

Confession guesswork, court told

VANCOUVER (CP) — A man who denies stabbing two 14-year-old girls to death was able to describe in a videotaped confession what they were wearing when the murders happened and how they bled.

Robert Bonisteel told a jury Friday that the details were just a guess and he simply imagined what the scene would have looked like. He said he pretended he did the murders 30 years ago because he wanted a job. The man he confessed to was an undercover police officer posing as a gang leader.

Bonisteel, 57, charged with first-degree murder, describes on the tapes what the girls were wearing that night in January 1975, down to the colours and patterns of their tops.

He said Judy Mariea Dick and her friend Elizabeth Inge Zeschner were killed in a dump yard surrounded by six-foot-high grass. One bled like a fountain, he said, when she was stabbed.

But Bonisteel testified that he pulled these details out of his imagination to make his wild story sound real.

Crown prosecutor Hank Reiner said Bonisteel described what really happened, otherwise he couldn't possibly have depicted the bloody scene so accurately.

A day after the girls' bodies were found in the snow, Bonisteel left Vancouver for Winnipeg. He later spent 20 years in jail for two rapes.

Advances in DNA technology eventually allowed police to obtain a partial profile linking him to the murders of Dick and Zeschner. That prompted police to enact a massive sting operation to elicit a confession from Bonisteel.

Two artists in running for Fox statue

Parents narrow the field to erect memorial to one-legged runner at Mile 0

BY CHRIS MASON
Times Colonist staff

The quest to have a statue of Terry Fox unveiled at Beacon Hill Park's Mile 0 in time for the 25th anniversary of Fox's Marathon of Hope took a step forward on Friday when Fox's parents narrowed the field of artists to two.

Emily Morgan of Victoria and Nathan Scott of Saanich have each been asked to build a mini-statue, or maquette, of the paper design they submitted. The Fox family will then choose a final design.

"It's been a very exciting day," said Terry's mother, Betty Fox.

Betty and Rolly Fox said they had a certain image in mind when reviewing the proposals.

"I think it's important to have Terry running," Betty said.

They both added that Terry's face is important, since they want the features to be accurate.

Nathan Scott said late Friday afternoon that he is honoured to be one of two candidates to build the statue.

"He's one heck of a hero for Canadians, I'm absolutely thrilled," said Scott, 35. "His purity and humility was just amazing."

Emily Morgan could not be reached Friday evening.

The statue is part of Canada-wide celebrations this September of the 25th anniversary of Fox beginning his run across the country to raise funds for cancer research after losing his right leg to the disease. His run began in St. John's Nfld., but came to an end 5,376 kilometres later outside Thunder Bay, Ont., when he discovered cancer had spread to his lungs.



Betty and Rolly Fox relax in Victoria Friday after announcing the two local artists who are in contention to erect a statue of their famous son at Mile 0 in September.

Debra Brash/Times Colonist

"[Vancouver Island] was Terry's destination, and we're very proud that there will be [a statue] here," Betty said.

She said she and her husband are amazed by the enthusiasm they see each September for the Terry Fox runs.

"I have to be pinched every once in a while," Betty said. "The runs today are more successful than Terry's run in 1980."

The two artists will submit the small versions of their designs on July 6, in time for Victoria council to review the sub-

missions July 7. The final statue will be finished in time for the Sept. 16 Terry Fox run.

This is the first year that the runs will occur simultaneously across the country.

Defendant in libel suit apologizes

CanWest News Service

VANCOUVER — In a surprise move Friday, a man being sued for libel by motivational speaker Tony Robbins issued an apology and reached a settlement, ending his part in the case.

Lawyer David Sutherland, representing John Charles Lynch, read that Lynch apologized for statements he made to the *Vancouver Sun*, which published them on June 7, 2001. The *Sun* story said Lynch was upset that his estranged wife, Bonnie Lynch, was dating Robbins.

Bonnie Lynch married Robbins in October 2001 and now is known as Sage Robbins. The Lynchs divorced in 2001 after a nine-year marriage.

"My marriage had problems before my wife even met Mr. Robbins," said John Lynch's apology. "I acknowledge that Mr. Robbins did not destroy my marriage."

The apology also said John Lynch embellished a statement when he told the *Sun* that he was trying to take Robbins's "published words to heart, an embellishment that I acknowledge was wholly inaccurate. I acknowledge that Mr. Robbins is not a hypocrite."

Robbins, an internationally known self-help guru who lives in California, is suing a number of media including the Pacific Newspaper Group, which publishes the *Sun*.

One dead, two hurt in Bamfield accident

One person is dead and two others are badly injured after a traffic accident Friday afternoon in Bamfield, near Barkley Sound on the Island's west coast.

Port Alberni RCMP were called at 4:33 p.m., but had to travel approximately 100 km by logging road to reach the scene. Few details were available Friday evening, due to poor radio reception in the region.

A collision reconstructionist and a coroner were sent to the scene Friday evening.

The Victoria Rescue Co-ordination Centre also responded to the accident.

— Times Colonist staff



Paramedics work to pull a critically injured pilot from the wreck of a small helicopter in Merville Friday evening. CNS

Pilot critically injured as helicopter crashes

COMOX — A small helicopter crashed in a Comox Valley field late Friday afternoon, sending the male pilot to hospital in critical condition.

The R-22 helicopter crashed at approximately 4:50 p.m. in the corner of a small hayfield near Merville.

An advanced-life-support helicopter arrived on scene less than 10 minutes after the crash, said Chris Knickerson of B.C. Ambulance Service.

A short time later, the unidentified man was airlifted to Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster.

A woman at the scene said the pilot had been taking children on helicopter rides for about 45 minutes before the crash.

There were no passengers aboard at the time of the accident and no one on the ground was injured.

Cpl. Don Smawley of Comox Valley RCMP said a statement had been obtained from one eyewitness. "Nobody can tell us exactly what took place."

The crash is under investigation by Comox Valley RCMP and the Transportation Safety Board.

— CanWest News Service

Death by wrecker's ball probed

CanWest News Service

VANCOUVER — An investigation by the B.C. Workers' Compensation Board could take months to find out what caused a metal ball to hit and kill a construction-site employee while he was working in the bucket of a crane.

Daniel McCrickard, 43, of Vancouver, was killed Thursday afternoon on a construction site in Vancouver's tony waterfront area known as False Creek.

Investigators were on the scene at Concorde Pacific's Coopers Pointe condominium development Friday to examine the crane that killed the man, who worked for Griffiths Pile Driving, of Delta.

Worker's Compensation Board spokeswoman Donna Freeman said in an interview Friday the investigation will take at least two months.

Construction for the project was halted Friday afternoon.

Celebration to mark park at Potholes

BY NORMAN GIDNEY
Times Colonist staff

Sooke Potholes Regional Park will open officially on Sunday with a series of special events starting at noon at the scenic riverside property.

The newest Capital Regional District park is a five-kilometre strip of land by the Sooke River purchased by The Land Conservancy and now being sold to the CRD.

The two groups are organizing "a big celebration," said Jeff Ward of CRD parks. It will be an afternoon of family activities, plus talks by a naturalist, displays, classical music and refreshments.

"There'll be lots to do for people," he said. Organizers are expecting hundreds at the park. Main events will be beside the former lodge building, now demolished.

Formerly known as Deertrail, the property was a development site and is upstream from Sooke Potholes Provincial Park. Ward said the land had been cleared of most of the old tanks, sheds and industrial equipment.

"The transformation has been amazing over the last couple of months," said TLC's Tom Arnold.

Two new access points into the park have also been created and it's easier now to get down to the swimming holes.

Opening ceremonies begin at 2 p.m. with speeches by CRD chairman Don Amos, parks committee chairwoman Karen Watson, Sooke Mayor Janet Evans and TLC executive director Bill Turner.

Some Deertrail major fundraising sponsors will be there: Spinnakers offering smoked and barbecued salmon, Sooke Harbour House with fresh-made cookies and ice cream, Sooke Lions grilling hot dogs and hamburgers.

Sooke Cycle will be there to fix flats and repair bikes, and the Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue group will rappel down the canyon wall.

Parking is limited. Visitors are encouraged to park at Edward Milne School on Sooke Road and ride a shuttle bus to the park. Cyclists or pedestrians can take the Galloping Goose trail, which goes right to the park.

Roy Henry Vickers

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