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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

October 2, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

Halton police have quit the **Project Advocate** team. Why?

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Susan Clairmont

SECTION: LOCAL NEWS; Pg. A02

LENGTH: 634 words

Halton police have decided it is not worth dedicating a full-time investigator to finding the killer of a teenage mother.

Solving the year-old murder of 19-year-old Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes is no longer a priority for Halton. On Monday the service yanked its last detective from **Project Advocate**, the task force formed with Hamilton police to investigate a series of violent crimes -- including Kim's murder -- targeting sex-trade workers in Hamilton and Burlington.

Halton police didn't let Kim's mother know they had withdrawn.

"Well, they could have told me," she says. "I'm very angry and annoyed. I haven't heard from them and my daughter's killer hasn't been found."

Hamilton, for its part, will continue to dedicate four full-time detectives to **Project Advocate**.

Good for them.

It's easy to forget about Kim. She existed on the margin. If you do remember anything about her, it's probably that she was a crack-addicted prostitute.

But did you know she had a three-year-old daughter? That she had once been a track star at Bennetto elementary school? That her mom won't begin to heal until her child's killer is caught?

Kim's naked, decomposed body was found near the entrance of Kerncliff Park in Burlington on Aug. 29, 2002.

Police believe the same man is responsible for her death as well as violent attacks on at least eight others, and the disappearance of Susan Gourley, 39, and Felicia Floriani, 15.

Project Advocate was formed last March to find a killer. A predator. A man who could strike again at any moment. Hamilton police came on board because the victims all came from here. Halton added two detectives (one left a while ago) because Kim's murder investigation was their responsibility.

In theory, anyway. Truth is, Hamilton detectives are doing more to solve Kim's murder than Halton is.

"We would like (Halton) to stay because of the continued work that has to be done," says Hamilton Inspector Warren Korol. "We came together for a reason and that's because there are apparent similarities in the cases. We have a series of

Halton police have quit the Project Advocate team. Why? Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) October 2, 2003
Thursday Final Edition

attacks. There's a predator out there."

And a lot of leads still to follow.

Yet Halton has literally packed up their Tolgyes homicide files and gone home. One departing investigator asked Hamilton detectives to give him a call if anything comes up.

Halton Inspector Signy Pittman has a different take on their exit.

First, she says, **Project Advocate** was only intended to last six months. That may well be, but things change. Nothing has been solved. Hamilton is still working full tilt. Is Halton so inflexible or myopic it can't extend its detective work past the six-month mark?

Secondly, Pittman says, there is a case-management computer system that allows the two police forces to share files. Technology is great, but software doesn't solve murders. Detectives do. Nothing can replace investigators working side-by-side every day.

Third, Pittman expresses doubt the eight **Project Advocate** cases are even linked.

Yet survivors have given similar accounts of their attacks and remarkably similar descriptions of their attacker.

Pittman is quick to say Halton police aren't closing the book on Kim's death. (Never mind that they can't close the case until it's solved.) But the leads have "dwindled down and now we're at the point where if information comes forward, we will act on it."

She doesn't seem to know that new information is coming forward all the time. Forensic testing of evidence is still taking place. Tips are still coming in. Witnesses are still being sought. New information doesn't always just fall in a detective's lap. Sometimes they have to go looking for it.

That's their job.

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. sclairmont@thespec.com or 905-526-3539

LOAD-DATE: October 2, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Column

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February 6, 2006 Monday
Final Edition

Three police services meet on prostitutes' murders

BYLINE: John Burman and Paul Legall, The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A06

LENGTH: 681 words

DATELINE: NIAGARA FALLS

Halton and Hamilton police will meet with Niagara investigators to explore possible links between the killings of five Niagara women and attacks on prostitutes in this area, including the 2002 murder of a Hamilton woman.

A criminal profiler from the OPP behavioural sciences unit is also expected to attend Wednesday's meeting.

"It's prudent to flush out any similarities or links that may exist," Hamilton Deputy Chief Ken Leendertse said on the weekend.

The meeting will be attended by detectives from the defunct **Project Advocate** task force.

Project Advocate investigated the disappearances of Susan Gourley, 39, in November 2001, and Felicia Floriani, 15, in September 2002, as well as the slaying of 19-year-old Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes whose naked body was found in Burlington in August 2002.

Like many of the Niagara victims, Tolgyes was a heavy crack user and sold herself to raise money for drugs.

Project Advocate also investigated about a dozen other attacks on sex workers in the Hamilton area. Two men were charged in three of the incidents. All the other cases remain unsolved. **Project Advocate** was disbanded in 2003 when investigators ran out of leads.

The recent killing of 22-year-old Cassey Joyce Cichocki, a crack addict and exotic dancer, prompted Niagara police to establish its own task force to explore links between her death and the murders of four other women in the last 10 years.

Cichocki's battered body was found Jan. 25, wrapped in a sheet in a wooded area off Whirlpool Road about four kilometres from her Bridge Street rooming house. Her mother reported her missing last Dec. 10 when she failed to call home as she normally did every weekend. The Port Colborne native had been stripping in Niagara Falls clubs since she was about 17 and was addicted to crack cocaine.

Her funeral service was held Friday in Port Colborne, where her mother lives.

Michael Durant, 33, was arrested in downtown Niagara Falls on Jan. 30 and charged with second-degree murder in Cichocki's death. He is scheduled to make another video appearance before a justice of the peace in St. Catharines

tomorrow.

Detective Sergeant Cliff Sexton, who heads the Niagara task force, said he has assigned two detectives to each slaying. He said investigators will swap information on Wednesday and look for commonality among their cases.

One of the obvious similarities is that the victims were all involved in high-risk behaviour. And in at least four cases, the victim was killed in one place and the body left elsewhere.

Sexton said he expects crime analyst Sergeant Ed Chaffe to attend Wednesday's meeting, but if he can't make it, he'll be consulted and made aware of developments.

Often known as profilers, analysts look for patterns of behaviour at crime scenes to try to determine what kind of person committed it.

Profilers also look for links among the victims to determine whether one or more people are involved in murders.

Sexton said investigators haven't found any evidence Durant and Cichocki knew each other, although they lived only a few blocks apart when she disappeared.

Niagara detectives spent most of the past week sifting through a Queen Street building.

A former appliance shop, the storefront has blackened windows.

They also spent at least three days at a two-storey frame house and detached garage at 6119 Toby Crescent in Niagara Falls.

Neighbours said Durant lived there with his common-law wife and young daughter until they broke up about a year ago. He still dropped by periodically to see the child.

Chuck Keller, who owns a carpentry business and lives across the street, said Durant was involved in the construction business. He described him as a rather small man who tried to portray himself as a tough guy. On the front window, he had a sign saying, "Beware of pitbull with AIDS."

Another sign read, "Never mind dog. Beware of owner."

Durant's common-law wife and the child were driven away in an unmarked police vehicle the day he was arrested. A neighbour said the woman was "devastated" by her husband's arrest.

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LOAD-DATE: February 6, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: News

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Three police services meet on prostitutes' murders thespec.com February 6, 2006 Monday

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 2, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

No trace of missing women at park

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A04

LENGTH: 239 words

DATELINE: BURLINGTON

Cadaver dogs brought in to search rustic Kerncliffe Park found no trace of two missing Hamilton women.

Three specially trained Ontario Provincial Police dogs and their handlers searched the park for human remains Monday and yesterday.

The dogs were called in by **Project Advocate** -- the joint Hamilton-Halton police operation hunting a predator believed to have killed sex-trade worker Kimlyn Tolgyes last August and dumped her in brush at the entrance to the park.

Hamilton police Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab, head of **Project Advocate**, said yesterday the dogs found nothing to indicate either Susan Gourley, 39, missing since November 2001, or Felicia Floriani, 15, who vanished last September, had been in the park at the top of Kerns Road.

All the dogs found, he said, was a dead raccoon.

Police sent the dogs through the park because they believe the predator they are hunting killed Tolgyes and dumped her in the area and attacked another Hamilton prostitute he took to Kerns Park a half mile down the road last summer.

Hrab said the task force has not been able to locate Gourley and Floriani so Kerncliffe Park was an obvious place for the investigation to look.

Anyone who may know anything about the whereabouts or disappearance of either Gourley or Floriani is asked to contact **Project Advocate's** tip line at 905-546-2100, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

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LOAD-DATE: April 2, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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June 6, 2006 Tuesday
Final Edition

Second charge in sex worker killings; Labourer faces two counts of first-degree murder

BYLINE: Susan Clairmont, The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A03

LENGTH: 751 words

DATELINE: NIAGARA FALLS

Expert advice from Hamilton and Halton cops who spent months investigating the fate of sex trade workers helped a Niagara task force lay another murder charge against a man already accused of killing one woman.

Labourer Michael Durant, 33, was charged yesterday morning with first-degree murder in the 2003 death of Diane Christina Dimitri, a 32-year-old grieving widow and mother of four whose body was found in a Welland ditch.

She is missed.

"Picture part of your body missing. Part of your heart gone. Can you survive?" her father, Kyri Kyriacou, asks.

The latest charge comes from a tip police received from the public at the end of January. It was developed by interviewing and re-interviewing several witnesses, police say. Durant has never been linked to Dimitri's death before.

Durant also faces a murder charge in connection with Cassey Joyce Cichocki, a 22-year-old exotic dancer who went missing on Dec. 5 last year. Her body was discovered wrapped in a blanket and dumped in the bush near the Niagara Gorge on Jan. 24. Durant has been in custody since his arrest earlier this year when he was originally charged with second-degree murder. Yesterday that was upgraded to first-degree. He will appear in court in St. Catharines again on June 16.

At a packed media conference yesterday, Detective Sergeant Cliff Sexton of the Niagara Regional Police said his task force, which is investigating the homicides of five women, met with the Hamilton and Halton members of the now defunct **Project Advocate** to share information and learn "investigative techniques."

"We learned about opening up the lines of communication with the women," says Sexton.

Earning the trust of women working in the sex trade or living on the street was crucial for **Project Advocate** investigators, says Detective Greg Jackson of Hamilton. Police needed to build up their relationships with those women who were potential victims and potential witnesses.

"We told them that they have to go to the sex trade workers. The sex trade workers won't come to them," says Jackson.

Project Advocate reached out by working with the well-connected Van Needle Exchange, asking staff to distribute information flyers, composite drawings and phone numbers on behalf of the officers.

The investigators also attended a client meeting at the Wesley Centre and went out on the street in plain clothes to meet the women living and working there. Niagara police also used the same Ontario Provincial Police behavioural profiler who worked with **Project Advocate**.

Advocate was formed in November 2002 when Hamilton and Halton police were investigating the homicide of a young prostitute and the disappearances of two other women with high-risk lifestyles. At its peak, four Hamilton and two Halton detectives were working on the task force full time and 15 additional violent attacks on women were added to the probe. Two men were charged as a result of **Project Advocate** in connection with some of the attacks, but no charges were ever laid in relation to the murder or disappearances.

The Niagara task force was formed two days after Cassey Cichocki's body was found last January. Four days after that, Durant was arrested. The 12-member team hopes to lay murder charges in connection with three other victims: Dawn Stewart was 32 when her remains and that of her unborn fetus were discovered in Pelham on March 31, 1996; Nadine Gurczenski was 26 when her body was found in Vineland on May 8, 1999; and 26-year-old Margaret Jeanette Jugaru's body was found in Niagara Falls on July 9, 2004.

Police say they have no evidence to connect Durant with the remaining homicides although he will be questioned about each one.

That task pales in comparison to what Diane Dimitri's father was steeling himself to do last night.

He would have to tell his four grandchildren that a man had -- finally -- been charged with their mother's murder. There are three boys, 15, 13 and 5 and a girl, 9. All need to "get back on track" after a horrific chain of events that began when Diane woke up one morning in 2001 to discover her husband Angelo -- her soulmate -- had died of a heart attack next to her.

"That took a toll on her and from there it was downhill all the way," Kyriacou says. "She fell into this depression. And when you're depressed you just don't know which way it will go.

"The past three years, we had no idea why, no questions answered. Now we have a possibility."

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. sclairmont@thespec.com

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LOAD-DATE: June 6, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Diane Dimitri: Murder charges laid Nadine Gurczenski: Found May 1999 Dawn Stewart: Found March 1996 Margaret Jugaru: Found July 2004 Cassey Cichocki: Murder charges laid; Photo: Kyri Kyriacou: Grieving father

DOCUMENT-TYPE: Column

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Second charge in sex worker killings; Labourer faces two counts of first-degree murder thespec.com June 6, 2006

Tuesday

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

May 28, 2004 Friday Final Edition

Cops disband task force; Fewer leads in attacks on sex workers

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Stacy O'Brien

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A04

LENGTH: 616 words

Hamilton and Halton police have disbanded the task force created to probe a series of chilling attacks on city sex workers.

Superintendent Ken Bond said yesterday that **Project Advocate**, formed to investigate the murder of one prostitute, the disappearance of two women and sexual assaults on others, is being downgraded because of a lack of promising leads.

"Eventually you run out of leads to investigate on a regular basis," he said. "We come down now to a smaller list of things to do so we decided that it was best to work in our own jurisdictions."

At the height of the investigation four Hamilton and two Halton police officers were working on the **Project Advocate** task force -- now there will be one from each police service.

Bond said the 70 remaining low-grade leads aren't "priority leads"-- meaning those involving the identity of a possible suspect or a licence plate number. He said they will be followed up, but aren't as promising.

Hamilton and Halton originally combined their efforts because there was a crossover of tips -- 800 in total -- involving the two jurisdictions.

Project Advocate was created in November 2002, when Hamilton and Halton police departments were investigating the homicide of 19-year-old prostitute Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes and the disappearances of sex worker Susan Gourley, 39, and street person Felicia Floriani, 15.

The task force also looked into 15 violent attacks -- eight from the beginning, and seven that occurred during the investigation.

The task force was also created as part of a requirement by the Ministry of the Attorney General to improve the handling of major cases that cross police jurisdictions in the province.

The rules were sparked by the handling of the Paul Bernardo-Karla Homolka case and shortcomings in the Toronto and Niagara investigations.

Police originally believed the attacks could have been the work of one man. But in February, investigators said they had up to seven suspects.

Two men have been charged, as a result of the **Project Advocate** task force, in connection to some of the violent attacks.

No one has been charged with either Tolgyes' murder or Gourley and Floriani's disappearances.

Halton police Inspector Signy Pittman said they regret they've been unable to identify who is responsible for Tolgyes' death or found suspects for the other cases. But she feels Halton has gathered a lot of useful information and eliminated potential suspects.

Pittman said Halton police will continue to co-operate and that a Halton investigator will work on the case and "tie-up loose ends."

Police have charged Peter Conka with sexual assault and forcible confinement in relation to an incident on Aug. 19, 2003.

A sex trade worker was picked up in the area of Wentworth and Main Streets and driven to Concession Street on the Mountain.

The worker escaped her attacker by jumping out of the moving vehicle.

John Earl Crouse has been charged with sexual assault, assault, forcible confinement, theft and possession over \$5000.

The charges stem from alleged attacks on two sex workers June 26, 2003.

In both incidents the sex trade workers were picked up in downtown Hamilton.

One of the women said she was picked up by a man driving a stolen vehicle and driven to Number One Side Road in Burlington. The victim escaped by jumping from the moving vehicle.

Three hours later, a second alleged victim was picked up in a different stolen vehicle on Barton Street in Hamilton and driven to Dundas where she was attacked.

The victim was later driven back to Hamilton and released.

Both men have been in custody since October 2003.

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LOAD-DATE: May 28, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

July 30, 2004 Friday Final Edition

Police analysing sex-assault similarities; Cops compare incident with attacks on sex-trade workers

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A04

LENGTH: 600 words

DATELINE: BURLINGTON

Police are looking at similarities between an attack on a woman near a Kerns Road park early Wednesday and a series of attacks on sex-trade workers, including the murder of a Hamilton woman almost two years ago.

A 27-year-old Burlington man has been charged in this week's attack.

Hamilton and Halton detectives will not elaborate on what behaviour is involved or similar to any that occurred in assaults from January 2001 until late 2002.

The badly beaten body of Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes, the 19-year-old Hamilton prostitute and mother of a three-year-old daughter, was found in Kerncliffe Park in August 2002.

Kerncliffe Park is just up the road from Kerns Park and the area where a 23-year-old woman was sexually assaulted before 1:30 a.m. Wednesday.

Police say the assault was not a random attack. The woman and a man arrested later were together before the incident.

The case intrigues detectives who worked together on the now disbanded **Project Advocate** task force hunting Tolgyes' killer and investigating the disappearance of two Hamilton women and 13 other attacks.

"There are behavioural and geographic similarities to other investigations involved in **Project Advocate**," said Hamilton major crimes unit Detective Sergeant Terry Hill.

He would not elaborate.

"The Hamilton and Halton investigators from **Project Advocate** have been sharing information as a result of the latest sexual assault at Kerns Park and the subsequent arrest (of a 27-year-old Burlington man)," he said.

Halton police Sergeant Jeff Corey said the geographic similarities between the latest incident and the discovery of Tolgyes' body are "obvious" given that the sites are a few blocks apart.

Beyond that, Halton and Hamilton investigators are saying little about the latest incident for fear of jeopardizing the

Police analysing sex-assault similarities; Cops compare incident with attacks on sex-trade workers Hamilton Spectator
(Ontario, Canada) July 30, 2004 Friday Final Edition

investigation or identifying the victim.

What is known is that a 23-year-old woman was sexually assaulted in the densely wooded area east of Kerns Park off Kerns Road on Wednesday.

She walked to a nearby home and banged on the door until the residents woke up and called Halton police. She was taken to Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital where she was treated for minor injuries and released.

At 6 p.m. that day, Halton officers went to a 27-year-old man's workplace in Burlington and arrested him without incident.

Corey said yesterday police believe the woman was with a man when the door of an area home was kicked in.

The woman has not been charged in connection with that incident.

Corey said there have been no similar assaults reported in the area since Tolgyes' body was discovered.

Project Advocate was formed in November 2002 following Tolgyes' death, a vicious sexual assault on an 18-year-old Hamilton street person who was left for dead outside an abandoned factory, and the disappearance of Susan Gourley, 39, and Felicia Floriani, 15.

Ontario Provincial Police dogs found no trace of Gourley or Floriani near where Tolgyes' body was found.

Investigators began with the premise the attacks were committed by one man because of similarities in the attacks and a car believed to be involved in some, but later decided more than one man was involved.

Over the next 15 months, **Project Advocate** officers arrested two men for sex crimes and took up a watch on seven more.

It was disbanded in May because of a lack of new, solid leads.

Alexander Conrad Williams, 27, of Burlington, has been charged with sexual assault, break and enter and choking. He was to appear in Milton court for a bail hearing yesterday.

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LOAD-DATE: July 30, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 1, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

Dogs in search for two missing women; Police believe women may be victims of predator who killed prostitute Kimlyn Tolgyes

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A11

LENGTH: 624 words

DATeline: BURLINGTON

The search for two missing Hamilton sex-trade workers took a sombre turn yesterday as three OPP cadaver dogs began a three-day search of the rustic Burlington park where slain prostitute Kimlyn Tolgyes' body was found last August.

Police believe the man who killed Tolgyes and dumped the 19-year-old's naked body in brush at the entrance to Kerncliffe Park last August and is believed to have tried to kill another Hamilton sex-trade worker in Kerns Park a kilometre away earlier last summer may also have killed and dumped two missing women, Felicia Floriani, 15, and Susan Gourley, 39, in the same area.

While the specially trained dogs searched for human remains yesterday, other task force officers began running down a solid tip they hope will lead them to another possible victim of the same predator.

The joint Hamilton-Halton police task force hunting Tolgyes' killer believe the same man is responsible for the disappearance of Floriani and Gourley as well as attacks on at least five other women.

The task force has learned a witness saw another sex-trade worker trying to escape from a man jump out of a small, white sporty car early one morning on Barton Street East at Oak Avenue last July or August with obvious red welts or scratches on her neck.

Investigators want to talk to this woman. The woman or her friends are urged to call **Project Advocate** at 905-546-2100, or Hamilton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

Hamilton police major crimes unit Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab, head of **Project Advocate**, said officers and the dogs are searching Kerncliffe Park as one more step in the so far fruitless efforts to locate Floriani, who hasn't been seen since last September, and Gourley who vanished in November 2001.

"We still don't know where they are," he said.

Both Floriani and Gourley supported themselves in the sex trade. Both are believed to have encountered the same violent predator who killed Tolgyes and attacked a 43-year-old prostitute he'd driven into Kerns Park from Hamilton Aug. 2.

Dogs in search for two missing women; Police believe women may be victims of predator who killed prostitute Kimlyn Tolgyes Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) April 1, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

Sault Ste. Marie OPP canine unit Constable Jan Nickle said the dogs -- from the Sault, Peterborough and Caledon detachments -- will search the fields above the old quarry that forms Kerncliffe Park as far as Dundas Street (old Highway 5), along the edge of the Niagara Escarpment covered by the natural regeneration park and down Kerns Road towards Kerns Park.

The dogs are trained at the OPP's facility in Gravenhurst to locate the odour a decomposing body emits, whether it is under earth, water or snow, Nickle said. Remains can be found after a body has decomposed, he said, because the soil around the grave becomes contaminated and attracts the dogs' sense of smell.

"When they find something, each one reacts a little different but they go into active behaviour like scratching or pawing at the ground," he said.

Nickle said the dogs are trained for their work using chemical scents that duplicate the smell of decomposing flesh.

Hrab said the announcement of the formation of the joint **Project Advocate** task force with two Halton detectives and four Hamilton officers assigned to it, has produced about 50 good leads that warrant further investigation plus a key call from a witness who may have seen one of the predator's victims.

Hrab said a man told police he was on his way to a corner store around 3 a.m. toward the end of July or in early August last year when he saw a "very hysterical woman" jump out of a white sporty car.

As she approached, he realized the woman was a sex-trade worker. Her neck was injured and she was complaining about "the crazy guy in the car."

The description of the car fits the one sought by **Project Advocate**.

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LOAD-DATE: April 1, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 23, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

Rapist and killer profiled as young, intelligent, 'driven'; Police say he attacks women his own age, needs to dominate

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Susan Clairmont

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 1109 words

He's what police profilers call a "power assertive" rapist.

He uses rape and force to express his dominance over women. He has no doubts about his masculinity. He's intelligent and cocky. He thinks he's too smart to be caught.

He is believed to have preyed on at least 11 women. Two disappeared. One was murdered. Police are hunting him down.

While cadaver dogs unsuccessfully searched a wooded area in north Burlington yesterday for the remains of the two missing women, a pair of detectives from **Project Advocate** -- the Hamilton-Halton task force established to find the serial sexual predator -- were at the Ontario Provincial Police headquarters in Orillia working with behavioural science experts to come up with a profile of the raping murderer.

It's the second time they've made the trip. Just after the task force was formed last November, a profile was done, but there have been three new victims and much more evidence since then.

"The more incidents and the more information we have, the clearer the profile," says Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab, **Project Advocate's** lead investigator.

Police profilers have identified four basic types of rapist. There's the "power reassurance rapist," also known as the "gentleman rapist." He's calm, socially inept and indirect -- he'll sneak into a victim's house to sexually assault her.

The "anger retaliatory" rapist is the weirdo who snaps. He's raping women to get even with them for some perceived slight.

The "anger excitation" rapist is sexually gratified by inflicting physical and emotional pain on his victims. Paul Bernardo is a classic example.

The man **Project Advocate** is looking for is a "power assertive rapist," says Hrab, who has been trained in profiling. The rapist is intelligent, possibly an abusive husband and is motivated by his need to dominate women.

Similarities between the basic profile of a power assertive rapist and the man Hrab vows to catch are startling:

Rapist and killer profiled as young, intelligent, 'driven'; Police say he attacks women his own age, needs to dominate
Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 23, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

- * The power assertive rapist is the same age as his victim; the suspect police are looking for is in his early 20s and several victims have been teens.
- * The power assertive rapist cruises for his victim; the **Project Advocate** rapist picks them up off the street.
- * The power assertive rapist resides in the area near the crime; the killer police are hunting likely lives or works near Kerns Road in Burlington where some girls have wound up.
- * The power assertive rapist selects victims of opportunity; prostitutes are easily victimized by the man police are hunting.
- * The power assertive rapist leaves a short time span between attacks; the killer-rapist's attacks are often clustered together.
- * For the power assertive rapist, there's prior institutionalization; police believe their man may have done time in jail for property crimes.
- * The power assertive rapist uses a direct approach; the rapist police are hunting often asks women to go with him.
- * The power assertive rapist commits crimes outdoors; all the rapist's attacks have been outside or in his car.
- * The power assertive rapist is an alcohol user; some victims have detected alcohol on the breath of the man police are hunting.

Police say the guy they're after is white and in his early 20s. He is 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-10, with a slim build. Most victims describe him as having short blond hair and blue eyes, but his hair may have a reddish tinge and his eyes could be green. He has a fair complexion. The women have described him as being a clean-cut, preppy type. He is charming, calm and reassuring at first. But when his victims resist, he immediately becomes angry, volatile and violent.

He smokes duMaurier cigarettes, police say.

The attacks began in January 2001. Ten of the 11 victims have been either prostitutes or street people. They have ranged in age from 15 to 43.

One sex trade worker, Susan Gourley, 39, was last seen on November 2001. Felicia Floriani, a 15-year-old prostitute, was last seen in September 2002. The naked decomposed body of Kimlyn Tolgyes, a 19-year-old prostitute, was found near the entrance of Kerncliff Park, off Kerns Road, Burlington, on Aug. 29, 2002.

The first victims were approached on foot, usually in alleys. Later, they were lured into cars. In one attack, the victim was robbed at gunpoint. In another, the victim was strangled unconscious with a ligature, leaving her neck permanently scarred.

Just this week, police added three more attacks to the list.

Last March, a young woman getting off a bus at King and Wentworth was attacked. She struggled free. On June 26, the predator struck twice. The first time, at 1:30 a.m., he offered a prostitute at Main and Wentworth streets \$150 for sex. She got into the car and did crack cocaine while he drove her to Waterdown. When she realized where she was and remembered the warnings she had been given from police about a "bad date" who was taking girls to that area, she said she wanted to go back to Hamilton. At that point, he punched her in the face and upper body. She escaped into the bushes. He drove around trying to find her, but eventually left.

Amazingly, at 5 a.m. that same morning, he was back at it, using another car which police believe was stolen. He offered another prostitute \$150, drove her to Old Guelph Road in Dundas and forced her to perform oral sex on him.

Rapist and killer profiled as young, intelligent, 'driven'; Police say he attacks women his own age, needs to dominate
Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 23, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

Hrab says police can deduce many things about the rapist from the information they have.

The killer is getting more sophisticated. He started by approaching his victims on foot in alleys and has progressed to luring them into stolen cars and driving them to remote areas.

Hrab says the killer may know about police techniques and steals cars to throw them off track, or he steals cars because he doesn't have one. And he chooses his victims -- crack users and prostitutes for the most part -- because he knows they are "unreliable witnesses."

"The potential for being identified by them is low," says Hrab.

He knows a lot about the drug culture, although no victim has seen him use drugs.

That day in June when he struck twice, the rapist demonstrated he's a very "driven" man, the detective says. "After a disaster, where a girl bails out on him, he doesn't think twice about going after another one."

He's probably collecting his own press clippings and watching cop shows on television to learn how police conduct investigations.

Hrab says the rapist will continue his attacks until he is caught. "He has made mistakes," says Hrab. "He will be caught."

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. She can be reached at sclairmont@thespec.com or 905-526-3539

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Police have released this composite drawing of the predator.

TYPE: Column

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

February 20, 2004 Friday Final Edition

Police probe 7 men in rapes, murders; More than a dozen attacks made on sex trade workers since '01

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Meredith Macleod

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A03

LENGTH: 723 words

Hamilton police are investigating up to seven people in connection with more than a dozen attacks on city's sex trade workers over the last three years.

There is no one predator attacking, raping and murdering street workers, says Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab. He heads up **Project Advocate**, a special task force dedicated to making arrests in 13 attacks dating back to January 2001.

Those attacks include a murder, two disappearances and a series of violent attacks on prostitutes and women living on the street.

It is the first time investigators have said they are looking for more than one suspect.

"There are seven people on our list, individuals we know are preying on these women," said Hrab.

"These are not your regular street johns. They are preying on them, hunting them. There are a couple we're looking at as being responsible for the majority of the attacks."

Though it has not been linked with **Project Advocate** cases, Hamilton police are investigating a new attack on a prostitute yesterday.

A 35-year-old woman was working in the Barton Street and Emerald Avenue area at about 3:30 a.m., when she was grabbed from behind and dragged into an alley.

She was sexually assaulted and robbed before her attacker fled.

Another sex worker came to the screaming woman's aid and the pair flagged down a nearby police car, said Detective Erin Munro of the sexual assault unit.

The attacker is described as being white, 25-30 years old, with dirty blond hair and one to two weeks' growth of facial hair.

He is about 5-foot-8 or taller and has an average build. He was wearing a hooded burgundy sweatshirt which he used to cover most of his face.

Police probe 7 men in rapes, murders; More than a dozen attacks made on sex trade workers since '01 Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) February 20, 2004 Friday Final Edition

Police have interviewed a number of witnesses but the victim believes there were a number of other people in the area at the time of the attack.

Anyone with information is asked to call the sexual assault unit at 905-540-5544 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

This attack has not been added to the list of **Project Advocate** cases for a number of reasons, said Hrab.

The attacks under the task force's umbrella have generally involved a suspect luring women away in a car.

Hrab also says there are also elements of the physical description that don't match his cases.

In the past, police have warned women about a white man in his 20s, 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-11 with a slim to medium build, blond or light brown hair, clean-shaven with acne.

Another victim described her attacker as being in his 30s, with a scruffy appearance.

Another described the suspect as clean-cut and preppy.

There have also been several descriptions of cars including a white sports car with a stick shift and a full-sized four-door with an automatic transmission.

Project Advocate has made one arrest in connection with an attack on a 34-year-old sex trade worker in August 2003. Peter Conka is charged with forcible confinement and sexual assault.

He is scheduled to appear in court today.

Hrab says police are looking at making another arrest.

The attacks began in January 2001. The victims have ranged in age from 15 to 43.

In a number of cases, women have been choked, strangled or badly beaten.

Some victims have managed to escape. Victims have also been picked up in Hamilton and driven to rural areas of Burlington.

The naked decomposed body of Kimlyn Tolgyes, a 19-year-old prostitute, was found near the entrance of Kerncliff Park, off Kerns Road, Burlington, on Aug. 29, 2002.

Another sex trade worker, Susan Gourley, 39, was last seen in November 2001. Felicia Floriani, a 15-year-old street person, was last seen in September 2002.

Hamilton's sex workers remain extremely concerned about the attacks among them, said Krista Warnke, public educator with Hamilton's Sexual Assault Centre.

"Women are still talking about it, still strategizing about their safety and reaching out for support."

Violence happens with "alarming regularity" against women working the streets, Warnke says. But Hamilton's series of attacks has removed the cloak of silence about the issue.

She is not at all surprised that the police are looking at so many people who could be involved in the attacks.

"There are many men who view women who do sex work as second-class citizens. They don't think twice about raping them."

Police probe 7 men in rapes, murders; More than a dozen attacks made on sex trade workers since '01 Hamilton
Spectator (Ontario, Canada) February 20, 2004 Friday Final Edition

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905-526-3408

LOAD-DATE: February 20, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

May 15, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

Cops hunt for attack victim; Police want to see if she was choked by violent serial predator

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A03

LENGTH: 834 words

Police want to talk to a Hamilton prostitute whose escape from a man who choked and robbed her Tuesday may have been more lucky than she knew.

Police say choking and strangulation were used in a number of attacks linked to a violent serial predator who has killed one sex trade worker, is a suspect in the disappearance of two more women and has attacked -- and often choked -- prostitutes in a string of assaults dating back to January 2001.

Project Advocate, the joint Hamilton-Halton police task force hunting a killer, has not yet added the Tuesday evening attack to its list of incidents investigators believe are the work of the predator. The attack took place on Sawyer Road off Victoria Avenue North, north of Barton Street.

Member officers are keenly interested in talking to the woman because the attack occurred in the same general area where the predator has operated and involves methods similar to his.

The suspect in the Tuesday attack is said to be a white male in his 30s who is scruffy looking, wore jeans and smelled of alcohol. The woman left the area before police arrived.

Yesterday, police appealed to the woman to contact the task force.

"We wish to speak with the female, as the incident may assist investigators in **Project Advocate**," said Sergeant Maggie McKittrick.

Police said they were called to a Sawyer Road business at 9:15 p.m. Tuesday about a woman who had been offered a ride home by a man who suddenly choked her and stole money.

When police got there, the woman was gone.

A man who was working in an office on Sawyer Road told police he heard screams and saw a commotion. A distraught woman ran into his office and asked him to call police.

McKittrick said the suspect drove off in a vehicle described as a dark grey Chevrolet or GMC truck.

"We can be certain that the victim was OK, but she left before we had a chance to speak with her," McKittrick said.

Cops hunt for attack victim; Police want to see if she was choked by violent serial predator Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) May 15, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

The woman could not be found at the home address she gave.

Anyone with further information about the incident or the whereabouts of the woman involved is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab of the Hamilton police major crimes unit and the head of **Project Advocate** at 905-546-3829.

Hamilton and Halton police have been working together since someone killed 19-year-old Hamilton prostitute Kimlyn Tolgyes and left her body in a Burlington park last August.

They believe the predator hides his car on a side street to approach women on foot and has done this in eight similar attacks, stretching back to January 2001.

The predator has used a ligature (rope or wire) to strangle at least two women, including an 18-year-old Hamilton street person he left for dead on Hess Street North on Sept. 4. last year. The woman suffered serious brain damage affecting her memory.

Investigators have grave concerns about the well-being of Susan Gourley, 39, reported missing in November 2001, and Felicia Floriani, a 15-year-old street person who vanished in August last year.

Floriani was supposed to come into some money, an inheritance, on her 16th birthday on Feb. 11 this year. No one has heard from her.

Police also say they are worried because the attacks are becoming more violent.

The suspect apparently is quite familiar with downtown Hamilton streets where prostitutes work, and the relatively obscure Kerns Road area off North Service Road in Burlington where Tolgyes' body was dumped and another woman left dead.

He may live in either area.

Investigators also believe more sex-trade workers have been attacked but have remained silent.

"Because of the culture of the sex trade -- these women often face violence almost daily -- they don't report these things," Superintendent Ken Leendertse, then head of the investigative services division said in March.

The predator suspect is described as a white man in his 20s, about 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-10, of slim to medium build with blond or light brown hair and a light complexion with some pimples.

He has blue eyes, smokes duMaurier cigarettes and has driven an older white sporty two-door car with a standard shift. It has a flat dash over the glovebox with an indent the size of a Kleenex box.

Anyone who knows anything about the incidents or any similar attacks can call the **Project Advocate** tip line at 905-546-2100, or Hamilton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, if they wish to be anonymous.

Hrab also believes there have been more attacks than police know about.

Police have linked eight cases by the study of victims. These women are primarily -- but not all -- involved in the sex trade. They share location where the women were first contacted, assaulted and left. The attacker's methods are strikingly similar in most cases.

The predator's attacks are not about sex, Hrab said. "It is about power, control and violence."

He is stalking and attacking sex-trade workers because they are easy prey, out late at night and often working alone.

Cops hunt for attack victim; Police want to see if she was choked by violent serial predator Hamilton Spectator
(Ontario, Canada) May 15, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

jburman@thespec.com or 905-526-2469.

LOAD-DATE: May 15, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Police sketch of predator who has been linked to eight assault cases.

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 19, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

Joint forces track predator; Halton and Hamilton unite to find man terrorizing street people

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A03

LENGTH: 384 words

Hamilton and Halton police have joined forces to track a serial predator suspected in the murder of a young prostitute and attacks on as many as seven other women.

City police created **Project Advocate** last November after 19-year-old Kimlyn Tolgyes was found beaten to death in a Burlington park.

Investigators have since connected the disappearance of two women and assaults on five others to the predator.

Hamilton and Halton police will announce this morning that **Project Advocate** is now a combined investigation. And that will bring more resources to bear on the man believed to be terrorizing prostitutes and street people.

It's also an operational move required by the Ministry of the Attorney General to improve the handling of major cases that cross police jurisdictions.

The rules were sparked by the handling of the Paul Bernardo-Karla Homolka case and shortcomings in Toronto and Niagara investigations.

Halton police major crimes Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab said the announcement will review what the task force has accomplished so far, explain new links and appeal to the public for more information. Members will also distribute new composite drawings of the attacker and vehicles he may have used.

Police are looking for a violent man who targets vulnerable women.

He is suspected in one murder -- Tolgyes.

Investigators believe he is also responsible for the disappearance of two women -- Susan Gourley and Felicia Floriani.

Hrab said yesterday there have been no signs of two missing women police say may be linked to the predator **Project Advocate** is hunting.

"They are very missing and they shouldn't be," he said.

Gourley, 39, was last seen in November 2001.

Joint forces track predator; Halton and Hamilton unite to find man terrorizing street people Hamilton Spectator
(Ontario, Canada) March 19, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

Floriani, then 15, disappeared from Hamilton last June.

Police have great concern for the two women because they have not been seen in their usual haunts for a long time.

The attacks include one on an 18-year-old street person who was beaten and left for dead under bushes beside a dilapidated factory on Hess Street North.

Police linked the Hess Street attack to the same predator because of the level of violence involved and similarities in how the woman was left under the bushes. Investigators have not revealed details of those similarities.

jburman@thespec.com or 905-546-2469.

LOAD-DATE: March 19, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Kimlyn Tolgyes: murder victim.

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

October 16, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

Police closer to finding killer who preyed on prostitutes

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Susan Clairmont

SECTION: LOCAL NEWS; Pg. A02

LENGTH: 669 words

One sexual predator. Three suspects.

Police believe they're getting close.

The man they want is a killer. A rapist. A guy who left the naked, decomposed body of 19-year-old prostitute Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes at Burlington's Kerncliff Park a year ago.

A guy who they believe is responsible for the disappearance of streetwalkers Susan Gourley, 39, and Felicia Floriani, 15. A man who violently attacked eight other prostitutes and street women, leaving them violated and battered.

Last November, when Hamilton and Halton police teamed up to form **Project Advocate** in the search for the predator (Halton has since pulled out), detectives began to wade through a list of 150 "persons of interest."

The men on that list got there for any number of reasons. Someone thought they resembled the composite drawing of the attacker. Or they knew one of the victims. Or they were seen in the area of the crime. Or they had some other possible connection to the case.

Police followed every lead. Checked out every name.

And that left them with five guys. "Five that we looked at very closely," says Hamilton Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab, **Project Advocate's** lead investigator.

It didn't take long before another two people were eliminated.

And so there are three.

One of the men is believed to be targeting young women, but not necessarily around here.

Another may or may not be involved. Police are waiting for tests to be completed at Toronto's Centre of Forensic Science before knowing what to make of him.

Then there's the third man. "We think he is responsible for a couple (of the 11 crimes being investigated by **Project Advocate**), but can we tie him in to all the others? We're not sure yet," says Hrab.

Police must be careful not to have tunnel vision while working on a series of cases like this, he cautions. Though they

have good reason to believe one man committed all 11 crimes, detectives have not ruled out the possibility that more than one person could be responsible.

The investigation becomes even more complicated when you consider the victims. Prostitutes and street women are among the most vulnerable females in our society, says Hrab. They are victimized easily and often.

"There is more than one -- probably five, probably 10 -- individuals preying on this group of females," says Hrab.

So matching the right predator to the right crime can be difficult.

And there is another twist.

Waterloo police are also chasing a man attacking women. Since May he's targeted six young women in the university area of that city, usually following them home from bars late at night.

In one incident, he followed a woman to her Hickory Street home. She went inside, closed the door behind her and went into her bathroom. When she came out, the man was standing in her house. He groped her, but fled when she screamed.

On another night, a woman was followed home by a man who then peeped through the window at her.

And, on Sept. 6, the man struck twice. First grabbing a 14-year-old girl in a sports field. He asked her if she needed someone to walk her home. When she said no, he grabbed her and tried to take her clothes off. A group of university students scared him away.

A few hours later, the man followed a 20-year-old to her friend's front porch before he finally went away.

On Tuesday, Waterloo police released a composite drawing of the man they are looking for. It bears a striking resemblance to the sketch of the predator **Project Advocate** is looking for. In both cases the man is described as white, in his 20s, 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-10 with a slim to medium build. Victims in both communities say their attacker had short blond or reddish-blond hair.

Hrab says there is certainly a remarkable likeness between the two drawings. Hamilton and Waterloo investigators are now sharing information to see if there are any other significant similarities.

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. sclairmont@thespec.com or 905-526-3539.

LOAD-DATE: October 16, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Column

13 of 70 DOCUMENTS

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

June 28, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

Woman survives brush with killer

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Susan Clairmont

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A10

LENGTH: 658 words

She was trapped in his car. It was dark. They had driven too far.

And then she realized that he may be the man police had warned her about.

He might be a killer.

He was smooth until she told him she wanted out. Then his demeanour changed. He wouldn't let her go. They struggled and, finally, she was able to grasp the door handle and launch herself out of his white vehicle while it was still moving.

Scratched and scraped, the 35-year-old prostitute hid in the bushes flanking a secluded side road off Guelph Line in north Burlington.

It was 1 a.m., dark and quiet. She watched as the man who had wanted to "party" drove his car slowly up and down the road, looking for her.

When he finally left, she ran for the safety of a nearby house. Then she called 911.

This woman who was assaulted early Thursday morning after being picked up at Wilson and Emerald streets is now believed to be the tenth victim of a vicious predator who preys on sex trade workers and street kids. Six women have been attacked. Two more have disappeared. One, a 19-year-old prostitute named Kimlyn Tolgyes, was murdered.

The latest victim might have wound up dead too, if it weren't for the cops who have been pounding the pavement and warning working girls that there is a very, very bad date out there.

Members of **Project Advocate**, a special task force comprised of Hamilton and Halton cops, had talked to the woman some time ago about the predator.

They had showed her -- and many other prostitutes in the city -- composite drawings of the man they believed killed Tolgyes. They had asked her to keep her eyes open, to be careful.

Project Advocate was formed last November. Since then, the member officers have blitzed the city's stroll -- the area where prostitutes ply their trade -- repeatedly talking to women who may be vulnerable to the predator's attacks.

Project leader Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab has also put the message out through the media, describing the suspect, his methods and any other details that might help to catch the killer.

"Word is out," says Detective Greg Jackson. "And it may have helped this woman escape. She started thinking this was the guy we were looking for."

Her situation bears remarkable similarities to one of the other attacks **Project Advocate** is investigating.

Last August, a 43-year-old prostitute working at Barton and Wellington got into a man's car. He drove her over the Skyway, and north on Kerns Road in Burlington. The woman was upset about the distance they'd driven and noticed the man never came to a full stop at any intersections, so she couldn't get out. Finally, on Kerns Road, the two-door white car stopped and she got out.

The smooth-talking driver coaxed her back in. A while later, they pulled into a parking lot at Kerns Park. The driver's demeanour changed from calm and reassuring to violent. The woman was sexually assaulted before she managed to escape.

Just four weeks later, Tolgyes's body is found near the entrance of Kerncliffe Park off Kerns Road. It is naked and badly decomposed.

There are other, striking similarities between the cases.

In each incident the female victim was either a sex trade worker or someone who lived off the street. They all had a similar appearance. Most were approached or attacked in the Barton and Wellington area.

The car described by witnesses or victims in three cases is a white sports car.

And then there's the description of the man. He's white, about 26 years old, 5-foot-10, with a slim build, and clean shaven. Some have described him as blond and blue-eyed. The most recent victim described him with red hair and green eyes, but police believe it could be the same guy.

Anyone with information should call **Project Advocate** at 905-546-2100 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. sclairmont@thespec.com or 905-526-3539.

LOAD-DATE: June 28, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Column

14 of 70 DOCUMENTS

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

October 31, 2003 Friday Final Edition

Police investigating man charged with assault on prostitute

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Susan Clairmont

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A03

LENGTH: 709 words

It could be the tip of the iceberg.

A 21-year-old unemployed Hamilton man has been charged with forcible confinement and sexual assault by **Project Advocate**, the Hamilton police task force that has spent seven months investigating a murder, two disappearances and nine sexual assaults of women believed to be linked to the same predator. The attacks stretch back to January 2001.

At about 9:30 a.m. yesterday, a clean-cut young man named Peter Conka -- or Petra as he calls himself -- was arrested easily and quietly at McMaster University Medical Centre in relation to an incident involving a 34-year-old prostitute on Aug. 19.

Conka spent the rest of the day being interviewed by Hamilton police about attacks -- including a murder -- involving other women who either work in the sex trade or live on the streets.

He bears a striking resemblance to the composite drawing of the **Project Advocate** predator that has been widely publicized in the media: white, short hair either blond or reddish blond, in his 20s, 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-10 with a slim to medium build and preppy clothes.

"We are investigating him for all of them," said Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab, who heads **Project Advocate**. "Because the starting premise for this task force is that we believe there are links, it leads us to believe that it would not be unreasonable for us to feel he could be responsible for all of them."

The links include the slaying of 19-year-old prostitute Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes, whose naked, decomposed body was found at Burlington's Kerncliff Park a year ago.

There is also the disappearance of streetwalkers Susan Gourley, 39, and Felicia Floriani, 15, and the beatings and rapes of at least eight and possibly nine other women.

Conka immigrated to Hamilton as a 16-year-old from the Czech Republic with his father, said Hrab. Police have no knowledge of him ever attending school here, nor of him having a job.

He was kicked out of his home a while ago and was staying with friends and family.

Though he was arrested at the hospital, Conka was not a patient, employee or visitor, said police.

He will appear in court this morning for a bail hearing.

The most recent of the 12 attacks is the one which gave police the break they needed.

A prostitute was picked up at about 2:30 a.m. in Hamilton by a man in a van and then driven a considerable distance in and around the city without being allowed to leave for more than an hour.

Eventually, when the van came to a stop, the woman was able to jump out on the Mountain brow near the Jolley Cut. She ran off into the darkness and into the safety of a nearby apartment building.

For a while, the man continued to look for her. Eventually he left.

That scenario is similar to some of the other incidents in which women were trapped in cars driven by a man who refused to stop at red lights or even slow down at intersections.

What was different though, in this case, was that the woman grabbed something from the man's van before she fled.

Hrab won't identify what it was, but said it helped the police to identify the driver.

Still, it took more than a week for the woman to report the incident to the police.

Delays in reporting or lack of reporting is not unusual among prostitutes who are sexually assaulted, said Hrab.

By the first week of September, police knew who they were looking for. It took another eight weeks, almost, for the arrest to be made.

It is a time gap which Hrab said can be easily explained, but to do so now could jeopardize the case. It is important to note, however, that the public was not in any danger between the time Conka was identified and the time he was arrested.

Hrab said Conka is unlikely to have committed one of the attacks.

But he said the 21-year-old might have had the opportunity to commit the others.

Project Advocate has also been sharing information on Conka with police in Waterloo, who are investigating their own sexual predator who has been preying on young university-aged women.

The composite drawing of the Waterloo attacker is eerily similar to the composite put together by the Hamilton victims.

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. sclairmont@thespec.com or 905-526-3539

LOAD-DATE: October 31, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Column

15 of 70 DOCUMENTS

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

November 26, 2002 Tuesday Final Edition

Police looking for DNA match

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Cheryl Stepan

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 543 words

Hamilton police are comparing blood stains found in a former crack house with DNA samples provided by the families of two women who disappeared off the streets.

Inspector Ken Bond said blood discovered in the vacant Case Street house will also be tested to see if it matches that of murdered prostitute Kimlyn Tolgyes or any other victims of unsolved crimes whose samples are stored in a national DNA bank.

Police have been working at the boarded-up house since last week. They moved in after a tip to **Project Advocate** suggested they might want to have a look.

Project Advocate is the task force searching for the predator believed responsible for Tolgyes's murder and five vicious attacks on sex-trade workers and street people over the past two years.

It is also searching for two missing women -- Felicia Floriani, 15, a street youth reported missing in June, and Susan Gourley, 39, a prostitute missing since August 2001. Police fear they may have encountered the predator. Bond said they don't want to jump to conclusions about the blood found in the Case Street home, a one-time crack house which was taken over by the bank and boarded up around six months ago.

But he said if a match is found, it could prove "very significant."

Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab said he expects to learn today if investigators collected a large enough sample to be analysed by the Centre of Forensic Sciences (CFS). If not, he said, police must go back into the house and do more work.

He said he's not sure how the house will figure into **Project Advocate**, if at all.

"It's just one avenue that we're looking at and we're being very thorough about it," he said.

Major crimes investigators and forensic teams, including experts from the OPP, started searching the two-storey house just north of Barton Street last Tuesday. It's near Lottridge Avenue, in the area the predator has been targeting. The five attacks are concentrated in two areas -- Barton Street from Wellington Street to Gage Avenue, and King Street from Wellington Street to Sherman Avenue.

Neighbours said the former tenant, a Tiger-Cats fan who decorated his house in team colours, was a nice guy until he became involved with crack cocaine and prostitutes. They said people were in and out of the house at all hours of the

day and night.

Bond said the tenant, who has not been connected to the attacks, is someone they will have to "look at."

He said the families of the two missing women provided police with DNA samples so the CFS can look for similarities. Because a person's genetic make-up is hereditary, DNA matches can be made by using samples from relatives. The closest match will always be a relative of the first degree, a parent or child of the deceased or missing person.

Bond said they will also be checking whether the blood matches any samples from other possible victims.

The national DNA bank, located at RCMP headquarters in Ottawa, holds DNA samples from criminals convicted of certain serious crimes and an index of samples from scenes of unsolved crimes. It provides police services across Canada with information that can be compared to evidence collected at crime scenes.

-- with files from John Burman

cstepan@thespec.com or 905-526-3235.

LOAD-DATE: November 26, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Barry Gray, the Hamilton Spectator; Police expect to find out today if investigators collected a large enough sample of blood, found on the walls and carpet of this boarded-up ex-crack house near Barton and Lottridge streets, for forensic scientists to determine if it's related to a predator's five attacks in the area.

TYPE: News

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thespec.com

January 12, 2008 Saturday
Final Edition

Suspect in attacks on sex workers

BYLINE: Paul Morse, The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A03

LENGTH: 370 words

A random traffic stop has led to the arrest of a Hamilton man police now link to brutal attacks on at least four prostitutes since last summer.

Police stopped an erratically driven car at Barton and John streets around 3:30 a.m yesterday. Inside, they found an extremely distraught female passenger in her 30s who told officers she'd been sexually assaulted.

The woman, who is a sex trade worker, remains in a Hamilton hospital.

The 25-year-old male driver was arrested and charged with one count of sexual assault, forcible confinement and forced anal intercourse.

Detective Sergeant Chris Kiriakopoulos, of the victims of crime unit, said additional charges are expected.

"This was a substantial, violent sexual assault," Kiriakopoulos said. "We strongly believe this could be related to at least three other attacks on sex trade workers."

Police say they have preliminary information that another Hamilton prostitute was attacked in the city only a few hours before the man was arrested.

Police have also linked three sexual assaults on sex trade workers since last summer, Kiriakopoulos said.

On Dec. 26, a 25-year-old prostitute was picked up by a man driving a red van. The woman was driven to a remote location near Victoria Avenue North or Eastwood Park on Burlington Street where she was violently sexually attacked. She was treated in hospital for significant injuries.

Two months earlier, on Oct. 28, a 39-year-old woman was assaulted inside a red van on Kenilworth Avenue North near Barton Street.

Police say a July 3 attack is linked to these attacks, during which another female sex trade worker was physically and sexually assaulted in a vehicle.

Kiriakopoulos said there is no suspected link to **Project Advocate** at this time.

However, detectives will review **Project Advocate** investigations, including the death of Hamilton prostitute Kimlyn

Judy Tolgyes, 19, who was murdered and dumped in Kernciffe Park in Burlington in August 2002.

In November 2002, **Project Advocate**, a task force involving detectives from Hamilton and Halton, was set up to find her killer and to investigate the disappearances of two Hamilton women, Susan Gourley, 39, and Felicia Floriani, 15, and 13 other attacks.

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905-526-3434

LOAD-DATE: January 12, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: News

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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thespec.com

June 5, 2012 Tuesday
First Edition

**A short and troubled life;
Felicia Floriani was a drug user and sex worker before she went missing 10
years ago at the age of 15. 'She was a little girl,' a friend says.**

BYLINE: Susan Clairmont The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: LOCAL / NEWS; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 890 words

Felicia promised to meet her friend at the corner of Upper Paradise and Hadeland at 2 p.m. on June 10, 2002.

But she never showed up.

The friend waited two hours. Annoyed at first. Then worried. Felicia could be unreliable and troubled. She was a runaway who lived on the street and in group homes, used drugs and worked in the sex trade. But she'd never stood her up before.

"I told my mom Felicia never met me," recalls Danielle Brown. "And then a week later police contacted me and said she was missing."

Since then, June 10 has been considered by police and those who love Felicia Lynn Floriani as the day the pretty and tiny teen disappeared. For nearly a decade, the troubled girl has been missing. Until a Lincoln farmer trudged through a sodden field six weeks ago and found bones.

It has always been suspected Felicia was murdered. She was among the eight Hamilton victims focused on by **Project Advocate**, a massive joint task force formed by Hamilton and Halton police in March 2003 to investigate attacks on five sex workers, the disappearance of two others - Felicia and 39-year-old Susan Gourley.

They also probed the murder of another, 19-year-old Kimlyn Tolgyes, whose body was found at Kerncliff Park in Burlington on Aug. 29, 2002.

At first there was one suspect. He was thought to drive a white car and cruise the streets of Hamilton looking for vulnerable women. Over time though, investigators began to suspect there were two men preying on the city's sex workers.

In the 15 months it operated, **Project Advocate** resulted in the arrests of two men for sex crimes. Peter Conka was found mentally unfit to stand trial at first then later convicted of sexual assault on one woman. He has since been deported to the Czech Republic. John Crouse pleaded guilty to sexual assault. He is incarcerated on unrelated charges. Neither man has been charged with murder.

A short and troubled life; Felicia Floriani was a drug user and sex worker before she went missing 10 years ago at the age of 15. 'She was a little girl,' a friend says. thespec.com June 5, 2012 Tuesday

After they were jailed, the attacks stopped.

Officially, Felicia was categorized as "missing." There was always that possibility - that hope - she was just somewhere else.

That notion ended Monday when police announced forensic tests had determined the human remains from the farm field were Felicia's.

Her death is now being investigated as a murder, according to Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab, the original **Project Advocate** case manager from Hamilton police. Hamilton's homicide unit will take the lead, while police from Niagara - the jurisdiction in which her remains were found - will assist.

"It's obvious to us there is some sort of a link" between the eight victims, says Hrab. "We do believe there is a tie-in with those attacks."

Felicia and Danielle met when they lived at Charlton Hall, a home for girls with mental health issues.

Felicia's hair was long, blond and naturally curly, she had hazel eyes "and she was really little," Danielle says. She was 5-foot-8 and about 120 pounds. She had a pierced nose, liked to wear lots of blue eyeshadow. She wore flared, hip-hugger jeans, sweatshirts and platform boots.

"She told me a lot of stories about her family," says Danielle. "She didn't really have much family."

On the first anniversary of Felicia's disappearance, I spoke with her father, John Floriani. He told me he married Felicia's mother, Kelly, when she was pregnant. Felicia was born Feb. 11, 1987, and her mother left the family 18 months later.

Little Felicia loved to catch frogs and bugs. She watched The Little Mermaid over and over. She clung to her father so voraciously, he dubbed her "The Shadow."

John started a new family and a custody battle over Felicia ensued between him and her maternal grandparents. For a while, she shunted back and forth.

At 12, she watched her grandmother die of a heart attack. Not long after that, Felicia's biological mother died of a drug overdose.

Felicia spent less time with family and more time hanging out with friends in downtown Hamilton.

She was diagnosed with a learning disorder and while enrolled at Sir John A. Macdonald, she rarely attended class.

Felicia stayed at Danielle's house for a while. They suntanned and drank together.

"She'd always clean my room. She was really caring."

But she didn't take care of herself. Felicia often hitchhiked with men she didn't know. And though they never spoke of it, Danielle knew she was selling her body for money.

On June 10, they spoke on the phone and arranged to meet on the street corner. Felicia had a pair of Danielle's pants to return. That was the last time they had contact.

Danielle thinks of her friend often.

"She was always depressed. She never thought she was worth anything. When I told her not to hitchhike because something bad could happen, she always thought it wouldn't happen to her."

A short and troubled life; Felicia Floriani was a drug user and sex worker before she went missing 10 years ago at the age of 15. 'She was a little girl,' a friend says. thespec.com June 5, 2012 Tuesday

In a way, Danielle is glad Felicia has been found, so her family will know what became of her.

That sentiment is echoed by Detective Greg Jackson, who has been the Hamilton investigator on Felicia's case since the beginning. It was his task to notify her family that the found remains were those of their missing child.

"They were upset, but in the end relieved," he says. "They have an answer as to where she is."

Still, after all these years, the emotions are raw for Danielle.

"People need to know she wasn't just a hooker," she says. "She was a little girl."

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. sclairmont@thespec.com

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LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2012

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

June 3, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

Disbanding of **Project Advocate** doesn't mean its job is over

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Susan Clairmont

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A02

LENGTH: 699 words

Two men arrested for sex crimes.

Seven more being watched by cops.

Yet the murder of one prostitute and the disappearance of two other women go unsolved.

So was **Project Advocate** successful?

The task force led by Hamilton police and aided by Halton officers was disbanded last week, 15 months after it formed to investigate eight incidents involving sex trade workers, including five attacks, two missing persons and a homicide.

Over time, seven more attacks were added to its list, two involving women who were not sex trade workers but were walking in an area where prostitutes work. Two men are charged with three of those attacks.

Peter Conka, 21, was charged in October with forcible confinement and sexual assault involving one woman.

This spring, John Earl Crouse, 23, was charged with sexual assault, assault, forcible confinement, two counts of theft and possession of stolen property over \$5,000 involving two victims.

Crouse was already in jail for unrelated charges when he was charged by Advocate. Conka and Crouse have both been locked up since October.

From the start it was clear the project had a difficult task ahead.

Lead detective Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab of Hamilton says the nature of the crimes makes them tough to crack.

The victims of attacks are reluctant to co-operate because they don't trust cops.

The victims are usually transient drug addicts, which makes finding them and obtaining useful information difficult. The murder victim, 19-year-old Kimlyn Tolgyes and the missing, Susan Gourley, 39 and Felicia Floriani, 15, were difficult to trace because they weren't in regular contact with anyone.

In some cases there was no DNA or forensic evidence.

Then there was the sheer volume of information to be sifted through: 800 leads and 200 persons of interest.

Eventually, a description emerged of the Advocate attacker: white, in his 20s, 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-9 with a slim to medium build. Short blond or reddish-blond hair.

Police say both Conka and Crouse fit that description.

As investigators delved into their "persons of interest," they began to suspect a number of those men were preying on prostitutes and possibly committing crimes that weren't part of **Project Advocate's** scope.

There hasn't been enough evidence to charge those seven, but they have been entered into police databanks and are on the radar of homicide and sexual assault detectives.

"These guys are no longer in the shadows," says Hrab. "We are aware of them. We have them in our sights."

Police had the challenge of matching various suspects to numerous crimes. What resulted is a frightening reality check on the dangers faced by working girls in this city.

"Hookers are the most easily obtained women," says Hrab. "Anybody who wants to pick up these girls knows where to find them."

With task force members interviewing sex trade workers and distributing "bad trick" information about the seven suspected predators who haven't been arrested, one bonus of Advocate became a "real good dialogue and communication with these girls," says Hrab. The improved relationship is allowing police to collect more information from the street and will, hopefully, keep prostitutes safer by educating them about violent johns.

The dismantling of Advocate is the result of two things. The "two very significant arrests" investigators have made, according to Hrab, and the lack of new leads on the unsolved cases. While officers will no longer work full time on the unsolved crimes, both the major crime and sex assault units will look into new information as it arises.

But questions remain. Who killed Kim Tolgyes? What happened to Susan Gourley and Felicia Floriani? Who attacked the other women?

Is the person responsible already in custody, or is he waiting to prey again?

While Hrab feels good about the work he has done, he admits being frustrated by what he hasn't been able to do. Namely to clear every case he set out to solve with **Project Advocate**.

"We're doing what we can," he says. "This isn't, by any means, over."

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. sclairmont@thespec.com or 905-526-3539.

LOAD-DATE: June 3, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Column

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

July 23, 2005 Saturday Final Edition

Sex assault arrest sparks probe into unsolved cases; **Project Advocate dossier includes woman's murder**

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Paul Legall

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 357 words

A 41-year-old man charged with sexually assaulting two prostitutes this week is also being investigated for other attacks on sex workers, the disappearance of two women and the murder of a prostitute.

The previous attacks, which date back to 2001, were the subject of a wide-ranging joint Hamilton-Halton police investigation known as **Project Advocate**.

Superintendent Glyn Wide said police will be taking another look at the unsolved cases in light of the arrest of Albert John Goddard this week.

Wide said police will check where Goddard was and what he was doing at the time of the other attacks.

"We'd be remiss if we didn't do it," Wide told The Spectator yesterday.

Goddard, of Melvin Avenue, was arrested about 3:30 a.m. Thursday after two incidents in which sex trade workers were picked up in downtown Hamilton, driven to secluded parking lots in the city and sexually assaulted.

In one of the incidents, the woman was allegedly assaulted with an object.

Wide declined to identify it, but described it as a "weapon of opportunity."

In the first attack, about 1 a.m., the victim was able to escape the vehicle, run away and flag a cab.

The second attack, about an hour later, also occurred in a vehicle described as a 1992 grey or silver Ford Taurus. Again, the woman broke free and ran for help.

Goddard was arrested about an hour and a half later when one of the women spotted the vehicle.

"During the investigation, the first victim was being transported by police when she saw and identified the accused driving his vehicle," Wide wrote in a press release.

Goddard is facing charges of sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon and forcible confinement in connection with the attacks.

Sex assault arrest sparks probe into unsolved cases; Project Advocate dossier includes woman's murder Hamilton
Spectator (Ontario, Canada) July 23, 2005 Saturday Final Edition

He made a brief appearance at the John Sopinka courthouse Thursday and was remanded in custody until Monday.

The case is being investigated by the major crime unit, the sexual assault unit and detectives who worked on **Project Advocate**.

Detectives are urging people who have information about the accused or previous sexual assaults to contact them at 905-546-4614.

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905-526-3385

LOAD-DATE: July 23, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 20, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

Predator hunt heats up

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A03

LENGTH: 663 words

Police are certain a violent serial predator who has killed one Hamilton prostitute and is a suspect in the disappearance of two more women has more victims than investigators know.

Hamilton and Halton police now have a joint force hunting the predator they say killed 19-year-old Hamilton prostitute Kimlyn Tolgyes and left her body in a Burlington park. They are hoping a new composite sketch of the suspect and details about his car provided by a survivor will prompt more of his victims and members of the public to come forward.

Police said yesterday that the predator hides his car on a side street and approaches women on foot. That was one of the new details they provided about the eight similar attacks stretching back to January 2001.

He has used a ligature (rope or wire) to strangle at least two women, including an 18-year-old Hamilton street person he left for dead on Hess Street North Sept. 4. The woman suffered serious brain damage affecting her memory.

Police have grave concerns about the well-being of Susan Gourley, 39, reported missing in November 2001, and Felicia Floriani, a 15-year-old street person who vanished in August last year.

Floriani was supposed to come into some money, an inheritance, on her 16th birthday Feb. 11. No one has heard from her.

They also said they are concerned the attacks are becoming more violent.

Police said their quarry is quite familiar with the downtown Hamilton streets where prostitutes work and the relatively obscure Kerns Road area off North Service Road in Burlington where one victim was dumped and another left dead.

He may live in either area.

Hamilton police Superintendent Ken Leendertse, head of the investigative services division, said yesterday investigators believe more sex-trade workers have been attacked but have remained silent.

"Because of the culture of the sex trade -- these women often face violence almost daily -- they don't report these things," Leendertse said after a press conference at Hamilton's central police station.

The suspect is described as a white man in his 20s, about 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-10, of slim to medium build with blond or

light brown hair and a light complexion with some pimples. He has blue eyes, smokes duMaurier cigarettes and has driven an older white sporty two-door car with a standard shift. It has a flat dash over the glovebox with an indent the size of a Kleenex box.

Leendertse urged anyone who knows anything about the incidents or any similar attacks to call the **Project Advocate** tip line at 905-546-2100, or Hamilton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 if they wish to be anonymous.

Halton and Hamilton detectives have been working together since Aug. 29, when Tolgyes' beaten, naked body was found in Kerncliffe Park off Kerns Road in Burlington. A joint forces operation under the banner of Hamilton's **Project Advocate** predator force set up in November means the investigation has been turned up a couple of notches.

"The dynamics have changed," Leendertse said. "Where we were two groups working together, we're now one and we are focused."

Project Advocate's leader, Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab, of the Hamilton major crimes unit, also believes there have been more attacks than police know about.

Hrab said the police have linked eight cases by the study of victims. These women are primarily -- but not all -- involved in the sex trade. They share location where the women were first contacted, assaulted and left. The attacker's methods are strikingly similar in most cases.

Hrab said investigators will meet with Ontario Provincial Police behavioural profiling experts next week to develop more understanding about the predator's moves and motives.

The predator's attacks are not about sex, Hrab said. "It is about power, control and violence."

Hrab said the predator is stalking and attacking sex-trade workers because they are easy prey, out late at night and often working alone.

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LOAD-DATE: March 25, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Ron Pozzer, the Hamilton Spectator; Hamilton detective Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab leads the joint force of Halton and Hamilton police hunting the man who killed Kimlyn Tolgyes, 19.; Photo: The suspect has a slim to medium build, blue eyes and blond or light brown hair. He smokes duMauriers and has driven an older white sporty car.; Photo: Susan Gourley: missing since 2001; Photo: Kimlyn Tolgyes: murdered in August; Photo: Felicia Floriani: missing since August

TYPE: News

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thespec.com

October 6, 2010 Wednesday
First Edition

It's about safety, not sex Changes to prostitution laws will help if they protect women

BYLINE: Susan clairmont

SECTION: LOCAL / NEWS; Pg. A3

LENGTH: 953 words

Most of the time when I write about sex workers, it's because one has been murdered. Or raped. Or beaten.

There have been many victims in our community.

You don't have to look all the way to the Robert Pickton case in British Columbia to find a man who preys on sex workers. You don't need to go to bigger cities for women who have vanished from street corners. You don't need to search far to find johns who see the women they hire as something less than human.

There was **Project Advocate**, run by Hamilton police from 2002 to 2004. It looked at the murder of one sex worker, attacks on five others and the disappearance of two more. No arrests were ever made for the murder or disappearances.

There was Najim Khairzad, who raped, beat and nearly killed four sex workers. He pleaded guilty a year ago.

There have been others. The sex worker who was stabbed 30 times in an alley and survived, for instance. There are an estimated 300 sex workers in Hamilton - mostly women. Last year, Hamilton police charged 51 people under the prostitution law.

Violence against sex workers happens all the time in this city. Maybe every day. For that reason, I welcome changes initiated last week when a ruling by an Ontario Superior Court justice struck down three key portions of Canada's prostitution law.

No, this does not mean I support sex work. It means I support anything that might protect sex workers. I think the decision delivered by Justice Susan Himel has potential to do that.

Her decision weaves testimony of women involved in the sex trade with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the morals of average Canadians, the prostitution laws of other countries and some of the federal government's own research on the sex trade - which concludes sex work puts women in grave danger.

With the help of Hamilton criminal lawyer Jeffrey Manishen, I've waded through the document trying to understand it and decide if it will do what its advocates say it will - keep sex workers safer.

The three areas of the law Himel struck down were these:

It's about safety, not sex Changes to prostitution laws will help if they protect women thespec.com October 6, 2010
Wednesday

The section that made keeping a bawdy house a crime. Now sex workers can work indoors, legally. Given that the most frequent and severe violence against sex workers happens on the street, this is a good thing. About 15 to 20 per cent of sex workers are on the street.

The part that made it a criminal act to communicate for the purpose of prostitution. Now sex workers can talk to a john before getting in his car, which will allow them to better vet him for safety purposes.

The section that made living off the avails of prostitution against the law. Now a sex worker can hire a driver or a bodyguard to protect her.

"The judge found that the current laws were unreasonable infringements on the rights of (sex workers)," Manishen summarizes. Himel found the old laws are "arbitrary and over-broad with an effect far beyond what they were meant to achieve," he says.

And his own opinion?

"It's an issue which has called out for a comprehensive analysis for a long time."

At the Sexual Assault Centre of Hamilton and Area, director Lenore Lukasik-Foss supports legislation that protects women from rape.

"I think that this is a good move for vulnerable women who do sex work," she says. "It means greater safety for the most marginalized women in our community."

Rape is not just a job hazard for sex workers.

"It is outrageous," says Lukasik-Foss, "that we suggest that because a person agrees to have sex with someone that they agree to be raped, beaten and tortured."

Sexual assault is always under-reported. But that becomes more profound in the case of sex workers, the women at the greatest risk of sexual assault.

"If you've been arrested for the work you do, would you go back to the police to report a crime?" Lukasik-Foss asks.

A conviction could have serious repercussions: a child protection agency could take the woman's child, or she could lose her public housing. Also, sex workers balk at going to court because they fear they won't be believed.

"We have to push aside some of these arguments that (sex work) is not morally OK or is sexually exploitive," Lukasik-Foss says. "It's not going to go away. Regardless of where you're coming from, you have to put those beliefs aside because women are dying."

At the Elizabeth Fry Society, which runs Sex Trade Alternatives and Resource Services (STARS), executive director Leanne Kilby says her agency supports "the decriminalization of the sex work side, but not the decriminalization of the purchasing side."

In most cases, that translates into charges for the men, but not the women. It is crucial, says Kilby, that men know they are purchasing a service and not a woman. Continuing to criminalize the actions of the john reinforces that, she argues.

Kilby also raises concerns that if portions of the law are struck down, Elizabeth Fry - which supports women in conflict with the law - may receive less funding to work with sex workers. STARS lost virtually all its funding last year and is now reduced to five hours of services a week.

It will likely be years before the appeals of Himel's decision wend their way through the justice system. Meanwhile,

It's about safety, not sex Changes to prostitution laws will help if they protect women thespec.com October 6, 2010
Wednesday

"business here in Hamilton is status quo," says police Chief Glenn De Caire. "We work toward the protection of all our citizens."

Manishen says it's unlikely, however, that police will lay many prostitution charges during this period of flux because the cases won't be heard in court until the appeals are concluded.

So at most, we may have a revised prostitution law that will give sex workers in our community more options to keep themselves safe.

At least a worthwhile public discussion has begun.

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. sclairmont@thespec.com

905-526-3539

LOAD-DATE: October 6, 2010

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Hamilton Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab with his **Project Advocate** chart in his office in 2003. The project ran from 2002 to 2004 and investigated a murder, attacks and disappearances of local sex workers. Hamilton Spectator file photo

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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thespec.com

January 27, 2006 Friday
Final Edition

Who Killed Them?; NIAGARA POLICE HUNT FOR LINKS IN FIVE SLAYINGS

BYLINE: John Burman, The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 812 words

DATELINE: ST. CATHARINES

Niagara police want to know if a serial killer is involved in the unsolved murders of five young women in the region since 1995.

Police have launched a task force to examine the homicides.

The bodies of the five women -- linked by their involvements in high risk lifestyles including drugs, the sex trade and exotic dancing -- were dumped outdoors in Niagara.

Cassey Cichocki, a 22-year-old exotic dancer who used drugs, is the latest victim.

Her body was found wrapped in a sheet just off Whirlpool Road near Church's Lane Tuesday afternoon.

Police will not reveal the cause of death and say only that her death was "some time ago."

Niagara police Chief Wendy Southall consulted with Hamilton and Halton police yesterday prior to the announcement.

But Southall said it was to advise Hamilton Chief Brian Mullan and Halton Chief Ean Algar about Niagara's investigation, not to seek information about attacks on women in the sex trade gleaned from **Project Advocate**.

Advocate was a joint Hamilton-Halton investigation of the murder of a 19-year-old prostitute, the disappearance of a 29-year-old sex-trade worker and a 15-year-old girl who lived on the street.

Project Advocate was disbanded in May 2004 after two men were charged with some incidents but the homicide is unsolved. Southall said the Niagara task force will probe the following murders:

* Cassey Cichocki, of Niagara Falls, was reported missing Dec. 10, 2005, five days after she called her mother in Port Colborne and told her she would be home for Christmas.

Her body was spotted in a bush area Tuesday afternoon by a man walking along a hydro-right-of-way near Whirlpool Road and Church's Lane, just a few blocks from where she had worked as a dancer.

Who Killed Them?; NIAGARA POLICE HUNT FOR LINKS IN FIVE SLAYINGS thespec.com January 27, 2006
Friday

* The body of Margaret Jeannette Jugaru, 26, of Niagara Falls, was found kneeling in the middle of the Princess Margaret elementary school parking lot on Culp Street in Niagara Falls July 9, 2004, by a man taking his son to day care. She was last seen alive the day before.

* The body of Diane Christina DiMitri, 28 of Niagara Falls, was found Aug. 9, 2003, dumped in a ditch at Darby Road and Grassybrook Road near the Niagara Falls city limits. Diane worked in the sex trade.

* The body of Nadine Gurczenski, 26, of Toronto, was found in a ditch beside Victoria Avenue near Eighth Avenue in Vineland, May 8, 1999, less than 24 hours after she was last seen alive at a strip club in Mississauga where she used the name Marilyn as an exotic dancer.

Shortly afterwards, police released a composite photograph of a suspect wanted for Gurczenski's slaying -- the only suspect police have to date for any of the five homicides the task force will look at.

Police said yesterday their hunt for this unknown man is still active but he is not considered a suspect in any of the other four slayings the task force is looking at.

* The fifth homicide police will look at is the murder of Dawn Stewart, a 31-year-old pregnant mother of two young boys, who worked in the sex trade to make ends meet.

Stewart, of Niagara Falls, was reported missing Sept. 27, 1995. On March 31, 1996, her remains were found in a wooded area near Centre Street in Pelham.

Southall and major crimes unit commander Inspector Brian Eckhardt would not comment on similarities between the homicides or the causes of death of any of the women because it may compromise their investigation. Police have previously said post mortems indicated all suffered some form of trauma.

The families of all five women were contacted before the press conference and told of the police plan to re-double their efforts to solve the slayings.

Jugaru's mother, Peggy Hall, attended the press conference but did not speak.

She told reporters afterwards she was there to "make sure they remember these women -- not just my daughter Jeannette -- but all of these women were someone's daughters, mothers, sisters and friends.

"Remember, there was a lot more to them than their 'high-risk lifestyle,'" she said.

Southall would not explain specific details about each woman's involvement in risky activities or how those activities were related to their deaths.

"Our priority is to solve each unsolved homicide," she said.

Eckhardt also said police will not comment on the cause of death in each or all the cases or whether there are any suspects.

Eckhardt said the investigative team will look for similarities in the cases beyond the women's lifestyles but will not comment on what those may be.

"They were not all found in similar areas," he said, although all were outdoors.

As far as looking for a serial killer, Southall said the Niagara police "are providing the resources to investigate (these) unsolved homicides and part of that is to find out if there is (a serial killer).

Who Killed Them?; NIAGARA POLICE HUNT FOR LINKS IN FIVE SLAYINGS thespec.com January 27, 2006
Friday

"But we are providing resources to investigate the current and the past to determine whether or not there is (a link)," she said.

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905-526-2469

LOAD-DATE: January 27, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Larry Crandall, the Hamilton Spectator , MURDER MYSTERY The bodies of five women were found in the Niagara region over the last 10 years. A new task force is re-examining the unsolved murders.; Photo: Composite suspect Niagara Falls police have released this composite picture of a man that was seen with Toronto stripper Nadine Gurczenski before she disappeared in May 1999.; Photo: 1. Dawn Stewart Age: 31 Missing: Late September 1995. Found: Wooded area, Pelham 1996.; Photo: 2. Nadine Gurczenski Age: 26 Missing: From club May 6, 1999. Found: Vineland ditch, May 8, 1999.; Photo: 3. Diane Christina DiMitri Age: 28 Missing: Body found same day. Found: Niagara Falls, Aug. 9, 2003.; Photo: 4. Margaret Jeannette Jugaru Age: 26 Missing: Not reported missing. Found: Niagara Falls, July 9, 2004.; Photo: 5. Cassey Cichocki Age: 22 Missing: Since Dec. 4, 2005. Found: Niagara Falls, Tuesday.

DOCUMENT-TYPE: News

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

June 27, 2003 Friday Final Edition

Police hunt predator for attack on prostitute

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Paul Legall

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 612 words

DATELINE: BURLINGTON

An attack on a prostitute who jumped out of a car in rural Burlington has been linked to a serial predator stalking sex trade workers for more than two years.

The driver had picked up the 35-year-old woman near Emerald Street North, Hamilton, at about 1 a.m. yesterday.

He drove her to a secluded side road off Guelph Line in north Burlington.

Police said she had agreed to go "partying" with the stranger.

She described the man as about 26- years-old, 5-foot-10 and clean shaven with red hair.

He apparently became angry and attacked the woman after she asked where he was taking her and said she no longer wanted to party with him. She jumped out of the slow-moving car and ran to a house from where police were called.

Police described the attack as a "physical altercation" and said no weapon was involved. The woman was not seriously injured.

"She was very rattled," said the homeowner, who was awakened by the frightened woman pounding on the front door at about 2 a.m. "It was quite nerve-racking ... She scared me to death. It was pretty frightening."

The homeowner, who did not want to be identified, said the woman had sustained some scrapes and bruises when she climbed a fence to get to the front door and away from her attacker. "I just feel terrible for her, regardless of what she does (for a living)," the homeowner said.

The incident is being investigated by **Project Advocate**. The joint Hamilton-Halton police task force is trying to nab an elusive predator they believe has already killed one prostitute and is responsible for the disappearance of two other sex trade workers, as well as violent attacks on at least six other women.

"The circumstances are similar to what we've been investigating," task force member Halton Detective Kevin Britton said yesterday.

"The description of the suspect as well as the vehicle are similar. There is also a geographical similarity to a couple of

other occurrences."

Number 1 Side Road, where the prostitute was attacked, is only a few kilometres from Kerncliffe Park on Kerns Road, Burlington.

That's where the naked body of 19-year-old Kimlyn Tolgyes was dumped last year after she was apparently picked up in Hamilton and murdered. A few weeks later, a man drove another Hamilton prostitute to Kerns Road, where he started beating her in the car before she managed to escape.

Project Advocate investigators believe the same person had a hand in the disappearance of Susan Gourley, 39, who was reported missing in November, 2001, and Felicia Fioriani, 15, who vanished in August last year.

By comparing the various attacks on street women, police have come up with a rough profile of the predator.

They believes he prowls the area where prostitutes ply their trade and hides his car on a side street before approaching the women on foot.

He has used a ligature to strangle at least two of the women, including an 18-year-old street worker he left for dead on Hess Street North on Sept. 4 last year. The woman suffered serious brain damage and memory loss.

Previous victims have described the predator as 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-11 and with a slim to medium build, blond or light brown hair and acne on his face.

The latest victim said he was wearing a light blue baseball cap, black jeans and a black T-shirt that had a drawing of a man with dreadlocks.

She said his car was a full-size four-door '80s model with a burgundy cloth interior and automatic transmission.

If you have any information, you can call **Project Advocate** at 905-546-2100 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

-- With files from Dan Nolan, The Spectator

plegall@thespec.com or 905-526-3385.

LOAD-DATE: June 27, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 29, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

Single females were target of violent break-ins, say police

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A06

LENGTH: 638 words

A sexual assault investigator has been added to the team looking into a series of violent break-ins in which two elderly women were punched or held against their will.

Detective Sergeant Ian Matthews, head of the Break, Enter, Auto theft and Robbery (BEAR) unit that quietly arrested a 34-year-old suspect when he came out of his Avondale Street home late Thursday morning, said the sexual assault officer was brought on board because the homes of single or elderly women were most often targeted.

Rudolph John Jenkinsjan -- who also goes by the name Jekinsjan, among others -- is charged with one count of forcible confinement, three counts of assault, three counts of robbery, 11 counts of breaking and entering, and 11 counts of breach of probation.

Police are now looking at more than 30 unsolved entries in the same area for similarities.

Jenkinsjan appeared in Hamilton court yesterday and was remanded in custody to April 4, after saying he wanted an early trial. The short, dark-haired man wore a navy windbreaker and black pants. He seemed calm, and at one point, rested his arms casually on top of the prisoner's box.

Assistant Crown attorney Jennifer Donolo told court the Crown would be seeking a penitentiary term in this case.

Matthews said yesterday that investigating officers have been passing along information to **Project Advocate**. That's the joint Hamilton-Halton police unit hunting a predator in a car and who is believed responsible for the death of one Hamilton prostitute, the disappearance of two more and attacks on five more female sex trade workers or street persons since January 2001. Police say the methods and targets in the series of robberies are not similar.

"The suspect has neither been included or excluded from **Project Advocate**," Matthews said.

The arrest came at the end of an intense, three-week hunt throughout central east Hamilton.

Police were looking for someone who was breaking into homes occupied by single or elderly women and at least one elderly couple.

Police said a man would knock on a door and if someone answered he would ask for a person who did not live there and then push his way in. Residents of the area reported seeing a man leaving various homes on a bicycle.

Single females were target of violent break-ins, say police Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) March 29, 2003
Saturday Final Edition

As the list of attacks and sightings grew, officers who were stationed in the area each day at 4 a.m. began to develop a list of persons who were out and about at that hour of the day.

Meanwhile, investigators pored through other robbery cases looking for similar methods and began to develop a list of possible suspects.

The attacks concerned police, because the attacks were increasingly bold and becoming more frequent.

Investigators feared the intruder, who was not afraid to confront people in their homes, could become more violent and someone could be seriously hurt or killed.

Matthews said the entries were spread out along various rail lines in the central east area of the city. Police believe the homes and persons attacked were selected for their easy access from the tracks and the rail lines provided a quick escape route.

Homes were entered on Argyle Avenue, Leinster Street South, Chestnut Avenue, Leinster Street North, Cheever Street, Minto Avenue, Balsam Street North, Wentworth Street South, Gladstone Avenue, Fairleigh Avenue South and Fairholt Road North.

In one incident, a 93-year-old woman who lives alone, was punched in the face when she tried to escape from a man she awoke to find in her bedroom at 6 a.m.

The intruder then ransacked her bedroom and stole some cash off her dresser.

Matthews said the victims -- the vast majority females who lived alone -- ranged in age from 38 to 93.

"The vulnerable were being targeted," he said.

-- With files from Christine Cox, The Spectator

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LOAD-DATE: March 29, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

June 5, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

Cops hunting predator focus on white car; Important clue was buried in paperwork

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Susan Clairmont

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A03

LENGTH: 998 words

So many prostitutes are abused by "bad tricks" every day in this city that the report of one such beating was buried in paperwork for months before police realized it might be the best clue they have yet to finding a killer.

On its own, it was just another bad date report. When looked at through the eyes of **Project Advocate's** lead investigator, however, it was quite possibly another strike by a predator believed responsible for vicious attacks on five women, the disappearance of two more and the murder of prostitute Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes.

It was 3 a.m. in late July or early August last summer. A man, who happens to volunteer at a Hamilton police community office, was driving home from his regular job when he stopped off at a 24-hour variety store in the area of Barton Street East and Victoria. He was getting out of his car when he heard another vehicle come to a screeching halt. He saw the passenger door of a little white sports car open and a young woman jump out. She was a tiny brunette in her late 20s or early 30s, wearing white jeans and a black top.

The woman ran over to the policing volunteer and said: "Please stand beside me until that guy goes. He's nuts."

He noticed she had scratches on her throat, then he took a good look at the white car. Before he could call police, the woman vanished.

The man bought what he needed at the store, got back in his car and continued his drive home. He had travelled only about two blocks when he spotted the white car again, parked at Cheevers and Birge streets. Though only a few minutes had passed since the other passenger fled, the driver of the white car now had another woman in the passenger seat. She was possibly native, about 5-foot-4 and 135 pounds.

The witness reported all this to police. And for three months, it was lost inside a cop's notebook.

There are three or four reports each and every day in Hamilton of prostitutes being hurt or hassled by their johns, says Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab, **Project Advocate's** lead investigator. There was, sadly, nothing outstanding about this report.

Flash forward to Nov. 14, 2002. A press conference at police headquarters. Hrab standing before cameras and reporters announcing the launch of **Project Advocate** to find the man who is preying on prostitutes and street kids.

Cops hunting predator focus on white car; Important clue was buried in paperwork Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) June 5, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

Victim 1: A 40-year-old sex trade worker services a john on Jan. 9, 2001. Then he pulls out a gun and robs her.

Victim 2: A 17-year-old prostitute is strangled with a ligature until she is unconscious on March 6, 2001. When she wakes, her pants are down and her money is gone. Her neck is permanently scarred.

Victim 3: A 33-year-old prostitute strangled by a ligature. It breaks and she escapes. Happens Sept. 25, 2001.

Victim 4: Susan Gourley, 39, is reported missing on Aug. 31, 2002, by family. She worked as a prostitute. Last seen November 2001.

Victim 5: A 43-year-old sex trade worker at Barton and Wellington is coaxed into the car of a man who has bought her a coffee on Aug. 2, 2002. They drive over the Skyway and north on Kerns Road in Burlington. The woman is upset about the distance they'd driven and notices the man never actually comes to a full stop at intersections, so she can't hop out. Finally, on Kerns Road, the car -- a two-door white sporty vehicle with a standard shift and sunroof -- does stop and she gets out. The smooth-talking driver manages to talk her back in. A while later, they pull into a parking lot at Kerns Park. The driver's demeanour changes from calm and reassuring to violent. The woman is sexually assaulted. She escapes and yells for passers-by to help.

Victim 6: The naked decomposed body of Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes, a 19-year-old sex trade worker, is found near the entrance of Kerncliffe Park off Kerns Road on Aug. 29, 2002.

Victim 7: Felicia Floriani, 15, is reported missing. She is known to work as a prostitute. Last seen September 2002.

Victim 8: An unconscious 18-year-old street woman is found in bushes at Barton and Hess streets on Sept. 4, 2002. She has been beaten and strangled with a ligature. She has suffered serious brain damage as a result.

The flashy press conference is great for the media, but even better for police. A seasoned detective like Hrab knows how and when to use the media to generate new leads in his investigation. After the press conference, someone called police to remind them that a man had reported the white car and its two female passengers back in August 2002.

Reports are checked. Files are found.

Finally, the link is made.

And it gets even better. Hrab says police are "pretty sure" they've identified the man driving the white car that night. And they have learned he has a "relationship" to Kerns Road, where Tolgyes' body was found and where Victim 5 was taken.

Hrab won't say what the "relationship" is, but he did say he has always believed the man they were looking for would have a connection to the Burlington road. He'd lived there, or worked there, or knew someone who did.

Now police want to find the two women who rode with him last year.

As for the driver, Hrab will only say he is "being investigated."

There are still dozens of other leads for police to follow. They are making their way through a list of 93 "persons of interest." There is a big jump from being a person of interest to being a full-fledged suspect, Hrab explains.

A guy who someone reports because he simply looks like the suspect is a person of interest. But a guy who looks like the suspect, drives a white car and has a sexual assault conviction in his past graduates to the suspect category. Some persons of interest are cleared or graduated quickly. Others take hours of detective work to sort out.

Time is crucial here. Hrab fears the predator will strike again.

Cops hunting predator focus on white car; Important clue was buried in paperwork Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) June 5, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

Anyone with information can call the **Project Advocate** hotline at 905- 546-2100.

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator.

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LOAD-DATE: June 5, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Ted Brellisford, the Hamilton Spectator; Hamilton police Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab is leading the hunt for the predator behind several attacks on street women and at least one murder.

TYPE: Column

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 12, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

Fitness hearing for sex accused; Man charged with assault has mental disorder: MDs

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Barbara Brown

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A04

LENGTH: 303 words

One of the men arrested by a police task force investigating a series of attacks on Hamilton's sex-trade workers will have his case delayed until after a hearing to determine whether he is mentally fit to stand trial.

Peter Conka, 21, was slated for trial last month but his case had to be adjourned because of his continual outbursts in court. Doctors have since determined that Conka has a mental disorder and may not be fit for trial.

A judge will have to determine whether Conka is able to instruct a lawyer and understand the legal proceedings he faces at a fitness hearing set for Aug. 27.

Conka was charged by members of **Project Advocate** in October with forcible confinement and sexual assault in connection with one woman.

A second man, John Earl Crouse, 23, was arrested by the task force this spring. He faces charges involving two complainants, including sexual assault, assault, forcible confinement and two counts of theft and possession of stolen property valued over \$5,000.

The task force, led by Hamilton police and assisted by Halton police, was disbanded in June, 15 months after it was formed, because of a lack of solid leads.

Hamilton and Halton detectives are also looking at similarities between an attack on a woman near a Kerns Road park on July 28 and a series of attacks on sex-trade workers, including the murder two years ago of Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes. The body of the 19-year-old Hamilton prostitute was found in nearby Kerncliff Park in August 2002.

Project Advocate was set up to probe the Tolgyes murder, the disappearance of two other Hamilton women and 13 other attacks.

A 27-year-old Burlington man, Alexander Conrad Williams, has been charged with sexual assault, break and enter and choking in the most recent attack.

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Fitness hearing for sex accused; Man charged with assault has mental disorder: MDs Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 12, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 28, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Accused in sex worker attacks unfit to stand trial

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A03

LENGTH: 309 words

A judge decided yesterday that a man arrested by a police task force investigating attacks on Hamilton sex trade workers is mentally unfit to stand trial at this time.

Superior Court Justice Ray Harris made a treatment order that will send Peter Conka, 21, to the forensic unit of St. Joseph's Healthcare on the Mountain for 60 days. The hope is that Conka will be fit for trial when he returns to court Oct. 28.

Members of the police task force, **Project Advocate**, charged Conka last October with forcible confinement and sexual assault in connection with one incident in August 2003.

Conka's trial was scheduled for last month, but his case was adjourned because of continual outbursts in court. Yesterday's hearing dealt with the results of a mental fitness assessment done earlier this month.

Dr. Tanya Tulipan, an expert in forensic psychiatry, told court she was part of a team that assessed Conka for about 45 minutes at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre Aug. 5. The interview was conducted in English, with the help of a Czech interpreter.

Tulipan testified Conka appears to be suffering from a psychotic disorder that interferes with his ability to understand court proceedings or instruct counsel. "My opinion is that he's unfit to stand trial."

Conka sat quietly in the dock as Tulipan said she would need more time with him to say exactly what type of psychotic disorder he has.

The judge made the 60-day treatment order after Tulipan testified it's likely Conka would remain unfit to stand trial unless he was given anti-psychotic medication.

Conka was one of two men arrested by **Project Advocate**, a task force of Hamilton and Halton police. The task force, disbanded in June, was formed to investigate attacks on prostitutes, as well as two missing women cases and the murder two years ago of Kimlyn Tolgyes.

LOAD-DATE: August 28, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

Accused in sex worker attacks unfit to stand trial Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 28, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

July 29, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

Judge orders unruly, ranting accused from courtroom

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Barbara Brown

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 395 words

Peter Conka, the 21-year-old man arrested nine months ago by a police task force probing attacks on the city's sex-trade workers, was ordered removed from a courtroom this week because of repeated outbursts and incessant rants in his native Czech language.

Superior Court Justice Ray Harris warned the prisoner several times before finally ordering him returned to holding cells. Conka's fitness to stand trial was then discussed in his absence by a prosecutor and defence lawyer Andrew Confente.

Project Advocate, led by Hamilton police and assisted by Halton, was disbanded in June, 15 months after it was formed to investigate a series of attacks on prostitutes, along with two missing-women cases and one homicide.

Conka was charged in October with forcible confinement and sexual assault in connection with one woman.

The accused has a history of mental illness. Harris ordered a fitness assessment done at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre on Aug. 5.

The judge expects to have an answer when Conka returns to court Aug. 11. If he is found fit to stand trial, the matter is set for trial Aug. 23. If found unfit, Conka will likely be admitted to a hospital for further assessment and treatment.

Another man, John Earl Crouse, 23, was also arrested by the task force this spring. He faces charges of sexual assault, assault, forcible confinement and two counts of theft and possession of stolen property valued over \$5,000 involving two complainants.

Police have said they do not believe they're dealing with a single predator, and had narrowed their sights on some seven "persons of interest."

The attacks investigated by **Project Advocate** have usually involved a suspect luring a woman away in a vehicle.

In the past, police have warned women about a white male in his 20s, 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-11, with a slim to medium build, blond or light brown hair, clean-shaven, with bad skin.

In some attacks, women have been choked, strangled and badly beaten. One woman was killed. The naked, decomposed body of Kimlyn Tolgyes, a 19-year-old prostitute from Hamilton, was found on Aug. 29, 2002, near the entrance of Kerncliff Park in Burlington.

Judge orders unruly, ranting accused from courtroom Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) July 29, 2004 Thursday
Final Edition

Another sex trade worker, Susan Gourley, 39, has been missing since November 2001. Felicia Floriani, 15, a street kid, was last seen in September 2002.

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905-526-3494

LOAD-DATE: July 29, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 27, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

Tips aid police in search for violent serial predator; Appeal for information in death, assaults yields 'about 40 good leads'

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 476 words

The public has come through with information for the Hamilton-Halton police joint task force hunting a violent serial predator who has killed one Hamilton woman and is a suspect in the disappearance of two more women over two years.

Project Advocate appealed last week for information leading to the arrest of the man who killed 19-year-old Hamilton sex-trade worker Kimlyn Tolgyes, and is a suspect in the disappearance of Susan Gourley, 39, and Felicia Floriani, 15, as well as eight similar attacks.

The appeal has produced about "40 good leads," police said.

Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab heads the operation that works out of Hamilton's central police station. He said yesterday that investigators "have learned quite a few things" from callers who answered the appeal.

Hrab would not reveal what sort of information police have gained. He said investigators do not have a suspect, yet.

"We've had calls that warrant further investigation," he said. "The response has really been good and we have followup investigation to do."

The suspect is described as a white man in his 20s, about 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-10, of slim to medium build with blond or light brown hair and a light complexion with some pimples. He has blue eyes, smokes duMaurier cigarettes and has driven an older, white two-door sporty car with a standard shift. It has a flat dash over the glovebox with an indent the size of a Kleenex box.

Anyone who knows anything about the series of attacks dating back to January 2001, the suspect portrayed in a police composite, the two missing women or any similar attacks is asked to call the **Project Advocate** tip line at 905-546-2100, or Hamilton Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 to remain anonymous.

Police say the predator hides his car on a sidestreet and approaches women on foot. He used a ligature (rope or wire) to strangle at least two women including an 18-year-old Hamilton street person he left for dead on Hess Street North Sept. 4.

This victim suffered serious brain damage, affecting her memory.

Police have grave fears about the well-being of Gourley, reported missing in November 2001, and Floriani, a

Tips aid police in search for violent serial predator; Appeal for information in death, assaults yields 'about 40 good leads' Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) March 27, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

15-year-old street person and sometime sex-trade worker who vanished in August. Floriani was supposed to come into some money, an inheritance, on her 16th birthday Feb. 1, and no one has heard from her.

Halton and Hamilton detectives have been working together since Aug. 29 when Tolgyes' beaten, naked body was found in Kerncliffe Park on Kerns Road in Burlington.

Tolgyes' body was found about a month after a 43-year-old Hamilton sex-trade worker was attacked in Kerns Park a few hundred yards away on Kerns Road by a man who had picked her up in Hamilton.

She survived and was able to give police a description of the suspect and interior of his car.

jburman@thespec.com or 905-546-2469.

LOAD-DATE: March 27, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

November 28, 2002 Thursday Final Edition

Police finish investigation of Hamilton crack house

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A10

LENGTH: 327 words

Hamilton police are done with a former crack house on Case Street and are awaiting forensic tests to tell them if the dilapidated building is part of their search for a serial predator.

Blood was found on the walls and a carpet when police, acting on a tip to the **Project Advocate** predator probe hotline, moved in over a week ago.

Police pulled out of the home Tuesday night after collecting more blood samples for the Centre of Forensic Sciences (CFS).

Investigators found no other evidence in the house to link it to at least one homicide, two missing women and attacks on a number of prostitutes in the last two years.

Inspector Ken Bond said investigators had expected a CFS team to collect samples in the house yesterday. The scientists decided this was not necessary and instructed police how to properly collect the samples they wanted.

The samples were collected and sent to the CFS. Results could be known in about a week.

Bond said police are in contact with people who have been through the Case Street house during the time it was a crack house and a flophouse.

The police task force is hunting the predator who murdered 19-year-old Kimlyn Tolgyes and may have been responsible for five other vicious assaults on prostitutes and other street people in the past two years.

It is also investigating the disappearance of Felicia Floriani, 15, and Susan Gourley, 39.

The blood is being tested to see whether it matches that of Tolgyes or any of the other women who've been attacked or have vanished.

Bond said police are working on about 20 leads which have come in to **Project Advocate** and Hamilton Crime Stoppers.

"It's all about legwork at the moment."

Police have asked anyone with information about the incidents or the suspect to call the task force hot line at

Police finish investigation of Hamilton crack house Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) November 28, 2002
Thursday Final Edition

905-546-2100 or, if they prefer to remain anonymous, Hamilton Crime Stoppers at 905-522-8477 or 1-800-222-8477.

jburman@thespec.com or 905-526-2469.

LOAD-DATE: November 28, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

November 25, 2002 Monday Final Edition

Police testing blood in ex-crack house

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Jocelyn Bell

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 633 words

Police have sealed off a vacant blood-spattered house as they investigate possible links to a predator killing and attacks on sex-trade workers.

Hamilton police refuse to say where in the former crack house the blood was found, only that it was on the walls and one rug.

It's not clear if the spatter is confined to one room or more. The Major Crimes Unit and forensics investigators have been at the Case Street house since early last week. It's just north of Barton on the edge of the area where the predator has been striking.

Hamilton police said the blood is being tested to see whether it matches that of any of the female sex-trade workers and street people who have been murdered, attacked or gone missing from the area since January 2001.

"At this point, we don't know if we're looking at remnants of an old crack house or a crime scene," said Inspector Ken Bond. The house, on Case near the corner of Barton Street and Sherman Avenue, has been vacant since summer, its windows boarded up with plywood.

Neighbours said the previous occupant, a Tiger-Cats fan who painted the pillars on his front porch yellow and black, was "a nice guy" until he became involved with crack cocaine and prostitutes. People were in and out of the house at all hours of the day and night, neighbours said. Sometimes the man's drinking and violent temper spilled out on the street.

Vacant home is adjacent to area of predator attacks

About six months ago, the bank foreclosed on the house, evicted the tenants and boarded it up.

One Case Street resident, who went inside the house when contractors came two weeks ago with dumpsters to clean it out, said it was a mess.

"It's destroyed on the inside. It was mattresses, needles and graffiti. There's no kitchen and no bathroom because they pulled everything from the walls," she said.

After the garbage was removed from the house, the bank sent another contractor to install a furnace so the pipes won't freeze over the winter.

More recently, a tipster contacted **Project Advocate** and told them to check out the Case Street house. **Project Advocate** is the police task force set up to hunt down the predator believed to be responsible for the slaying of prostitute Kimlyn Tolgyes, the disappearance of sex-trade workers Felicia Floriani and Susan Gourley, and five vicious attacks on other female prostitutes and street people.

All the women frequented Barton and King Streets from Gage Avenue to Wellington Street.

Last Tuesday, police cruisers, detectives and forensics specialists arrived at the Case Street house and began an investigation. They found blood on the walls and on one carpet, but aren't certain if it's fresh or old.

Bond said it's difficult to quantify the amount of blood found. He said it could have come from a needle user who accidentally hit the wrong vein, or possibly from a fight.

"It's enough to concern us and enough to make us investigate further. But we don't know what we have. We're not getting too excited about it."

Samples of the blood have been sent to the Centre of Forensic Sciences for DNA testing.

Until results are available, police will be guarding the house as a potential crime scene.

The back yard of the two-storey brick house is roped off with yellow crime scene tape and police are parked out front. The former tenant has not been connected to the missing women but Bond said he's somebody police "will have to look at."

The police presence on Case Street has made neighbours a little nervous. It's not knowing that bothers Rob Clegg and his girlfriend.

"Just this week, I noticed the cops here. They won't reveal any information. I asked if there were dead bodies in there, but they wouldn't say anything. Should we be warned?"

jbell@thespec.com or 905-526-4620

LOAD-DATE: November 25, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

November 1, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

Troubled dad wants his Felicia back home

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Susan Clairmont

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 859 words

John Floriani rarely speaks of his daughter.

Still, everyone knows. They read about her in the paper. They ask about her, but John doesn't answer.

His second wife has encouraged him to see a counsellor. He refuses.

"I don't want everybody knowing. It's hard. It's very hard."

But now, John is talking publicly about his child. The pretty and troubled young teen who vanished more than a year ago. He hopes maybe, just maybe, it will help. That he can convince someone to step forward. To help him find Felicia.

There is a file on Felicia in the office of a Hamilton homicide detective. Other women too, a dozen in all. All believed to be victims of the same sexual predator. Felicia, at 15, is the youngest.

It is in the office of Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab. He is in charge of **Project Advocate**. For almost a year, four Hamilton detectives have dedicated their time to solving a murder, two disappearances -- including Felicia's -- and nine rapes they believe may have been committed by the same man.

On Thursday, **Project Advocate** arrested a 21-year-old named Peter Conka. He is charged with forcible confinement and sexual assault in connection with a 34-year-old Hamilton sex trade worker attacked in August. He made a court appearance yesterday and will be back next Friday.

Conka is also being questioned about Felicia, police say.

John and Kelly Floriani married because they were about to have a baby. Little Felicia Lynn Floriani entered this world on Feb. 11, 1987. Eighteen months later, Kelly walked out and John, just 18 years old, was left to raise his baby girl more or less on his own. For a few years, the dad and daughter lived with Kelly's parents in Hamilton.

His fondness for those days can be heard in his voice, even now. The chameleon daughter who loved to catch frogs and bugs. Who could watch The Little Mermaid forever. Who loved to cuddle and cling to her daddy. He dubbed her The Shadow, because wherever he went, so did she.

When Felicia turned seven, she and John moved in with Angela, who would become his second wife. They set up house in Burlington and began building a new family. A son was born.

Things weren't all golden though. There was a custody battle for Felicia between her father and grandparents. John won legal custody, but Felicia had other ideas. She wanted to live some of the time with her grandparents and so, for a while, she was shunted back and forth.

Meanwhile, Felicia was diagnosed with a learning disorder. Reading and writing were difficult for her. Then, in rapid succession, came the events that John believes set his daughter on a new and dangerous course.

When Felicia was just 12, she witnessed her grandmother having a heart attack on the bathroom floor. The paramedics came, but it was too late. Felicia's grandmother died. Nine months later, Kelly -- Felicia's biological mother -- died of a drug overdose.

"I think that's what set the whole thing downhill," says John.

By then, Felicia was rarely seeing her Burlington family. She lived most of the time in Hamilton with her grandfather. She hung around downtown with friends. She was enrolled at Sir John A. Macdonald high school, but rarely went. She was wearing more makeup than her father approved of and got her nose pierced.

"The friends were more important than the family," says John. "She didn't like coming to our house anymore because there were rules."

Felicia began moving from one youth home to another, calling her father when she was in trouble or needed money.

He still loved her, but didn't know what to do with her. She was out of control. Needed help, but didn't want any.

Boxing Day, 2001. John picked Felicia up from whatever group home she was living in. Her blond hair was long, naturally curly. Hazel eyes. She was 5-foot-8, about 120 pounds. She liked to wear flared, hip-hugger jeans, sweatshirts and platform boots.

He brought her to Burlington with the intention of taking her to a family dinner. She didn't want to go. The stubborn daughter and the fed-up dad fought. Before the meal, he took her back to the youth home. It was the last time he saw his baby girl.

They talked a few times on the phone that winter and spring. In June 2002, they had their last conversation. A youth home reported her missing after she failed to return one night. Someone thought they spotted her downtown in September. After that, there is no trace.

Felicia has vanished.

When **Project Advocate** formed, Felicia Floriani was on the list of victims. John read about it in the paper. His stomach churned.

The police said his daughter was doing drugs. And turning tricks.

"I kind of got upset when they labelled her as a prostitute. It didn't go over too well."

He hasn't given up.

"There's always hope that she's just taken off and doesn't want to be found," he says. "It's hard to hear they have cadaver dogs out looking for her. You hope they don't find her, but, if they do, at least you'll have closure."

Felicia Lynn Floriani would be almost 17 now.

Susan Clairmont's commentary appears regularly in The Spectator. sclairmont@thespec.com or 905-526-3539.

Troubled dad wants his Felicia back home Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) November 1, 2003 Saturday Final
Edition

LOAD-DATE: November 1, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Column

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 26, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

Police investigate if predator related to Niagara killing; 'Her kids were the only thing in life that held her together'

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Paul Legall

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A09

LENGTH: 786 words

DATELINE: NIAGARA FALLS

Diane Christina Dimitri was as bubbly as a teenager on her prom date when she popped into the cafe with her new boyfriend Johnny.

The couple had just come back from the tourist district on Clifton Hill where they'd paid a street artist to do a charcoal sketch of them embracing. They had the picture framed and were showing it off to the patrons at the Cool Corner Cafe. In the shifting landscape of the streets where they'd been living, it was the closest thing to a declaration of love and fidelity they could hope to achieve.

"They were nauseatingly in love," recalled a world-weary bartender who declined to give her name. "I guess I'm too old and jaded.

"She was very friendly. She and her boyfriend came in here a couple of times. I've only seen her once (since she came in with the picture).

"We know all the hookers. She wasn't one of them."

Apart from the fact she went by the name "Chris," the bartender knew little about the 32-year-old woman's background until her picture appeared in the local paper.

Niagara police published the photograph -- which looks like a mug shot -- after a motorist spotted Dimitri's body in a ditch on Darby Road outside Welland June 9.

She had been there for at least a few days because the body had decomposed to the point that police could not determine her gender.

An autopsy revealed she had been killed, but police have refused to release the cause of death. They believe she was killed somewhere else and left in the secluded area.

She was wearing a black form-fitting dress with a V-neck and straps, a waist-length jacket and chain bracelet. Niagara police have not said whether she was sexually assaulted. But they contacted the **Project Advocate** police task force

Police investigate if predator related to Niagara killing; 'Her kids were the only thing in life that held her together'
Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 26, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

established last year after the nude body of a Hamilton prostitute was found in Kerncliffe Park in Burlington on Aug. 29.

The Hamilton-Halton task force -- which has seven full-time investigators -- is working on the theory the 19-year-old woman was the victim of a serial sexual predator who has attacked at least 11 women in the last three years and may be responsible for the disappearance of two other women.

His victims have ranged in age from 15 to 39 and have been mostly street people and sex workers from Hamilton.

Project Advocate investigators say it's too early to determine if Dimitri fits the victim profile. But there was no doubt her life had been spiralling out of control in the last few months.

Born and raised in a small town outside of Montreal, she came to the Honeymoon City with her four children two years ago after the death of her husband Angelo Dimitri in 2001.

She joined her mother and stepfather, Kyriacos Kyriacou, who had moved to Niagara Falls the year before with Dimitri's sibling.

According to her stepsister, Sabrina Kyriacou, she moved into a townhouse with her children and was doing fairly well at first. She became a born-again Christian and attended church regularly with her children.

She kept away from drugs. But Dimitri would sometimes lapse into a deep depression and disappear for several days, leaving her children, two, six, 10 and 13 years old, with a family member or babysitter.

The youngest children are now with the Kyriacou family and the eldest is staying elsewhere.

"She loved those kids very much. But a year ago she got involved in a bunch of crap," Sabrina recalled. "Her kids were the only thing in her life that held her together."

When she couldn't care for them, she fell apart.

Dimitri started drifting away from her family about a year ago, hanging around the Main and Ferry Street area where prostitutes, crack addicts and drug dealers are common sights.

Police have questioned people in the area.

"They've been talking to everybody around here," said a woman who candidly identified herself as a "working girl."

She added Dimitri and her boyfriend were well-known crack addicts. As far as she knew, Dimitri wasn't turning tricks to buy drugs.

Alexandra Gibson, a waitress at the Opa's Diner, recalled Dimitri as a pleasant person who never caused any trouble when she came into the cafe. Like most of the other merchants, she had no idea where Dimitri lived or how she earned a living.

The bartender at the Cool Corner Cafe said Johnny -- Dimitri's boyfriend -- was a "wreck" when he came into the bar after her death. She has no doubt he loved her and was devastated.

Johnny didn't call police when she disappeared, but police say that behaviour is normal with crack users.

Addicts have a notoriously bad grasp of time and can go missing for several days without arousing anybody's suspicions, not even the person they live with.

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Police investigate if predator related to Niagara killing; 'Her kids were the only thing in life that held her together'
Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 26, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

LOAD-DATE: August 26, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Diane Christina Dimitri: Body left near Welland.

TYPE: News

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thespec.com

January 17, 2008 Thursday
Final Edition

Student charged in attacks on sex trade workers

BYLINE: Paul Morse, The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 405 words

A Mohawk College student has been charged with violent attacks on three Hamilton prostitutes and is the prime suspect in several more.

Hamilton police allege Najim Khairzad, 25, is a sexual predator who has attacked city sex trade workers since at least last September.

He is now charged with three counts each of sexual assault, choking, unlawful confinement, and forced anal intercourse, along with one count of assault.

Last Friday, police made a random traffic stop after seeing an erratically driven car at Barton and John streets around 3:30 a.m. Inside, they found an extremely distraught female passenger who told officers she'd been sexually assaulted.

The woman, a sex trade worker in her 30s, required treatment in a Hamilton hospital.

"This was a substantial, violent sexual assault," said acting Detective Sergeant Chris Kiriakopoulos, of the victims of crime unit. "We believe that there are number of cases here that are related."

Police arrested Khairzad and charged him with sexual assault, unlawful confinement and forced anal intercourse. Investigators have now laid additional charges of choking and uttering death threats in that case.

Yesterday, police also charged Khairzad in relation to an Oct. 28 attack on a 39-year-old prostitute inside a red van on Kenilworth Avenue North near Barton Street along with an early-morning assault on a 26-year-old sex trade worker sometime between the last week of September and the first week of October last year.

Khairzad is a mechanical engineering technology student at Mohawk College who is close to graduating, said his father Sultan Khairzad earlier this week. Khairzad, who lives with his parents on the east Mountain, was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, and immigrated with his family to Canada almost 17 years ago, his father said.

Police continue to investigate a string of other attacks on prostitutes that stretches back to last summer.

Detectives have also reopened former **Project Advocate** investigations, including the death of Hamilton prostitute Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes, 19, who was murdered and dumped in Kernciffe Park in Burlington in August 2002.

But Kiriakopoulos said that there are no known links between Khairzad and those cases.

Student charged in attacks on sex trade workers thespec.com January 17, 2008 Thursday

In November 2002, **Project Advocate** was set up to find Tolgyes's killer and to investigate the disappearances of two Hamilton women, Susan Gourley, 39, and Felicia Floriani, 15, along with 13 other attacks.

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905-526-3434

LOAD-DATE: January 17, 2008

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: News

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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thespec.com

July 18, 2007 Wednesday
Final Edition

Sex worker raped, beaten; Police hope witnesses on bayfront can help find suspect

BYLINE: Paul Legall, The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A12

LENGTH: 515 words

Hamilton police found the getaway vehicle in Burlington only hours after a sex trade worker was savagely attacked and dumped on the Hamilton bayfront near the Williams Coffee Pub.

Sergeant Gary Ostofi said police found the 31-year-old woman shortly after 6 a.m. yesterday after getting a cellphone call from a citizen in the area.

Ostofi told reporters the woman was dumped at the waterfront after she was raped, beaten and robbed of her wallet and purse by a bald man who fled the area in a white van.

The victim suffered serious facial injuries after the suspect beat her with his fists, said Ostofi. Her injuries are not considered life-threatening and police were able to interview her at the hospital within hours of the attack.

Ostofi said he wanted to assure the public that it wasn't a "random attack." He suggested it was more a case of a sex trade worker agreeing to get into a vehicle with a client who turned out to be a violent john.

To get to the area where the woman was found, the attacker had to drive past the Hamilton police marine unit station and the Harbour West Marina. The area attracts early-morning joggers and walkers, who might have witnessed the incident.

Ostofi didn't know who made the cellphone call but suggested police had obtained good information and could be making a quick arrest.

By 11:20 a.m., Hamilton detectives had found the white van at a Burlington address and took it to headquarters in Hamilton for forensic examination.

They interviewed the registered owner, who had not reported the vehicle stolen.

"The registered owner is not the person our guys are interested in," Ostofi said.

Inspector Rick Wills, head of Hamilton police investigative services, said there was no indication the attack was the work of a serial offender when asked whether the beating might be connected with a string of attacks on sex trade workers in the Burlington-Hamilton area in the last six years. But, he added, "it's too early to discuss the suspect."

Sex worker raped, beaten; Police hope witnesses on bayfront can help find suspect thespec.com July 18, 2007
Wednesday

The previous attacks on sex trade workers include the death of Hamilton prostitute Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes, 19, who was murdered and dumped in Kernciffe Park in Burlington in August 2002.

In November 2002, **Project Advocate** was set up to find her killer and to investigate the disappearances of two Hamilton women, Susan Gourley, 39, and Felicia Floriani, 15, and 13 other attacks. The task force involved detectives from Hamilton and Halton who spent months tracking hundreds of tips and leads.

It was suspected at the time that a serial predator might be operating in the area. There had also been a series of sex-related murders in Niagara.

Eventually, police concluded more than one offender was involved, although each predator could be responsible for more than one incident.

In many of the other attacks, some of which have been solved, the women were picked up in Hamilton before they were driven out of town.

Project Advocate was disbanded within two years but the Tolgyes murder remains unsolved and the missing women were never found and are believed to have died as a result of foul play.

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905-526-3385

LOAD-DATE: July 18, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: News

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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thespec.com

March 5, 2007 Monday
Final Edition

A high-risk lifestyle

BYLINE: Paul Morse, The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A09

LENGTH: 546 words

DATELINE: VINELAND

The discovery of a woman's body near Ball's Falls Conservation Area yesterday is shockingly similar to another discovery eight years ago at almost exactly the same spot.

On May 8, 1999, two cyclists found the near-naked body of Nadine Gurczenski in the ditch along Victoria Avenue, near Eighth Avenue, south of Vineland. The 26-year-old Toronto mother of two had a broken neck.

An autopsy showed she had also suffered internal injuries before her death.

Gurczenski had moved to Canada from Jamaica in 1992 and settled in St. Catharines with her husband, moving to Toronto when her marriage ended.

She worked as an exotic dancer at Marilyn's, a Mississauga strip club on Britannia Road East, near Dixie, under the stage name Sammy.

Her death is one of five homicides that spurred Niagara police to form a special homicide task force last January.

Diane Christina Dimitri, a 28-year-old Niagara Falls sex trade worker, was found dumped in a ditch at Darby Road and Grassybrook Road near the Niagara Falls city limit. Her body was found Aug. 9, 2003.

On Dec. 10, 2005, Cassey Joyce Cichocki, a 22-year-old crack-addicted exotic dancer, went missing. Her body, was found by a man walking along a hydro-right-of-way near Whirlpool Road and Church's Lane, only blocks where she'd worked as a dancer, on Jan. 24, 2006.

Cichocki's body, wrapped in a blanket, was found in some low bushes in an area strewn with garbage and debris.

Michael Durant, 33, a labourer who lived in a vacant store on Queen Street in Niagara Falls, was charged June 5, 2006, with the murders of both Cichocki and Dimitri.

The body of another Niagara Falls woman, 26-year-old Margaret Jeannette Jugaru, was found kneeling in an elementary school parking lot on Culp Street in Niagara Falls on July 9, 2004.

The special task force is also investigating the death of another sex trade worker who went missing in 1995.

The body of Dawn Stewart, a 31-year-old mother of two boys who was pregnant when she disappeared, was found on March 31, 1996, in a wooded area near Centre Street in Pelham.

All five women had suffered some form of trauma.

The Niagara task force has met with detectives from a now-defunct Hamilton task force into the disappearance and deaths of three women linked to high-risk street life and a dozen other attacks on Hamilton-area sex trade workers.

Project Advocate, which was disbanded in 2003, investigated the disappearances of Susan Gourley, 39, in November 2001, and Felicia Floriani, 15, in September 2002.

In August 2002, the badly beaten body of Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes, the 19-year-old Hamilton prostitute and mother of a three-year-old daughter, was found in Burlington's Kerncliff Park.

Project Advocate also investigated about a dozen other attacks on sex workers in the Hamilton area. Two men were charged in three of the incidents. All the other cases remain unsolved.

On Jan. 7 this year, the body of 35-year-old Cynthia Watson was found in a wooded area off Powerline Road in Copetown. The Hamilton mother of a seven-year boy had been working as an exotic dancer in a Brantford strip club.

Watson's autopsy did not reveal a cause of death and police are still waiting for toxicology tests to determine whether or not she had been killed before being dumped in the woods.

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LOAD-DATE: March 5, 2007

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Canadian Press File Photo , The Niagara police set up a special homicide task force to investigate the murders of Diane Dimitri, from left, Nadine Gurczenski, Dawn Stewart, Margaret Jugaru and Cassey Cichocki.

DOCUMENT-TYPE: News

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 23, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

Police dogs scour north Burlington area; Search resumes for remains of missing women as 'serial predator' grows bolder in attacks

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Paul Legall

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A13

LENGTH: 867 words

DATELINE: BURLINGTON

Police with cadaver-sniffing dogs spent several hours in north Burlington yesterday searching for the remains of two missing Hamilton prostitutes believed to have been killed by a serial predator.

Halton Detective Sergeant Alistair Watt said the sniffing dogs -- brought in by the OPP -- spent about five hours in the area without finding anything. But he said there is still a large area to search and they'll be brought back some time after Labour Day. The four-dog team included two animals trained to sniff out human bodies, including skeletal remains.

The Hamilton women disappeared in the last three years while police say a violent serial rapist has been stalking sex trade workers and street people in Hamilton and ordinary women who happened to be out late at night.

Investigators believe he murdered 19-year-old Hamilton prostitute Kimlyn Tolgyes and dumped her body in a Burlington park last year and was responsible for at least seven other violent attacks that the victims survived, including an 18-year-old girl who was beaten, strangled with a ligature and left for dead.

Police say he's getting bolder and has used stolen cars in his last three attacks. On June 26, he stole two cars, made a trip to Smithville and attacked two prostitutes in a four-hour period.

Investigators have been loath to call him a serial killer, preferring the term "serial predator." But they believe he also killed the missing women, who "vanished off the face of the earth" in the words of one investigator.

Susan Gourley, 39, hasn't been seen since November 2001, and Felicia Floriani, 15, hasn't been heard from since she disappeared from a Hamilton teen shelter in September 2002.

In March of this year, police received an anonymous letter from a woman who identified herself as Felicia's friend and said she had seen her leaving with a man. From the content of the letter, police believe the writer is credible and they're appealing to her to come forward.

Hamilton Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab -- who heads up a joint Hamilton-Halton investigation called **Project Advocate** -- said the search for the missing women concentrated on a 6.4-kilometre stretch on Number 1 Side Road between Cedar Springs Road and Appleby Line.

Police dogs scour north Burlington area; Search resumes for remains of missing women as 'serial predator' grows bolder in attacks Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 23, 2003 Saturday Final Edition

He said police chose this area because it's only a few kilometres from Kerncliff Park on Kerns Road where Tolgyes' nude and battered body was found on Aug. 29 last year. A crack-addicted prostitute and mother of a three-year-old child, she was last seen alive in downtown Hamilton four days earlier.

Last April, police came up empty-handed when they searched Kerncliff Park with four OPP tracking dogs, including two animals trained to sniff out human remains.

The same dogs were brought back yesterday to scour the ditches and bushes along the quiet country road where the predator attacked a woman on June 26. She escaped by jumping out of the vehicle and hiding in the ditch while he got out and spent a few minutes searching for her in the unlit road. She then climbed over a rail fence and went to a farm house to call police. She suffered a few cuts and bruises.

Hrab said **Project Advocate** officers realized the attack occurred near the area where Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka had disposed of Kristen French in April 1992.

"It caused us a little concern," Hrab said yesterday. But he was reluctant to read too much significance into the location without knowing more about the predator's motives.

Investigators were even more concerned a few days later when they realized the predator had stolen two vehicles and attacked two women the same night. He broke into the first vehicle on Kenora Avenue, picked up the first victim and drove her to the secluded area in North Burlington. After she got away, he drove to Smithville, dumped the car and stole another vehicle about a block away. He drove back to Hamilton, where he picked up another prostitute and persuaded her to accompany him to a secluded area in Dundas off Old Guelph Road. After sexually assaulting her, he started driving back to Hamilton. She escaped by jumping out of the moving car on York Boulevard.

He has also used a stolen pickup truck during what police described as a "blitz" attack on a 33-year-old woman who got off a bus and was walking home on King Street East at about 1:15 a.m., March 5, 2003. He got out of the vehicle, grabbed her by the arms and tried to pull her into the vehicle. She struggled and was able to get away when two passers-by interrupted the attack.

"He's getting bolder," Hrab said. "He's changing his MO. He doesn't want to be caught. He's familiar with police procedures and knows how to thwart them. He's not a stupid guy.

"If he's a serial offender ... he will offend again. I wouldn't be surprised if he has hit again and the victim hasn't come forward."

The predator has been lucky so far because he attacked mostly crack-addicted prostitutes and street people.

"It's difficult to deal with them as witnesses because they often have no fixed address ... and it's hard to keep track of them," Hrab said. "They're easy pickings. He picks on the ones society doesn't get excited about."

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LOAD-DATE: August 23, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Police have released this composite drawing of the predator.

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

November 22, 2002 Friday Final Edition

Predator hotline generates 'good leads'; Police get 20 tips on assaults of street people

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Lori Fazari

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 428 words

The police taskforce hunting a predator who killed one prostitute and is believed to have assaulted five other street women has new leads in the case.

Investigators set up a hotline last week and the public has been responding.

A police hotline set up to help catch a predator is generating a number of tips.

"We have about 20 good leads that need work," said Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab, head of the **Project Advocate** task force.

Investigators believe a man has been preying on prostitutes and street women for the past two years. They set up a taskforce last week.

Police have also alerted community agencies that work with sex-trade workers and street people.

Police are looking at other assaults to see if there are similarities and trying to find out what happened to two women who have been missing for months.

Felicia Floriani, 15, was reported missing in June. She was living at Brennan House, a shelter for homeless teens on King Street East, but had been involved in drugs and street life.

Susan Gourley, 39, worked as a prostitute. She was reported missing in August, 2001.

Police believe there are several connections between five assaults over the past two years and the unsolved homicide of prostitute Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes, 19, whose naked and beaten body was found at Kerncliff Park in Burlington.

The first is the level of violence. Women have been viciously beaten and some strangled.

The five attacks are concentrated in two areas -- Barton Street from Wellington Street to Gage Avenue, and King Street from Wellington Street to Sherman Avenue.

And the method is similar in each attack. Women are approached by a man who asks for sex. After agreeing to a price, they go into an alley or a parking lot -- in one incident the attacker's car. The victims are choked with a rope or some

Predator hotline generates 'good leads'; Police get 20 tips on assaults of street people Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) November 22, 2002 Friday Final Edition

other kind of line and left unconscious. Their cash is stolen.

Police are looking for a white man in his early 20s. He has a slim build, light hair, blue eyes and acne.

Hrab said police considered a man suspected in the unsolved murder of a prostitute in the winter of 1995, but any connection with these attacks has been ruled out. Helen Gillings' naked body was found in an alley at King and Emerald streets. She had been asphyxiated.

So far, police are looking closely at the six incidents that have occurred between Jan. 9, 2001, and Sept. 4 of this year.

The task force hotline is 905-546-2100, or call Crime Stoppers at 905-522-8477 or 1-800-222-8477.

-- With files from John Burman

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LOAD-DATE: November 22, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: John Rennison, the Hamilton Spectator; Deborah Lussier Nanson, 42, who worked the King Street area as a prostitute, still struggles to break free from the lifestyle.

TYPE: Special Report

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

October 8, 2003 Wednesday Final Edition

Killer of transsexual prostitute loose on T.O. streets

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Bill Dunphy

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A14

LENGTH: 696 words

A national DNA databank has revealed that the killer of transsexual prostitute Cassandra Do, found strangled in her downtown penthouse apartment Aug. 25, was also responsible for a vicious attack on another sex worker -- six long years ago.

The case has sent shockwaves of anger and fear through this city's sex trade, and news of the link and the release of a description has generated numerous calls from prostitutes and police alike, all thinking they may have the key to this killer.

At least four sex workers have stepped forward to say they may have been attacked by someone like this predator, including one who told a friend the vicious attack "felt like an attempted murder."

The news that a killer walks among us undetected, a predator whose hunting grounds are the lurid ads on the back pages of the weekly papers, or the dark corners of the city's sex strolls, shouldn't be a shock.

Not after the horrors of the pig farm in Penticton, B.C.; not after the terror of the Green River killer, or the attacks and murders that are the focus of Hamilton's own **Project Advocate**.

Like all predators, they stalk the weak, the vulnerable, the ones who have strayed from the bright lights of the mainstream. And predators, Bernardo taught us, pay no attention to civic boundaries. Not surprisingly then, Detective Sergeant Craig Sanson of Toronto's homicide squad says that many of the leads he's getting are coming from police outside this city, although none from Hamilton so far.

The description, gleaned from the survivor of the 1997 attack, is vague: Male 30 to 40 years of age, approximately 6'3", heavy build (over 230 lbs.) perhaps with glasses. He had a muscular build back in 1997 with close shaved hair and no beard or moustache.

It's so vague that two Toronto papers aren't even reporting his race, because of policies designed to avoid stigmatizing communities. Anastasia Kuzyk, a prostitute and one of the founders of SWAT -- the Sex Workers Alliance of Toronto -- says that's political correctness run amok.

"This isn't about race -- it's about keeping people safe. It's about catching this killer."

The suspect is black.

Sanson, and his partner Det. Steve Bell, would like to know a lot more about this killer than his description -- or even his identity. They want to know what this killer has been up to between the 1997 attack and Cassandra Do's murder.

"That person may have been in custody, or may have been in another city -- it's just speculation at this point," Sanson says. To take it beyond speculation, Bell has completed a lengthy evidence summary for ViCLAS, the RCMP-run Violent Crime Linkage Analysis System. By next week, analysts will have sifted through thousands of solved and unsolved violent crimes from every corner of the country, looking for this predator's telltale signs.

Sanson says there are some distinctive features of both these attacks that will facilitate linking them with any other crimes by the same person. Both were sex workers (one transsexual, the other not) and both took "in-calls" booking appointments with clients in their own homes. And clearly the attack left telltale DNA traces behind. But for investigative reasons, he's not revealing much more than that.

Police held onto Cassandra's one bedroom apartment for six long weeks, painstakingly searching it for every scrap of evidence before finally releasing it to her grieving family this past weekend.

A block away, in the 519 Church Street Community Centre where Cassandra would drop in to pick up some of the tools of her trade -- condoms and lubricants -- or just to visit with people who accepted her, Kyle Scanlon is happy with the police response to the murder of his sometime friend, even as he's angry that society pushes women like Cassandra out to the margins, into places where they become easy prey.

"I get so tired of people saying Tula (Cassandra's street name) was a shemale addicted to plastic surgery. She was an intelligent, beautiful, lovely person. She was a woman trying to make ends meet.

"I only wish she had the same protections the rest of us have at work."

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905.426-3262

LOAD-DATE: October 8, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: Column

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

November 16, 2002 Saturday Final Edition

Details of attack point to predator; Victim of sex assault provides information linking several cases

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 785 words

Police were convinced a predator is targeting city female sex trade workers and street people after interviewing a woman who was attacked in a Burlington park a month before a teenage prostitute's body was dumped in the same area.

Hamilton police Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab, head of **Project Advocate**, the special task force set up to hunt down the predator, said yesterday that the woman provided key details that may link her attack to the slaying of Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes, a 19-year-old Hamilton prostitute, and four vicious attacks on women in Hamilton since January last year.

The task force is also investigating the disappearances of two Hamilton women -- one a city prostitute and the other a 15-year-old street person. Police have been unable to locate them and fear they may have encountered the predator.

Details provided by the woman attacked Aug. 1 provided links to the other cases and sparked creation of the task force.

The woman told Halton police she accepted a ride from a man in a white sports car near Ivor Wynne stadium at 10:30 p.m. Aug. 1. He drove her to Kerns Park on Kerns Road, Burlington, sexually assaulted her and pushed her out of the car.

She called Halton police at 12:30 a.m. but was reluctant to talk to investigators at that time.

After Tolgyes was killed and her naked, battered body was found Aug. 29 in Kerncliffe Park, also on Kerns Road -- about 450 metres from Kerns Park, Halton officers went back to the 43-year-old woman and interviewed her again.

She told them a man who called himself Joe, a slim white man in his late 20s with short blond hair and a white T-Shirt, offered her a ride. He drove her to Kerns Park, sexually assaulted her, pushed her out and drove north on Kerns Road.

The description of her attacker is very similar to that of a man who has attacked three prostitutes in Hamilton since January 2001. Police released a composite sketch of that man in October last year.

Hamilton police have said similarities in how the women were approached, what happened to them and how they were left are striking enough to warrant a five-member force to investigate all the incidents for connections.

Halton police are still investigating the Aug. 1 Kerns Park assault and the discovery of Tolgyes' body down the road Aug. 29. They have not established where Tolgyes was killed, but are sure it was not at Kerncliffe Park, where her body was found.

Details of attack point to predator; Victim of sex assault provides information linking several cases Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) November 16, 2002 Saturday Final Edition

Hrab, who is also the Hamilton police major crimes unit liaison officer with Halton detectives on the Tolgyes case, said details from each incident lead investigators to believe one person is responsible.

The task force is also investigating the apparent disappearance of 39-year-old Susan Gourley, a Hamilton prostitute last seen in November last year, and of Felicia Floriani, a 15-year-old Hamilton girl reported missing in May this year and last seen in June. Police say Floriani had become involved with drugs and was living on the street.

Hamilton police have issued a warning to female sex trade workers and street people about a white man in his early 20s who has a slim build, light hair, blue eyes and acne. He has choked victims, beaten them and left them unconscious.

Police believe this person is also responsible for a savage beating Sept. 4 of an 18-year-old Hamilton woman known to police as a street person, not a sex trade worker. She was left unconscious and barely breathing in bushes beside an abandoned factory on Hess Street North Sept. 4.

The young woman, who was severely beaten about her face, spent weeks in hospital but has been unable to remember much of the attack because of her injuries, Hrab said.

However, he said, key details about what happened to her and how she was left link this attack to others.

Prostitutes and street people are being told, through the Sexual Assault Centre and the needle exchange program, to take extra precautions, such as watching over one another and jotting down licence numbers of those who approach them.

The predator is believed to operate along Barton Street between Wellington Street North and Gage Avenue North, as well as King Street East from Wellington to Sherman Avenue.

Halton police said yesterday the woman who was attacked at Kerns Park was not involved in the sex trade. She lives in Hamilton near Ivor Wynne Stadium, near an area where Kimlyn Tolgyes, a crack-addicted mother of a three-year-old child, worked the streets.

Police have asked anyone with information about the incidents of the suspect to call the task force hot line at 905-546-2100 or, if they prefer to remain anonymous, Hamilton Crime Stoppers at 905-522-8477 or 1-800-222-8477.

jburman@thespec.com or 905-526-2469

LOAD-DATE: November 16, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Susan Gourley: missing; Photo: Felicia Floriani: missing; Photo: Sketch of wanted man

TYPE: News

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thespec.com

February 9, 2006 Thursday
Final Edition

Murder squad gets new info on city killing

BYLINE: John Burman and Paul Legall, The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A04

LENGTH: 534 words

DATELINE: NIAGARA FALLS

A meeting between local detectives and a Niagara prostitute murder task force has re-energized the probe into the death of a Hamilton woman three-and-a-half years ago.

Sergeant Cliff Sexton, who heads up the Niagara probe, said yesterday Hamilton and Halton detectives have new information that could provide a fresh look at the murder of 19-year-old Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes.

Her naked and battered body was found in Kerncliff Park in Burlington in August 2002.

Her killing prompted creation of the **Project Advocate** task force in 2002 to probe more than a dozen attacks on sex trade workers in the Hamilton-Halton area. The task force was disbanded in 2003 when investigators ran out of leads and the Tolgyes investigation became a cold case.

But that could change as a result of the meeting yesterday between local detectives and Sexton's team.

"They took back some details from our latest investigation, the Cassey Cichocki homicide," Sexton said last night.

He suggested local investigators could use this new material to determine whether there are similarities between the cases, both involving victims who were apparently moved after they were killed.

Cichocki, a crack-addicted exotic dancer, went missing in early December.

Her body, wrapped in a blanket, was found in some low bushes near the Niagara Gorge Jan. 24. The area was littered with garbage and debris.

Last week, Michael Durant, 33, who lived in a vacant store at 4670 Queen St. in Niagara Falls, was charged with first-degree murder in her death. He is to make another appearance in a St. Catharines court Feb. 21.

Forensic investigators spent a week looking through the Queen Street building and several days at a house on Toby Crescent. Durant had lived in the house with his wife, Dana, and three-year-old daughter until the couple separated in the summer of 2004. They were married in Niagara Falls in June 1999, and the house belonged to Dana's parents who live in the Pelham area.

According to court documents, Dana was awarded custody of the daughter when they legally separated and he was ordered to pay \$100 a month in child support. He was also granted visitation rights and neighbours said he dropped by periodically.

Task force detectives were also seen at a boarded-up former Canadian Tire building on Victoria Avenue, a few blocks from where Durant was living. An area businessperson, who asked not to be identified, said the derelict store had served as a flophouse for homeless people until it was converted into an antique store a couple of years ago. Last summer, when the antique store relocated, the street people started coming back, he said.

"I'm only saying we had information from the public that led us there. I don't want to get into the investigative details of what led us there," Sexton said.

He said the task force will be working with a crime analyst from the OPP behavioural sciences unit who may develop an "offender" or "geographic" profile of the murders.

With these kinds of investigations, he said, it's almost standard procedure to work with a crime analyst.

But he said it would be a "stretch" to say the task force was preparing a serial offender profile.

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LOAD-DATE: February 9, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

DOCUMENT-TYPE: News

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 12, 2003 Tuesday Final Edition

Falls woman murder victim

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Dave Kewley

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A07

LENGTH: 250 words

DATETIME: WELLAND

Niagara police are now classifying the suspicious death of a 32-year-old Niagara Falls woman, whose decomposed body was found in a rural roadside ditch, as the region's third homicide this year.

The body of Diane Christina Singh Dimitri was found by a pedestrian just before noon Saturday in a ditch at the intersection of Darby and Grassybrook roads in Welland.

Constable George Bench says further forensic tests are needed to determine the exact time of death, and due to the ongoing investigation, the cause of death will not be released.

Bench says that because the case involves the dumping of a young woman's body in a remote area, Niagara police have informed members of the joint Hamilton-Halton task force, **Project Advocate**, which is probing a series of vicious attacks by a predator, who targets sex-trade workers and female street youths in the Hamilton-Burlington area. But he adds police have not connected "Dimitri's death to any others in the area" so far.

In the spring of 1999, the near-naked body of Nadine Gurczenski was discovered in a ditch in Vineland by two cyclists. The 26-year-old mother of two, who had suffered a broken neck, had been working as an exotic dancer.

Police ask anyone who may have noticed anything suspicious during the past week in the area where the body was found, to contact investigators at 905-688-4111, ext. 2200 or ext. 4200 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

dkewley@thespec.com or the Stoney Creek News Bureau at 905-662-3811.

LOAD-DATE: August 12, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

April 2, 2004 Friday Final Edition

Gun-toting john drove Corvette

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Paul Legall

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A06

LENGTH: 189 words

Hamilton police have requested public assistance in tracking down a man who threatened a sex trade worker with a handgun during a dispute in his sports car.

Hamilton Sergeant Carol Pacey said the man picked up the prostitute about 1:10 a.m. Wednesday and drove her to an area in the north end of the city where they got into an argument over a transaction.

Pacey said the man became agitated and pulled out a gun and threatened the 40-year-old woman. She was able to calm him down and he drove her back to the street where he had picked her up. She immediately reported the incident.

Although she didn't provide a good description of the man, police are hoping somebody might recognize his car, which two witnesses have described as a burgundy or orange 1999 Corvette. Anyone with information is urged to call Detective Chris Abbott at 905-546-3821.

Pacey said the **Project Advocate** task force, which is investigating a string of attacks on sex trade workers, has been made aware of the incident. But the incident is being investigated by the central criminal investigation bureau.

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LOAD-DATE: April 2, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 29, 2003 Friday Final Edition

Police search for missing women

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

SECTION: BURLINGTON; Pg. N04

LENGTH: 280 words

Police came up empty-handed after a search last week in north Burlington for the bodies of two missing Hamilton women who are presumed dead.

Investigators from Halton and Hamilton police were on hand as OPP cadaver-sniffing dogs spent several hours searching for the two.

The dogs are specially trained to sniff out human bodies, including skeletal remains.

The police dogs are expected back next month to resume searching in the area of No. 1 Side Road between Cedar Springs Road and Appleby Line.

That's just a few kilometres from Kerncliff Park, where police recovered the nude and battered body of Kimlyn Tolgyes exactly one year ago.

A crack addict and prostitute, her body was found by the side of Kerns Road last Aug. 29.

Project Advocate is the joint probe by Hamilton and Halton police into a serial predator who preys mainly on crack-addicted prostitutes and street people.

It's believed that the same man is responsible for the murder of Tolgyes, 19, and violent attacks on at least seven other women. One was an 18-year-old who was beaten, strangled and left for dead.

Police say the two missing women, Susan Gourley, 39, and Felicia Floriani, 15, "vanished off the face of the earth."

Gourley has been missing since November 2001, and Floriani disappeared from a Hamilton shelter in September 2002.

In April, police searched Kerncliff Park with four OPP tracking dogs including the two cadaver dogs.

Police worry the attacker is becoming more brazen.

"If he's a serial offender ... he will offend again," said Hamilton Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab. "I wouldn't be surprised if he has hit again and the victim hasn't come forward."

LOAD-DATE: August 29, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Police search for missing women Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 29, 2003 Friday Final Edition

GRAPHIC: Photo: Kaz Novak, the Hamilton Spectator; Paul Dyer of the OPP and his cadaver-sniffing dog search for a body near Cedar Springs Road and No. 1 Side Road.

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

November 15, 2002 Friday Final Edition

Police hunting predator; Same man believed involved in murder case

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: John Burman

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 1083 words

A police task force has been formed to hunt down the man responsible for a series of vicious attacks on area women in the past two years. Investigators believe the same man may be involved in the murder of prostitute Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes and the disappearance of two other women.

An 18-year-old woman severely beaten and left for dead on Hess Street North near Barton Street Sept. 4 was probably the victim of the same person, police say.

The five-member task force, dubbed **Project Advocate**, will co-ordinate the investigation and look at similar cases in other jurisdictions to generate leads. Hamilton police Chief Ken Robertson hopes the public will support the task force by providing information about the incidents and suspect.

The team is headed by Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab of the major crimes unit. It is also investigating the apparent disappearance of Susan Gourley, 39, of Hamilton, last seen in November 2001, and Felicia Floriani, a 15-year-old Hamilton girl last seen in June.

Hrab said yesterday police have great concern for the two women because they have not been seen in their usual haunts for a long time.

John Floriani, Felicia's father, said his daughter hadn't been living at home for over a year, and he only found out she'd been missing a few months ago when he saw it on the news. Felicia had been involved in drugs, he said, and had run away in the past, intending to go to B.C. The girl's mother died three years ago.

"She's just a very headstrong little girl," he said. "It just frightens you when she's like this."

He said he hopes she's just decided to hide out until her birthday next February, when she turns 16.

Her grandmother, Giulia Floriani, said she hasn't seen her granddaughter in two years.

"For all we know, she could be alive, she could be dead."

It wasn't like Gourley to disappear for any stretch of time, said friend Deborah Lussier Nanson. She said Gourley always kept regular contact with her family.

"She was a beautiful girl. She had a big heart," she said. "A very good person, very loving."

Police hunting predator; Same man believed involved in murder case Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) November 15, 2002 Friday Final Edition

Police are warning sex trade workers and female street youths to watch out for a white male in his early 20s who has a slim build, light-coloured hair, blue eyes and acne.

Investigators believe the predator operates along Barton Street between Wellington Street North and Gage Avenue North, as well as King Street East from Wellington to Sherman Avenue.

Hrab said women are being told through the Sexual Assault Centre and the needle exchange program to take extra precautions like watching over one another and jotting down licence numbers.

Krista Warnke, of the Sexual Assault Centre, said police told her they'd give the centre flyers to distribute to women on the street. She said although she's heard women talk of violent incidents on the street, many of them aren't reported to police.

"There's no question that many sex trade workers distrust police and are very reluctant to approach police or give any information," she said.

Staff at the Van Needle Exchange Program, run by the city's social and public health services department, will also hand out copies of the police notice. "They continually reinforce and talk with people about safety when they're out on the van," said manager Valine Vaillancourt. "It's dangerous on the street all of the time."

This is the second time police have issued a warning about this particular man. In October last year, they released a composite sketch and warned of his escalating level of violence after three attacks on prostitutes in downtown alleys between January and October last year. Two women were choked -- one of them left unconscious -- and one was robbed with a gun.

Hrab said that sketch "bears a striking resemblance" to the attacker in the cases the task force is working on.

Hrab, who is the Hamilton police liaison with Halton homicide detectives working on Tolgyes' death, said police can't say for sure she was slain by the predator, but she is included in the investigation because she was a prostitute who worked in the area where other attacks occurred and investigators have found other similarities they are not ready to disclose.

Tolgyes' body was dumped in rustic Kerncliffe Park off Kerns Road in Burlington. Halton police do not believe she was killed in the park. She was last seen getting out of a red pickup truck on Grant Avenue in Hamilton around 9 p.m. Aug. 23 or 24.

A Sept. 4 attack on an 18-year-old woman known to police as a street person not involved in the sex trade was included in the list of attacks because of the level of violence involved and similarities in how the unconscious woman was left under bushes near an abandoned factory.

Hrab also said police believe there may have been another man involved in at least one of the assaults.

If the attacks were just about sexual assault or robbery, police would not be seeing "certain things" happening in the cases, which Hrab declined to explain for fear of jeopardizing the investigation. "He or they are engaged in violence above the norm. He is hurting them a lot."

The first attack occurred in January last year when a woman who went with a man into an alley at the rear of King Street East and Victoria Avenue was robbed with a gun.

Three months later, on March 19, a 17-year-old prostitute was approached by a man at King Street East and Tisdale Street North and was later choked in an alley until she blacked out. When she awoke, she was bleeding from her mouth and face and her pants had been pulled down.

Police hunting predator; Same man believed involved in murder case Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) November 15, 2002 Friday Final Edition

On Sept. 25 last year, a woman in her 20s was taken to hospital for neck injuries after a man tried to strangle her with some kind of rope in an alley in the area of King Street East and Proctor Boulevard just after 5 a.m. The rope broke and she fled.

A month later, police issued a warning about the suspect and a sketch and there were no more incidents until perhaps November when Susan Gourley was first reported missing. Then in June this year, Felicia Floriani disappeared.

On Aug. 2 this year, a woman was attacked in the same general area in Hamilton but police are withholding the details.

On Aug. 29, Tolgyes' body was found in Burlington.

On Sept. 4, someone beat an 18-year-old woman and left her on Hess Street North unconscious and barely breathing serious facial injuries.

Anyone with information is asked to call Crimestoppers or the task force hot line at 905-546-2100.

jburman@thespec.com or 905-526-2469

LOAD-DATE: November 15, 2002

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: A police task force will investigate the disappearance of two Hamilton women, Susan Gourley, 39, above, last seen in November 2001 and Felicia Floriani, 15, missing since June. Police believe the same man may be involved in a series of vicious assaults and a murder.; Photo: Felicia Floriani; Photo: A composite sketch of suspect wanted for a series of assaults.

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

May 16, 2003 Friday Final Edition

Prostitute could be link to serial predator; Victim of latest sex attack in Hamilton may provide clue

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Paul Legall

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A07

LENGTH: 400 words

Police have identified a prostitute who was choked and robbed in an attack this week. It could be the link to a serial predator who has been stalking Hamilton sex trade workers for more than two years.

Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab, who heads up the major crimes unit, said the woman is believed to have been plying her trade when she got into a truck and was driven to Sawyer Road, a secluded dead end street that runs off Victoria Avenue about a block north of the Hamilton General Hospital. The attack occurred at about 9:15 p.m. Tuesday.

"He picked her up somewhere else. It got dicey in the vehicle," Hrab said.

Hrab said the woman, described as being in her early 20s, escaped the attacker by running into the Stoney Creek Precision Parts office on Sawyer Road where a man heard her screams and saw the commotion.

The distraught woman asked the man to call police but disappeared before they arrived.

The attacker was described as a scruffy-looking white man in his 30s wearing jeans and smelling of alcohol. He was said to be driving a dark grey Chevrolet or GMC pickup truck.

Until he speaks to the victim, however, Hrab said he's reluctant to link the case with the serial predator, who is the subject of a massive joint Hamilton-Halton investigation called **Project Advocate**.

Hrab said police have since learned the woman's identity but haven't been able to speak to her. "It's just a matter of finding her," he said.

Although not officially linked, the most recent incident has at least four similarities to the predator who operates in the same general area and preys mainly on street people and prostitutes. He lures them into his vehicle and his assaults often involve choking and strangulation.

He is described as a white man in his 20s with light blond or brown hair, dimples and a light complexion. He's between 5-foot-7 and 5-foot-10 with a slim build. He smokes du Maurier cigarettes and has driven an older model white sporty car with a standard shift.

He preys mostly on street prostitutes and is believed to have killed Hamilton prostitute Kimlyn Tolgyes, 19, whose nude body was found at Kerncliffe Park in Burlington last year. He's also a suspect in the disappearance of Susan Gourley,

Prostitute could be link to serial predator; Victim of latest sex attack in Hamilton may provide clue Hamilton Spectator
(Ontario, Canada) May 16, 2003 Friday Final Edition

39, who hasn't been seen since November, 2001, and Felicia Floriani, a 15-year-old street person who vanished last August.

plegall@thespec.com or 905-526-3385.

LOAD-DATE: May 16, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

March 6, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

Has sexual predator struck again?; Downtown attack on woman has task force looking for links

SOURCE: Special to The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Laura Kupcis

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A01

LENGTH: 403 words

Police say a man who tried to drag a woman into his truck early yesterday fits the description of a sexual predator wanted in the killing of a Hamilton prostitute and attacks on sex-trade workers and street people.

Investigators haven't established a clear link, but they're very interested in the similar descriptions and possible connections to the violent -- and deadly -- attacks.

The man in yesterday's 1:15 a.m. attack was white, in his early to mid-20s, blond, 170 pounds, 5-foot-10, clean-cut, "preppy" with a dark baseball cap worn backwards, jeans and a white sweater over a black turtleneck.

The attacker in the previous incidents was described as a white male in his early 20s with a slim build, light hair and acne.

"Sex-trade workers had been attacked by a suspect of similar description," said Staff Sergeant Steve Hrab of the major crime unit. "We are looking to see if last night's incident may be related to that."

A 33-year-old woman got off a bus at King and Wentworth streets and saw a green pickup drive past and turn into the driveway behind 666 King St. E.

The male driver ran toward her as she walked by, grabbed her with both arms and tried to drag her toward the vehicle.

She fell to the ground screaming for help.

Two people who had just left the Tim Hortons at the corner of Wentworth and Aikman Avenue scared off the attacker, who jumped in the truck and drove away.

Project Advocate, a task force headed by Hrab, was created after a string of attacks on five sex-trade workers, the disappearances of Hamilton prostitute Susan Gourley and street youth Felicia Floriani, and the killing of prostitute and drug addict Kimlyn Tolgyes. Her body was found in a Burlington park last August.

The predator likes to beat women. He's choked his victims, sexually assaulted them and left them for dead.

He's killed at least one.

Has sexual predator struck again?; Downtown attack on woman has task force looking for links Hamilton Spectator
(Ontario, Canada) March 6, 2003 Thursday Final Edition

The man targets these women because they're easy prey. They're on the streets late at night and vulnerable. They are the victims of abuse and violence. Many are crack addicts.

Investigators are focusing on the attack, even though the victim is not a sex-trade worker. She was simply on her way home from work when her attacker apparently spotted her in an area prostitutes regularly work.

"Whether or not this individual thought that the victim was a sex trade worker, we don't know," Hrab said. "She was just getting off the bus."

LOAD-DATE: March 6, 2003

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

December 18, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

Vigil for sex trade workers; People in general don't care about prostitutes

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Jacquie De Almeida

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A07

LENGTH: 426 words

About 20 people gathered at a candlelight vigil yesterday to raise awareness of violence against sex trade workers.

The event -- held at the corner of Barton Street East and Birch Avenue -- was sponsored by the Barton Street Community Partners for Crime Prevention and marked the International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers.

"No matter how safe the streets look in the daytime, they take on a different element at night. Alleys become murdering grounds," said Deborah Nanson, 44, a former sex trade worker and crack-cocaine addict.

Nanson knows first-hand of the dangers sex trade workers face. She worked the streets for 20 years and was once shot in the head during a drug deal gone bad before deciding it was time to build a better life for herself.

Huddled together in a circle were former sex trade workers, agency workers and friends and family who have lost loved ones to violence. They passed a flame from one to another and read out the names of sex trade workers killed. Members of Hamilton police and Crime Stoppers also attended the event.

The event originated in the United States in response to the Green River killer. Gary Leon Ridgway confessed to killing 48 women over the span of 20 years. In his statement to police, Ridgway said he murdered prostitutes "because I thought I could kill as many as I wanted without getting caught."

"The fact he was able to kill (48) women before he was arrested proved that he had a point. People weren't paying attention and people didn't care," said event organizer Tanya Gulliver.

Unfortunately, this is a common experience for sex trade workers all over the world, she said, adding similar vigils were held around the globe.

A 2001 report compiled in Vancouver showed more than 50 per cent of sex trade workers had been physically assaulted, 46 per cent had been forced to have sex against their will and a third said they had almost been killed while working the streets.

Hamilton had its own string of violence against prostitutes and others that sparked creation of **Project Advocate** by Hamilton and Halton police to investigate a murder, two disappearances and attacks on 13 women.

The vigil also coincided with the launch of a new website sponsored by Barton Street Community Partners for Crime Prevention. The website offers safety tips for sex trade workers and information on not becoming a sex trade worker,

Vigil for sex trade workers; People in general don't care about prostitutes Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)
December 18, 2004 Saturday Final Edition

educates the community about issues related to sex trade work, and provides a list of similar groups.

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905-526-3214

LOAD-DATE: December 18, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Sheryl Nadler, the Hamilton Spectator; Peggyann Mansfield, a women's resource co-ordinator, sheds a tear for sex trade workers she's known who have been affected by violence.

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

August 10, 2005 Wednesday Final Edition

These photos may help police solve a murder; Two years later, the killing of Diane Dimitri is still unsolved

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Dave Kewley

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A05

LENGTH: 569 words

DATELINE: NIAGARA FALLS

Do you remember ever seeing the woman and the evening jacket pictured at right?

On the second anniversary of the discovery of Diane Christina Dimitri's body in a ditch at a desolate intersection near the Niagara Falls-Welland border, Niagara police are hoping to jog someone's memory.

For the first time, police have released photographs of Dimitri, 32, and the clothing and jewellery she was wearing when she was murdered.

"We're requesting the public's assistance and hoping to trigger even the smallest recollection that could help us solve this homicide investigation," Detective Sergeant Keri Harrison said yesterday.

"Someone out there knows something that will help bring this case to a close, not only for the police and the public, but also for her family and friends," added Harrison, who is the lead investigator in the case.

Dimitri was known as having an excellent sense of style and often dressed well.

When her body was discovered at the intersection of Darby and Grassybrook Roads, it appeared she had dressed for an evening out -- wearing a black, form-fitting sleeveless V-neck dress with a long-sleeved glittery black waist-length evening jacket.

She was also wearing a leather necklace with a silver clasp and a tarnished, woven metal bracelet.

Dimitri was about 5-foot-4, weighed about 100 pounds and had brown eyes and shoulder-length brown hair.

She was born and raised in a small town outside Montreal and came to the Niagara area in 2001 with her four children after the death of her husband, Angelo Dimitri, to be closer to her mother, stepfather and a stepsister.

Yesterday, stepfather Kyri Kyriacou said Dimitri was diagnosed as being clinically depressed after the death of her husband.

He and her mother had encouraged her to come to Niagara Falls so they could help her.

These photos may help police solve a murder; Two years later, the killing of Diane Dimitri is still unsolved Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada) August 10, 2005 Wednesday Final Edition

He said she moved into a townhome and everything seemed to be going well for her as a stay-at-home mom.

"But it was the depression ... she just couldn't get out of it and ended up meeting and hanging around with the wrong kind of people ... and got involved in drugs," the father said.

"We have no words to explain what happened to her ... but with the photos and media attention, we're hoping we can bring the person or persons responsible for her death to justice to give us a feeling of closure," Kyriacou said.

He added that he and his wife are raising three of their grandchildren, while the fourth, a 15-year-old boy, entered the foster care system.

The police investigation confirmed that Dimitri was a crack cocaine addict and was working as a sex-trade worker when she was murdered.

Harrison said Niagara police contacted members of the joint Hamilton-Halton task force's **Project Advocate**, which was probing a series of vicious attacks by a predator who targeted sex-trade workers and female street youths.

Niagara police never revealed the cause of Dimitri's death.

But Harrison said that although there were some similarities to the Hamilton-Halton attacks, police discovered that the methods used in Dimitri's murder were different.

"I know this case can be solved," Harrison said.

"The most important thing is that Diane was a mother, a daughter and a friend to many."

Kyriacou added: "She was definitely not a loner and always liked to be around lots of people ... so somebody's got to know what happened."

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LOAD-DATE: August 10, 2005

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Photos Special to the Hamilton Spectator; The murdered woman, known for her stylish dress sense, wore this long-sleeved black waist-length evening jacket when she died.; Photo: Diane Christina Dimitri's body was found in a ditch near the Niagara Falls-Welland border.

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

December 3, 2004 Friday Final Edition

Czech 'walking time bomb' jailed; Man who attacked prostitute faces deportation

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: BARBARA BROWN

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. A03

LENGTH: 760 words

An immigrant facing deportation to the Czech Republic was called a "walking time bomb" yesterday by the judge who sentenced him for an attack on a sex-trade worker.

Superior Court Justice Alan Whitten handed Petr Conka, 22, the equivalent of a 20-month jail term, along with three years' probation, following his conviction Oct. 28 for sexual assault.

"Mr. Conka, in many ways, is the worst offender even if this was not the worst offence," said Whitten. "He is literally a walking time bomb."

Conka has been diagnosed with schizophrenia. His mental illness is aggravated by anti-social personality traits. Forensic psychiatrists believe him to be a sexual predator and that he poses a high risk to commit another violent offence against a woman.

He had spent 10 months in jail and another three months in a locked psychiatric ward when he was sentenced yesterday to time served.

Whitten ordered him to have no contact with the sex-trade worker and with two other women for whom Conka developed an unhealthy obsession, including a correctional officer at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre.

Despite having served his sentence, Conka was not released from custody.

An immigration officer was standing by with a warrant for his arrest pending a detention hearing Monday.

The government intends to commence deportation proceedings.

Defence lawyer Andrew Confente said his client is a Roma who came to Canada with his family as a teenager and who was granted refugee status. He is a permanent resident.

The victim was working the corner of King Street East and Balsam Avenue when Conka approached at 2.30 a.m. on Aug. 19, 2003.

The prostitute got into his van voluntarily but became uneasy when he drove too far from her familiar area.

He refused to stop when she demanded to be let out and then began running red lights so she would have no chance of escape.

As they approached Highway 403 from Aberdeen Avenue, Conka told the woman he was taking her to Burlington. She went into a panic, fearing he was the one responsible for a series of well-publicized attacks on sex-trade workers, including the murder of Kimlyn Judy Tolgyes.

The 19-year-old prostitute's naked body had been found a year earlier at the entrance to Kerncliff Park in Burlington.

She began to scream and Conka headed back to the city. As he drove, he groped her breasts and vaginal area.

She finally escaped when he stopped the van on the Mountain Brow near the Wentworth steps.

Assistant Crown attorney Craig Fraser filed a psychiatric report from Dr. Gary Chaimowitz, who noted that even when taking his anti-psychotic medication Conka was fixated sexually and posed a danger to women.

He said Conka was not likely to continue taking his medication.

"In the event that Mr. Conka's psychotic behaviour returns, (he) runs a fairly high risk of acting out violently. That violence, in my opinion, would likely include sexual violence."

Conka was arrested in October 2003 by members of the now disbanded **Project Advocate**.

The task force, comprising investigators from Hamilton and Halton police, was hunting for Tolgyes's killer and investigating the disappearance of two Hamilton women and 13 other attacks.

A handful of arrests were made and charges were laid in connection with some attacks, but the murder of Tolgyes remains unsolved.

Among the men arrested was John Earl Crouse, 24, of Hamilton, who was also sentenced yesterday after pleading to a June 26, 2003, attack on a prostitute. He received nine months in jail on top of the two years he is serving for dangerous driving.

That victim was standing on the corner of Barton Street East and Oak Avenue at 5 a.m. when Crouse approached in a stolen 1988 Cadillac.

Crouse drove out of the downtown area and ended up at Homestead Avenue and Old Guelph Road in Dundas.

He became physically violent and threatened to force a sexual act against the woman's will. Crouse eventually turned the vehicle around and headed back to the city.

Defence lawyer Tony McCusker said his client had no prior record for sexual offences.

"His history with the police involved mostly property offences. I think in the circumstances, but for his crack cocaine addiction, this would not have occurred."

Crouse also admitted to another physical assault of a different Hamilton prostitute earlier the same morning.

He acknowledged driving that woman to the Waterdown area of Burlington.

The complainant in that case did not show up in court to testify.

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Czech 'walking time bomb' jailed; Man who attacked prostitute faces deportation Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)
December 3, 2004 Friday Final Edition

905-526-3494

LOAD-DATE: December 3, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

TYPE: News

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Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

June 10, 2004 Thursday Final Edition

Missing serial rapist is brazen, and busy

SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator

BYLINE: Bill Dunphy

SECTION: CANADA/WORLD; Pg. A11

LENGTH: 747 words

In the first real heat wave of the summer still to come, Christopher David Dorsey is staying in the shadows. But the heat Dorsey's dodging has nothing to do with the sun; his heat pounds the beat in size 11 thick-soled black oxfords. The man's on the lam.

And police here say many women are in danger until he's found.

Dorsey is 47 years old, a washed up boxer who left the ring in the 1980s and has tried his scarred hands at everything from armed robbery, for which he was convicted, to running his own boxing club. He's been pretty much a failure at all of it. Lately, charges filed against him allege, Dorsey has developed a taste for luring women into traps and confining them -- for hours or even days.

There, in the clinical language of the police press release: "The suspect demonstrated violence towards the victims and forced them to perform various sexual acts against their will."

Some are prostitutes who discovered too late just how bad a trick can turn; police say at least one victim met her attacker through mutual "friends."

In the four cases they know about, police say the attacker used a knife or a hammer and threats of violence to confine his victims for periods ranging from five hours to three days. All the women were sexually assaulted.

Some were let go, some escaped -- but you couldn't say any one of them survived unscathed.

"They feared for their lives and their safety because of the things that he said he would do as well as the things he did," Toronto detective Glenn Gray explained yesterday.

"All of the attacks used violence ... the concern is that he's going to keep doing this, (that) there's going to be other victims."

Gray is a big, easy-going guy with a broad face that looks like it would rather be smiling. But Gray busted Dorsey over a month ago, after police and firefighters had broken into his basement apartment and freed a terrified woman after she had managed to make a quick and panicked cellphone call when her attacker stepped out.

We had him. And then we let him go.

Dorsey was granted bail at \$4,000 a couple of days later -- despite an outstanding sex assault warrant from Quebec -- and went underground. But police allege that instead of lying low, he picked up the pace. Since missing his May 4 court date, Dorsey is accused of capturing and assaulting two more women.

Another assault, going back to May 2003, has just come to light, Gray said, adding that sources in the sex trade tell him there are others. "We just haven't been able to properly identify or locate them yet."

You can see why he's not smiling.

I spent the day knocking on doors in Dorsey's rundown east-end turf, and met plenty of people who knew Dorsey.

Many, like the Irish lady a few doors down from the laundromat he lived under, were too scared to let me use their names.

"I've lived here 27 years and we never had trouble with the boxing club (before him). But I'm so scared of him, I so didn't want him here," she says standing on the worn front steps of home.

Others, like the young punks on the street corner swaggering on the spot while their pit bulls strained at their leather leashes, pegged me for a cop, or at least a straightworlder, and would have nothing to do with me.

Ditto the besotted regulars in the dark and dirty Jones Street Bar and Grill that Dorsey favoured with his dubious commerce.

Thea Papadakis, whose family seems to run many laundromats along Queen Street, including the one above Dorsey's failed boxing club/apartment, angrily denied he was using the space to deal drugs and worse, no matter what the neighbours or police said.

"No sir, I didn't see anything like that. Who told you that? This is a lie, I didn't see anything."

And then she saw fit to hang up on me.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, I suppose there's always a chance the Toronto attacker might seek to hide out in Hamilton, although Lord knows, as the just-folded **Project Advocate** demonstrated, our own hookers have a desperate enough time of it as it is without importing trouble.

Mostly, though, it's this: it's anger at the realization that some serial rapist is so confident that nobody gives a fig for the class of women he's assaulting, that he keeps brazenly attacking them right in what passes for his own home.

And until now he's gotten away with it.

How many others like him are out there? And what does that say about the rest of us?

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LOAD-DATE: June 10, 2004

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

GRAPHIC: Photo: Christopher David Dorsey: Accused of two more assaults

TYPE: Column

