

# Authorities to question Omsberg

By CARMEL FINLEY  
Correspondent, The Oregonian

LINCOLN CITY — Police will interview former mortician Dale P. Omsberg before deciding how the search will proceed for missing remains the former mortician was supposed to have cremated.

Exhumation of a third grave identified by Omsberg during plea negotiations last week was completed Wednesday at Pacific View Memorial Gardens, according to Lincoln City Police Chief Michael Holden. He refused to say how many bodies were found in the third grave site but added that it was fewer than found in a site excavated Tuesday.

In turn, he had said fewer bodies were found in that one than in the first site excavated Friday, where six extra bodies were found.

"We'll be asking (Omsberg) about the discrepancies between the list provided to the district attorney and the identified remains," said Holden. "The main thrust will be to determine the location of all 31 bodies."

None of the bodies found Wednesday had been identified, Holden said. He added that they would be held at a temporary morgue near Lincoln City until they are identified by Dr. John Vargo, county medical examiner.

The bodies found Wednesday were not in coffins or plywood containers, Holden said. He added it would be impossible to estimate when the bodies were buried until they were identified. One of the bodies police are searching for has been missing since Jan. 7, 1981, shortly after Omsberg bought Pacific Mortuary and the cemetery.

Information provided by Omsberg during the plea negotiations indicated that about half of the 31 bodies police are searching for had been shipped to crematoriums to be cremated with other bodies.

"I am not personally convinced of the double cremations," Holden said. "We've had more than one discussion with crematoriums about procedures, and I'm not comfortable that double cremations did occur."

Holden said authorities would meet with Omsberg later this week or early next week. Depending on what information is obtained, Holden said the department was considering using sophisticated electronic equipment to survey areas identified by aerial photography as sites that might have been disturbed recently.



The Oregonian/JIM VINCENT

**SLEEPING GIANT** — Lava dome inside crater at Mount St. Helens sits quietly as volcano sleeps through period of unusual calm. Mountain has had no ash plumes or significant seismic activity in 150 days,

leading some scientists to think it may be building pressure for an explosive eruption that could damage the dome. Mount Adams is seen in the background.

## Nothing up at volcano — that's problem

By JOHN SNELL  
of The Oregonian staff

Nothing is happening at Mount St. Helens. In fact, nothing has happened at Mount St. Helens for 150 days, which makes some scientists believe the mountain is "corked up" and building pressure for an explosive blast that would damage the volcano's lava dome.

"The basic thing that we're noticing is that it has been very quiet, as far as any kind of venting signals go," said Chris Jonientz-Trisler, seismic analyst for the University of Washington's geophysics program, which monitors the mountain.

Venting signals are the gas and ash plumes that occasionally climb 1,000 or 2,000 feet above the

crater rim.

Scientists still are measuring from 25 to 50 tons of sulfur dioxide gas released from the mountain each day.

But the ash plumes have stopped. "It's not just quiet — it's ominously quiet, indicating to us that the pressure is not being released very well," Jonientz-Trisler said. "The mountain is corked up pretty well."

For the past two or three years, Mount St. Helens has had minor eruptions every few months.

That, said Jonientz-Trisler, coupled with occasional ash plumes that vent from the crater has acted as a sort of safety valve against gases inside.

"It looks like the mountain is capped up pretty

tight," she said. "There's going to be a larger build-up of pressure, we believe."

There have been no plumes seen on the mountain since the last eruption, which occurred Sept. 10 through 13, 1984.

The longest lull was 168 days between the Aug. 18, 1982, and Feb. 2, 1983, eruptions, said Steven R. Brantley, public information scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Vancouver, Wash.

Brantley said scientists don't know when the next eruption would happen, nor were they sure whether it would be an explosive one.

He said, however, that even if the built-up gas destroyed part of the lava dome, it would pose no threat to the public.

# The Northwest

## Coe jurors remain out

SEATTLE (AP) — Jurors in Kevin Coe's retrial, who have been sequestered for 24 days, deliberated all day Wednesday but failed to decide whether Coe was innocent or guilty of four rapes in the Spokane "South Hill rapist" case.

The jurors had deliberated a total of nine hours by the time they returned to their hotel at 5 p.m.

That's nearly four hours longer than Coe's 1981 Spokane jury took to convict him on the same four first-degree rape counts.

Deliberations were to resume at 9 a.m. Thursday.

The nine-woman, three-man King County Superior Court jury received the case at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday.

Jurors worked all day Wednesday, taking just 45 minutes for lunch at a cafe across the street from the King County Courthouse.

In all, the so-called "South Hill rapist" was blamed for some 40 sexual attacks in a quiet Spokane neighborhood between 1978 and 1981.

The jurors were allowed to take notes during three weeks of testimony and refer to their notebooks during deliberations. That process alone could lengthen deliberations by a day, defense lawyer Richard Hansen predicted.

## Earthquake hits Idaho

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A minor earthquake Wednesday rattled Challis, Idaho, in the same area where a quake in 1983 killed two children and caused \$2.5 million in damage, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

The tremor was recorded at a magnitude of 3.8 on the Richter scale at 9:09 a.m., said geophysicists at the survey's National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo.

"The earthquake was reported felt in the Challis area," spokesman Don Finley said.

An earthquake of 7.3 magnitude struck Challis on Oct. 28, 1983, killing two children, injuring several other people and causing \$2.5 million in damage.

## Boy recovers after dip

LACEY, Wash. (AP) — A 2½-year-old Lacey boy, whose temperature dipped to 84 degrees after he broke through the ice and spent 15 minutes in a frigid lake before being rescued by his mother, was in satisfactory condition in a hospital Wednesday.

Erick Gendron was breathing through a ventilator that produces a 100-degree mist to warm him from the inside out.

His mother, who was treated and released at St. Peter Hospital in Olympia, had slept at his side through the night.

Donel Krona had pushed her way through 150 feet of waist-deep ice,

water and mud at Lake St. Clair before reaching her son Tuesday. She spent about 10 minutes in the water before firefighters arrived.

The child had run onto the ice while his mother was in their home, preparing to go outside with him. His mother heard him scream and "knew he fell in." She called authorities for help, then set out after the boy.

Erick had sunk in the water up to his chin by the time his mother arrived. She pulled him out of the water but was unable to get back to shore.

Firefighter Mike Doughty, clad in scuba gear and tethered by a lifeline to shore, helped pull mother and son from the lake.

## Rajneesh plea refused

THE DALLES — Wasco County Circuit Judge John Jelderks on Wednesday denied a Rajneesh plea request to move the Wasco County Plan-

ning Department files into the safekeeping of the Circuit Court.

The motion was filed by the city of Rajneeshpuram and the Rajneesh Neosannyas International Commune, defendants in a lawsuit filed by 1000 Friends of Oregon and five Wasco County landowners against the new city.

While another lawsuit challenging the incorporation of Rajneeshpuram is awaiting a decision from the Oregon Supreme Court, Jelderks has ordered an injunction that precludes the city from carrying out any land-use planning.

Prem Sangeet, Rajneeshpuram city attorney, said she decided to file the safekeeping motion after a Jan. 14 arson fire at the county planning office in which some files were damaged.

# Bar broke rule on lewdness

By CHARLES E. BEGGS  
SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday that a Beaverton bar violated a liquor regulation against "lewd" establishments by employing scantily clad men dancers who permitted women patrons to touch them.

In other rulings, the appeals court: — Ordered the state Employment Division to reconsider its decision denying unemployment benefits to 26 Portland metal workers who were laid off before a strike started.

— Said a 1981 law extending the time for filing workers' compensation claims due to asbestos exposure applied retroactively.

The liquor rule decision upheld the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which imposed a \$1,755 fine on Milton Korgan and Carol Korgan, operators of the Chase Restaurant and Lounge.

The fine was imposed in lieu of suspending their liquor license under a rule forbidding a licensee from "maintaining a lewd establishment."

In a related case, the Oregon Supreme Court is reviewing a Court of Appeals decision that overturned the conviction of a dancer at the bar for violating a criminal law against allowing sexual contact during live shows.

In the OLCC case, the Korgans argued that the term "lewd" was unconstitutionally vague. The appeals court said the commission adequately defined the term by describing the dancers' conduct as "lustful, indecent, lascivious and lecherous."

The commission's interpretation of the term is consistent "with generally expressed legislative policy," the Court of Appeals said in an opinion by Judge John Buttler.

In the related case, prosecutors said dancer Scott House disrobed except for a G-string and allowed contact while women patrons stuffed money into the garment.

The appeals court overturned House's conviction on the ground that the law violated constitutional guarantees of free expression. The state has appealed that ruling to the Supreme Court.

The unemployment benefits case involves Northwest Marine Iron Works, which laid off the members of the boilermakers' and machinists' unions due to lack of work but prior to a strike that began in April 1983.

The state Employment Appeals Board rejected their claims under a law forbidding jobless benefit payments to strikers. The appeals court said the board didn't have enough evidence to determine whether the employees could have gone back to work if they had been willing to cross picket lines during the strike.

## Patient arrested in doctor's death

SALEM (AP) — A patient clubbed a doctor to death during a counseling session Wednesday afternoon at Salem Hospital's Memorial Unit, according to Dale Penn, Marion County District Attorney.

Kedron E. Ellis, 39, was arrested at the hospital after the killing, Penn said, and was being held without bond in the Marion County Jail on a murder charge.

The victim was Dr. Brian E. Buss, 36, of Salem, Penn said.

"(Ellis) had been hospitalized on Feb. 5 for depression," Penn said. "Coincidentally, Mr. Ellis is employed as a technician at the hospital."

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The girl suffered from frequent and severe colds, and had one coming on at this time. To the surprise of everyone, because the youngster had sucked on the tablet and let it trickle slowly down her throat, her cold completely disappeared within a few hours.

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin decided to test zinc against a powerless placebo in a group of patients suffering from colds. At the end of the study, 86% of the zinc treated group had no cold symptoms, while only 46% of the placebo group had recovered.

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