

More tests scheduled for Szeman

By James Radebaugh
staff writer

A pretrial hearing for the man accused of being the Oakland County rapist was adjourned Tuesday pending further neurological examination of the defendant.

Talking with reporters outside the courtroom, defense attorney Larry Kaluzny indicated he would base his case in part on a 1984 car accident in which the defendant, Steven Szeman Jr., suffered head injuries and went into a coma for several days.

Szeman, 26, is being held in Oakland County Jail pending trial on 49 counts of rape, robbery and burglary involving 10 victims in Oakland County. Szeman lived in West Bloomfield before moving to Rocky River, Ohio, where he

lived at the time of his arrest one year ago.

The hearing was rescheduled for 9 a.m. Dec. 21. The trial will likely begin in January, according to prosecutor John Slevin.

Szeman, who has already undergone extensive testing, including psychological examination at the University of Michigan Hospital, will undergo physiological neurological testing there next week.

THE RESULTS of both tests should be available within two weeks, according to Kaluzny. He said the physiological tests "could reveal physical damage from the 1984 car accident."

Kaluzny, who acknowledged his client has "come up with no insanity defense," suggested that injuries Szeman suffered in the car acci-

dent could have caused behavior he would not otherwise have engaged in.

Kaluzny said friends and acquaintances who knew Szeman before the accident say they don't believe he is capable of committing the crimes he is charged with.

The 1984 car accident occurred in Ohio when Szeman apparently fell asleep at the wheel and struck a tree or guard rail, Kaluzny said. It was a one-car accident.

The delay in the pretrial process was requested by the defense, which Slevin asked Judge Robert Templin to note for the record. The prosecution is ready to proceed, he said.

"Everything is ready for a trial. We're just waiting for these tests to be complete."

TEMPLIN RULED two weeks ago that results of sophisticated biological techniques used to link DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) taken from hair, blood and semen found at a crime scene with samples taken from the defendant could be used as evidence in the trial.

Szeman is charged with a series of sexual assaults that occurred in 1987 and 1988 in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Township and Independence Township. Victims ranged in age from 12 to 61.

Szeman pleaded guilty Jan. 4 to raping a suburban Cleveland woman in November 1988. He was sentenced to a 58-140-year prison term.



Report on murder suspect not ready yet

By Darrell Clem
staff writer

Nearly eight months after Anthony Bonelli was arrested and charged in the drowning death of his girlfriend, a report stating whether he is competent for trial still has not been completed.

The forensic report, which defense attorneys hope will prove Bonelli was insane, is expected to be completed "shortly" at the state Foren-

sic Center in Ypsilanti, prosecutor Fred Miller said Tuesday.

Miller said the psychiatric evaluation of Bonelli has been completed and that the written report is in the process of being prepared.

Bonelli was charged with open murder in March after the body of Kristina Marie Fracchia, 17, was pulled from Orchard Lake. Bonelli was 17 and attending the Farmington Training Center for emotionally impaired students at the time of his arrest.

MILLER SAID nothing has convinced him of Bonelli's insanity.

"There's nothing in his behavior so far that would suggest to me that he was insane or didn't know what he was doing," Miller said.

Bonelli last appeared in Oakland Circuit Court five weeks ago, when Judge Alice Gilbert honored a request from defense attorney Howard Wittenberg that the case be contin-

ued until the forensic report is completed.

Though the issue of a speedy trial has been brought up in court, defense attorneys said they did not want to press the issue because they wanted the psychiatric evaluation to be as thorough as possible.

Moreover, Wittenberg has said defense attorneys may request that another evaluation be conducted if the defense finds fault with the forensic center's report. The second report would be completed by experts chosen by the defense.

Miller said prosecutors are not concerned about a speedy trial be-

cause Bonelli himself "has come into court and said he wants the doctors to examine him" before the trial. Miller said that Bonelli waived his right to a speedy trial.

Still, Miller said prosecutors want the forensic report completed as soon as possible.

"We've been sort of trying to bug the forensic center for some time now to get this report done," Miller said. "It's something we're trying to hurry along for the benefit of the (Fracchia) family."

Miller said he has been given no indication of what the report will contain.

Postal Service sets holiday schedule

The U.S. Postal Service will operate on a holiday schedule during its Veterans Day observance on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Farmington postmaster Kenneth B. Harris said there will be no regular residential or business mail delivery. Special delivery, Express Mail and Post Office Box service will be provided. Limited caller ser-

vices will be available only for customers who regularly pick up their mail at either the Farmington Office, 33200 Slocum or the Farmington Hills Office, 32455 W. 12 Mile.

The service window will be open from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. for those customers, however there will be no financial transactions. Holiday collections will be made

as posted. Normal mail service will resume Monday, Nov. 13.

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