



Paulus calls evidence allegations 'hoopla'

'I am convinced more than ever the prosecution was right'

By ROBERT IMRIE
Associated Press Writer

MILWAUKEE — Winnebago County District Attorney Joseph Paulus said Friday he may not prosecute a 29-year-old Oshkosh man convicted of raping a woman with 46 personalities if a judge ordered a new trial.

Putting the 27-year-old Oshkosh woman through the ordeal of another trial may harm her and "not be in her

best interests," said Paulus, acknowledging the case could be reopened, but calling allegations of new evidence in the case "hoopla."

Mark Peterson, 29, of Oshkosh, was convicted Nov. 8 of second-degree sexual assault. His lawyer has asked Winnebago County Circuit Judge Robert Hawley to throw out the verdict and order a new trial.

Hawley set a hearing for Jan. 17 to

consider possible new evidence in the case, including revelations that the woman admitted she had a sexual relationship with a key prosecution witness.

The case has attracted international attention, raised new questions about sexual consent and mental illness, and hinged on a disputed psychiatric diagnosis called multiple personality disorder.

In a new revelation Friday, the fore-

man of the jury that convicted Peterson suggested that the jury may have reached a different verdict if Peterson hadn't testified.

"The key to the trial was when Peterson took the stand," David Ward of Oshkosh told daily newspaper editors at the Wisconsin Associated Press Association fall meeting.

The man looked "harmless, pathetic," until he testified and showed a "higher

degree of intelligence" than many thought he had, the juror said.

Ward and Paulus served on a panel at the editors' meeting to discuss media coverage of the trial.

A jury found that Peterson, an unemployed grocery store bagger who is married, knew the woman was mentally ill and manipulated a personality named Jennifer to have sex with the woman in

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Couple travels to Chile to claim child

Odd procedure results in a very happy family

By ROSEMARY PRICE
of the Northwestern

RIPON — They had waited for more than a year, yet Gregg and Jill Chatterson weren't quite prepared for instant parenthood.

As soon as their plane landed in Chile, they were taken to a lawyer's office and given their baby.

"We didn't even get to go to our hotel room first, and we had been on the plane for 10 hours," Chatterson said. "There were about eight people in this little room."

"It was strange," his wife added. "They handed us the baby, and he looked like a little waif. His nanny loved him so. She cried when she had to give him up."

Before they made the trip to Chile, the Chattersons had experienced the tedious — but worthwhile — process of adopting a Chilean baby. Eighteen-month-old Patrick is now the couple's delight. His beautiful black eyes, outgoing personality and loving ways have made the Chattersons complete.

When they arrived in Chile, the Chattersons were prepared with basic needs — baby formula, food, diapers — but they discovered that instant parenthood is an adjustment. "We were totally overwhelmed," Mrs. Chatterson said.

They have had Patrick since Oct. 13, 1989, but the process to



The Chattersons

adopt him started a year before that.

"What we liked about Chile is that the babies are placed for adoption and not abandoned," Mrs. Chatterson said. "There is some medical history, and prenatal care is provided. We felt this would be someone who had received a good start."

"We know about the mother and her family but only a bare minimum about the father. The parents weren't married, and the mother was 29. Patrick has a 5-year-old sister."

"For some reason girls are kept more often than boys," Mrs. Chatterson said. "We would have taken either. We are so very grateful to the woman who gave up her baby ... but they think there is nothing better than that their child live in the United States."

But adopting a foreign child is Please turn to Child/Page 2



Northwestern photo by Rosemary Price

Visiting the Clauses

Young Patrick Chatterson visits with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus during a trip to the mall this week. Gregg and Jill Chatterson of

Ripon adopted the Chilean boy last year in a convoluted procedure that made them instant parents.

Hate crime verdict satisfies policeman

By MARY JO NETZER
of the Northwestern

Satisfaction. That is the emotion police officer Michael Woods said he felt when he learned that David C. Ikert was found guilty under the Wisconsin "hate crime" law.

On Nov. 2, it was Woods who became the target of Ikert's threats and racial insults.

"Personally, it is a little satisfying to know that minorities and other individuals don't have to take that type of abuse under any circumstances," Woods said Friday afternoon.

Ikert was found guilty of yelling obscene racial insults and threatening and spitting at Woods after the officer arrested him for drunken driving. Woods is an officer for the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department.

Ikert entered a plea of no contest Tuesday to a charge of disorderly conduct with a penalty enhancer for racially motivated conduct.

The 32-year-old Redgranite man was the first person in Winnebago County to be prosecuted under the Wisconsin "hate crime" law. He will serve a six-month sentence in the county jail for his actions.

Woods said that he was pleased to hear that Ikert was being prosecuted under the "hate crime" law, but he said the incident hasn't affected his own life. "I don't see as it has. It's the small mentality of the individual. I don't allow it to bother me deeply," he said.

Woods said that he has dealt with a sufficient amount of

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Catholic church liable for priest's sex abuses

Jury awards \$3.5 million

ANOKA, Minn. (AP) — A jury awarded about \$3.5 million Friday to a man who accused Roman Catholic church officials of failing to protect him from a sexually abusive priest.

The man said he was molested during his boyhood by the Rev. Thomas Adamson, a pastor at a church in Columbia Heights.

Adamson, 57, now works as a hotel desk clerk and lives in Eau Claire. Officials say he hasn't officiated for five years.

The Anoka County District Court jury, which deliberated four days, said the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis and the Diocese of Winona were 85 percent negligent while the plaintiff, his father and

his mother each were 5 percent negligent.

The six-member jury, in the 5-1 decision, decided on punitive damages against the archdiocese of \$2 million and punitive damages against the Winona diocese of \$700,000.

The jury also decided on \$855,000 in compensatory damages for the victim's past and future pain and disability, embarrassment and emotional distress, medical and therapy expenses and loss of earnings.

The victim and his parents said during a five-week trial that the Diocese of Winona and the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis showed willful indifference by failing to remove Adamson from duty although aware of a 20-year history of abusing boys.

In August, a court in Eau Claire placed a 26-year-old man on three year's probation for threatening to kill Adamson, who he

said abused him when he was a 14-year-old altar boy in St. Paul, Minn. The man won a settlement from the archdiocese in 1988.

Adamson admitted sexual misconduct with boys in the Winona Diocese beginning in 1961 and in the Twin Cities archdiocese after his 1975 transfer.

In the latest case, attorneys for the dioceses denied their clients willfully employed an unfit priest.

The plaintiff's attorney, Jeffrey Anderson, argued Adamson's long-term and frequent abuse of a victim "irrevocably twisted and distorted" the boy's emotional growth.

Anderson asked for more than \$2 million in damages to compensate his client, who is now 24. He sought an additional \$3.5 million dollars in punitive damages.

Attorneys for the church and Adamson suggested damages ranging from \$200,000 to \$326,000 for the victim, who was 13 when

the abuse began.

The man cried quietly as the verdict was read and was still teary-eyed as he left the courtroom. When asked how he felt, he replied, "Nervous."

"He's going through a vindication. Now he's been told he's been vindicated," Anderson said. "Having this over with will be very therapeutic." The jury "did what we asked, to compensate our client, and sent a message that (this kind of action) should stop."

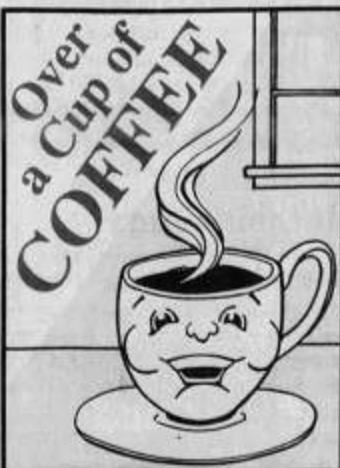
Archbishop John Roach told a news conference that he was disappointed with the verdict. He said the victim deserves some compensation but no punitive damages.

"In the case of punitive damages, it's very clear to me there will be an appeal," Roach said.

Andrew Eisenzimmer, attorney for the archdiocese, said he will review the case before a decision on an appeal is made.

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☐ Last to find out... The Oshkosh school district responded quickly and decisively Monday to cancel school as the infamous blizzard whipped across the state. Unfortunately, School Board Vice President Bruce Schmidt was the last to find out.

Schmidt, like any thoughtful parent, got up early to make sure his son, Corey, had a ride to school. Only after pulling into a vacant parking lot at Perry Tipler Middle School did Bruce and Corey realize that school was called off.

☐ The singing economist... Alfred Kahn, the internationally known economist and former chairman of the Ripon College economics department from 1945 to 1947, has a second love — music.

Kahn, who spoke at the college Wednesday night, loves to sing. He has performed in many Gilbert and Sullivan musicals, but he also loves musicals, by Steven Sondheim. His dream was to perform the elderly lawyer in the production "A Little Night Music" by Sondheim. That dream was fulfilled five years ago, he told his old friend Helen Goodrich, who knew him while he was at Ripon. Mrs. Goodrich was a choral music teacher at Berlin and Ripon schools and her husband, Sid, taught classics at Ripon College.

"Fred took piano lessons from Esther Barber while he was here," Mrs. Goodrich said. "He became quite proficient in two years." Artist Lester Schwartz, a former Ripon College colleague of Kahn's, is the only other professor still affiliated with the

college, Goodrich said. "They are still good friends," she said. The two men had dinner together Wednesday night.

☐ The call to duty... The Oshkosh Common Council honored the men and women from the 1157th Transportation Company of the Army National Guard Thursday night.

The 1157th, which includes 69 people from Oshkosh and 55 from Berlin, was activated earlier this week. The motion, which was unanimously adopted, recognizes "the contributions these individuals will make to the protection of the national security, to commend them for their commitment to duty and their responsibility to this country."

The council, on behalf of the entire Osh-

kosh community, "wishes 'godspeed' to the members of the 1157th ..."

☐ I'm so embarrassed... That's what Douglas Nelson of Winneconne was thinking after an incident at an Oshkosh grocery store. Nelson and his wife, Sheila, had finished shopping, and they were ready to pay for their groceries when the male checker turned to him and asked, "Paper or plastic?" Without a moment's hesitation, Nelson replied: "No, I'll pay by cash."

The checker then had to explain to Nelson that he was asking if he wanted the groceries put in paper or plastic bags. Oops.

