

## TEEN'S 1968 SLAYING

## Detective gives last testimony in state case

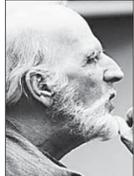
Bowman's ex-wife, DNA led to review

By ERICA BLAKE  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

In the years since Eileen Adams' body was discovered in a Monroe County field in 1968, police pursued hundreds of tips and investigated dozens of potential suspects, a Toledo police cold-case detective said yesterday.

In all those years, only one eyewitness ever linked anyone to the death of the 14-year-old Sylvania Township teenager: Robert Bowman's ex-wife, Detective Bart Beavers said.

Detective Beavers testified in Lucas County Common Pleas Court yesterday about reopening Miss Adams' decades-old murder case in 2006. He was the final witness to testify in the state's case against Bowman, 75, who is charged with murder in the first degree.



Bowman

Specifically, the detective testified he reviewed hundreds of pages of reports generated from Miss Adams' disappearance on Dec. 18, 1967, and from the investigation that followed the discovery of her body on Jan. 30, 1968.

He said he also reviewed a subsequent investigation that began in 1981 when Bowman's former wife, Margaret, went to police with information implicating her husband.

Noting the advancements of science, Detective Beavers said he requested DNA tests on items of the victim's clothing.

With both Ms. Bowman's statement and DNA evidence linking Bowman to a semen stain on the victim's underwear, the Detective Beavers issued a warrant in November, 2006.

Bowman was arrested in California two years later.

Yesterday, Detective Beavers read portions of his report describing two separate interviews with Bowman after his arrest in 2008.

He noted that despite being asked direct questions, Bowman was evasive and said he would not talk about the case.

When confronted in the interviews about DNA evidence that linked him to the victim, Bowman said even if the semen discovered was his, "that doesn't mean I killed



THE BLADE/JETTA FRASER

**Detective Bart Beavers describes the hundreds of pages of reports he reviewed before the trial of Robert Bowman could get under way. He also described painstaking hours spent interviewing Bowman.**

her," Detective Beavers said quoting his report.

The detective then testified that Bowman offered possibilities about how the stain may have gotten on the victim's clothing, including the suggestion that Miss Adams was wearing his wife's underwear.

Detective Beavers noted that during the two interviews, Bowman would often stray from the subject of the investigation.

He said Bowman spoke of evil and vampires, and even referred to himself as "the devil to the devil."

The detective acknowledged that Bowman never made a direct admission and agreed with defense attorney Pete Rost that Bowman often gave "nonresponsive answers that bordered on ridiculous."

Detective Beavers further acknowledged that some of Bowman's statements were in response to prompts from detectives who were attempting to get him refocused on the Adams case.

According to earlier testimony, Miss Adams was last seen in 1967 on a city bus after school as she traveled to her sister's West Toledo home.

She was found in a frozen field with her hands tied in front of her, her ankles tied with a cord connected to her neck, and a nail driven through the back of her skull.

Her head had been hit so severely that the impact had split her skull in half, experts have testified.

Ms. Bowman testified Monday that she discovered a young girl tied up in her basement some time around Christmas, 1967, and that her then-husband threatened her and her newborn baby if she told

anyone.

She further testified he [Bowman] said he was forced to kill the young captive after learning that his wife discovered her.

Retired investigators testified Bowman was interviewed in early 1982 when he was living in a burned-out, abandoned restaurant but that there was not enough evidence to arrest him at the time.

Detective Beavers acknowledged yesterday that the DNA evidence found on Miss Adams' clothing was not compared to other suspects.

And he further acknowledged that not all evidence collected in 1968 was tested for DNA.

Mr. Rost questioned the detective about a list of possible witnesses that Detective Beavers created using police reports over the years.

Of the 241 people listed, Detective Beavers agreed 54 were at one time investigated as "possible suspects" and in fact some had admitted to the crime.

The detective later said all of those names were either cleared through an investigation or no other information linked them to the crime.

And Ms. Bowman was the only witness who linked a suspect specifically to Miss Adams' death, he testified.

Throughout the nearly two-week trial, 16 witnesses have testified on behalf of the state and more than 80 exhibits, including photos, have been admitted into evidence.

The defense is expected to present witnesses today.

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## City

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velop the land. But Mr. Craig and other councilmen objected to the plan and said the funds could be put to better use elsewhere.

"Nothing against Capital Commons. I just think the time has come to pay more attention to our neighborhoods," Mr. Craig told the committee yesterday. "Over 26,000 people have left Toledo in 10 years. That's over 13,000 taxpayers and we need taxpayers to support our city."

Mr. Craig's ordinance, first put forward last week, asked for \$650,000 over two years to go toward building demolitions. The committee yesterday modified the request to \$350,000 for this year. Council is expected to pass the measure Tuesday.

The extra money would allow the city to buy more demolition equipment and destroy about 80 more blighted homes and apartments this year and next, Mr. Craig said. The city has about 400 buildings slated

for demolition in 2011 out of a total list of 600.

More buildings are constantly being added to the list, making it difficult for the city to keep up.

The buildings pose a safety hazard as they are frequent targets for arson attacks and are often havens for illegal activity. Blighted properties also bring down the value of other homes in a neighborhood.

The city's support of the demolition proposal was met with elation among those in attendance yesterday. Several residents and neighborhood advocates stood up to thank the city and councilman for backing the plan.

"This is the first time I'm in front of you guys and not yelling at you," said East Toledo resident Gail Wahl, explaining that she is surrounded by vacant properties and that many people have moved away from her neighborhood because of blight. "We're losing families, we're losing taxpayers. This is a huge step for us to bring back our communities," Ms. Wahl said.

Charlotte Parks, a central Toledo

resident, urged the city not to forget her neighborhood and to prioritize the removal of buildings that pose a safety risk to residents, such as an abandoned home near a school.

"Our neighborhoods need to be taken care of," she insisted. "I would like to see property really in need of coming down to protect our children come down."

Mr. Crothers, meanwhile, said the city would continue to hold discussions with the owners of Capital Commons to come up with a solution for the property.

Mr. Crothers said the owners are Tom Schlachter and Paul Avery, although Mr. Schlachter has assigned his share of the land to St. Francis de Sales High School.

School president, the Rev. Ronald Olszewski, told The Blade recently that St. Francis had been depending on the sale of the land to help pay for an expansion of the school. He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

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## Protest hearing set for Webb at elections office

By TOM TROY  
BLADE POLITICS WRITER

Toledo City Councilman Lindsay Webb will have a protest hearing next week to make the case that she should not be thrown off the Sept. 13 primary ballot, following action of the Lucas County Board of Elections yesterday.

And the elections board postponed action on allowing an unusual candidate switch aimed at restoring Sylvania Township Trustee Neal Mahoney to the ballot.

The board scheduled the hearing for 1 p.m. Wednesday.

Mark Nowak, the Lucas County Republican Party secretary, said Ms. Webb should be decertified because she missed a deadline spelled out in the city charter requiring her to accept her nomination within five days of being notified. Ms. Webb's letter accepting her nomination was received after 12 days.

Ms. Webb blasted the board of elections meeting as "disorder" and said the board had not yet restored the trust of the voters in the election process.

"This is nothing more than a technicality to prevent people of District 6 from having a choice. I intend to fight this. We have significant legal precedent on my side to support me staying on the ballot," Ms. Webb said. "Basically my candidacy is being used as a pawn to try to further an agenda to take control of the board of elections," she said.

She said the intent of the city charter has been met, which was to ascertain whether a candidate is interested in running, because she filed her own nominating petitions and has had campaign signs up since June.

Republican board member Jon Stainbrook, who has not taken an official position on whether she should be allowed to stay on the ballot, said, "The only thing in question is plain and simple — the fact that Lindsay Webb turned her letter in 7 days late. That's all this is."

Mr. Stainbrook aimed criticism at the board's own staff, which, he said, knew that Ms. Webb had missed the deadline but did not notify superiors, which allowed her certification to the ballot. He requested an investigation.

"It appears from the preliminary investigation that two employees suppressed this information for a partisan reason. Someone is on the ballot who clearly should not be on the ballot because she clearly did not comply with the laws of the city charter," Mr. Stainbrook said.

Ron Rothenbuhler, the Lucas County Democratic chairman and the chairman of the four-person elections board, said he spoke to the

two employees and was told that it has been their job to file paperwork but not to be "the police."

"There's been trouble about them making comments to candidates. I think they're caught in the middle based on what you can do and what you can't do," Mr. Rothenbuhler said. He said he wants to hear the arguments of the lawyers next week before taking a stand on Ms. Webb's right to remain on the ballot.

Ms. Webb's Republican opponent, Douglas DeCamp, said yesterday that Ms. Webb violated a clear deadline. "The rule appears to be very cut and dry. It clearly states the letter of nomination needs to be on file five days after receiving the notification," Mr. DeCamp said.

He noted that Democrats accused him in June of a technical campaign violation in a complaint that was filed with the Ohio Elections Commission. The complaint, made by Mr. Rothenbuhler, alleged that Mr. DeCamp had not declared a campaign treasurer, an oversight he said he corrected quickly.

"When it was thought I was in violation of a campaign law, she stated the rules are in place to ensure a fair election process. Now she feels it is just a mere technicality and should be overlooked because the U.S. Postal Service did not deliver her letter the exact same day," Mr. DeCamp said.

Ms. Webb's other opponent, Green Party candidate Sean Nestor, said on Wednesday that her removal from the ballot for failure to meet the city deadline would be "undemocratic" because it is obvious that she intends to run and that she has community support for running.

The board also tabled a vote on whether to allow Mr. Mahoney back on the ballot for Sylvania Township trustee as the substitute for another candidate who has withdrawn. Mr. Mahoney was decertified in July because he had withdrawn his candidacy and refiled. A new ruling from the Ohio Secretary of State prohibited candidates from refiled for the same office in the same election.

Sylvania Township resident Jack Jolley filed as a candidate last week and then withdrew, and his campaign committee submitted Mr. Mahoney's name in his place. Board lawyer John Borell, assistant Lucas County prosecutor, said he is waiting for guidance from the Ohio Secretary of State's office to know whether a candidate who has not yet been certified — Mr. Jolley — can withdraw and be replaced by a candidate who has already been disqualified.

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## Lourdes

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the past quarter-century — including Bluffton University, the University of Findlay, and Tiffin University. Heidelberg University made the shift in 2009, though the school was called a university from 1889 to 1926.

"It felt like our set-up and our organization was trending more toward the university than the college," Lindsay Sooy, Heidelberg vice president for enrollment management, said.

Lourdes plans to expand its recruitment area, as the school projects the Toledo market to continue to contract. School officials hope the university moniker aids in that recruitment, though Ms. Sooy said Heidelberg experienced negligible results when the name changed.

Lourdes has filled an educational niche in the Toledo area since it was founded in 1958, serving as a small-campus, intimate environment alternative to the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University.

Mr. Helmer insisted that Lourdes isn't on a path to discard that niche for unending expansion. The school's master plan calls for enrollment goals to cap at 3,000 students; the school has about 2,700 undergraduate and graduate enrollees, he said. Class sizes will remain small.

"We have such a commitment to this personalized education," he said. "You can't do that if you get too big."

And so the signs on campus have changed and a new name will be officially adopted today, but the core of Lourdes, Mr. Helmer said, will remain.

— Nolan Rosenkrans

## Science

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Apple Tree Nursery to celebrate the program's launch.

Dr. Jacobs pointed out the numerous partners involved in the grant application and program, including TPS and Toledo Catholic schools. "Partnerships are what strengthen a community," he told about 50 people assembled for a news conference.

Starting in the program's second year, summer institutes will be con-

ducted to train 495 teachers, principals, and directors working in at least 50 community-based early care and education programs and 300 K-3 classrooms.

"Science is oftentimes not taught in early grades," said former elementary teacher Charlene Czerniak, UT professor of curriculum and instruction.

According to the most recent Ohio Department of Education proficiency tests, for the 2009-2010 school year, 49.8 percent of TPS fifth-graders tested proficient in science, compared with a state average of 69.9

percent. Fifth grade was the earliest grade at which science was tested.

The program includes seven annual community science events for about 10,000 families through partners such as the Toledo Zoo, Imagination Station, and Challenger Learning Center for Lucas County in Oregon.

Families, for example, could attend a family night at Toledo Botanical Gardens where children will learn how plants grow and parents will get materials to take home, said Ms. Czerniak, the lead investigator for the program. Those materials

could include a book about how plants grow, as well as potting soil and seeds to use to grow plants at home, she said.

Parents who have financial need will be given memberships to places such as the zoo and Imagination Station, as well as TARTA bus passes, so families can continue scientific endeavors, Ms. Czerniak said.

Miss Kaptur congratulated UT for winning the grant, which will bring various decision makers together, and stressed the importance of science.

On another note, Miss Kaptur said

she was disappointed business leaders have not stepped up to save Libbey High School. The building should be transformed into a multi-use center with housing, Owens Community College classes, a health center, and other services instead of being demolished, she said.

"I refuse — I refuse — to let that neighborhood have that kind of a vacuum," said Miss Kaptur, adding she hopes leaders will emerge to apply for funding to save Libbey.

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## TPS

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tance labs. Students at the five other sites can see the teacher on large flat-screen TVs in front of their classes. To answer and ask questions, they hit a microphone button in front of them, transmitting to all locations.

In the back of all rooms are more TV screens so the teacher can see all his students. The cameras can zoom onto the student asking questions, focusing the teacher's attention.

"It's a very exciting time for the district," assistant superintendent Brian Murphy said. "This technology takes us into the future."

The distance labs at least partially address the lack of AP and language courses offered to students at Scott High School, a source of criticism for the district from central-city groups. Language offerings will triple at Scott with the labs, and AP courses will double, TPS chief academic officer Jim Gault said.

In the past, district officials had said schools such as Scott had few AP courses because there wasn't enough

demand. The district wasn't going to dedicate teachers to classes with only a handful of students.

But now, a handful of students at six schools turns into a full distance lab class.

And the district isn't just expanding the supply of advanced level courses. New programs at Woodward and Scott are focused on getting more C-level students to take advanced courses, in hopes they are better prepared for college when they graduate.

So far, about 250 students have signed up for the lab classes, district

officials said. All told, the lab program cost the district about \$750,000, paid for out of the capital improvement budget.

The distance labs are part of the district's transformational plan, and they're not the only major changes this year. In the plan, all middle and elementary schools will open Aug. 29 as K-8 schools.

The shift of middle school students back to neighborhood schools could limit course offerings for the students, so TPS is expanding its early high school program. Now, seventh and eighth-graders who enroll

in the program will take most of their classes at their home schools but will be bused to a high school at 1:30 p.m. every day. They'll take two high school-level courses — such as algebra, world studies, or foreign languages — then get bused back to their home schools.

The hope is that students who took early high school classes will later want to take AP and advanced classes in high school, thus creating more demand.

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