

# Police recover items

Continued from Page 1

Between April 1987 and March 1988, Szeman's attorney is waiting for psychological tests to be conducted, Dwyer said.

"His attorney said he has no intention to fight extradition," said Farmington Hills police Sgt. Charles Nebus, one of the detectives who went to Ohio after Szeman's arrest to execute search warrants.

In the Farmington Hills rapes, two sisters in their 20s were raped last Thanksgiving night in their home near 13 Mile and Farmington Road. Szeman was charged with two counts of armed robbery, six counts of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree and four counts of criminal sexual conduct in the second degree.

On March 31, a woman in her 30s was raped in her home near 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road — the last reported assault in the series. Szeman was charged with one count of armed robbery and four counts of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree.

A purse, a wallet, credit cards and undergarments taken in that attack were found in a K mart dumpster in Westlake, Ohio, 3 1/4 miles from Rocky River, April 2 by a man looking for cardboard boxes.

# Chronology of serial rape case is listed

A chronology of the arrest of the man believed to be Oakland County's serial rapist:

## ● THURSDAY, NOV. 10

A 25-year-old salesman for a Cleveland trash hauling company — a former West Bloomfield resident who once held hourly jobs in Troy and Southfield — is arrested in the rape of a 24-year-old woman at her parents' home in North Olmsted, Ohio.

As a ski-masked, knife-wielding man gathers things to steal after breaking into the house and repeatedly raping his victim, the woman runs outside naked. She screams. He chases and tackles her on a lawn. But she gets away and pounds on a door for help.

He runs away when people start to come to her aid.

Eventually, 40 neighbors, employees and customers chase him into the yard of a house behind a car dealership in a business district.

Ohio native Steven A. Szeman Jr., a Rocky River resident, is charged with rape, attempted aggravated murder and aggravated burglary. He is ordered held on \$750,000 bond.

## ● FRIDAY, NOV. 11

North Olmsted police Sgt. Larry Mason remembers Farmington Hills police are looking for a ski-masked, knife-wielding rapist. He notifies them at 3 a.m.

Later that day, Farmington Hills and Bloomfield Township police send three officers each to question Szeman at the North Olmsted Jail. They are accompanied by Oakland County assistant prosecutor John Slewin.

## ● WEEKEND OF NOV. 11-13

Police link Szeman to several Oakland County attacks via fingerprints found on a Farmington Hills victim's wallet, blood-semen samples and personal property found in his possession that belonged to some of the victims.

The wallet — as well as a purse, credit cards and undergarments — belong to a March 31 victim in Farmington Hills. They were found April 2 in a K mart dumpster in Westlake, Ohio, (3 1/4 miles from Szeman's Rocky River townhouse) by a man looking for cardboard boxes. That was shortly after he moved from a rented room on Heather Heath in West Bloomfield, where he lived for some two years.

## ● MONDAY, NOV. 14

A Cuyahoga County grand jury binds Szeman over for trial on charges of rape, aggravated burglary and attempted aggravated murder.

## ● TUESDAY, NOV. 15

At a news conference, Oakland County prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson declares Szeman a prime suspect in 12 Oakland County rapes or attempted rapes between April 1987 and March 1988. It is announced that North Olmsted officials plan to prosecute Szeman before he is extradited.

Oakland County investigators execute a warrant to search Szeman's townhouse and car. They find 50 pieces of evidence: a musical keyboard, a stereo system, money, watches, purses, jewelry, telephones, credit cards, a television, an answering machine, a ring and a camera,

all of which they believe belong to victims of Oakland County's serial rapist.

## ● WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

News accounts quote friends and acquaintances who describe Szeman as an all-American guy — a college graduate with a business management degree, a former fraternity brother, nice looking, friendly, polite, athletic, respectful, popular with girls. It is learned he once spent summers reading Bibles.

Meanwhile, the Oakland County rape task force, representing Farmington Hills, Bloomfield Township, Birmingham, West Bloomfield, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police, compare notes and review evidence.

Some victims visit the Bloomfield Township Police Department to identify their property, found in Szeman's possession. Police call the identification process "a very emotional experience for the victims," who are forced to relive terrible memories.

Patterson, leaving office Jan. 1 to return to private practice, says he will ask prosecutor-elect Richard Thompson to appoint him special prosecutor so he can try the local cases himself at no cost to the county.

## ● THURSDAY, NOV. 17

The task force continues to sift through evidence in preparation for seeking warrants.

## ● FRIDAY, NOV. 18

Szeman is arraigned in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court in Berea on four counts of rape and single counts of aggravated robbery,

aggravated burglary, felonious assault and possessing criminal tools. He pleads not guilty and is ordered held in the county jail in lieu of \$250,000 bond.

In Oakland County, Patterson announces warrants charging Szeman with 49 criminal counts: 24 counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct (CSC), 12 counts of second-degree CSC, nine counts of armed robbery, two counts of breaking and one count each of assault with intent to commit an armed robbery and assault with intent to commit sexual penetration.

Szeman, a bachelor with no criminal record, who broke up with his girlfriend three weeks ago, is charged in 10 attacks: three rapes each in Bloomfield and Farmington Hills, an Independence Township rape, an attempted rape and a rape in Birmingham and an armed robbery in West Bloomfield.

Victims ranged in age from 12 to 61. They were attacked in their homes or garages. Police believe they were picked at random and stalked for short periods until they were alone at night. The rapist was soft-spoken, even apologetic.

In the Farmington Hills cases, two sisters in their 20s were raped last Thanksgiving in their home. March 31, a woman in her 30s was raped in her home. All have since moved. The woman in the March 31 attack left the state.

Szeman claimed that body language drew him to his victims, whom he stalked after seeing them through a window, or while they were walking down a street or at a market, Patterson says.

Patterson describes the attacks as among the "most horrific" he has seen in 16 years in office.

"It is my intention Szeman will never breathe a breath of free air again," Patterson says.

Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer says the public will never understand the price the victims have paid. The attacks "will stay with them for the rest of their lives," he says.

Patterson expects Szeman to stand trial in Oakland County by January.

Szeman still faces possible charges in a May 8 rape in West Bloomfield and a March 3 rape attempt in Farmington Hills, pending laboratory testing of evidence, Patterson says.

## ● MONDAY, NOV. 21

Oakland County detectives begin preparing their cases against Szeman.

Meanwhile, Dwyer says the task force may meet this week to re-examine other Oakland County or Michigan sexual assaults that were committed by a ski-masked, knife-wielding man.

"We'll also look at his (Szeman's) background and movement over the past few years to see if any other rapes in areas he has lived are similar to those committed here," Dwyer says.

"We'll contact authorities in other states to see if any assaults there may be linked to him," he says.

In addition to Ohio and Michigan, Szeman has lived in Texas and Colorado.

## This Christmas Serve Diamonds



The lasting gift of fine jewelry will be cherished for the holidays and throughout the years.

With over thirty stores, The Advance Jewelers Association features the very best selection of fine jewelry and accessories, specially priced for the holidays. Come browse through our showrooms and experience our tradition of quality and excellence.

HOLIDAY HOURS: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-7 p.m. • Thursdays 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturdays 9 a.m.-6 p.m. • Sundays Noon-5 p.m. Hours may vary with each store. Please check with individual merchants.

**ADVANCE Jewelers**  
Located on the third floor of the Advance Building on the southwest corner of Nine Mile and Greenfield 23077 Greenfield Road • Southfield, Michigan

## SFA's Post-Thanksgiving Jersey Dress Sale, Now 169.90.



- Originally\* \$230 to \$240.
- Wool jersey dresses from Chetta B.
- In a range of colors, from jewel tones to rich fall shades in solids or bi-color wraps.
- All sizes 4 to 14 with accompanying belts.
- In Misses and Petite sizes 2 to 12.
- Young Designer Dresses.

\*There may have been intermediate price reductions on some items prior to this clearance sale; limited selection available.

TROY SHOPPING SPREE REGISTRATION		
Friday 11-25	8 a.m.-noon	\$1000
	6 p.m.-10 p.m.	\$1000
Saturday 11-26	11 a.m.-6 p.m.	\$1000
(Open Until 9 p.m.)		
Sunday 11-27	11 a.m.-6 p.m.	\$1000

FAIRLANE SHOPPING SPREE REGISTRATION		
Saturday 11-26	5 p.m.-9 p.m.	\$1000
Store Hours		
Friday 11-25	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	
Saturday 11-26	10 a.m.-9 p.m.	
Sunday 11-27	11 a.m.-6 p.m.	
Valet Parking Available		

*Saks Fifth Avenue*  
Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, Troy • Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn

## A Tradition of Excellence



## ADMISSIONS TESTING

for  
**Middle and Upper School**  
Grades 6-12  
on  
**Saturday, December 3, at 8:30 a.m.**  
Please call 646-7717, ext. 44, to make an appointment for your child to take the admissions test.

**DETROIT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**  
Main Campus  
22305 W. Thirteen Mile Road  
Birmingham, Michigan 48010  
646-7717