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Police Say Money Won't Find Rapist

By MEL ASSAGAI
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MARTINEZ — Contra Costa County supervisors were told Friday that neither a reward nor additional funds for overtime pay for deputies are likely to directly result in the capture of the East Area rapist.

At a special meeting, supervisors were told by law enforcement officials that a reward wouldn't work because a good description of the rapist is lacking. They also told supervisors that the proposed \$200,000 in additional funds for overtime pay simply was unnecessary.

Concord Police Chief Jim Chambers caused a furor early last week when, as part of rape protection measures, he suggested women not wear short shorts or bathing suits in their front yards.

Women's groups were incensed with the suggestion, because, women in the Mt. Diablo Rape Crisis Center said, "that is a sexist approach to the problem that says women are inviting rapes."

Chambers also noted an increase in the purchase of firearms in Concord and warned citizens against vigilante actions.

But Supervisor Eric Hasseltine said the Friday special meeting might have the wrong focus:

"Sheriff, according to the statistics I requested and received from your office, a rape has been committed in this county every other day over the last two years.

"Regardless of the East Area rapist we have a serious rape problem here. Richmond has twice as many rapes as Concord and Martinez has at least as many as Concord. I'd like to know what kind of program you're working on to deal with this overall problem," he said.

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cers to do the job," he told The Bee.

Spokesmen for law enforcement agencies in the area said they have been working together and relying heavily on information and investigatory experience compiled by the Sacramento Sheriff's Department, which has been trying to capture the rapist since 1975.

The East Area rapist is believed responsible for 39 rapes, most of them in Sacramento, but several in Modesto, Stockton, Davis, and now Concord.

He usually wears a ski mask, making identification by his victims difficult, carries a gun or knife and breaks in through a window or door.

Rape Suspect Arrested In Motel Heist

STOCKTON — Huron Fields, 31, an ex-convict sought as a prime suspect in 13 local rape cases, was arrested in Kansas late Thursday as a suspect in a motel holdup.

Stockton Police Lt. Robert Lund, head of the robbery-homicide division, said Fields was using an alias, but under questioning in Kansas admitted his identity and that he is wanted for crimes in Stockton and Wyoming.

Lund said Stockton police filed a \$500,000 bond warrant with Kansas authorities charging Fields with rape, assault with a deadly weapon and burglary in connection with the June 9 attack on a 27-year-old Venetian

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Sheriff Harry Ramsay, after telling supervisors he was confident Concord police were doing everything possible to capture the East Area rapist, told Hasseltine his department was also working to arrest other rapists.

"We recognize the problem and we are doing what we can. We have worked with women's groups and rape centers," he said. "And, just because we say there were 217 rapes in Contra Costa County in 1977 doesn't mean we haven't caught any of them. We have," he said.

Ramsay said his department, while offering whatever assistance it can to the Concord Police Department, has had "to continue persuing rapists, robbers, and other criminals."

Concord Police Chief Chambers said his department has established an East Area rapist detail and plans to spend between \$30,000 and \$40,000 in overtime to finance its operations. He conceded that if the East Area rapist strikes again, demands from the public for more patrols could severely tax his department's financial resources.

He also said residents were requesting an unusually high number of block meetings to learn what they can do to defend themselves against the rapist, another drain on his officers' time.

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Another \$100,000 warrant was filed charging Fields with assault with a deadly weapon in the alleged stabbing seven weeks ago of Peter Olgele, a friend of Fields' ex-wife.

"We will ask for extradition," Lund said. "But we're going to have to coordinate with the FBI and authorities in Wyoming and Kansas."

Lund said Fields was arrested in Goodland, Kan., following the robbery of a Holiday Inn.

Kansas authorities reported finding two guns in the car that allegedly were taken during the rape of a Rock Springs, Wyo., woman and her 15-year-old daughter and the kidnapping of them and the mother's other three children last week.

Fields also was charged with the Goodland motel robbery, and a California parole violation charge was added to the interstate list. He eluded Stockton police Sept. 5 when he jumped from a speeding car on Interstate 5 after allegedly stabbing Olgele. He served time in state prison on a 1974 rape conviction, police said.

Police have sought Fields since June after 13 rapes of women ages 20 to 43, all living in the north and central Stockton areas.