

# Welder pleads guilty in deaths

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Kathy Leta, who is now divorced, testified that she began screaming when she woke up to see Ward standing over her bed, but she managed to escape.

She said she ran to summon another policeman who lived next door, and they returned in time to see her husband pull the hammer from his skull and collapse. He suffered permanent brain damage.

Two months later, on Aug. 21, 1983, Ward said he was again walking alone and drinking when he saw a light in an apartment window.

"I saw a girl lying in bed and reading a book," he said. After watching her long enough to finish his beer, he told police he decided to rape her and climbed in through the window of the adjacent room.

Afterward I just sat there and chatted. She was a nice girl," Ward told police.

Nearly a year passed before the next incident, Ward said. On the night of Aug. 1, 1984, he abducted Sunee Doe at knifepoint as she walked home from a bingo game. He drove the 38-year-old native of Taiwan to his house, where he forced her to commit sodomy and then raped her and strangled her.

After taking \$20 from her wallet, Ward dumped the body in a wooded area.

Two weeks later, after another fight with his wife and another bout with the bottle, Ward struck again. This time, his victim was Sonya Peters, 14, abducted and raped Aug. 14 as she walked home from her boyfriend's house.

Afterward, "I told her about my problems and stuff," Ward said. Then he strangled her "so she wouldn't tell."

Shortly after the second murder, Ward left his wife and moved to Gardner, Mass., where he found work

as a welder and began attending Twin City Baptist Temple.

In December, Ward said he underwent an emotional conversion and was "born again" as a Christian.

The Rev. A.E. Burke has since told reporters he was shocked when Ward confessed his sins and announced his intention to surrender for crimes he had never been charged with committing.

At the request of the defense, a psychiatrist was appointed by the court to examine Ward to determine if there were psychological problems that might mitigate his sentence.

Yesterday the prosecution asked the judge to require Ward to submit to a second examination by a state psychiatrist, citing a Virginia law that went into effect in July.

The new law has never been tested in court, and Winston said he wanted to study its implications before ruling on the motion.

# Body parts are found at landfill

Parts of a human body were discovered yesterday at a Chesterfield County landfill off state Route 10, police said.

Chesterfield Lt. Herbert Shelton said police were notified at 2:15 p.m. by a garbage truck driver. The parts included a leg, a foot and the torso of a female.

The driver works for Browning Ferris Industries, Shelton said. Police believe the garbage had been picked up from a dumpster behind Emrick Chevrolet on School Street in Richmond. Homicide detectives were called to investigate, Shelton added.

Capt. Charles Bennett of the detective division said the parts have been sent to the state medical examiner's office. Investigators haven't determined whether the death was a homicide.

"We can't be sure of that," Bennett said. "All that is being checked out now."

Maj. V. Stuart Cook, deputy chief of investigative operations, said city and county police will resume searching through "tons of garbage" today to try to find other remains. Police are also checking homicide and missing-person reports to try to identify the body.

But "while the body parts did come from the School Street site, it does not mean the remains came from the city itself," he said.

Cook said the site gets garbage from all over the city, as well as from private contractors. Also, the victim "could have been killed in any jurisdiction" and taken to a dumping station in Richmond, he added.

The body could have been whole when dumped and severed by a garbage truck compactor, Cook said.

# Religious groups ask anti-drug effort

By Ed Briggs  
Times-Dispatch religion writer

Richmond's religious community is being recruited to declare war on drug abuse.

Yesterday, representatives agreed to explore ways that area churches and synagogues can mount a united anti-drug campaign that will match the zeal found in evangelism, stewardship and missions.

Meeting at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral were representatives of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Virginia Council of Churches, United Methodist, the Moravian Church, Greek Orthodoxy, River Road Baptist Church, Fourth Baptist Church and Judaism.

The group, which agreed to a mobilization, planned to meet again in several weeks to decide how it can be carried out.

Pulling the group together was Dr. Gordon Prior, a Henrico County dentist who was a major force in forming Greater Richmond Informed Parents, or GRIP. It has been meeting for two years with civic, educational and law enforcement groups in the area to educate parents about drug use among the young.

"Drug abuse is a spiritual matter," Dr. Prior told the group, "and it's something that has to be addressed by the religious community."

Dr. Prior, who said his son's involvement with marijuana led him to form Henrico Informed Parents, or HIP, several years ago, said drug use, including alcohol, is a major problem in the area. GRIP members, he said, have addressed up to 140 groups since its founding. GRIP, he said, consists of several hundred people.

"The hardest problem we have is to get parents to face the possibility that

their kids are involved in drugs."

Dr. Prior said half of high school students use alcohol regularly, a quarter use marijuana and about one out of 20 uses cocaine.

"You can set up drug prevention programs, but unless you say drug abuse is spiritually and morally wrong, you haven't dealt with the issue," he said.

Dr. Prior suggested that clergy set aside a Sabbath to deal solely with drug abuse and that a clergy-backed mass meeting of concerned Christians and Jews in the area be staged.

The Rev. C.N. Dombalis, pastor of Sts. Constantine and Helen, suggested a day be set aside for common prayer.

He said that in the Richmond area, "I don't think there is a single [member of the] clergy whose soul has not been seared in seeing a once healthy person reduced to an extreme level by drugs."

He called drug abuse "a holocaust — a genocide — of young minds."

The Rev. Robert Taylor, pastor of Fourth Baptist Church and chaplain for the Richmond Police Bureau, suggested that because so many murders in the area are drug-related, combating drug abuse actually would be dealing with two ills, the abuse and the murders.

Rabbi Myron Berman of Temple Beth-El said, "We have abrogated our responsibility by seeing drug problems as the concern for police. . . . But a lot of people are coming to the realization that the focus must be on the home and the strengthening of society."

Dr. Bernard Via, Richmond district superintendent of United Methodist's Virginia Conference, suggested that the churches may have ignored the problem by assuming that their members would not use drugs.

# 4 counties planning study of Lake Genito as reservoir

By Virginia Churn  
Times-Dispatch staff writer

Representatives for Powhatan, Chesterfield, Amelia and Cumberland counties are to meet this morning to make formal a jurisdictional agreement on studying the feasibility of building Lake Genito as a water source.

The group will hold a news conference at 10 o'clock at the Powhatan administration building.

The counties plan to hire a consulting engineer to study developing the impoundment on the Appomattox River.

The consultant would study other possible benefits of a Lake Genito reservoir, such as economic development, recreational use and local control of area water resources, and also alternative ways of developing an impoundment.

The study is to be financed on a per-capita basis, according to Pauline Mitchell, a spokeswoman for Chesterfield. On that basis, Chesterfield, which is much larger and more heavily populated than the other counties, would pay about 75 percent of the cost. Chesterfield has about 181,000

residents, she said.

The cost for the study has not been determined.

Chesterfield, which has the greatest potential need for the reservoir, owns land along the Appomattox where a dam has been proposed. Chesterfield's director of public works has said that sometime after 2000 Chesterfield will need a supplementary water supply.

The Lake Genito project would create an 11,000-acre reservoir in Amelia, Powhatan, Cumberland and Prince Edward.

Prince Edward and Farmville, which get their water from the Appomattox, have opposed the project, which would be downstream from those localities.

Lake Genito was proposed in the 1920s, and the idea surfaced again in the 1950s. The proposed impoundment has been a long-range project of the Appomattox River Water Authority since 1958. It supplies water to parts of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie and Prince George, Petersburg and Colonial Heights.

Lake Chesdin, which is on the Appomattox between Chesterfield and

Dinwiddie counties, is the authority's reservoir.

Virginia Beach in 1981 proposed building the reservoir as a future supply for the city, but then looked to Lake Gaston.

The Lake Genito study committee is made up of voting members from Powhatan, Chesterfield, Amelia and Cumberland. In addition, representatives from Prince Edward, Farmville and the Appomattox River Water Authority were invited to sit with the committee as non-voting members.

## METRO CALENDAR

### Today

**BOOKMOBILES:** Richmond Public Library — Whitcomb Court, 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.; Fairfield Court, 2:10 to 2:30 p.m.; 2:45 to 4 p.m.; Henrico County Public Library — James Memorial Baptist Church, Dumblerton and Hermitage roads, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Westport Convalescent Center, Forest Avenue, 1 to 2 p.m.; Both Stators Home of Central Virginia, Libbie and Fitzhugh avenues, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:** Richmond Hotline — Telephone crisis intervention service between 7 p.m. and midnight, 321-4200; Al-Anon Meetings — Christ The King Lutheran Church, 9800 W. Huguenot Road, Bon Air, 8:30 p.m.; Narcotics Anonymous — Laurel Hill Homes, 1526 West Ave., 8 p.m.; Overeaters Anonymous — The Next Step Inc., 4002 Hermitage Road, 1 p.m.; Epiphany Church, Horsepen Road at Monument Avenue, 5:30 p.m.; Richmond Metropolitan Blood Service's blood drives — A.D. Williams Clinic, MCV, sixth floor, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Richmond Metropolitan Blood Service, 2201 Westwood Ave., 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; James Center, 14th Ave., 901 E. Cary St., 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Whitehead, Stokes and Grymes Co. in Ashland, 9 to 11 a.m.; A.D. Hargrove Insurance, Route-4, Glen Allen, 1:30 to 3 p.m.; Wheat, First Securities, 707 E. Main St.; 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Whitlow Chevrolet, 9701 Midlothian Turnpike, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Westport Convalescent Center, 7300 Forest Ave., 1 to 4:30 p.m.; Health Care Venture, 2235 Hermitage Road, 41 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Families Anonymous — Stony Point Presbyterian Church, 2230 Buford Road, 7:30 p.m.

**FOR CHILDREN:** Waterfun Program — 11 a.m., Fisher Community Center, 3701 Garden Road; Indian Pow-Wow — 10 a.m., Bellemeade Community Center, 1800 Lynhaven Ave.

**STATE GOVERNMENT:** Interdepartmental Liaison and Certification of Children's Residential Facilities — Open meeting, 8 a.m., Department of Social Services, Blair Building, 2nd floor, Conference Room A, 8007 Discovery Drive.

### Charges dropped against Richmonder

Charges against a 25-year-old Richmonder in the abduction, rape and robbery of a city woman were dropped this week because of mistaken identity.

Alvin Hargrove of the 100 block of East 10th Street faced the possibility of a maximum life sentence if convicted.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney John P. Driscoll said the charges were dropped because "more information came to us that raised the question as to whether we had the right defendant."

Police said the incident involved the abduction of a woman at gunpoint at a 7-Eleven store at 22nd Street and Semmes Avenue. The woman was forced to drive to a secluded spot off Huguenot Road where she was raped and robbed of jewelry, police reported.

TODAY'S TV LISTINGS: Page B-11; TODAY'S MOVIE LISTINGS: Page C-7-9.

### Tomorrow

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:** Richmond Hotline — Telephone crisis intervention service between 7 p.m. and midnight, 321-4200; Al-Anon Meetings — Ashbury United Methodist Church, 609 Jefferson Davis Highway, 8 p.m.; Stukeley Hall Baptist Church, 601 Azalea Ave., 8 p.m.; Tucker Pavilion, Chippenham Hospital, 7101 Jahnke Road, 8 p.m.; Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1627 Monument Ave. (left entrance), 8:30 p.m.; Narcotics Anonymous — Tobacco Workers Union Hall, 231 E. Belt Blvd., 8 p.m.; Richmond Metropolitan Blood Service's blood drives — 2201 Westwood Ave., 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Overeaters Anonymous — St. Augustine Catholic Church, 4400 Beulah Road, 10 a.m.

**SPECIALS:** Beginner's Bird Walk — 6:30 a.m., meet at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, 7000 Lakeside Ave.; Introduction to Computing for Young Women — 9 a.m. to noon, Science Museum; Living History — "Fireplace cooking, preparing farm dinners and making 19th century medicines," noon to 4 p.m., Meadow Farm Museum.

**TOURS:** "A Frog's Eye View of the James River" — 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meet at the 22nd Street parking lot of James River Park; State Capitol — 1 to 2:30 p.m., meet at the Bell Tower in Capitol Square.

### Sunday

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:** Richmond Hotline — Telephone crisis intervention service between 7 p.m. and midnight, 321-4200; Narcotics Anonymous — Chippenham Hospital, Tucker Cafeteria, 7101 Jahnke Road, 8 p.m.; Overeaters Anonymous — Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4103 Monument Ave., 3:30 p.m.; Richmond Metropolitan Blood Service's blood drives — Calvary United Methodist Church, 1637 Williamsburg Road, noon to 2:30 p.m.; 276th Engineering Battalion, 500 Dove St., 1 to 4 p.m.; Families Anonymous — Children's Hospital, 2924 Brook Road, 7:30 p.m.; Eating Disorders Support Group — Trinity United Methodist Church, 903 Forest Ave., room 302, 7 p.m.

**FOR CHILDREN:** "Disguises," 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Children's Museum, 740 N. Sixth St.

**SPECIALS:** Living History — "Drying and Pickling Garden Produce and Cultivating the Historic Garden," noon to 4 p.m., Meadow Farm Museum; Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech — 2 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church, 2401 E. Broad St.

### Henrico seafood fete

The Henrico County Democratic Committee will hold its annual seafood festival from 5 until 9 p.m. Aug. 19 at T. Finnegan's, 6922 Staples Mill Road. The festival will feature steamed crabs, crab cakes, almond-coated fried fish, hush puppies, cole slaw and a beverage. Information is available from Carrie Jacobson at 266-2242.



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- WEST END**  
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**MONDAY - SATURDAY 9:30 AM - 9:30 PM; SUNDAY 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM**



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