

BLK NEWS

Man, 26, Disguised as Woman Becomes High School Cheerleader Before Being Arrested for Impersonation

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Charles James Daugherty was arrested last month for investigation for forgery and criminal impersonation. Pretending to be female, Daugherty had enrolled at Coronado High School and made the cheerleading squad before being found out eight days later, students and authorities said. He was released on \$750 bail.

Daugherty, 26, enrolled as a junior at Coronado on Sept. 6, using the name Cheyen Weatherly, school official said. He said he had been studying in Greece under a private tutor for the past two years, said Det. Bob Driscoll.

He became a cheerleader without a formal tryout and performed in uniform at a pep rally, teachers and students said. He changed clothes in the women's locker room.

"I heard there were a couple of girls who befriended him and told him a lot of personal things—you know how girls talk to one another," said one teacher, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "He asked a lot of personal stuff."

Schoolmate Cara Young, 16, said, "Cheyen was a sweet girl. She loved to talk about girl things, in particular, boys. She had great taste in clothes."

Police said Daugherty presented school officials with a computerized list of courses he had completed and grades to match—all As and Bs. School officials initially were skeptical but allowed him to enroll until more detailed records could be obtained. He was also welcomed to the school choir...as a soprano.

Daugherty is described as 5-foot-9 and 164 pounds—a build that made teachers and students look twice. But a glamorous mane of red hair helped get Cheyen through the first few days.

"He wore women's business suits—blazers and skirts, high heels," a 16-year-old sophomore told the *Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph*. "He had a lot of makeup on. It looked like it was plastered. He had makeup where his beard would be."

School officials became increasingly suspicious and decided to check telephone numbers and addresses Daugherty had provided.

Last year, he made the pep squad of the Colorado Springs Spirit, a now-defunct minor league football team. Betsy Acree, who led Spirit squad, said, "She was great...I have nothing bad to say about the girl, except she wasn't a girl. What she lacked in looks, she made up for in energy and high spirits."

"He claimed he had been an NCAA instructor. We needed somebody big. He was the base [for the pyramid]. He was very, very good."

Driscoll said Daugherty had a history of impersonating women. Six years ago, according to court records, he stole a \$15,000 car from a local dealership while posing as a female Air Force Academy student and cheerleader. He was convicted of theft and sentenced to four years probation and ordered to undergo counseling.

Under the newly adopted name of Shannon Ireland, Daugherty has since appeared on the *Sally Jessy Raphael Show* where he told viewers his several identities were part



As Cheyen Weatherly



As Charles Daugherty

of a multiple personality syndrome he developed as a result of chronic sexual abuse suffered since the age of five. Most of his personalities were "integrated" in therapy, he explained, except for Shannon, who refuses to disappear.

But Jay Soulia, a man who said he was duped into being Daugherty's bodyguard when he posed as a top-notch New York model, called the show "a complete bunch of crap."

"He was really into psychology," Soulia said. "He reads that crap. He could have made himself believe anything."

Penn State: Study Says Blacks, Women Fear AIDS

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Female students are more frightened than their male counterparts of contracting AIDS, and black Americans are more frightened of the disease than whites, according to a recent Pennsylvania State University study.

"Students were asked to pinpoint their level of fear concerning sexually transmitted disease and related issues," said K. Robert Bridges, assistant professor of psychology at Penn State. "In almost two thirds of the items, females scored higher on the fear index."

"At least 50 percent of the females expressed extreme fear with regards to casual sexual encounters or sexual contacts with a prostitute, but the male responses were clearly smaller—15 and 20 percent respectively," he said.

Blacks tended to show a greater fear than whites of AIDS, as well as of mental illness, dependency, death and other AIDS related subjects, Bridges said.

A 38-item questionnaire was administered to 684-students with a roughly even split between men and women. The items covered a wide range of subjects from blood transfusions, extramarital sex, casual sex and loss of self respect.

A breakdown of students by religious preference revealed atheists and agnostics to have much lower scores than the other groups on the general fear of AIDS, according to the study.

Mother, Boyfriend Sentenced to Life Imprisonment in Death of 4-Year-Old Child They Thought Was Gay

CHICAGO—Ingroring the “outrage of public opinion,” Criminal Court Judge Michael B. Getty sentenced Johnny Campbell and Alicia Abraham to life in prison without possibility of parole for the torture murder of Lattie McGee, Jr., Abraham’s four-year-old son. The pair had killed the child because they thought he was gay.

In addition to the life sentence, Getty also sentenced Abraham and Campbell, both of whom are black, to consecutive 30-year prison terms for aggravated child abuse.

The case had drawn wide public interest because the victim had been beaten, burned with cigarettes and an iron, deprived of food and water, and hung upside down in a darkened closet for hours.

Judge Getty, bombarded with calls and letters pleading for the death penalty, rejected capital punishment for Campbell, who was Abraham’s live-in boyfriend, saying evidence of Campbell’s mental illness at the time of the murder “is absolutely overwhelming.”

Two psychiatrists and one psychologist testified that Campbell was psychotic when Lattie and his six-year-old brother, Cornelius Abraham, were abused for two and a half months in 1987. Campbell was under the delusion the two brothers were gay and that his “disciplining” was necessary to stop their behavior, the expert witnesses said.

To impose death on a person who couldn’t understand his acts were wrong “would be an affront not only to 5,000 years of Judeo-Christian tradition and English Common Law tradition, but also to the 8th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States,” Getty said. The 8th Amendment forbids cruel and unusual punishment.

In sparing the life of Abraham, Getty said she hadn’t been present in the same room when Campbell inflicted the final, fatal beating to her son, Lattie, on Aug. 14, 1987. In convicting Abraham last month of Lattie’s murder, Getty found she was accountable for Campbell’s actions. But for the death penalty to be imposed, she had to actually participate “in the violent conduct which caused the death,” Getty said.

Abraham declined to speak at the hearing. Campbell asked the judge, “All I want to say is will you let Alicia go?”

“He’s very much in love with this woman,” said Marijane Placek, the assistant public defender who was Campbell’s lawyer. “...He isn’t some sort of monster.” “I’m happy for society,” added Placek, referring to the sentence. “We’ve been killing sick people for an easy solution.”

But Abraham’s lawyer, Clyde Lemons, said he was stunned at the life sentence. “I don’t think she should have been a defendant...because the bottom line is she didn’t do anything,” he said. “She might have been negligent, she might have been a bad mother, but she’s not a murderer.”

Assistant State’s Attorney James Bigoness, who prosecuted the case, said Campbell had never been institutionalized for mental illness before the murder and managed to hold down a job with U.S. Steel for 16 years before he was dismissed for alcohol and drug abuse.

Bigoness also contended that Abraham was in an adjoining room when Campbell fatally beat Lattie. “She could see it, she could hear it, she could have prevented it,” he said.

She also bore responsibility for Lattie’s malnutrition and bronchial pneumonia, two contributing factors to his death, Bigoness said. The boy weighed 26 pounds at death.

“This case screamed for the death penalty,” he added. “It was a case where anything less wouldn’t fit the crime.”

Campbell, who pleaded guilty but mentally ill to Lattie’s murder, doesn’t intend to appeal the sentencing, Placek said.

Abraham, however, will appeal her conviction by Getty, Lemons said.

In a move that caught some courtroom spectators by surprise, Getty singled out Lattie’s father, Lattie McGee Sr., for criticism for failing to check on his children during the fateful two and a half month period in 1987.

McGee, sitting in the front row of the courtroom, rolled his eyes upward at the judge’s comments. Later, he told reporters, “That’s his opinion, not mine.”

Getty also criticized the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for dropping a complaint of negligence against Abraham—two years before the murder. David Schneiderman, a DCFS spokesman, said DCFS provided Abraham with more than a year of counseling before closing the case. No further reports of neglect had been made against Abraham, he said. Abraham and her children became homeless soon after DCFS closed the case, and she met Campbell in a shelter, Getty said.

A version of this story by Matt O’Connor appeared in the Chicago Tribune.

Black Transvestite Dead

PHILADELPHIA—Eduardo Vasallio, 37, found fatally shot in the head in Center City, was apparently the victim of a sexual assault, according to police. The North Philadelphia resident was found wearing a wig and women’s clothing.

Police arrested Vernon Bryan, 19, the next day on charges of murder, weapons offenses and recklessly endangering another person. Both Vasallio and Bryan are black.

Investigators said Vasallio was found by Officer Michael Chitwood, whom passersby summoned from a nearby intersection. The passersby told the officer that a woman had been shot, but when Chitwood rolled the body over, the victim’s wig fell off, police said.



“You told me you were a mother, not a platoon sergeant.”