

Praise flows for slain 'doctor for the neighborhood'

Psychiatrist pioneered pet therapy

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By KEN HAMBURG
of The Oregonian staff

Friends and professional colleagues of Dr. Michael J. McCulloch said Wednesday they were shocked and saddened by the death of a man they described as a warm, generous neighbor and a fine, caring physician.

"He was a mighty fine man," said a neighbor who said she was "totally in shock" after learning he had been shot and killed by a patient. "He had a lot to live for, and a lot of people were depending on him."

McCulloch lived with his wife, Mary Jane, and five children, Steve, Lisa, Amy, Ray and Molly, in the Alameda area, across the street from the home of Margie and Neil Goldschmidt, former Portland mayor and secretary of transportation under President Carter.

McCulloch "had a genuine concern for everybody" and was "oftentimes the sort of doctor for the neighborhood," Margie Goldschmidt said Wednesday afternoon.

"One of the reasons we came back to Portland was that we loved our neighborhood and our home," she said, "and people like Mike and Jane made it a good place to live."

Advised Goldschmidt

She said McCulloch knew Neil Goldschmidt's pressures and often talked with him and advised him.

"We really enjoyed them and were looking forward to some plans we had with them in July," Goldschmidt's wife said.

"It is very difficult to understand the senselessness" of McCulloch's death, she added.

"He was a fine psychiatrist and had a fine reputation in our community," said Dr. Joseph Bloom, president of the Oregon Psychiatric Association and acting director of the department of psychiatry at the Oregon Health Sciences University, where McCulloch was a member of the clinical faculty.

Dan La Grande, director of community relations at Providence Medical Center, where McCulloch also was chairman of the psychiatric committee, said McCulloch was "very highly regarded here, both as a very good physician and as a very good and warm human being."

"We are terribly saddened and devastated" by his death, La Grande said.

Bloom and La Grande said McCulloch was nationally recognized for his research in "pet-assisted therapy," an avenue that considered the relationships between people and their pets and the therapeutic value of those relationships.



The Oregonian/BILL MURPHY

SECOND GUN — Shotgun lies on the back seat of a car that was towed from area after psychiatrist Michael J. McCulloch was shot to death in his office

at 200 S.W. Market St. Wednesday morning. Car belongs to John Carl Eaton, who was arrested in connection with the shooting.

"Pets have a way of helping people who have a chronic illness, of distracting them from their illness," McCulloch explained in a 1983 interview. "They accept you as if you were whole — they don't see a deficit."

He said that in his own practice he prescribed pets for physically handicapped patients and patients who had some degree of mental illness.

"I think we've been entirely neglectful of the important role pets play in peoples' lives," McCulloch said in the same interview.

He was a member of the Delta Society, a worldwide organization of mental health experts, gerontologists,

sociologists, veterinarians and animal control and human society authorities formed to investigate and encourage people-pet relationships.

The group received national attention a few years ago on "60 Minutes" for its efforts to match nursing home patients and prison inmates with pets.

Results 'positive'

La Grande said McCulloch had urged some local nursing homes to allow patients to have pets and had noted "positive results" for the patients.

McCulloch was born in Des Moines, Iowa, and studied pre-medicine at the

University of Iowa, where he later earned his bachelor of science and doctor of medicine degrees.

He did his general medical internship at Sacred Heart Hospital in Seattle and in July 1973 completed his residency in psychiatry at the Oregon Health Science University.

In March 1975, he entered private practice in Portland.

"He was a very bright, able physician and a leader in psychiatry," said Dr. Gordon Doty, president of the Providence medical staff. Doty said McCulloch's death was "a terrible, tragic loss for the community."

Attacks by patients worry psychiatrists

By NANCY McCARTHY
of The Oregonian staff

It doesn't happen often, but when a patient threatens a psychiatrist, the situation can be dangerous — even fatal.

Dr. Michael J. McCulloch, a Portland psychiatrist, was killed Wednesday by a man who walked into his downtown office building and shot him several times with a 12-gauge shotgun. John Carl Eaton, a patient of McCulloch's, was taken into custody by Portland police shortly after the incident.

In February, Dr. Brian E. Buss, a Salem psychiatrist, was clubbed to death by Kedron Ernie Ellis, a patient in a Salem hospital.

Although Dr. Ralph S. Crawshaw, a Portland psychiatrist, said that homicide is the sixth major cause of death of physicians in the country, several Portland psychiatrists say they do not fear the threat of attack, either because they will not treat severely psychotic patients who may present more danger or because an assault never has occurred.

'We worry a lot'

Others say they arrange their office furniture so they will not be trapped in a dangerous situation, establish a separate exit that can be locked for quick and secure escape and have another phone line so police can be contacted quickly.

"We worry a lot," said psychiatrist Dr. Suzanne Paulsen. "I worry most about people who misinterpret reality, who may take a statement personally in a negative way."

If a patient appears to pose a danger, Paulsen said, she will tell him to go to a hospital emergency room or refer him to another doctor. Sometimes she will talk to him in a place that has a better security system than her office.

Although Paulsen takes some precautions, she said that in the case of the shooting similar to that which occurred in McCulloch's office, "I can't think of anything you can do in a situation like that."

Commitment laws changed

When patients become angry in Dr. Siegfried Bertheldorf's office, he tries to befriend them. The Portland psychiatrist said he never has been attacked, but the chance that it could occur "is part of the package we bought when we came into this work," he said.

A change in psychiatric commitment laws in the 1960s makes it more difficult to commit paranoid persons to mental health institu-



MICHAEL J. MCCULLOCH

tions, and psychiatrists in private practice are reluctant to treat them, said Dr. Francine Siegal. As a result, the public is placed in greater danger, she added.

"Paranooids are sure it's you and not them, and they want to get rid of the people against them," said Siegal, who decided several years ago to discontinue treating paranoid schizophrenics.

"If a new patient calls me, I can usually pick it up on the phone if they are paranoid. I tell them I'm not the right person to call," she said.

The best defense is a high level of awareness to potential danger, said Dr. George F. Wittkopp, a Beaverton psychiatrist who has been assaulted several times in hospital settings. "You have to be prepared to take whatever steps are necessary" to prevent attack, he said.

Such violence was discussed at a meeting of the Portland Psychiatrists in Private Practice a week ago, Wittkopp said. "We took a poll; out of 10 psychiatrists, seven had been assaulted. It's not really preventable in this profession."

"Of course, this is a very serious, tremendous concern to us," said Dr. Joseph Bloom, president of the Oregon Psychiatric Association and acting director of the psychiatric department at Oregon Health Sciences University.

The association has a study group looking into safety problems, but no recommendations have been made, Bloom said.

Although she has had a patient pull out a 15-inch knife and another patient threaten to shoot her if she tried to get her bill paid, Portland psychiatrist Dr. Geraldine G. Price said that obvious security precautions may scare patients away.

PSU professor says slaying suspect tried to shoot him on 3 occasions

By STEVE ERICKSON
of The Oregonian staff

A man charged with murdering his psychiatrist with a shotgun Wednesday "tried three times to shoot me," said his former Portland State University philosophy professor.

"He believed that I was emperor of the evil galactic empire," Donald Moor said of his former student, John Carl Eaton. "In the last case he said I was about to start a thermonuclear war."

"He's insane — schizophrenic," said Moor, head of the PSU philosophy department. "He hears voices that tell him these stories."

Portland psychiatrist Dr. Michael J. McCu-

loch, 41, was killed when a man strode into his 17th-floor office in a downtown Portland building and fired several blasts at him from a 12-gauge shotgun. Eaton, 38, was charged with murder and will be arraigned Thursday.

Eaton "was a patient of Dr. McCulloch, has been for at least six years," Moor said. "He was in Dammasch (state mental hospital at Wilsonville) for six months, got out in summer or early fall of 1983."

Eaton was committed to Dammasch after he threatened Moor with a gun for the third time, Moor said. The first time, in 1979, Moor said he was able to surprise and disarm Eaton, and the second time Moor locked the door of his South-

east Portland home where the threats were made.

The third time Eaton threatened Moor with a gun was Feb. 14, 1983. Moor, who had armed himself, chased Eaton, who eventually was captured by police and taken to a Portland hospital. A sanity hearing and commitment followed, Moor said.

Part of Eaton's problem, Moor said, was that "he didn't like his medication because of side effects. It was always trouble to get him to take his medication."

Eaton took two three-hour philosophy courses from Moor in the late 1960s or early '70s, Moor said.

"He was quite intelligent, a pretty good stu-

dent," Moor recalled. "A little strange, but not insane. He got A's and B's. He graduated from PSU with a degree in philosophy and went to the University of Washington graduate school for about a year."

Eaton worked as an insurance agent for a while, Moor said, and while a student at PSU "was the bugler at the dog races." More recently, Moor said, Eaton "was getting a disability pension — he got \$260 a month."

Moor said Eaton was raised in Portland, and that he has one brother and a sister living in the Portland area.

A neighbor of Eaton's said Wednesday that Eaton "could be found sometimes walking up

and down the street talking loudly to himself or to some imaginary somebody, and sometimes you could hear him talking from the open door of his house. He would appear to be talking into an imaginary walkie-talkie."

Another neighbor said Eaton, who moved into the Northeast 11th Avenue neighborhood in the mid-1970s, "was very withdrawn, didn't socialize with anyone, seemed to stay by himself. I was afraid of him."

"His mother told me he was a gifted child," the neighbor said. "I just felt that there was something strange about him."

"Everybody avoided him," the neighbor said. "I used to feel kind of sorry for him, a feeling that maybe you could help him."

Archivist questions internment document

SEATTLE (AP) — A document that lawyers said helped show government misconduct in the legal battle over the World War II internment of West Coast Japanese-Americans wasn't printed until after a key Supreme Court ruling, a military archivist testified Wednesday.

Hannah Zeidlik, chief of historical records for the Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C., testified that of four versions of the report listed in National Archives inventories, the one used by Gordon Hirabayashi's lawyers was printed after Sept. 14, 1943. The Supreme Court issued its decision in Hirabayashi's case on June 21.

Hirabayashi's lawyers, however, said out of court Wednesday that the lateness of the report wouldn't affect their claim that the government had altered or destroyed documents while arguing to uphold Hirabayashi's convictions before the high court.

Hirabayashi's lawyers have asserted that the report, compiled by Gen. John L. Dewitt to support the mass uprooting of U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry, was withheld from Justice Department lawyers before they argued Hirabayashi's case before the Supreme Court in May 1943.

Hirabayashi, 67, was convicted of violating a curfew for Japanese-Americans and of failing to report

to an internment camp, both misdemeanors, when he was a University of Washington student in 1942. In a non-jury trial before U.S. District Judge Donald Voorhees, Hirabayashi is seeking to have those convictions overturned.

Hirabayashi's lawyers had introduced two versions of the DeWitt report, saying they offered different reasons for the evacuation.

In the earlier version, DeWitt stated that the amount of time available for individual evacuation hearings was not a factor in the decision to order a mass internment. In the later version, the time reference was deleted.

Government lawyers told the high court in 1943 that time was of the essence.

Justice Department lawyer Victor Stone said an inventory listing four different versions of DeWitt's report indicated the later one, as presented in the present court battle, was the first mass production of the report.

Only a dozen or so copies of the earlier versions were made. Stone also introduced memos from different military officials, recommending many changes in those early editions.

"Are you going to go to the Supreme Court and

offer them a document that isn't final, that hasn't been printed and offered publicly?" he asked during a break in proceedings.

Stone, attempting to prove there was no government misconduct, also noted that the inventory showed copies of one version of the report had been destroyed.

"If somebody were trying to hide the changes (made in the report), they would have destroyed all record of the changes being made," including any reference to earlier editions of the report being destroyed, Zeidlik testified.

Hirabayashi's chief lawyer, Rodney Kawakami, denied that the lateness of the report's publication was significant.

He noted that one of the thousands of pages of documents introduced in the case was a transcript of an April 19, 1943, telephone conversation in which Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy complained to DeWitt aide Karl Bendetsen about certain aspects of the general's report — including the time factor reference.

Kawakami said that proved that some version of DeWitt's report existed before the Supreme Court arguments and was withheld from the Justice Department.

Girl, companion freed; abduction motive eyed

Compiled from wire and correspondent reports

CHICAGO — The abduction of a 15-year-old Eugene, Ore., girl and a friend from a Grateful Dead concert in Wisconsin may have been drug-related, authorities say.

Two suburban Chicago men charged with kidnapping and abduction are accused of beating the girl's 31-year-old friend, then handcuffing him and the girl, forcing them into a van and driving them to a home in the Chicago suburb of Palos Hills owned by a third man, also charged in the weekend abduction, said Ed Nelson, deputy police chief in the suburb.

The third man remained at large Wednesday and was being sought on a federal warrant, said FBI spokesman Bob Long.

Nelson said FBI agents arrested the other two men Monday after the girl, Acacia Spirit Scully, was able to escape and notify authorities, who freed her friend, Gregory Alan Zuehl, 31, of San Rafael, Calif.

Scully is the stepdaughter of the band's former promotion manager, Rock Scully, a Grateful Dead spokesman said.

Law enforcement sources said the abduction was ordered by a drug dealer over payment for 3 ounces of cocaine, but a district attorney in Wisconsin said there was no indication the girl was involved in a drug deal.

Zuehl received minor scrapes and bruises in the attack and was treated and released from Palos Community Hospital in Palos Heights, Ill., Nelson said.

Nelson said Scully and Zuehl were attending the Grateful Dead concert Saturday evening at Alpine Valley, Wis., when they left to go to a nearby house, where they encountered two of the suspects — James Michael Freer, 25, of Hickory Hills, Ill., and Joe Gonzalez, 24, of Palos Hills.

The two were handcuffed and Zuehl was beaten before they were driven to the Chicago area late Saturday or early Sunday and taken to a house owned by the third suspect, Frank George White, 44, Nelson said. After arriving at the Palos Hills home, the suspects left to get something to eat, and Scully managed to free herself of the handcuffs and escape. She then notified police, who in turned contacted the FBI, Crawford said.

While no drugs were found in the Palos Hills home or on the suspects or the victims, "We feel there's a drug connection," Nelson said. He would not elaborate.

David Danz, district attorney in Walworth County, Wis., where the alleged kidnapping occurred, said Scully and Zuehl frequently traveled around the country to attend the band's concerts. However, he said there was no indication Scully was involved in a drug deal.

Freer and Gonzalez appeared Monday before U.S. Magistrate James T. Balog, who ordered them held without bond at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in Chicago.

Teen-agers learn they can't hide from four-footed police

By KATHLEEN MONJE
Correspondent, The Oregonian

SPRINGFIELD — Two teen-agers found out early Wednesday that it's just about impossible to hide from four-footed police.

When Springfield police answered a silent alarm at Stapleton Timber Contractors at 1:20 a.m., they said they surprised two youths who managed to get away from them.

But "It just so happened that our four-man, four-dog canine unit was on

a training exercise, and they responded because the suspects had eluded the officers on foot," Springfield Lt. Richard Golden said.

The four male German shepherds and their handlers took care of the matter in short order. One dog, Arras, discovered Brian Scott Kubik, 17, hiding in long grass nearby, stopped him when he tried to run and held him on the ground until human help arrived. Kubik was bitten, but not seriously, Golden said.

Another dog, Jasko, found Marcus Ivan Peterson, 17, in a drainage ditch about 200 yards from the business and kept him there. Golden said. Property believed to have been stolen was recovered as well, he said.

Arras, Jasko and Boris were imported from West Germany. The fourth canine team member, Liberty, was a stray rescued by the police department's master dog handler. Liberty unexpectedly turned out to be talented at police work, Golden said.

Kubik and Peterson were charged with first-degree burglary. Peterson was detained at the county's juvenile center and Kubik was released.

Demo leader gets nod

SEATTLE (UPI) — State Democratic Party Chairwoman Karen Marchioro was elected Tuesday to head the Western States Conference of the Democratic National Committee.