

# 'Slave' case ends as mother is released

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The case of the Farmington Hills couple charged with keeping a Cameroonian teen a slave in their Farmington Hills home closed Thursday, as wife Evelyn Djoumessi was allowed to go free after serving 183 days in jail.

Oakland Circuit Judge Alice Gilbert sentenced Djoumessi to three years probation with the last nine months of that term to be served in Oakland County Jail, with credit for time already served.

Her attorney will be allowed to ask that no additional time in jail will be served, if she meets the terms of her probation.

Judge Gilbert ordered Djoumessi not to have any hired help in her home for the next three years.

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Cheryl Matthews  
Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor

"I was stunned, I'm very unhappy with the sentence," said Assistant Prosecutor Cheryl Matthews. "The judge basically sentenced her to being a parent which is something people choose."

"I'm disappointed that no jail time," said Hills Police Chief William Dwyer, considering the case police built against the Djoumessi. "We're pleased with the conviction of the husband."

Joseph Djoumessi was convicted Sept. 7 of one count of third-degree criminal sexual conduct. Both he and his wife were also found guilty of one count each of third-degree child abuse. The charge carries a maximum two-year sentence. Joseph Djoumessi was sentenced to 9 to 15 years in prison.

Pridine Fru, now 19, went to live with the couple, originally from Cameroon, when she was 14. She testified that Joseph Djoumessi confessed to her he had raped Fru after coming home drunk.

that she was forced to live in a dingy basement, and that she had to perform chores around the home and care for the couple's young children.

Fru and authorities who removed her from the home accused the couple of enslaving her.

Fru's situation was revealed to police through a neighbor, to whom Fru passed notes.

She testified she developed the courage to challenge her situation while watching an episode of the Montel Williams TV talk show, which dealt with rape victims.

Prosecution witness Joseph Cho, a Detroit teacher and cousin of Evelyn Djoumessi, testified that Joseph Djoumessi confessed to him he had raped Fru after coming home drunk.

## OBITUARIES

### OLIVE H. LEITHAUER

A memorial service for Olive H. Leithauer, 110, formerly of Farmington Hills, was held Nov. 17 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Farmington Hills with the Rev. Daniel Erdman officiating. Mrs. Leithauer was born Feb. 18, 1891 in Chassell, Mich. and died Nov. 13, 2001 in Sterling Heights.

She is survived by her sons, Gilbert (Bernice) Bott and Everett (Carol) Bott; daughters, Adelaide (William) Wieland and Winifred (Richard) Perry; brothers, Willard and Horace Michaud; sister, Estelle Doherty; 20 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her first husband, George Bott, and her second husband, Carl Leithauer, and daughter, Harriet Burge Pharis.

### BESSIE L. HUDSON

Services for Bessie Lorene Hudson, 88, of Westland, will be held Nov. 19 in Iuka, Miss. with burial at Snowdown Cemetery.

Mrs. Hudson was born July 31, 1913 in Leoma, Tenn. and died Nov. 13, 2001 at HCR Manor Care in Dearborn Heights. She was a homemaker.

She is survived by her daughter, Patricia (Roy) Gallagher, Sr. (Richard) Scott, and Sharon Boyer; brothers, William (Arietta) Norton, Norman (Katherine) Norton and John (Jean) Norton; sisters, Stella (Luther) Thorne, Edna Johnson and Emogene Spurgeon; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her husband, James, and brother, Almond Norton.

### SHARON HANSEN

Services for Sharon Hansen, 57, of Farmington Hills, were held Nov. 17 at First United Methodist Church in Birmingham with the Rev. Dr. William Miller officiating. Burial took place at Pine Plains Cemetery in Cokfex, Mich.

Mrs. Hansen was born Feb. 2, 1944 in Flint and died Nov. 13, 2001 at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids.

She is survived by her husband, Edward; daughter, Susan (Mark) North; son, David

(Michelle); mother, Mabel Rosander; brother, David Rosander; sisters, Eleanor Grieve and Marilyn Wise; and two grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her father, John; and grandchildren, Emily and Nicholas.

### DONALD J. ADAMS

Services for Donald J. Adams, 61, of Farmington, were held Nov. 17 at First Presbyterian Church in Farmington with the Rev. Sue Ellis officiating.

Mr. Adams was born Oct. 1, 1940 in Trenton and died Nov. 13, 2001 in Farmington.

He is survived by his sons, Bradley (Mindy), Brian (Korey) and Edward (Sally); daughters, Polly Roberts, Stacy Sanders and Michelle (Rick) Oliver; brother, Gary; sisters, Geri (Jerry) Pidcock and Janice Schnay; and six grandchildren.

### SEWARD S. BOYD

Services for Seward Stem Boyd, 93, of Farmington Hills, will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 19, at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with burial at Oakwood Cemetery in Farmington.

Mr. Boyd was born July 17, 1908 in Natchez, Miss. and died Nov. 14, 2001. He was a lifetime member of the Great Lakes Horse Association and acquired the rare accomplishment of Superior Race Horse for his latest filly, Take Dad the Cash.

He is survived by his wife, Irene; sister, Alice Boyd Burton; nieces, Arlyn Heron, Sharon (James) Woodruff and Dr. Gail Burton Allen; and nephew, Clarence Lee.

### ROBERT E. HARRIS

A memorial service for Robert E. Harris, 71, of Farmington Hills, was held Nov. 15, at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Larry Austin officiating.

Mr. Harris was born July 10, 1930 in Michigan and died Nov. 11, 2001 at Providence Hospital in Southfield. He worked in tool sales for Valeron Corporation and enjoyed golf and sailing.

He is survived by his wife, Virginia; sons, Robert (Shirley) and Keith; and grandchildren, Adrienne, Clair and Rob.

## Jane Austen country dance assembly slated December 8

A Jane Austen English Country Dance Assembly will be held in Lovett Hall, a grand ballroom built by Harry Ford in 1937 adjacent to Greenfield Village in Dearborn 1:45-4:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8.

All dances will be taught; all levels of experience are welcome. Dancers don't need to come with a partner and may dress as they

## Suspect

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acquainted with Perez, whom they believed visited Machek Oct. 20 at his home on 18 Mile between Northwestern and Inkster Road.

Dwyer said a felony warrant was approved by the Oakland County prosecutor on a charge that Perez, a University of Michigan-Dearborn student, fraudulently used Machek's credit card at a Birmingham hair salon three days after the suspected murder.

Dwyer said there are also outstanding warrants against Perez on charges of impersonating a police officer and violating a

probation order.

Perez is believed to be in Mexico, near Tijuana, and authorities are communicating with law enforcement officials in Mexico in hopes of apprehending him.

"The family has been cooperative. We believe there are people that have information on the suspect," Dwyer said.

Police showed several pamphlets confiscated from his residence, on subjects including surviving as a fugitive. Dwyer said the crime is believed to be pre-meditated.

Perez is described as 5 feet 6 inches and 140 pounds with a muscular build.

Police are also searching for a trunk taken from Machek's home. He was reported missing Oct. 27 by his vacationing roommate after he failed to answer

calls or voice mails over several days.

Upon entering the home, police saw no obvious signs of a struggle, but police technicians determined there were blood spatters. Police believe Machek was murdered in a first-floor room and his body placed in a black steamer trunk, which was missing from the home. Investigators say it was dragged to the garage, placed in a van, and driven to a location where it was likely dumped.

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