

## Fatal stabbing

Homeless man awaits sentencing for murder of woman who offered him food, shelter

DALLAS (AP) — A homeless man was convicted Monday of capital murder for fatally stabbing a woman who had taken him into her home and offered him food and a place to sleep.

Dallas County jurors deliberated about two hours before finding John Wade Adams guilty in the March 21, 1997, stabbing death of Donna Duncan Vick, a religious, 52-year-old widow who lived in the Dallas suburb of DeSoto.

The jury in the court of state District Judge Robert W. Francis must now decide whether to sentence Adams, 35, to death or life in prison.

Gregory Edward Wright, Adams' homeless co-defendant, was sentenced to death last year for the crime. Vick's son, Jerry D. Blanton, said

he hopes Adams also will be sent to death row.

"My mom believed an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," he told *The Dallas Morning News*. "She was a very religious woman, but she sure believed that."

Adams testified Friday that he saw his co-defendant stab Vick to death as she lay defenseless in her bed. He said he did not participate and regretted not stopping Wright.

Prosecutor Greg Davis described Adams' testimony as a feeble attempt to "save his own hide." Both men traded the victim's property for drugs within hours of the murder, prosecutors said. Three prosecution witnesses said Adams made self-incriminating statements; Adams denied making those statements.

## Assault complaint filed against Chicago Bears' pick Curtis Enis

IRVING (AP) — A Dallas County grand jury is investigating a sexual assault allegation against Chicago Bears first-round draft pick Curtis Enis, police have confirmed.

Sgt. Tim Kelly, the supervisor of the Irving Police Department's crimes against persons division, said Monday that Enis is a suspect in a reported sexual assault.

A woman complained to police about the alleged assault on May 30, Kelly said. Police referred the complaint to a Dallas County grand jury after the investigation yielded no physical evidence, he said.

"This is one of those situations where it's a 'He said-she said,'" Kelly said. "It was referred to the grand jury because of the lack of evidence one way or the other."

The grand jury returned the case to Irving police last week with a few questions, Kelly said. Those have been answered, and the case is now back with grand jurors.

## Man awarded over \$2 million for uncovering hospital theft

HOUSTON (AP) — The Harris County Hospital District must pay \$2.175 million to a fired pharmacist who had exposed a drug theft operation.

"I feel good; I feel this will let others stand up like me," Edward Eduok, a Nigerian immigrant who was fired in August 1995 after providing information that led to the conviction of three hospital officials, said.

In an 11-1 verdict, jurors delivered the verdict Monday, including \$1.9 million for punitive damages.

"We wanted to get the hospital's attention," juror Dean Bounds of Katy said. "This was not handled right. The biggest thing that got me was the lack of investigation. Boom, boom, he was fired and nobody comes and talks to him."

Eduok, 49, first brought drug theft accusations to supervisors three times in 1992. When nothing was done he went to Harris County Commissioner Steve Radack, an outspoken critic of hospital district waste.

In 1995, Eduok was fired after working for more than 17 years

as a pharmacist for Jeff Davis and LBJ hospitals in Houston.

Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital assistant pharmacy director Erma Franklin Giles, her husband Gilbert and Leonard Simmons were convicted in July 1995 of taking about \$40,000 worth of drugs from the LBJ pharmacy and funneling them into her privately owned pharmacy, Maxicare.

Partially paralyzed by a stroke last year, Eduok said he cannot find a job because his reputation was damaged.

Assistant County Attorney F. Clinton Gambill said the county will appeal.

The Legislature changed the whistle-blower's statute on June 15, 1995, to no longer allow punitive damages. Woodfill argued that promotions Eduok did not get before that date and memos for tardiness were part of a pattern of retaliation against him.

Jurors also assessed attorneys' fees at 33 percent of the award, which would raise the total to about \$2.9 million.

State District Judge Caroline Baker will rule on attorneys' fees at a later date.

## General Motors reopens two assembly plants, sees end to corporation strike

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — With pressure to settle increasing on both sides, negotiators recessed early Wednesday after failing once again to resolve a few remaining issues driving the crippling strikes against General Motors Corp.

Top union and automaker officials talked from early Monday morning until just past 2 a.m. Wednesday. They were to resume Wednesday morning, Richard Shoemaker, the United Auto Workers' chief negotiator, said.

Sources said a framework for a settlement appeared to be shaping up, balancing promises from the automaker to invest in new equipment and keep plants open with union concessions on a longer contract and improved productivity.

But many of the details still were tentative, said sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The strikes at two parts plants in Flint have brought GM's North American operations to a virtual standstill and have cost the world's largest automaker an estimated \$2.2 billion. About 189,700 GM employees in North America remain idled by the strikes, in addition to the 9,200 strikers.

One proposal being discussed would have GM promise not to close the Delphi Flint East parts plant and two brake plants in Dayton, Ohio, for up to five years, sources said.

In exchange, the UAW would agree to a four-year national contract in 1999, rather than the traditional three-year pact. But that proposal remained under discussion and was still subject to change, a union source emphasized.

GM still was insisting Monday that any deal to settle the Flint strikes also include resolution of festering disputes at parts plants in Indianapolis and Dayton, Ohio. The UAW also wants pending grievances settled at the Buick City complex in Flint.

The union has argued that it makes no

sense to delay a settlement to reach deals elsewhere.

But as the strikes drag on, dealers are feeling increased pressure. Some are running low on inventory in some cases out of the most profitable pickups, sport utility vehicles and minivans. Some workers' paychecks for more than seven weeks are under financial strain.

There were indications the dispute that prompted the UAW's decision to stop investing in Flint Metal Center, had been One source said the UAW wants to help improve productivity and to a set level in exchange for a new equipment.

The marathon sessions began Monday, the final day of a four-day hearing to consider GM's complaint that the strikes were illegal. GM has led to speculation that it may fear the potential of an unfavorable ruling and are rushing to end the dispute before the arbitrator issues his expected this week.

A ruling against the union could limit its ability to use strikes over the as leverage to bargain over investment issues, as GM alleges has done in Flint. GM also has sought damages and an immediate work order if the strikes are ruled illegal.

If the strike lasts beyond the GM estimates it will lose sales of 100,000 vehicles a day and a large chunk of market share, which had just shown signs of recovery above percent level.

GM, meanwhile, reopened assembly plants that had been idled last month: the Chevrolet Corvette Bowling Green, Ky., and a factory that makes full-size sport utility vehicles in Silao, Mexico.

The UAW has threatened to shut down the Corvette plant.

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