please bless with your protecting hand my children and my wife."

Hansen, 31, was electrocuted Tuesday while making repairs to his Wilton Manors home, which he had recently purchased with his 26-year-old wife, Jody, and two young children.

"It's just so unbelievable. One minute he's here, and the next he's not," Assistant Fire Chief Thomas Thompson said. "Everybody's pretty crushed."

When he wasn't working as an inspector for the Miami Beach Fire Department or volunteering at the Wilton Manors Fire Department, Hansen restored old houses.

"He lived for working on houses, and he died working on houses," his wife said. "I can at least take some comfort in that. He died doing what he loved."

Hansen was working in the attic of his home with another off-duty firefighter at the time of the accident.

Born in California, Hansen moved to South Florida as a youngster. He met his future wife when she was still in high school. They would have celebrated their sixth anniversary this year.

In 1995, Hansen won first place in the Jet-Ski Racing World Championships and set a world record.

He joined the Miami Beach Fire Department 11 years ago, working his way through the ranks as a firefighter and a paramedic. His most recent assignment was to the department's fire prevention unit, inspecting popular South Beach nightclubs and enforcing crowd limits.

"He was very well-liked



**KIM HANSEN:** Miami Beach firefighter died while working on his Wilton Manors home.

*'He lived for working on houses, and he died working on houses. I can at least take some comfort in that. He died doing what he loved.'*

**JODY HANSEN,**  
wife of victim

throughout the department," Jordan said. "He took the job extremely seriously. When Kim was on the job, you could rest assured that it would be a job well done."

Hansen became a firefighter because of his desire to help others, his wife said.

"He was there to help anybody," she said. "All you had to do was call him, and he'd be there."

In addition to his wife, Hansen is survived by his 2-year-old son, Justin, his 10-month-old daughter, Alyssa, as well as his parents and a sister.

Visitation is set for 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. today at Kalis Funeral Home, 2505 N. Dixie Hwy., Wilton Manors. A prayer service will be at 7 p.m. today. Mass will be said at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Clement's Catholic Church, 2900 N. Andrews Ave., Wilton Manors.

06/11/98  
**DIGEST**  
Staff reports

## Part-time Manors worker electrocuted in his home

**WILTON MANORS** — A part-time city employee was electrocuted on Tuesday while working on a home remodeling project, police said.

Kim Ronald Hansen, who also worked as a Miami Beach fireman/paramedic for the past 12 years, was working in an attic crawl space about 2:20 p.m. when the accident occurred, police spokesman Pete Bigelsen said.

Hansen, 31, was treated on the scene by fellow paramedics, but was pronounced dead on arrival at Cleveland Clinic Hospital minutes later, Bigelsen said.

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The Miami Herald  
Broward Section - 1 BR  
Fri, May 29, 1998

To

Sgt Bigelsen

From Dan

Keefe

## Ex-convict indicted in killings at Wilton Manors electronics store

A suspect in the May 2 slayings of two electronics store employees in Wilton Manors was indicted by a Broward grand jury on a slew of charges, including two counts of first-degree murder.

The grand jury indicted Robert M. Rimmer, 30, on two counts of first-degree murder in the shooting deaths of Bradley Krause Jr., 19, and Aaron Knight, 31, at Audio Logic, 1008 W. Oakland Park Blvd. in Wilton Manors.

Two men entered the store and held several customers at gunpoint. They loaded alarm and audio equipment and customers' wallets into a faded blue Ford Probe. The men later returned

and Krause and Knight, both of Plantation, were shot. Police still are seeking the second suspect.

In addition to the murder charges, Rimmer was indicted on three counts of armed robbery, four counts of armed kidnapping and a count each of attempted armed robbery and aggravated assault. His arrest caused a shakeup in the Department of Corrections and resulted in a probation officer, Linda Y. Brown, being stripped of her duties.

Rimmer, a two-time armed robber, was one of 113 former convicts Brown was in charge of overseeing.

— SABRINA L. MILLER

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# Parole officer under fire again

## 3 of her ex-cons charged with 4 murders in 2 years

By **LANE KELLEY**  
and **LUISA YANEZ**  
Staff Writers

The Fort Lauderdale man charged on Sunday with the double murder in Wilton Manors on May 2 would likely have been in jail the day of the shootings if his parole officer had reported his March arrest for domestic battery.

On Monday, the parole officer, already under fire for shoddy supervision of ex-cons, was yanked from her job for failing to report the March 25 arrest of Robert M. Rimmer. Three of her parolees have been charged with four mur-

ders in the past two years.

Linda Y. Brown, was reassigned to a desk job while her bosses determine whether she fumbled supervision of Rimmer, 30, of Fort Lauderdale, who was charged on Sunday in the May 2 execution-style slayings of two auto shop workers.

Records show Brown, 41, a 12-year department veteran, never informed the Florida Parole Commission of Rimmer's domestic violence arrest in Fort Lauderdale.

"We have learned that she was notified of Mr. Rimmer's arrest but

PLEASE SEE **OFFICER** / 12A

### VIOLATIONS UNDER INVESTIGATION

Three parolees assigned to Linda Y. Brown

■ **ROBERT RIMMER:** Assigned to Brown in April 1997. Charged with domestic violence for attack on wife on March 25, 1998, a parole violation. Brown was informed of Rimmer's parole violation, but never took action. On Sunday, Rimmer was arrested and charged with a double murder at a Wilton Manors audio shop.

■ **CHRISTOPHER MICHELSON:** Released April 1 after serving eight years for being a habitual offender, Michelson, 33, never checked in with Brown, who apparently never went looking for him. Arrested April 4 and charged with drug possession and shoplifting. On April 11, Michelson allegedly led a gang that stormed Everglades Correctional Institution to free an inmate. While fleeing from police the following day, Michelson allegedly drove the car that killed an Oakland Park motorist.

■ **CHRISTINE SHARROW:** Freed on parole in 1994, a condition of Sharrow's release was that she not abuse



Rimmer



Michelson



Sharrow

alcohol. Sharrow had been convicted of killing her boyfriend in Polk County. Sharrow's live-in companion said as Sharrow slipped into a depression and alcohol abuse, she called Brown for help, but got no response.

In June 1996, Sharrow was accused of strangling her granddaughter and stuffing her body in a freezer. She is awaiting trial.

## OFFICER

FROM PAGE 1A

## Parole officer is under fire for poor supervision

look no action," said Kerry Flak, spokeswoman for the state Department of Corrections. "If she had taken appropriate action, there probably would have been a warrant issued for his arrest. He would have had a hearing and the parole commission would have decided whether to send him back to prison to serve out his sentence."

Brown has received numerous reprimands for being lax, according to her personnel file. In the last two years, three ex-cons she has supervised have been arrested for killing four people in three separate incidents.

In the latest case, Aaron Knight, 31, and Bradley Krause Jr., 19, were both shot in the back of the head while bound with duct tape at Knight's Audio Logic store on Oakland Park Boulevard.

In early April, one of Brown's parolees, Christopher Michelson, masterminded a prison breakout in Miami-Dade County and killed an Oakland Park motorist while fleeing from police. And in June 1996, Christine Sharrow was charged with strangling her 18-month-old granddaughter and stuffing the body into a freezer.

Records show that all three of the ex-cons should have been back behind bars for alleged parole violations Brown failed to report to the parole commission.

"We are looking into all her individual files," said Joyce Haley, Region 4 division director who supervises Brown's office. "We won't have any comment until the investigation is complete."

Brown, who was assigned 110 high-risk ex-cons, was already under investigation for her handling of the Michelson case. Michelson, 33, led the breakout from Everglades Correctional Institution in south Miami-Dade that ended with the death of motorist Dennis Palmer, 55, of Oakland Park.

While Michelson was plotting the breakout, Brown apparently lost track of him. He had been released from prison April 1 and was arrested four days later in Fort Lauderdale. Although jail rosters are given to parole officers, Brown never found out he had been arrested.

A week later, Michelson led the

breakout and was driving the black Saturn that slammed into Palmer's Nissan, killing the car salesman. Last week, Michelson and escaped convict Jay Junior Sigler, 31, were indicted on first-degree murder charges in Palmer's death.

Brown also came under fire in 1996 for her handling of Sharrow, 43, out on parole for the murder of her boyfriend.

Sharrow's friends and relatives said she began abusing alcohol, a violation of her parole, before the slaying, and appealed to Brown's office for help. Sharrow's former live-in companion said Sharrow slipped into depression and alcohol abuse and had sought help from Brown but her calls went unheeded. In June 1996, Sharrow was accused of strangling her granddaughter and stuffing the toddler's body into a freezer.

Though Rimmer is the chief suspect in the Wilton Manors shootings, police continue to search for a second man who was with him.

The second suspect is described as a husky or muscular black male, about 5-foot-7 and 190 pounds, with a distinct body odor. He was wearing a blue T-shirt and blue shorts the day of the killing.

Bigelsen said Rimmer went to the Audio Logic store at 1008 W. Oakland Park Blvd. in January or February and got into a shouting match with Knight.

"He was a very disgruntled customer," Bigelsen said.

Wilton Manors police then found that Rimmer owned a 1989 Ford Probe — matching the description of the getaway car — and learned he was living in an apartment in northwest Fort Lauderdale.

Fort Lauderdale police staked out Rimmer's apartment late Saturday night and saw him leave in another car, a 1978 Olds Delta 88. Then Rimmer led police on a 20-minute chase and, while speeding over the Southeast Third Avenue bridge in downtown Fort Lauderdale, tossed two guns out the window. One is believed to be the murder weapon, a .380 semiautomatic pistol; the other is a Walther PPK, which Bigelsen said had been stolen from Knight's shop during the murders.

Friends of the victims in the Wilton Manors shootings have placed flowers and cards in front of the Oakland Park auto shop. Nour Muhsen, manager of the Chevron station next door to the shop, said Krause came into his store that Saturday morning and bought chocolate milk and a candy bar.



# Police capture suspect in Manors dual-killing

## Man was released from prison early

By **LAUREN ROTH**  
Herald Writer

An ex-convict with a record of armed robbery, released early from prison, has been arrested in the deadly holdup of a Wilton Manors car audio shop.

Robert M. Rimmer, 30, was arrested early Sunday in front of his Fort Lauderdale home, said Wilton Manors Police Sgt. Pete Bigelsen.

Rimmer is accused of killing Bradley Krause Jr., 19, and Aaron Knight, 31, both of Plantation, in the May 2 robbery of Audio Logic, 1008 W. Oakland Park Blvd.

Rimmer, of the 700 block of Northwest 14th Terrace, was

released from prison in 1994 after serving three years of a nine-year sentence for armed robbery. He was among the thousands of convicts who saw the state shave time off their sentences to make room for new inmates in Florida prisons between 1987 and 1994, Bigelsen said.

Rimmer's latest arrest came after an employee at Audio Logic, which sells and installs car sound and alarm systems, told police that a composite sketch of the gunman looked like a disgruntled customer, Bigelsen said.

A customer who witnessed the robbery confirmed the identification from a photo lineup, Bigelsen said. A vehicle registration check showed that Rimmer owned a car

PLEASE SEE WILTON MANORS, 3BR

## Man held in ~~WILTON MANORS AUDIO SHOP~~ killings

WILTON MANORS, FROM 1BR

matching the description of the getaway car.

Fort Lauderdale police spotted him Sunday morning in another car. Rimmer led officers on a 20-minute chase that ended in front of his home about 2 a.m., Bigelsen said.

Rimmer, who works for a landscaping company, was held without bail late Sunday at the Broward County Jail, charged with first-degree murder and armed robbery.

Anthony Lambert, the assistant deacon of New Hope United Holy Church in Fort Lauderdale, said

Rimmer was trying to get an education and straighten out his life.

"We had a lot of sit-down meetings. We talked about trying to work things out, instead of ending up in jail or the graveyard," Lambert said.

Rimmer, who taught a Bible class for kids, was scheduled to help run a youth program this week, Lambert said. He was taking classes in mechanics.

"He seemed on the way to recovery," Lambert said.

But police said Rimmer was one of two men who robbed the shop of alarm and audio equipment,

took customers' wallets and jewelry, then ran back in and shot Krause and Knight in the head.

The second robber, who had not been identified, remained on the loose. Rimmer has refused to talk to police, Bigelsen said.

Rimmer has been in and out of Florida jails since he was 19.

In 1987, he was convicted with another man of stealing car keys, house keys and \$30. A shot was fired, but no one was hit.

Another armed robbery conviction sent him back to prison in 1991, records show. He was released three years later, Bigelsen

said.

His most recent brush with the law came March 25, when Fort Lauderdale police arrested him on two misdemeanor counts of domestic violence.

Lambert said Rimmer told him the arrest resulted from an argument he had with his wife in a bank parking lot.

## LOCAL

# Suspect arrested in Manors killings

By LANE KELLEY  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — Police have arrested a convicted felon and charged him with the May 2 execution-style murders of an auto shop owner and one of his employees.

Robert Malcom Rimmer, 30, led police on a high-speed chase in Fort Lauderdale late Saturday — straight to his house. Police arrested Rimmer in front of his home at 736 NW 14th Terrace in Fort Lauderdale and charged him with two counts of murder and one count of armed robbery.

Wilton Manors Police said Rimmer was identified as a key suspect by a witness to the killing of Aaron Knight, 31, and Bradley J. Krause Jr., 19, who were both shot in the back of the head while working at Knight's Audio Logic store at 1008 W. Oakland Park Blvd.

Rimmer owned a car similar to the

## Convicted felon charged in slaying of audio store owner, his employee

getaway car, a faded purplish-blue 1988 or 1989 Ford Probe, according to a police statement. Police got warrants to search the car and arrest him.

Fort Lauderdale Police, who helped catch Rimmer, later saw him driving a different car and began chasing him, said Detective Clinton Ward.

"He threw his gun Rimmer out of the car during the chase, and the gun was retrieved," Ward said. Ward said he didn't know whether the gun was the one used in



the murders.

Rimmer served three years on an armed-robbery conviction at North Florida Reception Center. He was convicted in 1991 but obtained early release in September 1994, according to a police statement.

Knight, who owned the Audio Logic shop, and Krause, an employee, were killed when bandits entered the store on a Saturday afternoon, took them to a back room and made them kneel on the floor and bound them with duct tape. Three customers who came in during the robbery were also taken to a back room and were bound and gagged. The robbers shot Knight and Krause, but spared the customers.

The bandits stole all of the store's

money and emptied it of high-end radio equipment and alarms.

Police had been looking for at least two and maybe three men in connection with the murders. A news release issued Sunday by the Wilton Manors Police Department said only Rimmer had been arrested. Wilton Manors detectives could not be reached Sunday for more details.

Two women who were at Rimmer's residence on Sunday refused to answer questions.

Jeanie Fischer, who owns a window-tinting shop two doors west of Knight's store, said shop owners have been more watchful since the shooting. She said everyone is still stunned by the crime.

"In a million years, you wouldn't think this would happen," Fischer said. "This is an extreme case, where somebody comes in and murders somebody so openly."

## Reward offered in killings

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the second man involved in the May 2 double killing in Wilton Manors.

The victims, Aaron N. Knight, 31, and Bradley Krause Jr., 19, were shot at Knight's auto security store, Audio Logic, 1008 W. Oakland Park Blvd., in a robbery.

Wilton Manors police on Sunday arrested Robert M. Rimmer, 30, of Fort Lauderdale.

But police think a second man was involved, fitting the following description: a husky or muscular black male, about 25 years old, about 5 feet 7 inches tall and weighing 190 pounds. Witnesses said he wore a blue T-shirt, medium blue shorts and a cap.

Anyone with information should call Florida Department of Law Enforcement Special Agent Bart Ingram at 954-958-5400; Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS; or Wilton Manors Detective Tony Lewis at 954-390-2150.

The men the store of money, high-end audio equipment and alarms, then left in a faded purple-blue 1988 or 1989 Ford Probe, police said. Rimmer owns a 1989 Probe, police said.

Rimmer has been charged with two counts of first-degree murder and armed robbery. He is being held in the Broward County Jail.



# Killers remain at large

5-5-98

## Police seek help in solving audio-store case

By **CONNIE PILOTO**  
Herald Staff Writer

The robbers who killed two employees at a Wilton Manors audio shop first tied up the male customers and forced a mother and her 3-year-old daughter to kneel beside the men, then spent 30 minutes looting the store Saturday.

The robbers loaded alarm and audio equipment and customer wallets and jewelry into their car before hopping in to drive away, Wilton Manors police said Tuesday.

They were in no hurry.

Then, almost as an afterthought, the suspects ran back into Audio Logic, 1008 W. Oakland Park Blvd., and shot each of the employees in the head with a .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol, said Wilton Manors Lt. Pete Bigelsen.

Today, four days after the slayings, police have little to go on.

They don't think the slayings are related to a botched robbery of a Meineke Discount Mufflers in Plantation last week. An employee was killed in that robbery.

Investigators have released a composite sketch of the suspect they think fired the shots and a description of the getaway car, hoping someone will lead them to the killers.



**Suspect**

Dead are Aaron Knight and Bradley Krause Jr., both of Plantation. They were shot point-blank in the back of their heads.

Knight, 31, was a co-owner of the business and Krause, 19, had worked there for several years.

"The suspects had probably been there before," Bigelsen said. "To have some work done or for an estimate."

The customers described the robbers as streetwise and calm. They were familiar with the shop.

Police in Broward, Dade and Palm Beach are looking for a bluish-purple late '80s Ford Probe with peeling window tint and a headlight in the up position.

The main suspect was described as a black male, six feet to six feet two inches tall, weighing 150 to 160 pounds with a thin mustache and light complexion. He was wearing a light-colored baseball cap, a T-shirt and blue jeans.

"I have a gut feeling that the main shooter is really hard and cold," Bigelsen said. "Looking at the way he positioned the bodies and the way he did things, he probably has done prison time and knows about basic police training."

The second suspect was described as a black man, about five feet six inches tall with a husky build.

He was wearing a baseball cap, blue T-shirt and medium blue shorts. He appeared dirty and grungy, witnesses told police.

Anyone with information is asked to call Wilton Manors Detective Danny James at (954) 390-2150 or Crime Stoppers at (954) 493-8477.

# Suspect held in Wilton Manors rape

By **AMY VERNON**  
Herald Staff Writer

A convicted felon wanted in New York for armed robbery was arrested Thursday in the New Year's Day rape and robbery of a 76-year-old Wilton Manors woman.

Michael Junior, 29, also known as Michael Soto, was arrested about 7 p.m. at his brother's house in Fort Lauderdale.

Police said it was Junior

who came to the elderly woman's door Wednesday morning and asked to use the phone. The woman let him in, and he made a call before grabbing her by the throat and forcing her into the bedroom, where he bound her hands and feet, then raped her.

The attacker stole \$60, two pieces of jewelry and the keys to the woman's apartment and car, though he did not take the car, police said.

Junior, who once lived in the Fort Lauderdale area, was convicted in 1990 of violently resisting police officers and in 1989 of disorderly intoxication and prowling.

Wilton Manors Police Sgt. Pete Bigelsen said an outstanding warrant seeks Junior's arrest on seven counts of armed robbery in New York.

# Woman bound, raped, robbed

## Wilton Manors neighbors outraged

By TRISH POWER  
Herald Staff Writer

A 76-year-old Wilton Manors woman was bound, robbed and raped New Year's morning after letting a stranger into her apartment to use the phone.

The trouble started between 7:30 and 8 a.m. when the woman heard someone knocking relentlessly on a neighbor's door. She opened her door, looked out and saw a man she didn't know a few doors away. She went back inside, police said.

"He picks up on her opening the door, then starts talking to her through her open window," Wilton Manors Sgt. Pete Bigelsen said.

The man — described as Hispanic, 25 to 30 years old, about six feet tall, 160 to 180 pounds, with a small mustache and a short military-style haircut — asked whether he could use her phone to call the neighbor. She allowed the man, dressed in a black T-shirt and white jeans, inside.

"He sounded convincing," Bigelsen said.

Once inside, the man used the phone, then walked over to the woman, grabbed her by the throat and told her not to scream. He forced her into her bedroom, bound her hands and feet, then raped her.

He left the home with \$60, two pieces of jewelry and the woman's house and car keys — but not the car, Bigelsen said.

The woman freed herself and called police.

"She walked out under her own steam," neighbor Annette Alvarez said. She was taken to a local hospital, where she was treated for facial and throat injuries. She was staying with a friend late Wednesday, police said.

"She's strong. She told the detective she's doing OK," Bigelsen said. She had her locks changed Wednesday.

News of the assault spread quickly through the aging two-story complex on Andrews Avenue where the woman has lived for many years.

Resident Rebecca Haag learned about the attack when

PLEASE SEE RAPE, 3B

## Attack on woman shocks neighbors

RAPE, FROM 1B

she went to sit by the pool Wednesday morning and saw two police officers outside a neighbor's apartment.

"It's unacceptable," she said. "It doesn't make any sense why anybody would harm her ... she's so classy. She looks like she came out of *Sunset Boulevard*."

Many described her as elegant and graceful.

Resident Cathy Dunn, eyeing a neighbor's Rottweiler, thought of all the days she heads for work

when it's still dark or returns home late.

"Now that's the kind of dog I need to buy," she said.

Dunn, president of Fort Lauderdale's city employee's union, said that until now, residents had felt safe there.

On Wednesday, their talk turned to outrage — and plans to organize a Crime Watch program.

"Everybody knows everybody here. We're like family," said John Alvarez. "You don't touch family."



# Woman's good deed repaid with evil

## 76-year-old raped by man she let use her phone in Wilton Manors

By RAFAEL LORENTE  
Staff Writer

WILTON MANORS — A 76-year-old woman did a young man a favor by letting him use her telephone early Wednesday morning.

In return, the man grabbed the woman by the throat and dragged her into a bedroom, where he tied her up and sexually assaulted her, police said.

The attack took place at 2731 N. Andrews Ave., one of a group of buildings

that are part of the Kingston Rental Apartments, police said.

The woman said she heard loud, repeated knocking on her neighbor's door between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. She looked outside, then went back into her apartment.

The man then came to the woman's door and asked if he could use the phone.

After making a call, the man tied the woman's hands and legs and as-

saulted her. He then stole \$60 and two pieces of jewelry, police said.

The woman was treated at a hospital and released.

The man was described as 25 to 30 years old, approximately 6 feet tall, with a small mustache. He had a short, military-style haircut and was wearing a black T-shirt and white jeans.

Anyone with information about the attack should call the Wilton Manors Police Department at 390-2150.

1-2-97  
trend Gray forecasts, but his predictions aren't specific about when and where the storms will strike.

The Hurricane Center, which is primarily responsible for warning those in the path of approaching storms, doesn't issue seasonal forecasts.

Other than the continued upswing in hurricane activity, 1996 was an ordinary year weatherwise.

South Florida rainfall totals were slightly above the 50- to 60-inch annual averages in most areas. Regional temperatures were marginally warmer than usual.

"For the year, we're a little warmer and a fraction wetter than normal," said Joel Rothfuss, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service. "But there's nothing I've seen that stands out as far as any months being really extreme."

# Woman bound, raped, robbed

Wilton Manors  
neighbors outraged

By TRISH POWER  
Herald Staff Writer

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The man — described as Hispanic, 25 to 30 years old, about six feet tall, 160 to 180 pounds, with a small mustache and a short military-style haircut — asked whether he could use her phone to call the neighbor. She allowed the man, dressed in a black T-shirt and white jeans, inside.

"He sounded convincing," Bigelsen said.

Once inside, the man used the phone, then walked over to the woman, grabbed her by the throat and told her not to scream. He forced her into her bedroom, bound her hands and feet, then raped her.

He left the home with \$60, two pieces of jewelry and the woman's house and car keys — but not the car, Bigelsen said.

The woman freed herself and called police.

"She walked out under her own steam," neighbor Annette Alvarez said. She was taken to a local hospital, where she was treated for facial and throat injuries. She was staying with a friend late Wednesday, police said.

"She's strong. She told the detective she's doing OK," Bigelsen said. She had her locks changed Wednesday.

News of the assault spread quickly through the aging two-story complex on Andrews Avenue where the woman has lived for many years.

Resident Rebecca Haag learned about the attack when

PLEASE SEE RAPE, 3B

## Attack on woman shocks neighbors

RAPE, FROM 1B

she went to sit by the pool Wednesday morning and saw two police officers outside a neighbor's apartment.

"It's unacceptable," she said. "It doesn't make any sense why anybody would harm her ... she's so classy. She looks like she came out of *Sunset Boulevard*."

Many described her as elegant and graceful.

Resident Cathy Dunn, eyeing a neighbor's Rottweiler, thought of all the days she heads for work

when it's still dark or returns home late.

"Now that's the kind of dog I need to buy," she said.

Dunn, president of Fort Lauderdale's city employee's union, said that until now, residents had felt safe there.

On Wednesday, their talk turned to outrage — and plans to organize a Crime Watch program.

"Everybody knows everybody here. We're like family," said John Alvarez. "You don't touch family."

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-cwilton01jul01.0.1916986.story?coll=sfla-news-broward>

# Manors police chief put on leave, weighs retirement

By Daniella Aird  
Staff Writer

July 1, 2005

As Wilton Manors Police Chief Rick Wierzbicki decides his future with the department, residents on Thursday were stunned to learn he was put on administrative leave after 24 years.

On Tuesday night, he stood before commissioners and vowed to work with the city to improve the department after a consultant's report blasted his leadership.

Resident Nick Boyko, who was interviewed for the study, said he was surprised by Wierzbicki's sudden departure. "I got the impression the chief was going to work with the city," he said.

Wierzbicki was put on leave after a consultant's report criticized his leadership of the city's 36-member department. He is currently reviewing his retirement options and will give his final answer to the city on Tuesday, according to City Manager Joseph Gallegos.

"With the city's cooperation, the chief is considering his retirement options and confirming what his benefits will be," said Fort Lauderdale attorney Marilyn Krantz, who represents Wierzbicki.

The efficiency study by consultant Matt Dhillon sharply criticized department management, saying Wierzbicki, who earns \$110,000 a year, was not involved in daily operations and Assistant Chief Liz Gribbon spent too much time on administrative tasks.

Wierzbicki, 42, met with Gallegos and Assistant City Attorney James Cherof on Wednesday to discuss his future. Later that day, Gallegos wrote Wierzbicki a memo stating, "I think it was appropriate that our discussion focused on the option of you announcing your retirement from the department."

"The study indicated it would be my position that would be eliminated," Gribbons said. "We don't know what's going to happen to any of us."

Boyko said he's confident the department will benefit from the transition.

"The police department is going to survive," Boyko said.

Tony Ramos, who has served as the department's diversity liaison for the past decade, credits the chief for helping establish Wilton Manors' gay-friendly reputation.

"I don't think the city will ever find a man as dedicated as him, and that's a shame," Ramos said.

*Daniella Aird can be reached at [daird@sun-sentinel.com](mailto:daird@sun-sentinel.com) or 954-572-2024.*

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Posted on Fri, Jul. 01, 2005

**WILTON MANORS**

## **Police chief put on paid leave**

**Wilton Manors' top cop is on paid administrative leave after a report characterized the department as `dysfunctional.'**

**BY ASHLEY FANTZ**  
**afantz@herald.com**

A day after a crowd of city residents and officers rallied to his defense, Wilton Manors Police Chief Richard Wierzbicki was put on paid administrative leave and told to consider his retirement options.

Wierzbicki came under fire last week, with the release of a report by an outside consultant that judged his department "dysfunctional" and said it was weighed down with programs the small agency didn't need.

City Manager Joseph Gallegos initiated a meeting with Wierzbicki on Wednesday and said the two came to a "mutual agreement" that the chief would take a paid administrative leave to examine his retirement options.

Gallegos would not say that the chief -- who has worked for the department for 23 years -- has been fired.

"He's taking this opportunity to explore what his pension benefits are," Gallegos said Thursday.

Wierzbicki's attorney, Marilyn Bonilla Krantz, said the chief does not want to leave the department.

"This was not his idea," she said. ``He planned on working for the city of Wilton Manors beyond 30 years."

The 102-page report, commissioned by the city late last year for \$40,000, criticized Wierzbicki for not being involved in the department's daily affairs and for establishing costly programs such as a horse patrol, dive team, and K-9 unit.

Assistant Chief Liz Gribbon is the interim chief.

"It was very upsetting," Gribbon said. ``I've known Chief Wierzbicki for 22 years. I admire him more than anyone."

Several dozen residents and more than half the police force showed up at City Hall Tuesday night to protest the conclusions of a report prepared by California-based consultant Matt Dhillon.

Speaker after speaker told council members they were satisfied with the police, noting that the crime rate had plummeted more than 10 percent this year in the city of just under 13,000 people.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Wilton Manors was seen by some as a seedy, crime-ridden strip across the river from Fort Lauderdale.

Today it's known for quaint homes with expensive cars in driveways and rows of boutiques and cafes.

Posted on Thu, Jun. 30, 2005

## Wilton Manors top cop on administrative leave after critical report

By **ASHLEY FANTZ**  
afantz@herald.com

The Wilton Manors police chief was placed on administrative leave Wednesday, a day after a crowd of city residents rallied by his side at a City Council meeting.

Chief Richard Wierzbicki had been under fire in the past few weeks since a report by an outside consultant judged his department "dysfunctional," and top-heavy with programs the small agency didn't need.

The 102-page report, commissioned by the city, criticized Wierzbicki for not being involved in the department's daily affairs and for establishing extraneous and costly programs like a horse patrol, dive team, and K-9 unit.

On Wednesday, City Manager Joseph Gallegos told Assistant Chief Liz Gribbon that she would act as the interim chief.

"It was very upsetting," she said. ``I've known Chief Wierzbicki for 22 years. I admire him more than anyone."

Gribbon said Wierzbicki continued his day at the department. "He's a professional. I've never seen him lose it," said Gribbon. ``He had no emotion. He was fine. He spent the day in his office."

It's unclear whether Wierzbicki will try to keep his job.

The city paid California-based consultant Matt Dhillon \$40,000 for a detailed efficiency report on the Wilton Manors police force, but several dozen residents and more than half the police force showed up at City Hall Tuesday night to protest its conclusions.

Speaker after speaker told council members they were satisfied with the police, noting that the crime rate had plummeted more than 10 percent this year in the city of just under 13,000 people.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Wilton Manors was seen by some as a seedy, crime-ridden strip across the river from Fort Lauderdale. Today it's known for its quaint homes with expensive cars in driveways and rows of boutiques and cafes.

Posted on Wed, Jun. 29, 2005

## WILTON MANORS

# Council urged to back police department

**Officers and residents asked the city council support the police department as council members consider a scathing report that called for reduction in policing jobs.**

**BY ASHLEY FANTZ**  
afantz@herald.com

Clapping long and hard with each short speech in support of the Wilton Manors police department, an audience of residents and officers packed the city's council chambers Tuesday night.

They had all come to denounce a 102-page report characterizing the department as inefficient because, primarily, it has too many managers.

The council voted to merely acknowledge the report, authored by a law enforcement consultant from California who suggested cutting 44 police positions to 29, or one-third of the department.

"I've seen progress here in the last eight years. We're a growing city," Terry Norman, 40, said. ``We should not be cutting the department now."

In the late 1980s, Norman was stabbed in the parking lot of Georgie's Alibi, of which he is part owner. "This was a city that wasn't always so nice in places," he said. ``I'm here to say that it's no accident we're a safe city now."

Some officers suspect that the report, which cost the city \$40,000, was released now because officers are negotiating their contracts.

Pat Hanrahan, vice president of the Broward County Police Benevolent Association, said officers have proposed pay and pension increases. "The city is trying to save money," he said. ``That's all this is about."

"Because the city is entertaining this report," Sgt. Edward Costello told the Herald, ``we're not making progress [with negotiations]."

Mayor Scott Newton stressed that the report would not lead to handing the city's policing to the Broward Sheriff's Office. "Some people have asked me if that's what this is all about," he said.

City Manager Joseph Gallegos says that other city departments have undergone similar efficiency overviews and it just happened to be the police department's turn.

Late last year, the council hired its lowest bidder, Matt Dhillon of Dhillon Management Services, who has evaluated dozens of police departments from Salt Lake City to Reno, Nev.

He told The Herald he spent months interviewing officers but declined to comment specifically about his findings.

His report lambasted Police Chief Richard Wierzbicki for not being involved in its day-to-day affairs and said the position of assistant chief should be axed, along with those of a police service aide and a school resource officer.

Dhillon wrote that Assistant Chief Liz Gribbon spends her workday writing grants and doing administrative work that is beneath her rank and pay. Officers, Dhillon wrote, told him that Gribbon often arrives late to work because she's taking care of the mounted unit's patrol horse.

Gribbon could not be reached for comment.

Since Dhillon's analysis was released last week, Wierzbicki has been busy shoring up support from colleagues, including members of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and a forensic psychologist who has performed work with the FBI and the Broward Sheriff's Office.

James O. Born, a former supervisor with FDLE's Broward's office, wrote a letter praising Wierzbicki and called the small department "outstanding," noting the city's recently reported crime rate has fallen more than 10 percent.



Mayor Newton acknowledged the community's sentiments by saying, ``We will get through this. This report isn't meant to destroy this city. It's only here to make it better."

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<http://www.miami.com>

Posted on Tue, Jun. 28, 2005

## **Wilton Manors council urged to back police department despite critical report**

**BY ASHLEY FANTZ**  
**afantz@herald.com**

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## Manors new chief focuses on police morale

### Manors hopes for agency's turnaround

By Elizabeth Baier  
Staff Writer

January 15, 2006

Wilton Manors • Moving from a large metropolitan agency with 500 police officers to one with just 36 doesn't necessarily mean less work.

But Richard Perez is up for the task.

As Wilton Manors' new chief, Perez brings more than two decades of Fort Lauderdale experience, where his accomplishments include creating the community-policing program. Now, he faces the task of recruiting more officers and increasing the morale of a Wilton Manors agency troubled by controversy, while managing a \$4.5 million budget.

"A small department doesn't mean small problems," Perez said. "I've spent my whole career with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department... and I've seen [Wilton Manors] really grow. I have a broad perspective of what it's like to be out on the field and in the office."

The city will pay Perez \$95,000 for his services, making him the third highest-paid Wilton Manors employee after City Manager Joseph Gallegos and Finance Director Lisa Rabon. Perez earned \$96,000 as captain in Fort Lauderdale.

Perez, 54, said he likes to balance his career with playing racquetball and tennis and taking mini-vacations in the Fort Lauderdale area with his family. He lives in Sunrise and is a registered Republican, records show.

He replaces Richard Wierzbicki, a 24-year veteran with the agency and resident of the Island City who was put on administrative leave in June and retirement as of Sept. 30. "We still miss Rick Wierzbicki, but what's done is done and we all have to move on," said Fred Neely, president of the Wilton Manors chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police. "Everyone is trying to turn off the pessimism and ... look forward to [Perez] coming in. The officers certainly have no trepidation at this point."

Among Perez' duties will be to evaluate a \$30,000 study by California-based Dhillon Management Services that claimed the agency's management was overstaffed and the city could save \$1 million by cutting back on overtime and eliminating several high-ranking positions, including the assistant police chief, six sergeants, and a school resource officer.

Perez disagrees with the report's recommendation to eliminate the rank of sergeant. He also said he has no problem authorizing overtime pay as long as "we know what the overtime is for."

He declined to discuss other Dhillon recommendations, saying he wants to meet with all the employees and get their input before compiling a strategic plan for the department.

As captain of the support services division in Fort Lauderdale for the past seven years, Perez said he learned the "business of running the business" by managing nearly 500 fleet vehicles, keeping track of confiscated cars and managing supplies used by police officers. Combined with his work as a field-training officer and sergeant, he is confident he will boost morale to the Wilton Manors department that since September has been at an impasse with the city in contract negotiations.

"He has gone through the ranks and has been on the [union] side and the administration side," said Wilton Manors Mayor Scott Newton, who recently gave Perez a tour of the city. "He knows both sides and is ready to



deal with both sides. I think he'll be able to get the department out of its turmoil."

City commissioners are optimistic about Perez's appointment."He has a tremendous background and seems to possess the right attitude and has the willingness to learn and take a leadership position," Commissioner Joe Angelo said. "I'm excited."

Residents will have an opportunity to meet Perez at an open police forum from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Wilton Manors Elementary School, 2401 NE Third Ave.

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