

Day in court

5 to face preliminary exam on Feb. 6

By Tim Smith
staff writer

Five women arrested in the Dec. 11 raid of two Southfield Oriental health spas await a Feb. 6 pretrial examination following arraignment in 46th District Court.

Three defendants — Chae Sun Carney, 29, Yong Hui Dean, 37, and Yong So Kiley, 29 — were present Dec. 29 before Judge Clarence A. Reid. They all pleaded not guilty to charges of accosting and soliciting.

Two others, Myong Teak Castillo and Sun OK Chary, did not appear but had their arraignments continued until Feb. 6. According to their attorney, Milton Spokojoy, arraignment appearances for Castillo and Chary were sent in by mail. However, the court ruled that such action was unsatisfactory and set the new arraignment date.

Spokojoy and attorney Richard Hamilton, representing Carney, Dean and Kiley, refused to answer reporter's questions concerning their clients following arraignment.

THE WOMEN, at least some of whom are Korean natives, remain free on \$500 bond each, pending the Feb. 6 pretrial hearing at 1:30 p.m. before newly-elected Judge Stephen Cooper.

Three of the defendants were arrested at the Kimono Health Spa, 24445 Telegraph, and two at the Shogun Oriental Health Spa, 23100 Telegraph. Both spas are located between Nine and 10 Mile roads, on the west and east sides respectively.

Both massage parlors continue to operate despite the recent arrests. Southfield police chief Ronald Fasbinder said earlier that he hopes the city shuts down both spas.

Southfield ordinance went into effect Dec. 22, designed to regulate massage parlors. Under the ordinance, similar to one passed in Farmington Hills, such spas would require licensing.

The owner of the Shogun spa, Un Cha Shinn, is suing the city of Farmington Hills following that municipality's decision not to grant her a business license for her Tokyo Oriental

Health Spa. Shinn, who was not arrested in the Dec. 11 Southfield raid, also owns the Tokyo spa.

IN SHINN'S lawsuit, filed recently in U.S. District Court in Detroit, it states that the Farmington Hills ordinance is unconstitutional and names the city council and other community officials.

The five women in Southfield were arrested following an extensive six-month investigation initiated by the Southfield Police Department investigation division vice unit.

Early last March, police investigators from several states met in Southfield to exchange information which ultimately led to the arrests at the two Telegraph Road spas.

In those arrests, simultaneous raids were conducted by Southfield police, working in conjunction with the Michigan State Police and the United States Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Officials say they expect to make more arrests as the investigation continues.

It is speculated that some massage parlors in the Detroit area may be laundering money. Last fall, when five Oriental health spas were raided in Farmington Hills, bank receipts totaling almost \$30,000 for one day were found in one of them.

INVESTIGATION BY THE FBI has uncovered evidence that American

servicemen are paid as much as \$5,000 to marry Korean girls, so they can enter the United States and gain American citizenship. Once the women obtain their green cards, however, they are abandoned by their husbands and recruited to work the Oriental spas, where many of them live.

Although the women appear to have no idea they have broken the law with the alleged prostitution activities — they speak little or no English for the most part — Lt. Ronald Palmquist, supervisor of the vice and narcotics division of the Southfield Police Department, said earlier that many complaints have been received from people who have frequented the spas.

"One person complained of being accosted and another said he was overcharged on his credit card," Palmquist said in the aftermath of the arrests. "Men were at the spas when they were raided. They were interviewed, but they weren't arrested because they weren't involved in any sexual activity."

The charge of accosting and soliciting is a misdemeanor that, upon conviction, carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail, according to Palmquist.

A total of 125 women have been arrested in recent years on charges related to prostitution and illicit sex in the spas. More than 60 Oriental health spas have opened in Michigan, many in suburban areas.

New monitors approved

Farmington's 20-year-old public safety plectron monitors will be upgraded, according to action taken by the city council Jan. 5.

A total of 22 new home alerting monitor units will be bought from Motorola of Southfield for \$433 each for a total cost of \$9,524. The monitors will be used by off-duty public safety officers and reserve officers for callbacks to fire and other emergencies.

The city had originally budgeted money to purchase 10 replacement monitors this year, adding others in future years until all were replaced. They instead decided to replace all

the units using money originally budgeted for an air tank refill system, according to Director of Public Safety Frank Laubhoff.

The department will continue to use air tank refill services provided through the city of Farmington Hills.

Bids were sought from six vendors known to provide pagers and monitors. Motorola was the only company to submit a bid.

In past years, the city has gone through the state bid process; the state did not bid this type of equipment this year, city manager Robert Deadman said.

Court order closes 2 spas

Southfield police closed down the Kimono Oriental Spa on Telegraph Friday afternoon after Oakland County prosecutor L. Brooks

Patterson obtained the necessary court order to shut the doors of two massage parlors. Officers padlocked the establish-

ment that afternoon, with plans to close the Shogun health spa later, police said. Oakland County Circuit Court issued the order to close.

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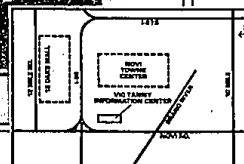
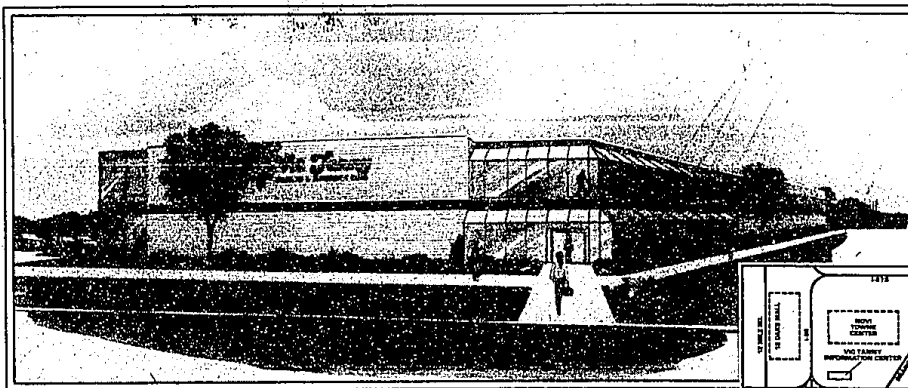
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