

this only one of many events which occur in the Detroit Police Dept. wait until you receive my report in December 1981

The Detroit News

This is why Detroit is known as the Chicago of the World..AND IT IS MY OPINION THAT A WOMAN who becomes Mayor in Detroit..will clean it up...(To Be Continued)

October 4, 1981

100th YEAR NO. 43

Sunday

3 officers suspended

Sex-with-prisoner scandal jolts police

By Jim Tittsworth
News Staff Writer
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In a case that no one at Police Headquarters will talk about openly, three Detroit policemen were ordered suspended two months ago — after a hearing on formal charges that they regularly released a willing female prisoner from her cell for partying and sex.

Two of the officers admitted taking the female prisoner to a house party. When the officers received a call to answer a shooting run, they took the prisoner and another woman on the run with them. At Ford Hospital, where the officers went to interview the shooting victim, one of the women accompanying the officers passed out and had to be treated.

A couple of days later, the woman prisoner said, she was taken to breakfast at a restaurant across the street from headquarters — after being cautioned to be discreet.

A MUCH MORE serious allegation by the prisoner, Gayle York, was scrubbed by departmental investigators and was not among the charges filed against the officers with Police Chief William Hart, who suspended them at a chief's hearing July 29.

This was an allegation that one of the officers (all three were then assigned to the homicide section) opened homicide files in front of her and told her that a reputed drug dealer she was scheduled to testify against in court, Ted Tyrone Poole, had beaten other charges because witnesses, against him were killed.

CYNTHIA SKEENS: While in protective custody, she introduced Gayle York to suspended officers.

When she was eventually called to testify against Poole in Recorder's Court, Ms. York refused, pleading the Fifth Amendment. Without her testimony, the prosecution had no case and Poole went free. OCT. 7 1981

MS. YORK, according to internal information uncovered by The News, was introduced to the suspended officers — Sgt. Jerome Grant and police officers William Dildy and Karyl Holliday — by another woman housed in the same headquarters lockup, Cynthia Skeens.

Monday, October 5, 1981

Ms. Skeens was not a prisoner but was in protective custody. She was the key witness in one of Detroit's most notorious murders: The three beheadings at the Michigan Federated Democratic Club for which Frank Lee Usher, regarded as one of the city's major drug dealers, is serving life in prison.

Ms. York was once described in court as a heroin addict.

The case against the suspended officers is curious for several reasons:

1. Although a police matron heard about the alleged activities early in 1980, the investigation was not completed until last summer because Miss York was uncooperative.
2. Ms. York did not initiate a complaint about the suspended officers; she said she agreed willingly to give them sex if they would take her out of her cell when they could, to relieve her boredom.

THE INTERNAL investigation

was begun instead by a woman sergeant assigned to the cellblock, who heard about the arrangement between Ms. York and the officers. When Ms. York finally signed a citizen's complaint against the officers, she adamantly refused to sign a criminal complaint because a trial would embarrass her mother.

At one point, the whole investigation was set aside because Ms. York refused to cooperate.

3. After she finally talked with departmental investigators, Ms. York was given a lie detector test about her association with the officers, including her story that she had sex with them in return for privileges.

She passed the test, according to internal departmental information.

However, for some reason, she was not asked during the lie test about her allegation that, the first time she was released from her cell and taken to homicide, she was served alcoholic drinks there by Holliday and Ms. Skeens.

4. The head of the police division that investigated all the allegations would not say whether her story that homicide files were opened to her was tested via the lie detector.

HART REFUSES to discuss

the case — he won't even say which of the three officers were suspended by him for what length of time. The chief says he is prohibited, under union contracts, from discussing the

case because the three officers who deny sexual contact with the prisoner have appealed the findings of guilt to a trial board.

A trial board cannot increase a sentence handed down by the chief but it can reduce one. No date has been set for the trial board hearing.

The suspensions are being held in abeyance pending the appeal. Grant and Dildy remain assigned to homicide. Holliday, who was transferred to the 10th Precinct, is on sick leave.

The central figure in the case is Ms. York, 29, who was held for 15 months in the eighth floor women's lockup at headquarters.

SHE HAD BEEN arrested in July 1979 for having set up the robbery of an acquaintance, Walter Keating, 50, a manufacturer's representative and the son of a former General Motors vice-president. Keating told police that Ms. York knocked at the door of his East-Jefferson apartment and that when he opened it, she and two men walked in.



CHIEF WILLIAM HART

They tied him up, Keating said, stripped the apartment of jewels and art, and left.

Ms. York was arrested and pleaded guilty. She agreed to testify against the others and for that reason was held in Detroit rather than being sent to a state prison immediately.

ACCORDING TO Recorder's Court records, Miss York was held on the eighth floor of Police Headquarters, rather than in the Wayne County Jail, for her own protection.

The records are unclear as to whom she was being protected from.

The trials of the others took months to get to. In addition, Poole eluded arrest for months. Meanwhile, Ms. York remained in the lockup.

Living in another cell in the same lockup, for safeguarding, was Ms. Skeens. She was waiting to testify against Usher, whose trial was stretched out by two appeals.

TO: Ambassador, Lebanon, The Chancery, Wash. D.C.

As proof of what I had reiterated in my first letter back in Jan. 1981.. **AUTOPSY-STATE OF MICHIGAN..1981** in which I had made charges against the Detroit Police, here is the evidence which appeared in the Detroit News.. and proves exactly what I was referring in my first letter in which the D/Sgt. had entered my office unlawfully when I was in jail.. and he took the phone nos. from the cards of my patients..and the patients who were called by a certain party, identified as the D/Sgt. as their phone nos. were unlisted.. As I am canvassing all my patients to learn whom he called and why.

As I have the evidence he tried to date my receptionist who is a wife of a policeman..and exactly why I had her there as he tried to date her..

And my letters to Chief Hart..last year are now evidence and proof of how the collusion took place

As he told all he contacted to keep his name out of any investigators..and not to say anything.

And the patients are prepared to testify on my command..and no one else.. Plus the items he stole from the office (Continued)-T.R.

charge of the armed robbery unit of the Police Department. Ms. Skeens was a witness under control of the Homicide Section.

BECAUSE SHE was not a prisoner, Ms. Skeens' relationship with police was a little different than Ms. York's — and she spent a lot of time on the fifth floor of headquarters in the homicide section, then under the command of Inspector Robert Hislop.

Ms. York and Ms. Skeens became acquainted in the lockup and, according to information turned over to Hart, Ms. Skeens told officers she knew in homicide that Ms. York was upstairs and, as the months dragged on without Poole's arrest, "getting a little stir-crazy."

Just prior to Christmas 1979 Ms.

York told an internal investigator she was approached by Holliday. She said he asked her if she would trade sex for privileges he could provide.

During the next few days, she said, Grant and Dildy made the same proposition.

IN ADDITION, she said, the Homicide men told her that — although armed robbery was not their jurisdiction — they could help her get an easier sentence on her robbery conviction.

Ms. York, according to confidential information, agreed to the arrangement.

Grant told investigators later that Ms. York was brought to Homicide from the lockup with Ms. Skeens about five times; he said he saw nothing wrong with this. The first time, according to statements from Ms. York, was the evening of Dec. 21 or 22, 1979, when Dildy took her and Ms. Skeens from the lockup and down to homicide.

There, she said, they met with Grant and Holliday. She said Holliday and Ms. Skeens took whiskey from a filing cabinet and whived it mixed it with soft drinks.

THE WHOLE PARTY left the headquarters building some time that evening, she said. But they go no farther than the gasoline pump behind headquarters. Ms. York said the officers got cold feet about taking her out of the building because she was an armed robbery unit prisoner, not a homicide prisoner.

Ms. York said Holliday took her back to homicide, where he suggested sex. She said she willingly obliged him in an interview room.

Hart was told that Ms. York was unable to fix the date these things happened because she was drunk.

It was the next evening, she told investigators, that the three officers brought her back to homicide and Dildy showed her Tyrone Poole's file card; telling her that Poole had stood trial for murder twice, one trial ending in a mistrial and the other dismissed because two witnesses had been murdered.

MS. YORK TOLD investigators from the Professional Standards Section that she became extremely frightened when Dildy told her these things.

Ms. York was not called to testify against Poole until March 6, 1981, and she took the Fifth Amendment.

"I don't know why she wouldn't testify," said David Higbee, the

who handed the robbery case. "She was our key witness."

There is evidence that Ms. York was already frightened of Poole. She had testified in Recorder's Court on July 17, 1979 — five months before the beginning of her association with the Homicide officers — that she set up the robbery of Keating because Poole had threatened to kill her if she didn't make "big money" available to him. Insp. Dorothy Knox signed the charges against the three homicide men in her capacity as head of the Police Department's professional standards section, after investigation by Sgt. Carol Roketa.

Roketa is on vacation and unavailable for comment.

KNOX WOULD SAY only the allegation about homicide being opened to a prisoner could not be substantiated. Asked whether that allegation was explored when Ms. York underwent her lie detector examination, she said, "You'll have to ask the court."

Ms. York said that the same evening Dildy showed her Poole's file card, he promised her that he would take her out of her cell anytime he worked the afternoon shift in homicide. Ms. York said she then engaged in sex with Dildy in the homicide section.

Subsequently, Ms. York said, Dildy took her from her cell and brought her to homicide so she could — in a visit arranged by homicide officers — meet a woman friend; a violation of regulations.

CHRISTMAS CAME a few days later and Ms. York said she was driven by Grant and Dildy to the party at Ms. Skeens' grandmother's house on the east side. She said Ms. Skeens, escorted by two other officers, was already at the party.

Ms. York said she and Ms. Skeens drank and smoked marijuana in the company of the officers.

The partying was interrupted when Grant and Dildy, who were on duty, were ordered on a homicide run — and they admitted they took the two women on the run with them, in police cars.

According to Ms. York, they allegedly told the women that if anyone became curious they were to reply that they, too, were police officers. The officers denied telling the women that.

When the two officers and the two women arrived at the emergency room of Henry Ford Hospital to interview a shooting victim, Ms. Skeens fainted and fell, or slipped and fell, and had to be given emergency first aid herself. She was told her blood pressure was low, according to departmental information.

BUT THE RUSE held through all that and Ms. York said that, on the way back to headquarters, the officer she was riding with, Grant, parked his police car in a field. Then, after some conversation about her problems with the law, they had sex in the police car.

On the Sunday after Christmas 1979, the homicide officers checked, Ms. York and Ms. Skeens out of their cells and took them across the street to Zorba's for breakfast, Ms. York said.

The arrangement... riding Ms. York around in a police car and allowing Ms. York an unauthorized visitor.

Holliday was charged with immorality with Ms. York and neglect of duty for failing to notify his superiors that Dildy had released Ms. York from her cell without proper notification and good reason.

Budz's partner, Sgt. John Turney, who was in charge of the case against Ms. York, was told and he caused a commotion.

Turney checked with the lockup and found that Ms. York had once been checked out by someone in homicide and was not returned to



INSP. DOROTHY KNOX: Open-file allegation not substantiated.

her cell until the next day. When Turney demanded an explanation, he told investigators, homicide could not give him a good reason.

TURNEY WAS outraged, sources said, because he felt Ms. York had been put in danger by the officers who took her out of the headquarters building.

Grant, who sources said was given the longest suspension by Hart, 30 days, was charged with immorality (having sex with Ms. York); permitting an unauthorized person (Ms. York) to ride in a police vehicle; and with three counts of neglect of duty: Failing to record on an official log his contacts with Ms. York removing her from the cellblock and the building for no official purpose and for allowing her an unauthorized visitor.

When he was interviewed by departmental investigators, Grant denied that drinking or sex took place in homicide. He denied having sex in the police car after the run to Ford Hospital. He said he knew that Ms. York and a friend visited in the homicide section but he said he did not know who arranged the visit.

He denied advising her on her armed robbery case.

HOLLIDAY AND Dildy were suspended by Hart for 20 days each, according to sources.

Dildy was charged with immorality with Ms. York and with four counts of neglect of duty: Failing to record contact with Ms. York, taking her out of the cellblock without telling the officer in charge of the lockup, failing to report Grant for

riding Ms. York around in a police car and allowing Ms. York an unauthorized visitor. Holliday was charged with immorality with Ms. York and neglect of duty for failing to notify his superiors that Dildy had released Ms. York from her cell without proper notification and good reason.

Dildy admitted to departmental investigators that he was present when Ms. York met alone in homicide with her friend. He denied that any drinking took place in the homicide offices and he denied having sex with Ms. York.

HOLLIDAY SAID he saw Ms. York in homicide on two occasions. He denied every allegation by Ms. York having to do with him and he said he knew nothing about the Christmas party.

Grant and Dildy were contacted by The News but refused to discuss the matter. Holliday could not be reached. After her refusal to testify against Poole, Ms. York was sentenced to three to five years in a state prison for the robbery of Keating. The sentence was handed down in May by Recorder's Judge Michael Sapa-ly but it was not until October 1980 that she was transferred from the Police Headquarters lockup to state custody.

She is now in a limited-security prison facility for women.

As I had been told by the authorities to render my complaint to the Internal Affairs of each police Dept. involved..

And as you re-read the article in Free Press Mar. 1981.. those names mentioned are the ones in charge of Internal Affairs. And thusly I learned.. that is the reason why there is cover up (More later)