

National

Freed after eight years, man forgives his accuser

United Press International
MILWAUKEE — Francis Hemauer is a free man today, and says he wants to forgive the mistake that sent him to prison eight years ago for a rape he did not commit.

"I am overwhelmed at just being turned free. I can't find the words to say much more," he said.

A circuit court judge said Wednesday he was convinced because of recently developed tests that Hemauer did not rape and assault an 18-year-old woman in 1969. The tests showed the attacker had type B blood. Hemauer's is type A.

Hemauer, 60, put his head down and sobbed for several moments after the judge announced his verdict. Relatives, friends and others wept and applauded.

Mabel Cooper, Hemauer's sister who never quit fighting for her brother's freedom, invited him to live with her until he decides how to resume his life. He accepted, on one condition.

"What have you got in the refrigerator?" said the twice-divorced father of four. "I'd like a steak."

Hemauer said he held no grudges for spending eight years in the Waupun State Prison.

"This is not an attempt to put any blame on anyone," he said. "It was a good-faith mistake by a young person (the victim)."

"I was a little worried at times, but my family was beautiful. They stood behind me all the way."

Hemauer was sentenced to 60 years in prison on the basis of a photograph. He earlier had been a suspect in the rape-murder of a Milwaukee girl, but was not held. His photograph, however, was kept in police files and the rape victim identified Hemauer as her attacker.

His pleas of innocence and a negative polygraph test proved futile.

"This has been a personal hell for this man and his family," said a former pardon attorney for the governor's office who was instrumental in the case.

Hemauer's plans weren't definite, but he knew one thing he wanted to do.

"I would like to take a long walk in the woods and touch the trees."

Latest Atlanta killing victim seen in car, driver described

United Press International
ATLANTA — A friend who saw Atlanta's latest missing black youth riding in an old green station wagon on the day he vanished says he felt something was wrong because the man "was sitting so stiff and didn't wave at me."

Larry Rogers, 21, and mentally retarded, looks much younger. This week he became the 25th victim in the city's string of missing and murdered young people. Twenty-two of those young blacks have been found dead, the others are missing.

The witness told police he was outside his northwest Atlanta home March 30 when he heard a car door slam and turned to see Rogers sitting in the station wagon with another black man.

"He didn't move or nothing," the witness said. "He didn't talk."

The witness, a neighbor and friend of Rogers, told police the vehicle drove up and down the street twice before leaving the vicinity. He said he was concerned "because he (Rogers) was

sitting so stiff and didn't wave at me."

A composite drawing of the light-skinned black man, who was said to be about 50 to 55 years old, and a partial tag number with the first letter R and the first digit 5, were termed "important" developments by police.

The drawing depicts a man with long, graying black hair, a thick mustache, heavy eyebrows and horn-rimmed glasses.

"We do not give out a lot of composites," Public Safety Commissioner Lee P. Brown said during a news conference. "We have some confidence in the validity of what we've put out here."

Brown stopped short of saying the development was the best break in the overall investigation. But he said "in the one case (that of Rogers) it's the best break we have had so far."

He said, however, the man in the composite is not a suspect but is only wanted for questioning.

Brown denied reports some of the murdered children had been

seen at an abandoned house frequented by homosexual men.

"There's no evidence these crimes are related to homosexual activity," he said, adding, "when you do not have the exact motive, you look at all possibilities."

Until recent weeks all the victims have been under 16, but then the body of Eddie Duncan, 21, who like Rogers was mentally retarded, was pulled from the Chattahoochee River.

Police and reporters rushed again to the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta late Wednesday after a trout fisherman wading in shallow water spotted a bone on the river bottom.

Gwinnett County police Lt. L.F. McKelvey said later, however, a medical examiner had determined the bone to be "of animal origin."

In a related development

Wednesday, the Rev. Earl Carroll, 46, who has been involved in fund-raising in connection with the children's cases, was arrested on multiple charges, including writing bad checks, theft by conversion, unauthorized use of a name without written consent and soliciting without a permit.

Detective S.D. Benton said Carroll was collecting money for the children's fund by telling passers-by he was assistant pastor of the Wheat Street Baptist Church, and by soliciting money from various businesses.

"I don't have any idea what happened to the money he collected," said detective Sgt. J.F. Paschall.

Carroll has complained in the past of police harassment and filed a \$1 million suit against Mayor Maynard Jackson and police officials in connection with the accusation.

Dial-it calls are no joke, cost taxpayers thousands

United Press International
NEW YORK — Government officials don't think Dial-a-Joke and other such dial-it telephone services are a laughing matter.

They say government workers are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxpayer money dialing for sports, weather and jokes from their offices.

In New York City alone — where the telephone company offers 15 dial-it services ranging from Dial-a-Joke to Dial-a-Horoscope — officials say \$300,000 would be cut from city telephone bills if all calls to the services were stopped.

The federal government and New York City are moving to in-

stall special screening devices to prevent workers from reaching dial-it numbers — now available in at least 11 major metropolitan areas. But their efforts in the city are being slowed by a price dispute over installation costs with the New York Telephone Co.

"There is no nationwide estimate how much is being spent on dial-it calls from federal offices," said Jim Edwards, a telecommunications expert for the General Services Administration, which handles supplies of federal offices. "But it's big money and Dial-a-Joke is no laughing matter to us. Businesses also have this problem."

The GSA says an estimated \$36,000 a year is spent on unautho-

rized dial-it calls from federal offices in New York, where each call costs between 3 and 9 cents, depending on the time of day.

Screening devices were placed on exchanges for Chicago-area federal phones and the GSA says an estimated \$157,000 annually in dial-it calls were blocked.

The GSA says under New York state rules the phone company is limited to charging initially about \$5,000 to install screening devices on its main New York exchange for federal phones. But the phone company questions the figure and says an additional \$100,000 should be charged. The dispute is pending before the state Public Service Commission.

Propane safe after grain elevator blast

United Press International
BELLWOOD, Neb. — Authorities Thursday finished draining 29,000 gallons of propane from two storage tanks endangered by a crippled, tilting grain elevator.

Bellwood's 360 residents, who were evacuated Wednesday afternoon, were told they could return to their homes.

Officials completed drainage of the tanks, sitting in the path of the crumbling elevator riddled with holes after a Tuesday explosion.

Pete Sturmer, chief investigator for the state fire marshal's office, said he had feared the elevator might topple onto the storage tanks.

The elevator had shifted 3 to 4 feet since the explosion, which killed one man and critically injured two others. Sturmer said the shifting seemed to have stopped late Wednesday after the wind died down.

Killed in the explosion Tuesday was Gary Roh, 20, of Linwood, whose body was retrieved from

beneath tons of corn and rubble about 5.5 hours after the blast.

Joe Stastny, 58, a Bellwood farmer, and elevator employee Larry Navrkal, 28, of Bellwood were in critical condition at St. Elizabeth's Community Health Center in Lincoln.

John Navrkal of Bellwood, an elevator supervisor and the father of Larry, also was injured but not hospitalized.

State Fire Marshal Wally Barnett said Wednesday the cause might never be determined "because it went from one end to the other, blew out the top and even blew out some of the bins."

Justice firm on AT&T suit

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The government will not drop its antitrust suit against American Telephone & Telegraph Co. despite a Defense Department request based on grounds of national security, the Justice Department said Thursday.

"I intend to litigate it to the hilt," said William Baxter, the assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's antitrust division. He called the government's case "perfectly sound."

If the government wins, the Justice Department would consider Defense Department suggestions on what changes should be made in a settlement, Baxter said.

In a letter released Thursday, Deputy Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci told Baxter the case should be dropped because the AT&T network is the most important communications we have to serve our strategic systems within the United States.

But Baxter said the government's case seeking divestiture of the world's largest company can be reconciled with Defense Department interests.

"I do not intend at this time to drop the suit," Baxter said. "On the other hand, I fully recognize the importance of an effective and integrated communications network."

"It is not at all clear to me that the concerns of the Defense Department and legitimate antitrust objectives cannot be reconciled. Obviously that's something that has to be explored with the Defense Department and that will most surely be done."

Baxter's comments came a day after it was disclosed Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger asked Attorney General William French Smith to dismiss the case because of the need for a unified communications network.

The government began its antitrust case against AT&T in January

in U.S. District Court in Washington in an effort to break up the massive Bell system on grounds that it has engaged in a "classic case of monopolization."

The case was recessed in January when it appeared the government and company lawyers were near a settlement. But the trial resumed in March after the negotiations bogged down.

Colson sees success in prison fellowship

United Press International
When Richard Nixon's abrasive White House aide Chuck Colson declared himself a born-again Christian in the midst of the Watergate mess, there was much skepticism. Colson served seven months in jail, then went on to found Prison Fellowship, a Christian ministry to inmates.

Colson has visited 120 prisons in the United States and abroad. More than 9,000 inmates have graduated from Prison Fellowship programs. Now Colson is off on a 21-day trip to 22 cities — including a visit to death row at Nebraska State Penitentiary on Easter Sunday.

Colson claims he has an answer to the nation's crime problem, noting that of 300 graduates from his two-week Washington, D.C., seminar for inmates, less than 5 percent went back to prison on new convictions. "I know it works," said Colson, who wants foundation money for a study of his program.

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