

Serial rape suspect seeks psychiatric exam

By Joanna Maliszewski
staff writer

The former West Bloomfield resident accused of being Oakland County's skinned serial rapist wants to be evaluated by a psychiatrist.

"Basically, he's saying, 'Look, there's something wrong with me,'" said Bingham Farms attorney Lawrence Kaluzny, representing Steven A. Szeman Jr., 25, of Rocky River, Ohio.

Szeman faces 49 counts of rape, robbery and burglary involving 10 women in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township and Independence Township in late 1987 and spring 1988.

Oakland County assistant prosecutor John Stevin confirmed Tuesday that Oakland County Circuit Judge Robert Templin

will rule on Kaluzny's motion Wednesday, May 3. Kaluzny is asking that an independent psychiatrist be appointed to evaluate Szeman. Kaluzny said he is asking the court to appoint Dr. Saul Forman of Southfield.

Kaluzny also is asking that medical and psychiatric records from Szeman's attorney, James Burke, in Ohio, where Szeman pleaded guilty Jan. 4 to the rape of a Cleveland woman in November 1988.

"My position is that I can't advise him what to do until I exhaust all potential defenses," said Kaluzny, a Farmington Hills resident.

THE CHIEF psychiatrist for the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in Cleveland declared Szeman sane at the time of the November rape of a Cleveland woman and that he was fit to stand trial.

Szeman stood mute and not-guilty pleas were entered on his behalf when he was arraigned by mail in Oakland County Circuit Court Tuesday on the 49 counts of rape, robbery and burglary.

"In this case, there was no reason to bring him into court and stand mute," Kaluzny said.

Szeman is being held in the Oakland County Jail in lieu of a \$7.9 million cash bond.

Circuit Judge Robert Templin has not scheduled pre-trial exams on the charges, Kaluzny said.

"I don't think Steve (Szeman) wants to go to trial and put the victims through it, unless we can see it's absolutely necessary," Kaluzny said. "I have a lot of work to do."

Kaluzny also expects to request a hearing to determine the admissibility of deoxyri-

bucleic acid (DNA) evidence. DNA is an organic substance used by investigators to analyze body tissues, which provide a genetic fingerprint.

Szeman waived his right to preliminary examinations in 47th District Court in Farmington, 48th District Court in Bloomfield Township and 52nd-Second Division District Court in Clarkston the week of April 10-14.

If convicted in Oakland County, Szeman would be expected to return to Ohio to begin serving his 58-to-140-year sentence in the Chillicothe Correctional Institution, a maximum security prison near Columbus. He could be paroled there in 10 years and, if convicted here, would begin any Oakland County sentence then.

OAKLAND COUNTY Investigators

linked Szeman, an Ohio trash hauling company salesman who once held jobs in Troy and Southfield, to several local attacks through fingerprints found on a Farmington Hills victim's wallet, blood-stained samples and personal property found in his possession that belonged to some of the victims.

A wallet, purse and undergarments belonging to the last Farmington Hills victim were found April 2, 1988, in a dumpster in Westlake, Ohio, 3 1/4 miles from Szeman's Rocky River townhouse.

He had moved to the Ohio townhouse from a rented room in West Bloomfield where he lived for approximately two years. The last Oakland County victim was attacked March 31, 1988, in her Farmington Hills home.

2 rape suspects freed after victim fails to show for exam

Two men — one from Farmington Hills — were freed when the woman they were charged with raping at a restaurant didn't show up at a preliminary exam Friday.

Granting the defense attorneys' request, District Judge Michael Batichuk of Walpole Lake dismissed charges without prejudice against Raymond Leroy Emerson, 45, of Farmington Hills, and William James LaForge, 35, of Howell. They could be charged again if the woman is found, Batichuk said.

At the Oakland County prosecutor's request, a material witness warrant was issued for the woman, a 37-year-old Detroit resident, who told police she was repeatedly raped in a van en route to and later parked in Milford Township.

Emerson and LaForge were arraigned on four counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct April

10 before District Judge Brian Mackenzie of Walpole Lake. They were being held in the Oakland County Jail in lieu of bonds totaling \$1.4 million.

Milford Township Police Chief John Daly said the woman received hospital treatment for injuries suffered in the night-long attack.

The woman didn't know her assailants. They picked her up late April 8 in Detroit and took turns driving to

Milford Township while the other raped her, Daly said.

About 4 a.m. April 9, the woman jumped out of the van window, by then parked in the Child's Lake area. She ran to a nearby house, from where she called police.

A Walpole Lake police officer arrested the suspects. He had their van stopped for a traffic violation when he heard a broadcast about the attack and a description of the vehicle involved, Daly said.

County commissioner opens office to public

Donn Wolf, Oakland County commissioner, will hold regularly scheduled office hours the first Saturday of each month in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

"I am always available to constituents, but this will give people an opportunity to stop by and meet informally on a regular basis," said Wolf.

"Whether it is to discuss a specific issue or just to talk about the 27th District or the county in general, I look forward to these one-on-one meetings," he said.

"This is one more step in our overall communications and efforts to

stay in touch with residents. We are distributing quarterly newsletters to organizations and households, meeting with city government officials, attending city council meetings, soliciting speaking engagements, and with some cable TV appearances. I want people to know who their county commissioner is and what he does," Wolf said.

Wolf will be at Farmington City Hall 8-10 a.m. and at Farmington Hills City Hall from 10:15 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of each month throughout the year.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

It's for the birds

Fourth-graders in Robert McLean's class at Flanders Elementary in Farmington were chirping happily after completing a class project in which they studied birds and designed bird houses. Pictured here is Robert Glingrich, the first-place winner of a bird

house contest judged by local Kiwanis club members. Other winners were: Alex Owen and Matt Patton, second place; Amber Muncy and Susan Giovannini, third place; and Inge Baessler and Michael Fabian, honorable mentions.

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clarification

An April 7 Observer story about filing petitions for the November Farmington Hills City Council election should have said voters may sign as many petitions as there are council seats open. With four terms expiring, voters may sign petitions for up to four candidates.

In the race to fill the two remain-

ing years of the seat held by former councilman Joe Alkateeb, voters may sign only one petition. New councilman Paul Sowerby, appointed in March to Alkateeb's seat until the November election, is not forced to seek election. The city charter, however, requires that the two remaining years of that term are filled by election.

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RED MAPLE	1"-1 1/2"	\$52 ⁰⁰	\$40⁰⁰
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