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Olson raped me before killing spree, says ex-hooker

The Canadian Press

Calgary

A former teen prostitute who alleges serial killer Clifford Olson raped her before he murdered most of his victims says the justice system failed society by dismissing her concerns.

"I just want people to take other people seriously," Kim Werbecky said Thursday.

Werbecky, 30, says Olson picked her up hitchhiking on New Year's Day 1981 in Surrey. That was two weeks after he had murdered the first of 11 children and teenagers for which he is now serving a life sentence.

Vancouver RCMP confirmed Thursday she went to police, who arrested Olson. But the Crown decided not to pursue charges and he went on to commit 10 more murders.

"When they started checking my background, that's when they found out I was a prostitute in Vancouver and that's when everything started to go wrong," said Werbecky.

She had been a prostitute on and off since she was 13, but was back home with her mother at the time of the rape.

Olson was convicted of the 11 murders in 1982 after police paid him $100,000 to lead them to the bodies of his victims, who were found mostly in the same area where Werbecky says she was picked up.

She says Olson drove her down the Squamish Highway, pulled out a gun and repeatedly raped her in his car and a motel room.

Werbecky, then 16, says she gave a statement to RCMP in Squamish and picked Olson's picture out of a mugbook. He was picked up and charged with rape, buggery and firearms offences.

When the Crown decided not to go ahead with the charges, Werbecky said, her life went into a tailspin and she ended up on the streets for two more years.

The Calgary woman, who is writing a book about her experiences, is now married with three children. She says she didn't speak sooner because she was trying to forget the rape.

Ont. same-sex bill defeated as activists shout 'shame'

The Canadian Press

Toronto

The Ontario legislature killed the NDP government's same-sex bill Thursday with a vote of 68-59.

Gay and lesbian activists watching from the legislature gallery stood up immediately and shouted "shame."

Outside the chamber, some of the 150 activists fell as about 40 rubber-gloved security guards formed a human chain and forced them down the legislature stairs.

Twelve New Democrats, including two cabinet ministers, were among the members who voted No.

The vote means this bill won't be resurrected. A Yes vote would have sent the bill to committee hearings before third and final reading.

The legislation failed despite a plea by Premier Bob Rae during an impassioned half-hour speech prior to the vote.

The legislation, the first of its kind in Canada, was introduced three weeks ago and barely survived a rare first-reading vote.

Lowering Montana dam level would affect B.C. — Hydro

The Canadian Press

Castlegar

B.C. Hydro says it's concerned about a proposal to release a large quantity of water from the Libby Dam in Montana.

Al Giessler, Hydro's Columbia-Kootenay spokesman, said Thursday the release would affect recreation on the Canadian portion of Lake Koocanusa, which straddles the B.C.-Montana boundary.

Giessler also said the water release would reduce the power generation capacity on both sides of the border.

U.S. fishing interests want to release nearly 2.5 billion cubic metres of water to increase the water for migrating Columbia River salmon.

Giessler said Hydro might be able to help by releasing water from Canadian dams if that would preserve Lake Koocanusa levels.

U.S. power authorities and the governor of Montana are opposed to the release.

A decision is expected by the end of June.

Musicians fuel Kemano campaign

Prince George/CP

Royalties from a Bruce Cockburn song and a donation from Juno award winner Lawrence Martin will help fund a documentary film on the fight to stop a massive hydroelectric project in northwestern B.C.

Cheslatta natives oppose Alcan's Kemano completion project, which involves the diversion of more water from the Nechako River to fuel turbines at Alcan's Kemano power station.

Natives fear the plan will reduce the Nechako to a meandering stream and destroy fishing grounds.

As part of the band's protest campaign, a three-vehicle Cheslatta Solidarity Caravan leaves Ottawa on Monday for a two-week information trip across Ontario and Western Canada.

Documentary film-maker Sheila Jordan needs about $13,000 to finance a film about the trip.

Coburn has donated the use of his song *Indian Wars*, said his agent, Bernie Finkelstein.

Ron George, a hereditary chief of the Wet'suwet'en in northwestern B.C., said the caravan is designed to highlight the Cheslatta people's struggle.

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Electric System Operations Review
Reviewing operational issues on Vancouver Island – Jordan River
B.C.Hydro is examining issues related to the way our hydro electric system is currently operated and considering alternatives to address these issues.
We are meeting with stakeholders and collecting data to find the appropriate balance between power production and other uses of the reservoirs and rivers in Hydro's electric system. A report will be submitted to the provincial government.
The Jordan River complex is located approximately 50 km west of Victoria. It consists of Bear Creek Dam, Diversion Dam and Elliott Dam and the Jordan River Generating Station. Each of the dams provide separate pondage for the development, with Diversion Dam supplying most of the storage capacity. Diversion and Elliott Dams are located on the Jordan River, while Bear Creek Dam impounds a reservoir on Bear Creek.
Stakeholders from the Victoria area identified the following key issues related to the effects of Hydro's operations on the Jordan River:
Upstream issues on the Diversion and Bear Creek reservoirs
- fish habitat in the reservoirs is affected by significant drawdown.
- floating debris restricts fishing.
- access to the reservoirs is limited by the exposure of stumps and large mudflats due to drawdown in the summer months. Boating and fishing are also reduced due to low water levels. There is a desire for stabilization of water levels of Bear Creek Reservoir above the current minimum level to improve summertime recreational opportunities.
Issues downstream from the Bear Creek Diversion and Elliott dams
- the absence of a minimum flow requirement for Jordan River may have fishery implications although fish habitat is already limited by steep gradients.
- the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks is concerned about dam safety and the potential for flooding and erosion at the mouth of the Jordan River.
- sudden increases in streamflow below Elliott Dam may surprise hikers in areas around the lower Jordan River.
Please call Andrea Wolff at 528-2289 or Harold Gruber at 528-7932 to discuss these or other issues relating to Hydro's use of the Jordan River. Information on operating alternatives is also available upon request.
The Electric System Operations Review (ESOR) B.C.Hydro, 6911 Southpoint Drive, Podium C-43, Burnaby, B.C.,V3N 4X8 or call toll free 1-800-663-1377.
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THE GREATER VICTORIA FIRE FIGHTERS CALENDAR BOYS photo opportunity.
Special thanks to the South Van Isle Lions Club.
The safety and security of our families and friends are of prime importance to us. Unfortunately, we are not usually fully conscious of this until we are faced with a crisis.
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