

New suspect in Lenard Clark case?

By Karen Shields
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Instead of getting a judge's ruling on a previously filed motion, the three Bridgeport, Ill. youth charged in the Lenard Clark beating, were surprised in early December to discover that police suspect a fourth person may have been involved in the incident.

As a result, attorneys for Michael Kwidzinski, Frank Caruso and Victor Jasas filed a motion asking Criminal Court Judge Daniel Locallo to allow them to track discovery, so that they could get more information on that person, while also investigating how the lineup procedure was

conducted.

Caruso's lawyer, Ed Jensen, alleged that police were attempting to hide the information pertaining to the fourth suspect.

Jensen also said that the fourth suspect in question had allegedly confessed to the beating but police failed to do anything about it.

To resolve both of these issues, Locallo summoned the detectives involved in the case along with Lt. John Regan of Area I Detective Division to testify.

It was found that although police made mention that a fourth suspect was wanted they never recorded the outcome of their findings in

any of their reports. Defense attorneys believe that information regarding the fourth suspect could be contained in the detectives' general progress reports, that are now missing.

Locallo determined that the defense attorneys did have a basis for their motion and a right to see the reports.

As a result, he ordered that the prosecution find them and then hand them over.

Earlier in the day, Jensen had also filed a motion asking Locallo to sever the hate crime charge from the attempted murder and aggravated battery charges and have separate trials.

Locallo denied the request, saying that there was no basis for multiple trials.

Clark has been left with brain damage following the March 21, 1997 attack. He was viciously beaten by the teens as he rode his bike home from a basketball game.

According to reports, when Clark, who was accompanied by two friends, reached the Bridgeport neighborhood, they became the target of racial slurs. Clark was allegedly knocked off his bike and repeatedly kicked and beaten until he fell unconscious.

Karen Shields writes for the Chicago Defender.

Jackson pregnant, given stay on jail term

Special to Sentinel-Voice

NEW YORK — The woman convicted of trying to extort \$40 million from Bill Cosby can stay out of jail a little longer because of her pregnancy, a federal judge ruled.

Autumn Jackson was scheduled to surrender this week to begin serving a 26-month sentence.

However, U.S. District Judge Barbara Jones on Thursday granted a three-month delay, with a new reporting date of April 22. Jackson announced her pregnancy days after she was found guilty of trying to shake down Cosby by publicly claiming to be his daughter.

Jackson will be placed in a prison maternity program until she gives birth, expected in July.

Three months later, she will be allowed to apply for a special prison boot camp-style rehabilitation program that could reduce her sentence by six months.

Jackson married her longtime boyfriend, Antony Williams, who pleaded guilty to playing a minor role in the scheme against Cosby.

Cosby denied he is Jackson's father but admitted having an affair with her mother and providing more than \$100,000 in financial support over the years.

Center

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for \$2.95 million dollars which will be used to boost employment opportunities and build economic independence. The state government, Clark County, City of Las Vegas and the City of North Las Vegas are all working on strategic plans for neighborhoods in enterprise areas.

Las Vegas City Councilman Gary Reese, whose ward the center sits in, called it "one of the most important things we have done to help rejuvenate West Las Vegas." He said the business incubator will provide invaluable business resources to the community.

"Wells Fargo thinks this incubator is an excellent example of a private/public partnership," said Karen Wegmann, executive vice president for Wells Fargo Bank Corporation Community Development. "We are delighted to be the financial institution that is the investor in this project."

The bank donated \$300,000 of the \$700,000 granted for the center's operational funding;

"Wells Fargo thinks this incubator is an excellent example of a private/public partnership."

— Karen Wegmann, of Wells Fargo Bank

the Southern Nevada Enterprise Community chipped in the rest.

North Las Vegas City Councilman John Rhodes said, "The incubator is going to give the opportunity to many small businesses to get going. Its going to provide the necessary resources such as secretarial help, strategic planning and other needs vital to starting a business."

Entrepreneurs tout the merits of business incubators, saying they account for increased profit, as much as 400 percent, for the small businesses that take advantage of them.

Eighty-seven percent of the businesses trained by incubators, they said, stay in business in their respective communities.

"Today is a wonderful time because we now have a high-

tech facility to afford us the opportunity to really expand our services," said Kimberly Bailey, coordinator for Economic Opportunity Board's Microbusiness Program.

Also moving into new homes inside the business center are the Enterprise Community Federal Credit Union, Golden Eagle Casino Products, TLC Home Health Care and Odet International.

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Neither the State Bar of Nevada nor any agency of the State Bar has certified any lawyer identified here as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability.

Corneas
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 are shipped to hospitals all over the state and sometimes out of state at \$1,425 apiece. Williams said the Eye Bank does not profit from the sale as the price only covers the cost to remove, test and store the corneas.

Nonetheless, the practice has been criticized by some family members whose deceased relatives had their corneas removed without the families' knowledge or consent.

Medical ethicists have also supported the families' concerns. "This is one of the cases when the ethics and the law may not be the same... because families have a right to control what's done to their loved ones," said Gregory Pence of the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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