

# County bond setting is investigated

By Judith Donor Borne and Carolyn DeMarco Staff writers

The NAACP is investigating whether the recent setting of \$150,000 cash or surety bond for a woman accused of the stabbing death of her husband was set high because she is black.

"We are looking at a history of bond practices in Oakland County," said Jim Netter, executive secretary of the NAACP's western-Wayne branch in Inkster, who said he was contacted by a relative of the defendant.

"Minorities are terrified of Oakland County in getting a fair trial," Netter said.

Netter charged that bonds were set lower for white defendants in similar cases. Both prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson and Bernard Friedman, the judge who set the black woman's bond, say the charges are groundless.

The black defendant, Yvette Powell, 26, has been bound over to Oakland County Circuit Court on an open murder charge. She is being held in Oakland County Jail, apparently unable so far to raise the \$150,000 cash herself or enlist the aid of a bondsman in guaranteeing the entire amount.

POWELL is charged in the Oct. 16 death of her husband, Keenan Powell, in their West Bloomfield rental apartment after a fight in which she was beaten. Powell allegedly stabbed her husband once in the chest, inflicting a fatal three-quarter-inch wound to the heart. The couple had been married four months and lived in the apartment for the past year. Mrs. Powell, who was unemployed, has a 2-year-old child who lived with them.

The \$150,000 bond was set during a bond hearing by 48th District Judge Friedman who initially or-

## 'Minorities are terrified of Oakland County in getting a fair trial.'

— Jim Netter, executive secretary NAACP Western Wayne branch

The fact that she's a white woman, and we tried to get an even higher bail shows something," Patterson said.

• A \$25,000 bond or 10 percent (\$2,500 posted) reduced from an original \$75,000 bond, in the case of Beverly Hills resident Linda Paletta, 39, charged with the shooting death of her husband in a Southfield office tower elevator June 2, 1986. Patterson had blasted then-46th District Judge Jessica Cooper for what he said was the judge's "lenient treatment" of Paletta.

Paletta was later found not guilty by reason of self-defense by Circuit Judge James Thorburn.

• A \$100,000 bond or 10 percent (\$10,000) was set by Judge William Bolle in 62nd District Court in the case of Gaye Crim Langley, 40, of Royal Oak, when she was charged with open murder as well as breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony, in the death of Wendell restaurant owner Kathryn Griffith. On Dec. 8, 1985, Langley rammed a stolen car into the garage

of Griffiths' Troy home and then broke into it. Griffith died of a heart attack, which doctors said was caused by extreme stress. Langley was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to two to 15 years.

JUDGE FRIEDMAN defended the two bonds he set saying that the purpose of the bond is "to insure the presence of the defendant." In murder trials defendants may be held without bond. "I thought it was important to set a bond so that she not be punished before the trial," Friedman said.

Each case is considered separately, he said. The crime is important, but also the conditions set by the Supreme Court. Friedman keeps the list of conditions before him in setting bond. They refer to a defendant's previous criminal record, employment, ties to the community, mental condition, who will vouch for him or her, if any pending charges are listed, the reputation and character of the witness and the length of residency in the community.

In Yvonne Powell's case, Friedman said, she had "a mobile child" who because of his age was not tied to school, she had only been married and living in the community for a short time, she owned no property, had no job and was young. While age itself is not a factor, someone with substantial roots in the community is less a risk to flee, he said.

By contrast, he said, Kantzier's

name was on the deed to the house, she had lived in the community for many years, she had been married for several years and she had a propley although she was unemployed at the time of the killing.

Friedman said the NAACP had not ordered a copy of the court transcript from the Powell bond hearing. "It's important for them to have that, especially when she was represented by an attorney, to see what was said."

A 19-MEMBER task force was recently appointed by the Michigan Supreme court to study concerns about racial bias in all Michigan courts. A statewide public opinion survey conducted by the Citizens' Commission found that one-third of the citizens of Michigan believe blacks and women are not treated as well as whites and men.

The commission urged the Supreme court to "determine the extent and nature of disparate treatment accorded citizens because of race, religion, gender, age, economic class or other impermissible criteria."

Barbara Consiglio, court administrator for Oakland County Probate Court, is one of the 19 members. Consiglio said the task force has met only once so far and is expected to conclude in December 1988. "Right now it's wide open," Consiglio said, "but bond setting is one of the issues that will be addressed."

# Pilot effort designed to share ideas

A pilot program that allows fire officials to examine operations of other similar departments is off to a good start although it's too soon to tell if the venture will yield any long-term results, according to participants.

Began by the Farmington Hills Fire Department, Fire Service Exchange days permits fire officers to exchange ideas by participating in weekly visits to departments in the program.

So far, only Rochester Hills, Farmington Hills, Troy and Portage participate.

"We don't know where we'll go from here," said Pete Baldwin, Farmington Hills deputy chief. "It could turn out to be beneficial but we've got to work out the bugs first."

The first exchange day last month in Troy yielded promising results, according to deputy fire chief Richard Ellyson.

ASSISTANTS or deputy chiefs attended the half-day visit there where deputy fire chief Richard Ellyson described his department's operations.

A two-hour roundtable discussion followed.

According to Baldwin, the program gives fire departments a first-hand look at what others are doing.

"If we see something... that we can use, we'll consider it," Baldwin said. "We can share information."

On a rotating basis, one or two firefighters from each department will examine the operations of a participating department each week.

The next exchange day is Nov. 9 in Farmington Hills. Fire inspectors will participate.

Baldwin said the pilot program stems from the Mayor Exchange Day that Farmington Hills participates in every year.

FARMINGTON HILLS, like other departments in the program, has both a volunteer and paid fire department.

"We tried to pick communities as similar to our own as possible," Baldwin said. "If we find other de-

partments out there that are similar and interested, they're welcomed to join."

According to Gary Goss, deputy director of the Farmington Public Safety department, Farmington does not belong to the program because of the different structure of the fire and police department.

Farmington has a combined public safety department. Many of its police officers are fire fighters in Farmington Hills, Goss said.

"Besides, we work so closely with Farmington Hills anyway," Goss said. "The whole staff up there has so much expertise that we're constantly knocking on their door for information."

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**DR. KENNETH POSS**  
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Feet are the part of the body that most people neglect. We go for check-ups for all parts of the body, but when was the last time you had a foot check-up?  
The professionals at Foot Health Centers located in Novi, Northville and Livonia offer all services related to the foot and ankle. They were the forerunners in the use of laser surgery on the foot, one of the few practices to offer 24 hour emergency service, treat patients from infants to senior citizens, and most of all, continue to make house calls.  
Dr. Kenneth Poss and Dr. Randy Bernstein like to stress that taking the right steps toward better foot care can pay off. They treat all types of problems from sports related injuries, to children's in-toe or out-toe conditions, to complete reconstructive surgery of the foot like bunions and hammertoes to circulation and nerve problems of senior citizens.  
By being one of the first pediatric practices in the state of Michigan to use laser technology, Dr. Poss and Dr. Bernstein have used lasers with much success.  
The laser is used primarily for treatment of fungus nails, ingrown nails, growths, warts (hand and feet), plantar corns and some nerve tumors (neuromas). By using the laser, there is less trauma and less pain for the patient. "The patient," Dr. Poss said, "is given a local anesthetic and waits out of the office when the procedure is done." The problem is that not many people are trained to use laser properly. It should be noted that laser technology has not been perfected yet in treating bone disorders.  
A large part of the doctor's practice is made up of senior citizens whose feet are beginning to show signs of wear. Feet become more vulnerable to injury with age. Senior Citizens should see Dr. Poss at the slightest sign of change in the condition of their feet. Quick treatment could prevent problems before they become major, thus limiting the possibility of additional medical treatment and costs. Older people should think in terms of prevention, to discourage infections and discomfort by routinely examining their feet for changes in color or temperature. These signs might indicate problems which could lead to Gangrene or amputation. Diabetic feet need tender loving care. People with Diabetes or poor circulation must take special care of their feet because of the possibility of infection. These people should have general foot care approximately every 2 months.  
Surgery for bunions and other foot deformities can for the most part be done on an ambulatory basis in our office or as an out patient at one of our hospitals. This means that the patient does not have to remain in the hospital following surgery. "I prefer an ambulatory surgery because my patients can return home immediately after their procedure," Dr. Poss

Dr. Kenneth Poss checks a patient's x-ray prior to surgery.

said. "They can recover in the comfortable atmosphere of their own home."

Dr. Poss has been practicing in the area since 1978. He is a graduate of Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine in Philadelphia. Poss completed his surgical residency at Montefiore Medical Center Hospital for Special Surgery in Warren, where he received advanced training in foot and ankle surgery.

He is director of residency training at North Detroit General Hospital as well as being on staff at Boisford Hospital in Farmington Hills. He is a member of the American College of Foot Surgeons (Associate), and the Academy of Hospital Podiatrists. Dr. Poss also lectures across the country on foot and ankle surgery and gives many second opinion consultations on foot surgery.

Because of his advanced training in foot and ankle surgery, Dr. Poss is available for 24-hour emergency care. He will meet a patient at the office or hospital at any time, thus saving time of waiting in a hospital emergency room. Putting the patient first is a priority for Dr. Poss.

He believes children should have a foot exam within the first year and senior citizens should have their feet checked approximately every two-three months for infection, nail care and making sure the circulation is adequate.

Free transportation is offered for patients who need a ride and house calls are available for those senior citizens who are unable to leave their homes.

When you call for an appointment, Dr. Poss' staff members are trained to ask the nature of your problem. Please give them as much information as possible. This will help them schedule enough time for your complete foot care.

The doctor performs laser surgery in his office so the patient can go home the same day.

The staff at the Foot Health Center

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