

Suspect in murder says he wasn't involved

By Bill Casper
staff writer

An attorney representing one of two men facing murder charges in connection with the May death of a 30-year-old Farmington Hills man said his client claims he was not involved.

Michael Brock, described by Redford police as a drifter from Pineville, Ky., and Douglas Sayers, who said he is undergoing treatment for cancer, are charged with second-degree murder in the death of Gregory A. Link.

Both stood mute at their district court arraignments in June. Not

guilty pleas were entered for them. Brock and Sayers previously were jailed without bond until a Wayne Circuit judge granted a motion by their lawyers and set bond.

Sayers has posted bond and is free, but Brock remains in Wayne County Jail, said Gerald Conley, Brock's court-appointed attorney.

Brock, who lived in a Redford Township apartment at the time of the incident, told his attorney that he didn't take part in the May 23 assault on Link.

Brock and Sayers are accused of assaulting Link at about 2 a.m. in the bar parking lot as he and his girlfriend, Karen Layden of Livonia, were leaving the pub.

Sayers' attorney, Marvin Blake, told Wayne Circuit Judge William Cahalan during a recent bond hearing that Brock had nothing to do with the assault on Link outside the Double OO Pub in Redford, Conley said.

According to Conley, Brock's account is as follows:

He was returning to his Redford apartment when his van ran out of gas at Grand River and Seven Mile near the Double OO Pub and a short distance from his Grand River apartment building.

Brock walked to the apartment and began knocking on neighbors' doors for a ride to a gas station, and Sayers, who lives in the apartment next door, agreed to drive him, according to Conley.

Conley said Layden testified that she told Brock, who was with Sayers, that he smelled good, but had no further conversation with him.

Conley said Brock claims that he and Sayers left the bar at about the same time as did Link and Layden.

Brock claims he went to his van in the bar parking lot and heard Sayers and Link shouting at each other, Conley said. A scuffle ensued, but Brock claims he did not go near the combatants and was not involved in the fight, Conley said.

HE AND Sayers then left separately, Conley said.

Layden, the only witness to the assault, testified in district court that Link was struck about the head with numerous forceful blows.

However, Bill G. Brooks, Oakland County medical examiner who performed the autopsy on Link, said there was no sign of bruises to Link's head or face.

Blake motioned for a reduced manslaughter charge against both defendants, but 17th District Judge Robert Brang denied the motion.

police/fire calls

Listed are some of the Farmington-area police and fire calls received during the past week:

• MONEY SCAM

Two men posing as gas company employees bilked a 97-year-old man out of \$468 Aug. 8. According to a Farmington Department of Public Safety report, two men who identified themselves as gas company employees came to the man's house at 4:45 p.m. and were let in. The two apparently questioned the man about his gas bill and requested money. One of the men then took a bank envelope containing \$440 from the victim's suit coat by reaching into a pocket. The men took the money and asked for another \$50, only \$30 of which they received. They then left on foot.

In another incident, a man who came to the door of a Farmington Road homeowner identified himself as an inspector for Consumers Power and said he wanted to give her a refund. The man had a \$100 bill and a \$1 bill and tried to get \$20 bills and a \$10 bill in change to give the homeowner a \$51 rebate. When the homeowner said she had no money, the man left with two others waiting in a car, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

• DAMAGE REPORTED

Listed below are some of the damage reports filed with local police agencies during the past week:

Damage was estimated at \$150 when a window in a car parked on Montclair Aug. 8 was shot out.

Damage was estimated at \$90 when two tires on a van parked in a drive on Mayfair Aug. 8-9 were cut.

Damage was estimated at \$197 when two tires on a car parked in a drive on Rockwell Aug. 8-9 were cut.

• THEFTS REPORTED

Listed below are some of the thefts reported to local police agencies during the past week:

Tools valued at \$200 were reported stolen from a house on Rockwell Aug. 5-10.

Two bicycles valued at \$310 were reported stolen from a bike rack at Orchard Creek Apartments Aug. 7-8.

A 1985 Dodge valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from a drive on Fox Grove Aug. 8. The car was recovered in Detroit.

A bicycle and a camera valued at \$550 were reported stolen from a house on Highway Ave. 8-9.

Jewelry and cash valued at \$500 were reported stolen from a residence at Independence Green Apartments Aug. 8-10.

A sunroof valued at \$250 was reported stolen from a 1986 Mustang parked at Tom Holzer Ford, 39300 19 Mile, Aug. 8-11.

A tire and rim valued at \$120 were reported stolen from a car parked at Valley View Condos Aug. 9.

Tires and wheels valued at \$120 were reported stolen from a vehicle parked in the parking garage at Valley View Condominiums, 32060 Grand River, early the morning of Aug. 9.

A power saw and a generator valued at \$600 were reported stolen from KHS Industrial Tools, 27600 Eight Mile, Aug. 9.

About \$1,400 was reported stolen from Swenson's, 27841 Orchard Lake, Aug. 9.

A ladder, lumber and nails valued at \$370 were reported stolen from a house under construction on Belmont Aug. 9-10.

A bicycle valued at \$150 was reported stolen from the behind the House of Lee restaurant, 34757 Grand River July 10.

A handbag with cash and contents valued at \$500 were reported stolen from the House of Botsford Apartments Aug. 10.

A radar detector valued at \$101 was reported stolen from a car parked at the Dress Barn, 30885 Orchard Lake, Aug. 11.

BLAKE COULD not be reached for comment.

A Sept. 25 trial date has been scheduled before Circuit Judge Maureen Reilly.

Conley said he will not attempt to plea bargain for a reduced charge against Brock, 25.

"He (Brock) has never changed his story and that usually indicates honesty," Conley said. "I plan to put him on the (witness) stand. He comes off honest and scared."

Neither Brock nor Sayers, 32, have given any court testimony about the incident.

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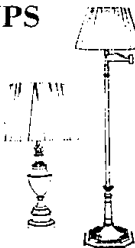
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