

C2 Daily Press, Friday, July 18, 1986

# Defendant admits threatening to hit witness

By **MATHEW PAUST**  
Staff Writer

LANCASTER — The defendant in a double-murder retrial admitted threatening to hit a witness who testified against him Thursday.

Gary Logan Lankford, 30, of Lancaster, admitted in testimony under cross-examination Thursday afternoon that shortly before, during a lunch recess, he had told a bailiff "I didn't want to be crossing the witness' path in the hallway or I'll have to backhand him."

"I will backhand him. You can't do any more to me," Lankford continued.

"This is nothing but a bunch of lies. You just want your power. It's political," he said, addressing Commonwealth's Attorney C. Jeffers Schmidt Jr.

"You'll like to keep me locked up, Schmidt!"

"Gary" shouted one of Lankford's two Richmond lawyers and the defendant sat back and remained silent.

The witness Lankford threatened to "backhand" was James Green of Heathsville in Northumberland County, who testified that he knew Lankford when the two were inmates in 1982 both in the Lancaster County Jail and in a state correctional center in Greensboro, where Lankford described to him how on the night of Feb. 27, 1978 he shot Dale Wiley Rogers, 48, a United Airlines pilot, and Charlotte Faye Rogers, 40, in their home at Merry Point.

Lankford is charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the shotgun slayings. His first trial, in February, ended with a hung jury.

He said he was coming from hunting and the man said something about being on his property. He said the man went back to his car (Lankford followed him. He said he shot the man at the bottom of the steps — and the woman at the top of the steps — Green testified.

On the witness stand himself, Lankford denied telling Green or two other former jail mates who have testified against him that he admitted the killings.

Lankford said he told the three only about photographs he claims police investigators showed him in 1981 while he was a mental patient at Central State Hospital.

Undisputed expert testimony given during the retrial has established that Lankford suffers from schizophrenia, a mental disease described as causing delusions. The sufferer has trouble distinguishing between fantasy and reality, testified a psychiatrist and a clinical psychologist. Both treated Lankford at Central State.

Lankford testified that he suffered a "nervous breakdown" after his wife left him for his best friend about two years after the Rogers killings. They had married a month before the murders.

"Everything just fell apart. My dog got hit by a car and my motorcycle broke down and my wife left me," he said.

He said he developed an interest in the Rogers case while in jail for unrelated crimes, hoping that if he could help solve the murders he might receive the \$25,000 reward that had been advertised.

Receiving the reward might have helped him win back his wife, he said.

Dr. William M. Lee, a clinical psychologist at Central State who treated Lankford, testified that Lankford's medical history indicated he was first committed to 1978 at Eastern State Hospital after a violent spree during which he shot out a television set, smashed the headlights of his stepfather's car with a baseball bat, broke the bat against a tree, held the father hostage with a gun and shot at a car the father was driving.

Irene Walker, Lankford's stepmother, testified that Lankford had eaten supper at her home in Lancaster the night the couple were killed.

Mrs. Walker said he then went to his nearby apartment. She was situated so that she could see his green van from her house. The van remained at his apartment all that night, she said, moving from having one in each time she glanced out of her window, as she did from habit, she said.

Mrs. Walker's daughter, Gene Walker Morgan, testified that she and her college roommate had been visiting that weekend and had spent the evening playing cards with Lankford and other friends.

Mrs. Morgan said she left about 11 p.m. and that Lankford had left the apartment only once, for about 10 minutes while she was there.

Time of death of the Rogers couple has been estimated at about 7 p.m. The trial continues at 9 a.m. today with final arguments to the jury.

Schmidt, ignoring the remarks, continued cross-examining Lankford, who continued his sarcastic verbal sparring.

Several minutes later during a brief recess, with the jury out of the court room, Lankford, leaning forward on the witness stand, asked Schmidt, "Why do



Ruth Hart seems a bit apprehensive as she turns from the computer terminal toward her instructor.

# Teachers take high-tech tutoring

By **RENÉE E. WARREN**  
Staff Writer

HAMPTON — Educators from area schools are attending a two-week program designed to help them steer minority students toward careers in engineering, science and high technology fields.

The program is sponsored by Cooperating Schools Organizations for Minorities in Engineering, also known as CHROME, which is holding the third annual summer program at Hampton University.

essential for minority students to have positive and technical role models before them."

The summer workshop helps educators identify and counsel students who show an interest and ability in math and science. If area school systems can begin working with these students at an early stage, the minority students can better enter and successfully complete engineering and technology courses at the university level, said Dr. Myers.

Although founded to help minority students in particular, the organization's programs are open to all students, regardless of race or sex. Participants must maintain good grades in math and science. Currently, more than 500 students from Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore are actively involved.

The organization receives donations from more than 40 organizations and businesses, such as NASA, Newport News Shipbuilding, Systems Management American Corp., other public and private employers, colleges and university.

"We hope to receive federal funds in the future," said Dr. Myers.

"There's a severe shortage of minorities in the field of engineering," said Dr. Lillian Myers, executive director of the organization.

Virginia has nearly 13,000 licensed professional engineers, but less than 3 percent are minorities.

"There's a need to motivate minorities to pursue a technical background because of the many (employment) opportunities offered to students in the Hampton Roads area," she said.

The Jayworld non-profit organization, a partnership of private and public employers, colleges and school divisions, conducts workshops for students throughout Hampton Roads year-round. However, each summer CHROME works with educators to attack the root of the problem.

"CHROME helps us motivate others," said Edward Phillips, who is pursuing an engineering degree at Norfolk State and works with many younger students.

Too many minority students entering junior high school are intimidated by advanced math and science courses, he said. "Kids want inspiring words, not discouraging ones. This program teaches us to teach kids. You can be an engineer."

Minority students also lack role models in technical fields, said Gregory Selby, assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Old Dominion University. "It is

once again.

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Gwen Russ asks a question as a helper partially hidden behind her takes a look.

# Suspect seeking pain-killer given painful lesson

By **DAVID CHERNICKY**  
Staff Writer

HAMPTON — A man who allegedly tried to rob a pharmacy of the pain-killer Dilaudid on Wednesday got more pain than he bargained for when a clerk, the pharmacist, district manager and a neighbor leapt up and subdued him.

The noise began soon after a man wearing a stocking cap and holding a hand in his pocket entered the Medicine Shoppe, 5103-B W. Mercury Blvd., about 6 p.m., said Detective Sgt. Eddie Allen.

The man approached Andrew McCaffrey, a 35-year-old clerk, at the rear counter and

demanded Dilaudid, a prescription pain killer. When McCaffrey told the robber he did not have the drug, the man then demanded Methadone, a heroin substitute, Allen said.

He said McCaffrey got the suspect to step behind the counter and when he did, the clerk jumped him and they wrestled. The frisk caught the attention of pharmacist Lewis McCaffrey and Tim Hardy, district manager, who rushed to help the employees.

When the trio blocked the man's escape through the front door, the suspect dashed to the rear door. Once outside, he encountered the clerk, again. When a neighbor saw the scuffle, he ran across the street and

felled the man with a flying tackle, Allen said. They detained the defeated suspect until police arrived.

Police identified the suspect as Paul David Speas, 30, of Herndon Court in Virginia Beach. Speas was charged with attempted robbery and maiming. He was in the city lockup on \$1,000 bond, Newport News Police also have a warrant on file for Speas charging him with larceny of a car, said Allen.

Speas was treated for minor cuts and bruises at Hampton General Hospital and released. The pharmacist received a broken finger and a cut on his face.

# Anti-pornography group organized

## Sale of materials attacked

By **CHRIS YOUNG**  
Staff Writer

NEW KENT — A group of county residents has formed to fight the sale or rental of pornographic materials in the county.

Citizens Against Pornography will present the Board of Supervisors with a packet of materials showing the damage caused by pornography, according to chairman Rosemary Slayton.

Thirteen people attended the group's first meeting Monday, Mrs. Slayton said.

"What is the local community's standard? What is obscene in New Kent County may not be considered obscene in Richmond or in New York City. It is a very difficult standard to apply."

Thomas Hoover, commonwealth's attorney

New Kent Commonwealth's Attorney Thomas Hoover said the board has the power to restrict the open display and sale of obscene materials. He declined to say whether the supervisors could exact a total ban on the sale of pornography in the county.

"Pornography is not covered under the First Amendment's freedom-of-press guarantees," Mrs. Slayton said.

Research has shown pornography "leads to incest, rape, incest and child abuse, against women and pornography against children," she said.

"Once the reader gets into pornography, the next thing is fantasizing," Mrs. Slayton said. "Then they must find a willing partner and if they don't find a willing partner, they'll find an unwilling partner."

Mrs. Slayton said pornography leads to the breakup of the family.

"Adults are quite capable of determining what is harmful," said Supervisor Richard Elyson. "I certainly have not had any input from my constituents."

"My concern is... they take nothing and make a mountain out of it and our personal rights are flushed right down the tubes," Elyson said.

# Family sues woman in bicyclist's death

By **WILLIAMSBURG**

WILLIAMSBURG — A city woman convicted of involuntary manslaughter is being sued in Circuit Court for \$750,000 by the estate of the bicyclist she hit while driving drunk in November.

Susan K. Rendleman, 25, of the 100 block of Wood Road, was convicted in April and sentenced to 90 days in jail in the traffic death of bicyclist Raymond M. Hamilton Nov. 11 on Route 142 near Interstate 64.

Hamilton had battery-powered lights working in the front and rear of the bicycle when he left Newport News, his sister testified.

Mrs. Rendleman testified she had four to five beers in the five hours before the accident and never saw Hamilton until she stopped the van after hours a notice. She said she found Hamilton's severely injured body and the man died in her arms.

A state policeman said Rendleman exhibited outward signs of intoxication immediately after the accident, but a 16 blood alcohol content after a hour later. At the time of the accident, state law presumed a driver with a blood alcohol content of .15 to be drunk. The level has been changed to .10.

Mrs. Rendleman declined to comment on the lawsuit, which seeks \$400,000 in actual damages. It alleges reckless, careless, negligent driving "when the defendant knew that she had ingested sufficient alcohol to cause her to be legally intoxicated and to affect her judgment and coordination."

The suit seeks actual damages for funeral and medical expenses for Hamilton, as well as the loss of his earnings and comfort to his mother and his brothers and sisters.

The lawsuit also seeks for an additional \$350,000 in punitive damages based on her alleged "willful and wanton disregard for the safety of other users of the highway because of her ingestion of alcohol in sufficient amount that in the exercise of

reasonable care she should have known that she would become intoxicated" and unable to drive safely.

According to testimony and evidence in her manslaughter trial, Mrs. Rendleman was moving furniture when she hit Hamilton's bicycle about 10 p.m. Hamilton was training to be a semi-professional bicycle racer and was riding home from his sister's house in Newport News to his home near Williamsburg.