

# Man charged with rape, kidnapping

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In search of parts and after a stop at a restaurant, the man said he had to go to a Farmington Hills motel to handle some family business.

Once at the motel, he left her in his pickup while he entered the office to register under a false name.

After returning to his truck, he went to the passenger door, reached into the glovebox, pulled out a 9mm automatic handgun and

ordered the woman into a nearby motel room. At gunpoint, he sexually assaulted her about 10 p.m.

He later led her to the area of a nearby restaurant, where he released her. He then drove off. State troopers later drove her to the hospital.

Armed with information provided by the district police arrested the suspect at 2:30 a.m. Saturday at a bar in the Eight Mile-Lahser area.

# Witness says killing planned

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ensuing relationship between Fracchia and Bonelli had deteriorated by Valentine's Day, when Bonelli failed to show up for a date, Camaradella said.

**FRACCHIA CONFRONTED** Bonelli about his new girlfriend "despite threats that her life could be in jeopardy," Miller told jurors.

Andary and co-defense attorney Howard Wittenberg hope to build an insanity defense for Bonelli, who was 17 and attending the Farmington Training Center for emotionally

impaired students at the time of Fracchia's death. They contend he was an acute psychotic and suffered from such hallucinations as ghosts in his room and blood pouring from his eyes.

Defense attorneys tried unsuccessfully to suppress from the trial a tape-recorded confession that Bonelli made at the Orchard Lake Police Department. Bonelli confessed March 17, the same day Fracchia's body was found floating face down in shallow water by Oakland County Drain Commission workers. A murder-scene video in which Bonelli reenacted the murder also will be

shown to jurors.

Dr. Lynda Bledzrzycki, acting Oakland County medical examiner, said an autopsy she performed on Fracchia showed the teen's mouth had been injured by a rope placed around her head. Fracchia also had bruises and cuts on her body.

But the death was caused by drowning, the medical examiner said, because the water Fracchia inhaled resulted in "white foam," much like soap suds, building up in her lungs.

The autopsy also revealed that Fracchia's blood alcohol level was .02, about the equivalent of one beer,

Bledzrzycki said.

The trial had been scheduled to begin Monday, but a lengthy jury selection postponed it until Tuesday. No proceedings were planned Wednesday, but the trial is scheduled to continue this afternoon.

Witnesses are not allowed in the courtroom until their testimony is given, and they are kept in a separate room during proceedings. However, attorneys agreed to let the mothers of Fracchia and Bonelli remain in court throughout the trial. Both of them sat in the front row Tuesday.

# Cops crack down on drag racing

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The manager of a vandalized business told the Observer: "It's a dangerous practice." He didn't want to identify himself for fear of retaliation.

**ALL TICKETS** issued Sunday were for violations of the motor vehicle code, either misdemeanors or civil infractions — drag racing, illegal parking, improper license registrations, open intoxicants, "the whole gamut," Cranston said.

Penalties range up to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

A dozen races took place over 30 minutes Sunday before police blocked the drive and moved in. "We had contact with at least 100 cars," Cranston said.

"Many drivers fled on foot," he said. "About 30 drove over the grass and through the wire fence behind the businesses, fleeing on the freeway."

Homeowners for those ticketed include Farmington Hills, Livonia,

**'The crowds are at least 200-300 people. If you had a concession trailer out there, you'd make a lot of money.'**

— Carl Carey  
Farmington Hills reserve officer

Westland, Redford Township, Novi, Northville, Brighton, Royal Oak, Pinckney, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Pontiac, Hartland and Ann Arbor.

Six impounded cars had racing equipment. The other two had been abandoned.

Cranston vowed to continue aggressive law enforcement.

Sunday-night drag racing along the secluded stretch apparently began late last fall, it stopped for winter but resumed two weeks ago.

That night, police, in less-coordinated enforcement, issued nine tick-

ets for drag racing and open intoxicants. About 200 people attended that spring racing kickoff.

"The crowds are at least 200-300 people," Carey said. "If you had a concession trailer out there, you'd make a lot of money."

**THE RACE** cars include Corvettes, Mustangs, Porsches and high-performance cars from the early '70s.

Hills Tech mostly lures street racers, said Carey, a former racer familiar with drag racing.

"But in some cases," he said,

"there have been some very serious race cars on this strip, cars that should only be on race tracks, cars that aren't street legal."

"They're extremely high powered and set up for the sole purpose of drag racing. Some are geared to exceed 140 mph, or better, on a quarter mile. Most of the cars run at least 125 mph."

Racing can occur along Hills Tech any night of the week but it's most common on Sunday. "There's even some daytime activity," Carey said.

Cranston speculates that Hills Tech is appealing because it's a straight, secluded, mile-long road in a business area closed on Sundays.

The drive can be entered only from Haggerty or Halsted. So police can seal it off quickly. "The disadvantage is that it's easy to spot a police car," Cranston said.

Farmington Hills isn't the only racing hotspot. As Cranston put it: "We're led to believe there are other racing sites in other communities."

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