STATE DIGEST

Woman arrested for \$14,000 welfare fraud

TACOMA (AP) — A Tacoma woman has been sentenced to 60 days in jail for welfare fraud, the U.S. attorney said.

Beginning in 1993, Him Thai feigned medical illness, causing physicians to diagnose her as being "psychologically disabled" and thereby qualified for monthly Supplemental Security Income checks, said Kate Pflaumer, U.S. attorney for the Western District of Washington.

In truth, the woman had no such illness and was able to work, Pflaumer said.

Between 1993 and 1996, Thai received approximately \$14,604 in welfare money to which she was not entitled.

U.S. District Judge Franklin Burgess ordered her to make full restitution.

Man pleads innocent in robbery

TACOMA (AP) — A man accused of robbing a Gig Harbor couple at gunpoint and then trying to escape arrest by swimming away has pleaded innocent to multiple charges in Pierce County Superior Court.

Robert Elvis Smith entered his plea Friday before Judge Bruce Cohoe.

Smith, also known as Keith Alan Faker, is charged with two counts of first-degree kidnapping, 10 counts of unlawful possession of firearms and one count each of first-degree burglary and robbery.

Smith had five outstanding warrant arrests and has failed to appear in court 28 times on other charges, prosecutors said.

Bail was set at \$100,000.

"You just hope he can't get out," said the 73-year-old man who was still shaken from Wednesday night's robbery.

Prosecutors say Smith and another man — who also swam away and remains at large — pulled a gun on the couple and tied them up after pretending to ask for directions at their home.

The husband managed to slip free and call the police.

Police say they found guns, jewelry and silverware in a car used by Smith and the other man. Police also recovered \$11,000 in savings bonds, allegedly taken from a Tacoma home almost a month ago.

The pair abandoned the car near Gig Harbor. Police found Smith in the water.

Smith Tower changes hands

SEATTLE (AP) — The Samis Foundation has announced it is acquiring the 80-year-old Smith Tower as part of plans for a redevelopment project in Pioneer Square.

More than half of the Smith Tower, the city's oldest skyscraper, is occupied by King County offices.

The county had considered buying the building for nearly \$7.5 million. But the county decided not to exercise its option, county spokesman Frank Abe said late Friday.

Pearl McElheran, head of the county's construction and facilities management department, said the building needed a fair amount of renovation.

The Samis Foundation, one of the largest private landowners downtown, owns most of the buildings in the Second Avenue block where the tower is located.

Six bidders have won rights to harvest geoducks

OLYMPIA (AP) — Forget fishing, it's almost geoduck time.

Six bidders have won the rights to harvest six quotas of 110,000 pounds of geoducks on state-owned aquatic lands in Kitsap County off Bainbridge Island, the state Department of Natural Resources announced Friday.

The harvest, between Nov. 1 and March 31, will generate \$3.8 million for public aquatic enhancement projects, the department said.

Two of the companies, Sunrise Marine in Steilacoom and Wellington Inc. in Gig Harbor, are from Washington. The other four come from Vancouver, British Columbia.

The geoduck is the largest burrowing clam in North America. It can grow to three feet in length and weigh more than 8 pounds. The clams can be found in marine waters from California to Alaska.

Former police officer enters plea in illegal search

NEWPORT (AP) — A former police officer has entered a modified guilty plea to a charge that he illegally broke into a house without a warrant.

Edward J. Miller entered an Alford plea this week in Pend Oreille County District Court to a charge of unlawful search of a private dwelling. In a plea agreement, a second charge of misdemeanor criminal trespass was dismissed.

The Alford plea means Miller didn't admit to the crime but acknowledged a jury would most likely find him guilty.

Judge Charles Baechler sentenced Miller to a year in jail, with all but 30 days of the term suspended. Miller will be placed on home monitoring during the 30-day term. He was placed on two years of probation.

Prosecutors said Miller broke into Troy Dexter's home without a warrant in October 1995 and used excessive force to arrest him.

Dexter, jailed briefly after the incident, was released when Pend Oreille County prosecutors refused to file felony charges of misdemeanor resisting arrest and obstructing a public official.

Plaque memorializes three women killed at courthouse

SEATTLE (AP) — There's a new plaque at the King County Courthouse memorializing a pregnant woman and two of her friends who were gunned down there last year.

The plaque on the second-floor lobby of the courthouse says:

"In memory of Susana Remerata and her unborn daughter, Phoebe Dizon and Veronica Laureta, who were shot and killed here March 2, 1995, by Susana's husband. There is no excuse for domestic violence."

The bronze plaque was put up Friday to remember the three women, who were shot to death by Timothy Blackwell, Susana's estranged wife. She was eight months pregnant at the time.

The couple had met through a mail-order bride service and were in the middle of a heated annulment-divorce trial.

Blackwell has since been convicted of aggravated murder in the deaths and sentenced to life in prison without parole.



Remember: Join The Main Event.

Grades Down? Not making it to class? Try Lecture Notes as a helpful supplement. Over 30 classes to chose from. CUB 234 9-4 M-F.

ACWSU Senate Meeting Wed. @6:30 in CUB 232. The Monsters are out!

Washington Student Lobby: Meeting Wed. Oct. 30th 7pm. CUB 3rd. Floor Lobby. bring a friend and learn about grass roots lobbying for Higher Education!

Ku-au-mah: (Means Cougar in Nez Perce Language) Meeting Nov. 6th @6pm. in the Native American Student Center. Everyone Welcome!

WANTED!!

Coffeehouse is looking for a few good sound Tech's. Paid position. For more information contact Heather @ 335-4698 or Dick Magruder @ 335-9666

Sport Club Federation: Sat. Nov. 2

Men's "B" Team Volleyball vs USAV Tourney -PEB 144 9am- 1pm.

Men's Rugby Match vs WWU-New Field 11am-1pm.

Spokane Eagles Ice Arena
Fri. & Sat. 10pm-11:30pm.
Sun.
Noon...

Films: Nov. 1st Creature From The Black Lagoon in 3-D at 7pm. Attack of the 50ft. Woman at 9:30pm. Shows only\$2.00 in the CUB Aud.

10/28 Activities Calendar 10/29

M.E.Ch.A.:

6pm.

Monday Night Football
at Butch's Den.

5:30pm. ETF Mtg. 5:30pm. Films Mtg 3rd FI CUB 5:30pm. GLBA Mtg. 6:00pm. WISL Mtg. CUB 232 6:30pm Entertainment Mtg.

