

Arraignment from page 1A

Casa Corridor five days later without incident, following a nationwide manhunt.

At his arraignment, Tranchida's wrists still carried bandages from his suicide attempt.

Tranchida's in-court admission surprised the numerous media representatives present in the courtroom.

At that time, Tranchida also asked Cooper if he could waive his preliminary examination — a hearing in which prosecutors must convince a judge that there was a crime committed and that there is probable cause that the defendant committed it.

"Would it be possible to waive this to Circuit Court now? I'm asking you — gentleman to gentlemen sort of speaking," Tranchida said softly with a slight stutter.

Cooper refused to waive the preliminary examination until an attorney was appointed to Tranchida and conferred with him.

Cooper set a preliminary exam for 9:30 a.m. Friday in front of Judge Bryan Levy.

Assistant Oakland County prosecutor Gary Tunis said he did not expect an in-court confession nor a request for a preliminary exam waiver from Tranchida.

"It doesn't happen very often," Tunis said. "I was somewhat surprised."

Cooper ordered that Tranchida be held without bond until his court date.

In his argument for no bond, Tunis pointed to Tranchida's recent parole violations and to a statement he made in an interview with Southfield police.

"He said he killed her because he was complaining about her financial woes. He felt he wanted to put her out of her misery," Tunis said. "If that is enough to trigger a homicidal rage, he doesn't deserve bond."

Tunis also outlined Tranchida's many run-ins with the law during the last 20 years. Most were non-violent property crimes — many having to do with cars.

In a press conference two hours before the arraignment, Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson and Southfield Police Chief Joseph Thomas refused to discuss any aspect of the crime or investigation and would not outline in general terms what they believe occurred.

"We will try this case in court, not the media," Thompson said, citing the heavy publicity from the O.J. Simpson trial as a reason for not discussing the case.

The Oakland County medical examiner's report listed that Biggar's remains had evidence of head and neck trauma. Because of severe decomposition, there was no soft tissue that would show



STEPHEN CASTELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Suspect speaks: Kenneth Ray Tranchida said he killed Oakland University student Tina Biggar at his arraignment Thursday in 46th District Court.**

bruising, gunshot wounds or stab wounds.

Several Oakland University students and staff members attended Biggar's funeral Wednesday in Acton, near Traverse City.

The Biggar family is not commenting to the media, but Thompson said he talked to her parents after authorizing the first-degree murder warrant.

"The father of Tina Biggar is very interested in (the warrant)," Thompson said.

Area students pass CPA examination

The Becker CPA Review Course announces that the following students from Farmington Hills and Walled Lake passed the May 1995 CPA examination: Keith Grover, Michael Klein and Bryan Kearsis of Farmington Hills, and Matthew Burns of Walled Lake.

The National CPA Examination is a two-day exam administered in May and November by the State Board of Accountancy.

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**Arthritis Today**  
Joseph J. Weiss, M.D. Rheumatology  
18525 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone: (810) 478-7840

**WHEN LESS THAN BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH**

You can imagine the following experience: You note daily pain in your knee, in addition the joint feels as if it may give way in the middle of a step. You see your doctor who diagnoses knee osteoarthritis. Though you may arthritis medication, the pain continues and worsens. X-ray of the knee reveals that bone rubs on bone, the best treatment for you is the surgery of a knee replacement. However, in this example, you have another condition difficult to control. Your doctor informs you that this other medical problem contraindicates any knee surgery for now. Does this mean that you must live with your arthritis? The answer is NO. Therapy exists that will allow you to maintain your way of life. Such treatment includes continuing with anti-inflammatory medication, initiating steroid injections into the joint periodically, and using pain medications, but not narcotics, on a daily basis. The aspect of a cane or walker can provide stability and end the hazard that each step brings with it the risk of a bone breaking fall. If you cannot undertake an operation, do not consider yourself outside the realm of care. Medical treatment exists to ease your pain and keep you independent.

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