

Tranchida ordered to trial in death

BY MARGARET O'BRIEN
STAFF WRITER

Kenneth Tranchida's statement to police that he "suddenly decided" to kill Oakland University student Tina Biggar helped convince 46th District Court Judge Bryan Levy that the 42-year-old Southfield man should stand trial for first-degree murder.

Levy ruled Friday that prosecutors had sufficiently proved a murder had been committed, that there was probable cause to believe Tranchida did it and that he did it intentionally — with some premeditation — after Tranchida's two-day preliminary exam.

"Whatever his ultimate motive, it appears from that statement that his decision was arrived at after some, although fast, weighing of factors," Levy said about testimony from Michigan State Police detective Leonard Goretaki, who took a confession from Tranchida.

Goretaki testified Friday that Tranchida told him he "suddenly decided" to kill Biggar, 23, of Farmington Hills, on the morning of Aug. 23 when she left her house about her brother's credit card bills, her condemned apartment and her recent breakup with a boyfriend.

"He said he had never seen her to said. He felt a girl like Tina shouldn't have to live with this type of problems," Goretaki said about Tranchida's Sept. 26 confession to police. "He said he wanted to let her know there was someone there who cared. So he put his hands on her chest and pushed her back and she hit her head on a safe."

Tranchida told Goretaki that he blacked out at that point and doesn't know what happened.

"He said he blacked out like he was a fog. He said, 'I could have choked her, punched her three times or beat her. But whatever I did to her was from the neck up,'" Goretaki said.

Biggar's body was found behind the former house of Tranchida's aunt, on Nine Mile near Evergreen.

Tranchida wasn't the only person who said he was uncertain about exactly what caused Biggar's death.

Oakland County Medical Examiner Kanubhai Virani testified Thursday that because there was no soft tissue left on the decomposed skeletal remains and no detectable fractures or evidence of trauma like a knife or gunshot wound, he could only generalize the cause of death as head and neck trauma.

"You just come to the best conclusion based on the available information," Virani said.

He said the fact that she was missing several days, was found outside away from her residence and may have bled in the trunk of her car led him to classify Biggar's death as a homicide.

Tranchida's attorney, Michael Modelski, argued Friday that his client should not be tried on first-degree murder charges when the cause of death is not even clear.

"For first-degree, the prosecution must establish premeditation and deliberations. They have failed to do that. There is also no other evidence of how it is she

See TRANCHIDA, 12A

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

ASSAULT

A West Bloomfield man, 37, told Farmington Hills police that a Farmington Hills man, who is his ex-wife's boyfriend, tried to run him over with a Chevrolet Blazer in the parking lot of the Village Green Apartments on Floraville in Farmington Hills Oct. 6. The man was able to jump out of the way of the Blazer.

A Troy man, 30, told Farmington Hills police that a Detroit woman, 25, who had formerly worked for him at the Mountain Jack's restaurant, was visiting her boyfriend, who still works at the restaurant on Sinclair when she threatened and then pushed him at 5:10 p.m. Oct. 9. The man said she told him to "mind his own business, or else." She then pushed him, he told police.

DOMESTIC ASSAULT

A Flat Rock woman, 35, told Farmington Hills police that her sister, 42, of Farmington Hills struck her and threatened to kill her at the sister's Section 13 residence at 12:30 p.m. Oct. 10.

Witnesses told Farmington Hills police that a Hills man, 34, pushed his wife, 34, onto the hood of a red Ford Probe in their Section 36 yard, bounded her head and then dragged her around in the gravel driveway before leaving the area. The woman was taken to Botsford Hospital.

A Farmington Hills woman, 28, told Hills police that her boyfriend, 34, shoved her onto a couch, pulled out a phone from a wall when she tried to call her sister, threw a cup and hit her, slithered into a wall and hit her several

times with his fists at their Section 32 residence at 3 a.m. Oct. 13. The woman tried to get her son, 4, and herself out of the apartment and was eventually able to convince the man that police were coming. He fled.

THEFT

Clothing worth \$300 was stolen from a silver 1993 Ford parked at Parade of Shoes on Orchard Lake in Farmington Hills Oct. 10.

A 3000 Motorola car phone was stolen from a green 1995 Pontiac coupe on Vicksburg in Farmington Hills Oct. 7-8.

A Sega Genesis game and cartridges (\$650) were stolen from a residence on Baywood in Farmington Hills Oct. 6-9.

Jewelry (\$3,000) was stolen from a residence at the Hunter Circle Condos on Hunters Circle in Farmington Hills Oct. 11.

A red 1995 Craftsman air compressor and a \$500 red Little Wonder 8 HP blower were stolen from a shed at St. Alexander's Church on Shiloh in Farmington Hills Oct. 10-11.

A \$100 Craftsman tool box, \$350 in tools and a \$50 McCulloch chain saw were stolen from a residence on Malden in Farmington Hills Oct. 11-12.

A troll-like, spread winged garbale was stolen from a front yard in the 23000 block of Gill Road in Farmington Oct. 10-11. The 20-inch high by 30-inch wide, 40-pound statue was valued at \$80 and was in good condition.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

A Farmington police car was involved in an accident at the intersection of Drake and Grand River at approximately noon on Oct. 11. According to Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss, the

police cruiser was responding to a call and traveling on Grand River when the accident occurred with a motorist traveling in a Ford Escort station wagon on Drake Road. The male driver and the police officer were treated and released from Botsford Hospital.

A Farmington Hills man, 33, told Hills police that as he was driving east on Nine Mile at Farmington when his green 1995 Ford Aerostar was rear ended, causing \$300 in damage to the rear bumper. The driver of the 1992 red Geo Storm that hit his car, a Walled Lake man, 23, refused to exchange information and left the scene.

DRUGS

Farmington Hills police arrested a White Creek man on eastbound Grand River in Farmington Hills at 2:40 a.m. Oct. 11 for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Hills woman, 37, for possession of a small plastic bag of marijuana at 2:33 p.m. Oct. 11 on Shiloh in Farmington Hills. Officers pulled the woman over for an expired plate.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Redford man, 21, and a Livonia man, 22, for possession of two plastic bags of marijuana and drug paraphernalia while the two were sitting in a 1994 Chevrolet parked at the Putt Putt Golf and Games on Grand River in Farmington Hills Oct. 11.

BREAK-INS

The driver's window was smashed causing \$250 in damage to a gold 1995 Cadillac Deville parked at Four Seasons Fireplace on Orchard Lake at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 11. A \$200 AM/FM stereo and a purse with credit cards, identification

and \$200 in cash was stolen. Copper and brass piping (\$300) was stolen from a house on Nine Mile in Farmington Hills that is being renovated after the side door was forced open Oct. 11-12.

VANDALISM

The passenger side window of a red 1992 Olds Cutlass parked at the Detroit Newspaper Agency's distribution center on Crestview in Farmington Hills was smashed causing \$250 in damage Sept. 29.

DRUNKEN DRIVING

Farmington Hills police arrested a Detroit man, 25, for driving a 1981 Chevy east on Grand River between Middlebelt and Eight Mile while drunk at 12:20 a.m. Oct. 12. The man had a blood alcohol level of .1 percent. A level of .1 percent is considered too high to drive in Michigan.

Farmington Hills police arrested a Franklin man, 62, for driving a 1994 Subaru Legacy while drunk after officers responded to an accident at 13 Mile and Inland in Farmington Hills at 12:05 a.m. Oct. 12. The man had a blood alcohol level of .24 percent.

FRAUD

A check of \$1,132.69 made out to Mickey Shorr on Grand River in Farmington Hills to pay for a stereo and alarm came back from a closed bank account Oct. 12.

ANIMAL COMPLAINT

A resident in the 22000 block of Hawthorne called Farmington police Oct. 10 to report a squirrel in one of the bedrooms of her home. An officer responded at about 2:30 p.m. and was eventually able to remove the rodent. A notation on the police blotter read "After 71 minutes of play, (Officer Dan) Potter I and squirrel 0."

Arthritis Today
Joseph J. Weiss, M.D. Rheumatology
18229 Farmington Road
Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone: (810) 787-7550

TREATING BACK STRAIN
The back muscles begin in the posterior part of the sacrum and work their way to the skull. One group of muscles (the spinals) goes up the spine of the vertebrae, another group (the longissimus) runs up the side of the vertebrae. The final group (the iliocostalis) starts from the base of the spine and ends at the ribs.
Deep in the back are spinal muscles (the multifidus & rotatores) that allow the back to bend sideways.
The above description gives you an idea of the complexity of the back. You can imagine how difficult it is to determine which one or combination of muscles is under strain when you experience back pain.
You can understand that trying to strengthen your back with exercises could well make it worse. Rather, you should consider your back a precious resource and use it wisely. Maintaining good posture is an excellent way to keep your back strong and healthy. Good posture is even with your chest, and at the same time forcing your head to your ears are even with your shoulders. Never use your back to bend over, instead, bend down with your knees.
Good posture and body motion, as rather than special (and tedious) exercises are ways to both counter and avoid back muscle strain.

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After hip replacement, the physical therapist can help patients make the transition to a healthy lifestyle was extensive. To assure prolonged enjoyment of their hip implants, patients are strongly encouraged to give up running, basketball, racquetball, and other sports that pose a definite risk of accelerated wear and premature failure of their implants. After all, even the best hip replacement patients are never to be given up on. There is, however, a wide variety of low and non-impact activities from which hip replacement patients can choose. According to a study in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings, more than 75% of the surgeons who performed 1,013 hip replacements recommended cycling, golfing, swimming, and bowling to their patients, and, in some cases, tennis, speed walking, hiking, and ice skating. Whatever the choice, physical therapy can put hip replacement patients on the road back to an active lifestyle with strength training and flexibility exercises.
Don't give up on exercise just because you've had hip replacement surgery! Losing your physical fitness exposes you to the risk of chronic diseases including heart disease, arthritis, and diabetes. Physical therapy can help you regain your previous fitness level or, if you've never exercised before, achieve a new fitness level. For more information, call WILDER'S PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS MEDICINE, P.C. at (810) 478-7310 or see us weekdays by appointment at 31946 Eight Mile Road, Suite A, Farmington Hills.
P.S. Hip replacement patients should be careful to monitor their activities because their implants will not provide them with warning signs (such as pain) that they are overexerting themselves.

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ALCOHOL AND INFERTILITY
When it is caused by a number of factors, it is no stranger to many couples. Defined as the failure to become pregnant after a year of unprotected intercourse or the failure to deliver a living child, infertility affects as many as 20% of married couples in the U.S. A recent study of nearly 5,000 women shows that alcohol consumption may play a role in the problem. According to researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health, moderate alcohol consumption (as defined as 100 grams per week, or about one drink per day) contributes to the risk of such specific causes of infertility as ovulatory problems (30%) and endometriosis (40%). Because both conditions are mediated by hormonal shifts, and alcohol seems to affect estrogen levels, alcohol is seen as a likely culprit of infertility.
The stress of infertility on the individual, as well as on the relationship can be as difficult an issue with which to cope. I understand the difficulties, and can help by locating the causes and possible solutions. And I keep abreast of all the latest research and techniques to provide the best possible care.
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