

AROUND NEW YORK

Police say rapist stalking Buffalo schoolgirls

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Buffalo police are putting together a psychological profile of a man they believe has raped 11 school-age girls since February 1990. Police believe the man is a stranger to his victims who follows the girls to or from school or spots them playing on the street. At least once, the man used a knife to threaten a victim, forcing the girl into a vacant house. Other girls were forced into empty lots or darkened yards, police said. The attacker's victims have all been black girls 9 to 16 years old, police said. A composite of the attacker, described as a slim black male in his 20s to mid-30s, was released Friday. He is believed to be between 6 feet and 6 feet, 4 inches tall.

Suspect in armored-car heist challenges police

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — The lawyer for the driver and chief suspect in a \$10.8 million armored truck robbery challenged police to prove why items were seized from his client's home. "Let them come forward with some reason why they need to keep my client's property," Attorney Daniel L. Aureli told the Democrat and Chronicle of Rochester. "If they don't, then let them return it." Aureli argued in federal court Friday that two house searches earlier this month were part of an effort to harass the driver, Albert M. Ranieri, 26. Aureli also claimed that authorities seized some items beyond the scope of the search warrants. Ranieri has been a suspect since shortly after the June 26 robbery. The robbery, the largest armored truck heist in U.S. history, occurred when the truck Ranieri was driving stopped at the a convenience store.

Construction begins on wood-burning power plant

LYONSDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Wooden chips, furniture scraps and even used Christmas trees will be fuel for a wood-burning power plant now under construction in this rural community 60 miles southeast of Watertown. Lyonsdale Energy Ltd., a subsidiary of Japan's Mitsubishi Corp.-owned Diamond Energy Inc., is building the \$42 million plant, set to open next summer. Company officials claimed at a ground-breaking ceremony Friday that the wood-burning plant is New York State's first. There are similar wood-burning power plants in Vermont, New Hampshire and Michigan, said Makoto Saito, vice president of Diamond Energy. The plant will purchase wood scrap from area paper and saw mills as well as furniture companies and manufacturers, an official said.

Students protest RIT president's link to CIA

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Some students at the Rochester Institute of Technology don't approve of the school president's moonlighting, especially when it's with the Central Intelligence Agency. The RIT Community for Peace and Justice and two other student organizations are circulating a petition asking the school's Board of Trustees to fire President M. Richard Rose. The students said Rose's work for the CIA compromised the school's reputation and integrity. Rose revealed earlier this month that he was spending a four-month sabbatical at the CIA's complex in Langley, Va., working as a consultant on educational and training programs for CIA officers.

Survey: Supermarkets defying item pricing law

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — Supermarkets are "openly defying" the state's item pricing law, with some stores tagging less than half of their goods, according to survey results released Saturday. A survey of 74 supermarkets conducted by the New York Public Interest Research Group found that the stores inadequately item priced 47 percent of the nearly 3,000 products surveyed. NYPIRG said that figure is up one-third from a similar survey done in 1989. Thirty-nine percent of the products surveyed were not item priced at all, NYPIRG said. The law that requires supermarkets to place price tags on most grocery items expires June 30. Item pricing is popular with shoppers and allows them to easily compare prices, save money and spot for errors made by optical scanners at the checkout lines, consumer advocates say.

Monroe County wins victory for Riga landfill

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — Monroe County on Friday won an important court victory in its effort to build a landfill in the town of Riga. The Appellate Division of the state Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the county has the right to condemn a section of road in order to build the landfill. Town officials, who oppose construction of the landfill, had argued that they controlled the road. "I'm not happy with the decision, obviously," said Riga Supervisor Ronald F. Horton. "I think they overlooked the town's interests." Horton said he and town attorney Paul Britton would examine the decision before deciding whether to appeal. Members of ROBBED, a citizen's group that opposes the landfill, said they have filed a similar lawsuit and will take the matter to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals rarely overturns a unanimous Appellate Division decision.

Cayuga GOP begins anti-Cuomo petition drive

AUBURN, N.Y. (AP) — Republicans in Cayuga County on Friday launched a "no confidence" petition drive against Gov. Mario Cuomo. "This petition drive is just one way New Yorkers can say we want the governor to trade in his rhetoric for responsibility," said Lee Brew, chairman of the Cayuga County GOP Committee. "The most responsible action the governor could take today is to leave office and allow someone else to manage the affairs of the state," said Brew. "Perhaps all Governor Cuomo needs is some encouragement to resign." Brew said he hopes the petition drive spreads statewide. Cuomo press secretary Anne Crowley said the petition was obviously partisan. "Not surprisingly, the Republicans would rather take shots than take responsibility," said Crowley.

Police end occupation of 3 more city campuses

NEW YORK (AP) — Police ended student occupations at three more campuses of City University of New York on Saturday with 12 arrests as the school called on all students to return to classes. The pre-dawn police sweeps occurred when three task forces of about 200 officers each took over New York Technical College in Brooklyn, York College in Queens and Lehman College in the Bronx, said Sgt. Ed Burns, a police spokesman. Building takeovers by students began April 6 to protest proposed tuition increases and cuts in student aid and school budgets. But after three weeks, other students became increasingly angry at the prospect of losing a semester's credit.

Warmus trial ends in hung jury

By CATHERINE CROCKER  
Associated Press Writer

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — The murder trial of Carolyn Warmus, accused in the alleged lovers' triangle slaying of her boyfriend's wife, ended Saturday with a hung jury after 11 fruitless days of deliberations. The jury was divided 8-4 in favor of a conviction for a full week, said one haggard juror, Bob Smith. Deliberations were "heated at times... people would come up with theories. I thought there was a lot of wasted time."

Westchester County Court Judge John Carey released the jury after its second note in three days saying they were deadlocked. The group deliberated longer than any murder trial jury in Westchester County history.

"The jurors have been unable to reach a unanimous verdict for one week," said the note sent out Saturday. "The vote has remained the same."

Warmus, the accused killer, was sobbing and shaking in the courtroom. Westchester County District Attorney Carl Vergari said Warmus will definitely be retried for murder.

Warmus had been charged with second-degree murder and second-degree illegal weapon possession.

WARMUS CASE CHRONOLOGY

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) / Here is a chronology in the case of Carolyn Warmus, who was charged with killing her lover's wife.

• September, 1987: Warmus is hired as a fifth grade teacher at the Greenville School in Greenburgh, where she meets sixth grade teacher Paul Solomon. That fall, they begin an 18 month affair. She later is hired by the Bedford Road Elementary School in Pleasantville, where she is employed when the crime occurs.

• The first week of January, 1989 Warmus, according to prosecution testimony, allegedly purchases an unlicensed Beretta and silencer from private investigator Vincent Parco for \$2,500.

• Jan. 15, 1989: Betty Jeanne Solomon, Paul's wife, is shot nine times at their Greenburgh condominium, she bleeds to death sometime after 7:14 p.m. Paul Solomon / who says he had gone bowling, then met Warmus for supper and sex / reports finding his wife's body at 11:30 p.m.

• August, 1989: Warmus goes to Puerto Rico, where she allegedly harasses Paul Solomon and his female companion.

• September, 1989: Warmus begins teaching computer sciences to third, fourth and fifth graders at the H.C. Crittenden Middle School and the Coman Hill Elementary School, in the Byram Hills School District.

• Feb. 2, 1990: Warmus is indicted for murder in Mrs. Solomon's death.

• Feb. 5, 1990: Warmus is arraigned.

• Feb. 6, 1990: Paul Solomon gets an order of protection against Warmus.

• Aug. 6, 1990: The indictment against Warmus is dismissed due to procedural errors.

• March 19, 1990: Warmus resigns, effective June 30, from the Byram Hills School District, where she had been reassigned to non-teaching duties after her indictment.

• Sept. 25, 1990: Warmus is reindicted on charges of second-degree murder and weapon possession.

• Jan. 14, 1991: Opening statements are given in People vs. Warmus.

• April 27, 1991: The trial ends in a hung jury.

Defense attorney David Lewis said he will ask for a dismissal of the indictment at a May 29 hearing. The split jury "tells me it is what we have told you — that Carolyn Warmus is not guilty," Lewis said after the non-verdict.

Warmus sat silently in the courtroom with Lewis as it emptied out. She did not speak with reporters.

Carey effusively thanked the jury for its efforts, and shook

hands with each member before dismissing them. Several jurors flashed smiles for the first time in a week as the judge glad-handed them.

The jury answered "N-O" in block letters when answering a note from the judge asking, "Do you believe an agreement on either of the two charges is possible or likely within a reasonable time?"

Carey said a jury could be

released without reaching a verdict if they had deliberated extensively without success.

Smith, 27, said the deliberations were "heated at times" and that several jurors were "obstinate in their ways." The four holdouts were three women and a man, he said.

"I'm satisfied that any agreement among you on the two charges ... is unlikely within a reasonable time. This finding provided the basis for my now discharging you," Carey told the jurors after they marched into court.

Not since Jean Harris, the headmistress of an exclusive girls' school, was convicted 10 years ago for killing the cardiologist who wrote "The Scarisdale Diet," has a Westchester County trial received so much attention.

Spectators and reporters filled the 10th-floor courtroom, drawn by comparisons between the murder and the 1987 film "Fatal Attraction," where Glenn Close terrorized her married lover and his family.

People and Mademoiselle ran stories on the case. A freelance writer for Penthouse, which wants Warmus to pose nude, covered the trial. And at least two books are being written about it.

Warmus, 27, was accused of firing nine shots into Betty Jeanne Solomon, 40, on Jan. 15, 1989. Solomon was found dead in the Greenburgh apartment she shared with her husband, Paul, and their teen-age daughter, Kristan.

"My family and I are devastated by the knowledge this nightmare must go on," a choked-up Solomon told reporters Saturday.



Right To Life: New York Cardinal John O'Connor holds eight-month-old Sheila Doyle before his speech at the New York State Right To Life convention Saturday. Doyle lives with her mom at a shelter for unmarried mothers in New Jersey. O'Connor was later awarded the Terence Cardinal Cooke Award for being a tireless champion of the unborn.

Volunteer patrols pick up strength in NYC

By VIRGINIA BYRNE  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Roberto Garcia's life has been threatened, he's routinely cursed at and a good friend was murdered — all because community volunteers are trying to rid their Brooklyn neighborhood of drug dealers and prostitutes.

The crack dealers who hawk their wares on the streets of Sunset Park apparently wish Garcia — and the six other members of the Community on Patrol program who prowl the streets wearing orange windbreakers and carrying walkie-talkies — would take a walk somewhere else.

"When I go out there, I know I'm not safe," Garcia said. "The entire city isn't safe, walking the streets isn't safe, riding the trains isn't safe. If I get killed, I'd rather be killed patrolling than doing nothing."

Garcia is one of 20 members of the 44th Street Block Association who stepped forward when the police department began the Community on Patrol (COP) program last December.

The aim is to have citizens patrol their own block and report any problems they find to their precinct coordinating officer.

"Let's face it, cops can't be everywhere all the time," said Police Officer Andy Robledo, the COP officer at the 72nd Precinct, which includes Sunset Park. "When I'm off-duty I see more things than when I'm in uniform, because they (the dealers and prostitutes) don't know who I am."

In addition to programs sponsored by the police department, there are as many as 12,000 neighborhood and block associations in the city, many of which work on making streets safer.

The volunteers range from Upper East Side doormen linked by a phone network to Muslim groups confronting drug dealers in Brooklyn to former Vietnam veterans patrolling in Queens.

"There's a tremendous number of people out there who are trying to make an impact," said Sally Dunford, director of the

Neighborhood Anti-Crime Center of the Citizens Committee for New York City, Inc. which helps local groups organize anti-crime programs.

Garcia, a cabdriver and father of three young children, helped found the 44th Street Block Association two years ago, after he and his son narrowly escaped being shot in front of their home during a gun battle between two drug dealers.

A friend of Garcia's and a member of the block association, 68-year-old Ceferino Viera, was killed April 17, by a suspected drug dealer who struck him with a van after arguing with Viera's son.

Several hundred people including Mayor David Dinkins attended Viera's funeral. Viera "understood the importance of community and fought to protect his neighborhood," Dinkins

said. "Viera's death shook me a little bit," Garcia confessed. Members of the block association had been warned that one of them would be hurt by the drug dealers they were harassing.

"We were expecting one of us would be a victim," Garcia said. "To me, it's part of the anger the drug dealers have against us."

Police Commissioner Lee P. Brown said Viera was not murdered because of his anti-crime activities; Garcia disagrees. "He died because of his activities, he died fighting for the block."

Garcia is proud of the patrol's successes: "We've had many arrests, including a big bust, a whole shipment of crack," that was in a van whose license plate the group had copied down and given to police.

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