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## ATM Crime & Security Newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 12

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## KEY EVENTS NATIONALLY

### Understanding and Combatting ATM Crime

- 1) National Study Shows 65% of Arrested Male Robbers Test Positive For Drugs - The data for calendar year 1991 on drug use among arrestees in America was released by the National Institute of Justice/Drug Use Forecasting Program in December of 1992 (see Bonus A). Data were collected from 24 testing sites across the United States. A total of 1,519 male robbery arrestees were tested for drug use at the time of their arrest. Nationally, 65% of these robbery arrestees tested positive for any drug at the time of their arrest, among the highest rate of drug use of any type of offense. Editor's Note: Although ATM robbery as a subcategory of robbery was not analyzed, data from the larger category provide a useful estimate of the involvement of drug use among ATM robbers.
- 2) Bank Administration Institute Announces Day-Long ATM Security Seminars in Dallas, Chicago, LA and New York - Bank Administration Institute has announced four day-long seminars for banking professionals dealing with ATM security. The goal of the day-long seminars, which will be taught by some guy from the Midwest, will be to develop an ATM security plan for financial institutions, including tracking ATM crime incidents, compliance with ATM security laws and regulations, ATM customer safety education and establishing an ATM site survey and lighting evaluation plan (see enclosed prospectus). These seminars will be offered May 20 in Dallas, June 3 in Chicago, June 10 in Marina del Rey, California, and June 17 in New York City.
- 3) TYME Network Takes Major Steps to Strengthen ATM Security - Following its convening of an ATM Security Task Force in March of 1992, the Wisconsin-based TYME Corporation's board of directors has received recommendations and has approved a comprehensive list of internal and external security requirements that a participating financial institution must observe before operating an ATM.

Central to these TYME ATM security improvements is the Network's adoption of Operating Rules regarding ATM security which will require each ATM site to be considered for:

1. Visibility of the ATM from the street
2. Existence of "blind spots" within the ATM enclosure
3. The need for a card access door opener into an ATM enclosure
4. Lighting levels around the ATM and up to 50 feet away from the machine
5. Lighting in the nearest ATM parking area
6. Regular monitoring of lighting levels
7. Posted tips for consumer safety
8. Usefulness of surveillance cameras
9. The incidence of violent crimes and ATM-related crimes in the area immediately around the ATM, as reflected in the records of local law enforcement
10. TYME members will have to perform a terminal safety evaluation annually and certify compliance with Network rules.
11. In addition, customers will be given printed information about safe use of ATM cards and ATM machines.

TYME President Jim Martin said the Network has also produced a new ATM customer safety statement stuffer and is preparing Tyvek ATM card jackets with safety tips printed on them.

In addition, TYME is about to produce an ATM security training program for instruction of bank employees about ATM crime and security issues. Karen Howlett of TYME [(414) 355-0300] indicates a 20-minute computer graphics-based multimedia production on ATM site security is slated for completion before July 1993.

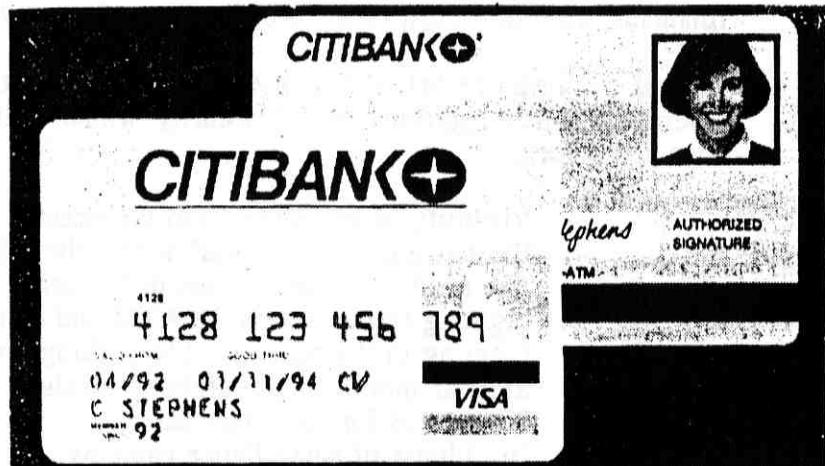
Also part of TYME's security upgrades are the revision of its pioneering network "Security Issues and Considerations" manual.

The Network also is planning a day-long seminar for its members on September 28, 1993 to update them on a variety of issues involving ATM crime and security countermeasures. Finally, TYME plans to devote more of its internal newsletter space to consideration of safety issues.

Editor's Note: With the publication and adoption of this package of Network operating rules, ATM security policy, training materials and customer safety education materials, the TYME Network has pioneered a new level of network attention to security problems and solutions. The policies, guidelines, and security materials produced seem certain to be a model for other networks and financial institutions to follow. A copy of some of these TYME documents will be appended to the Newsletter when they are available in final form.

4) Citibank's Use of Embossed Photo on Credit Cards Results in 60% Drop in Card Fraud

- In spring of 1992 Citibank became the first major issuer of credit cards to offer a photo of the cardholder embossed on the reverse side of the mag-stripe card (see April 1992 Newsletter, Item #22). About 600,000 to 700,000 New York cardholders were early participants in the Citibank trial program, according



**New look in credit cards**

Photo/Citibank

to Charles Peterson of Citibank in New York [(516) 391-2309]. Peterson reports approximately a 60% drop in fraud on the photo-embossed credit cards. The customer's photo is fused into the plastic on the reverse side of the card, making it difficult to remove and replace, although Peterson reports some crude attempts to do so have been made. The cost of adding the embossed photo to the credit cards thus far has been

absorbed by the bank. This cost has been recouped by the decrease in fraud loss. Peterson said the Citibank photo-embossed credit card program will expand to most major cities in 1993. Editor's Note: The implication for improved ATM card security here is obvious.

- 5) Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Recipients Will Receive Same Protections as ATM Cardholders - The future of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) as a growing vehicle of electronic funds transfer remained untarnished after the Federal Reserve proposed January 7 that EBT recipients receive the same protections against fraudulent and unauthorized withdrawal of funds from EBT accounts as ATM customers receive via Reg. E on their bank accounts. Banks currently are required to cover all customer losses from ATM card theft over \$50 if the loss is reported within two days, and over \$500 if the loss is reported within two months.

Few welfare recipients, on the other hand, have bank accounts and instead cash the government benefit checks mailed to them at check cashing stores and currency exchanges in their neighborhood, sometimes paying premiums of up to 20% of the value of the check. If a benefits check is lost or stolen from the mails, the government will replace it. Distribution of monthly welfare benefits by ATM promises to be a cheaper and easier way to get benefits to recipients who cannot afford to keep a minimum balance in a checking account or who lack bank branches in their poor neighborhoods. Seven states currently offer limited EBT services, and twenty others plan to start EBT programs in the near future. In another decision for EBT, the Fed also said it will not require monthly statements for EBT accounts which receive benefits via ATM. ([Arlington Heights, Illinois] *Daily Herald*, January 8, *Reuters News Services*).

- 6) "Dark Skies Ambiance" of Exclusive Rancho Santa Fe Challenges California's ATM Lighting Law - The Association of the exclusive village of Rancho Santa Fe, California (north of San Diego) says the covenant regulations of its association, designed to keep exterior lighting at a minimum to preserve the village's "dark-skies ambiance," is in conflict with California's state ATM security lighting law. Association board member Richard Bender said, "We've had the covenant in place since the 1920's. The ambiance. . . is very sacred to our community." The Association fears that allowing an exception to the covenant's rules will open the door to others who wish to implement high-wattage outdoor lighting.

Editor's Note: California's state ATM security law [Assembly Bill 244, California Code Chapter 825] specifies that the law will "supersede and preempt any rule, regulation, code, statute, or ordinance of any city, county, city and county, municipality, or local agency regarding customer safety at automated teller machines in California." The Ranch Santa Fe Association argues that its covenant's darkness requirements, coupled with the fact that Rancho Santa Fe is not legally a city, exempt it from the California ATM lighting law.

Complicating the situation is the fact that the Wells Fargo Bank and the Union Bank in Rancho Santa Fe went ahead and complied with the 1990 state ATM lighting law without seeking prior approval from the Rancho Santa Fe Association. Bank of America, however, chose to meet the Association head on, and put in a formal request for a waiver of the Association's rules. The Association's board gave B of A permission to temporarily install the lighting, and gave all four banks 90 days to compile data on ATM use in Rancho Santa Fe after banking hours. Based on that information and upon a communitywide survey, the Rancho Santa Fe Association board will decide whether it

should bend the rules for ATM lighting in its village. (*San Diego [California] Union Tribune*, December 4, Pascale Le Draoulec, reporter).

- 7) New ATM Scam Puzzling at One New York Chemical Bank Branch - Investigators so far are puzzled at how a new scam at the Chemical Bank branch at 400 - 2nd Avenue (at 23rd street) is being perpetrated. The scheme involves taking money from a customer's account via ATM without using a cash card. Several victims have reported being ripped off at this one bank branch.

One man who lost \$500 in mid-November states he entered the bank's ATM area at about 7:30 p.m. He noticed there was a man ahead of him who appeared to be having a problem with his ATM transaction. The suspect was speaking on the bank helpline phone, apparently talking with a bank official about his problem. When the victim approached the machines the suspect said to him, "It's not working." The victim then moved over to the adjacent available ATM and withdrew \$100, completed his transaction and left the bank. Weeks later, when his bank statement came in the mail, the victim noticed a \$500 withdrawal just minutes later on the same date at the same bank from the other ATM. Police and bank investigators say they're not sure just how the theft occurred. An investigation is ongoing. Other victims have reported losses of \$370, and other cash amounts at that one branch's ATMs. (*Town and Village [New York, New York]*, December 3).

### ATM Security Legislation

- 8) Georgia Passes Statewide ATM Security Law - A bill to establish statewide minimum ATM security standards, which was proposed by the Georgia Bankers Association, passed both houses of the Georgia Legislature in mid-March. Georgia Governor Zel Miller is expected to sign the bill into law within the next two weeks, and make Georgia the third state (after California and Nevada) to have such ATM security requirements. Georgia Bankers Association Vice President David Williams [(404) 522-1501] reports that impetus to pass a comprehensive New York-style ATM security bill was growing after several recent ATM-related crime tragedies in Atlanta during the last six months. Lawmakers were preparing to introduce a stringent resolution for ATM security precautions to the Fulton County commissioners. Once the demanding ATM security bill was approved in Fulton County, it would likely have been presented to the Atlanta Regional Commission for similar adoption, which would have expanded the bill's scope to ten Georgia counties in the metropolitan Atlanta area.

The Georgia ATM security bill was appended to a larger banking bill passed by the Georgia legislature. The relevant portion (Chapter 8) is included as **Bonus B** in this issue of **ATM Crime And Security Newsletter**. Key features of the bill include:

- California-style outdoor ATM lighting requirements (Ten candlefoot power at the face of the ATM extending outward five feet, and two candlefoot power within fifty feet of the ATM.)
- Consideration of "the presence of landscaping, vegetation or other obstructions in the area of the remote service terminal, the access area, and the defined parking area. . ."

- Consideration of "the incidence of crimes of violence in the immediate neighborhood of the remote service terminal as reflected in the records of the local law enforcement agency. . ." and
- Customer safety education.
- The commissioner of the Department of Banking and Finance is empowered to enforce the provisions of this bill, and is empowered to make all necessary rules and regulations for carrying out the intent of this bill.
- "This [bill] supersedes and preempts all rules, regulations, codes, statutes, or ordinances of all cities, counties, consolidated cities and counties, municipalities, and local agencies regarding customer safety at remote service terminals. . . . All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed."

- 9) Jersey City, New Jersey Council Tables ATM Security Ordinance Which Is Clone of New York City ATM Law - The City Council of Jersey City, New Jersey received a proposed ordinance December 22 which would duplicate the ATM security requirements of nearby New York City in Jersey City. The bill (see **Bonus C**) was authored by Councilmember Bill O'Dea and is virtually a word-for-word clone of the demanding New York City ATM security law. The Jersey City ordinance would require adequate lighting, surveillance cameras, transparent windows, reflective mirrors and surfaces and consumer safety warnings. Similar to New York City law, the Jersey City ordinance also calls for the formation of a Task Force of bank representatives and city officials to examine the possibility of a controlled access door mechanism for ATM vestibules, and a report of Task Force findings within one year.

Councilmember O'Dea said the proposal was "in response to a growing number of criminal incidents at these (ATM) sites."

The Jersey City Council postponed a vote on this ordinance in order to consider a statewide plan for ATM security regulations, which was being proposed by the New Jersey Bankers Association (see following item). The Jersey City bill's sponsor, Bill O'Dea, said, "I think we can wait to adopt this ordinance if it means we can implement these recommendations throughout the state." O'Dea called the New Jersey Bankers Association commitment to establishing statewide ATM security standards "a victory in itself." (*Jersey Journal* [Jersey City, New Jersey], December 22 and January 26, Bill Campbell, reporter, front page story).

- 10) State of New Jersey Receives ATM Security Bill - On March 9, the New Jersey Senate received Bill 530 (see **Bonus Section D**), which would require the installation of video cameras and recorders at all ATMs in the State of New Jersey. The Commissioner of Banking would promulgate rules and regulations to implement this law. Editor's Note: The statewide New Jersey bill is obviously of much more limited scope than that which is proposed in Jersey City. The state bill also does not feature a "supersedes and preempts" clause at this point. (*Jersey Journal* [Jersey City, New Jersey], January 26, Bill Campbell, reporter, front page story).
- 11) New York City ATM Security Law Quietly Goes Into Effect February 13; Door Technology Task Force Convenes - The comprehensive New York City ATM security

law (Intro 82-A) which was signed into law by Mayor Dinkins August 13, 1992 quietly went into effect on February 13. Although formal inspection of New York City ATM security sites for compliance has not been done, one council observer said the obvious changes, such as addition of reflective mirrors, improved lighting and guards in some cases are being observed around town.

Meanwhile Mayor David Dinkins and City Council Speaker Peter Vallone announced the appointments of the members of the Automated Teller Machine Advisory Task Force, a committee that will review the need for banks to install ATM card-specific door poppers on ATM vestibule facilities in New York City (see **Bonus E** in this Newsletter). The Task Force will be chaired by Stanley Grayson, former New York City Deputy Mayor for Finance and Economic Development. The Task Force consists of 15 members, including representatives from banking, security, and public safety as well as the city council and community board representatives. Michael Levine, father of slain NYPD Sergeant Keith Levine, and the law's sponsor, Walter McCaffrey, have also been named to the Task Force.

City Council Speaker Peter Vallone said the Task Force will "also provide valuable research and guidance as we seek to do what's feasible for both the banks and public." The first meeting of the Task Force was February 2. The Task Force wants to collect data from vendors about the technological feasibility of the ATM card-specific door popper requirement included in the New York City ATM Security Law. The Task Force will be polling technology providers regarding door lock technology possibilities. Chair Stanley Grayson said the Task Force "wants a result which is reasonable and practicable." One Council observer at the first Task Force meeting said it was a "congenial meeting, but some of the old arguments about the pros and cons of the door lock were heard again." (*The Western Queens Gazette* [Astoria, New York], January 6, Hugh Bracken, reporter; *The Bay Side* [New York] *Times*, January 7, Sheila Borgstrom, reporter).

- 12) ATM Crimes Reported to NYPD Fall in 1992 - A City Council source reported recently that the total of reported ATM robberies to the NYPD for calendar year 1992 was significantly less than the number reported in calendar years 1990 and in 1991. The frequently-cited numbers of ATM crimes reported to NYPD during the New York City Council's deliberation about the ATM Security Law were:

NYPD reported ATM crime incidents in 1990 = 366

NYPD reported ATM crime incidents in 1991 = 377

But the preliminary reckoning of the number of

NYPD reported ATM crime incidents in 1992 = 278.

Editor's Note: This represents a decrease of about 25% in NYPD-reported incidents in 1992. This preliminary 1992 calendar year tabulation may be revised, but any significant change in ATM crime incidents reported to NYPD in 1992 seems unlikely to be caused by early compliance with the ATM Security Law's provisions.

- 13) Florida ATM Security Bill is Not Introduced - Despite earlier indications that the Florida Bankers Association would be introducing a comprehensive ATM security proposal in the current Florida legislature (see October/November 1992 Newsletter, Item #16), this does not appear to be taking place during the current session. Diane Carr of the Florida Bankers Association in Tallahassee [(904) 222-6923] reports that although a detailed bill

had been crafted by the Florida Bankers Association in cooperation with the Honor ATM Network and other Florida Banks, it will not be introduced in this session.

### ATM-Related Litigation

- 14) The Article, "Evaluating the Outcome of Litigation For Negligence at Bank ATMs" Included in Bonus F - An article in the January 1993 *Security Journal* by New York attorney Mark B. Rosen, "Evaluating the Outcome of Litigation For Negligence at Bank Automated Teller Machines" summarizes legal concepts related to negligent security litigation, including duty, breach of duty, cause, proximate cause and damages related to ATM negligent security. Mr. Rosen also describes possible defenses, plaintiffs' general and specific discovery plans and makes recommendations regarding defense of ATM negligent security lawsuits. This article is reproduced in **Bonus F** with permission of Mr. Rosen and Butterworth Heinemann Publishers.
- 15) Full Text of Illinois Appellate Court Dismissal of Negligent Security Lawsuit Against Chicago's Cash Station Network Included in Bonus Section - The full text of the class action negligent security lawsuit against Chicago's Cash Station Network, styled "Cecilia E. Popp... v. Cash Station, Inc., and bank participants.... No. 1-90-0321, Appellate Court of Illinois, First District," is included as **Bonus G** of this Newsletter. The text appears as the decision was first issued on December 4, 1992.

Gilbert Marchman, Clerk of Appellate Court, the recorder's office of the Illinois Appellate Court, advises the decision has been returned for revision and it is unknown when the revisions will be completed. However, the original text of this decision is included herewith, with portions of greatest interest noted in the margin for your ease in reading this document.

### Major ATM-Related Crime Incidents

- 16) 19-Year-Old Woman Slain Christmas Night at Atlanta Area Drive-Up ATM - Michelle Murillo, 19, was approached about 7:30 p.m. Christmas night at a Decatur Federal drive-up ATM in Doraville, Georgia, less than two miles from her home. Ms. Murillo had planned to deposit \$95 in cash, according to her uncle. The cash was not recovered, and police confirmed that no ATM deposit was made. Murillo was shot once in the head with a .38 caliber handgun through the open driver's side window of her car. Gunpowder was found on the outside of the driver's door. Ms. Murillo's car backed up about thirty feet after the shooting and came to rest against a curb. When police arrived, the car was in reverse and Ms. Murillo was dead. The accompanying sketch was produced by enhancing an ATM security camera photo of the shooting suspect, and was released by police about two weeks after the murder.

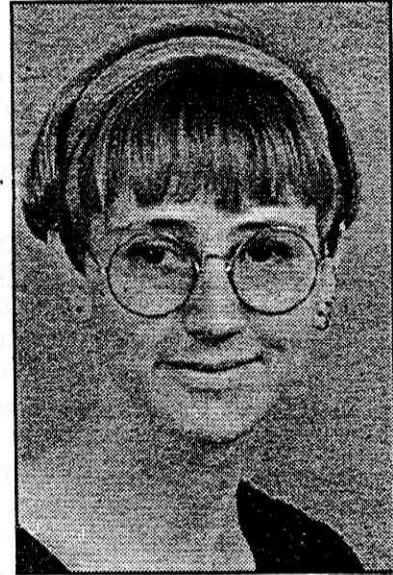
Ms. Murillo was single, worked as an assistant manager at the Kmart store across the street from the bank, and had left her house about 6:30 p.m. on Christmas night to pick up four wine coolers and a bottle of Mountain Dew at a convenience store. She then stopped at the bank where the murder occurred. A Doraville police lieutenant said typically there are three to four ATM robberies per year in that city. This is the first in recent memory that resulted in a homicide.



**Sketch  
of suspect**

There have been several violent incidents involving ATMs in the metro Atlanta area in 1992. In January, a 23-year-old Atlanta man was shot as he struggled with an armed attacker. In March, four women were taken from their homes in the metropolitan area to ATMs on Old National Highway and told to withdraw money. Two of these victims were raped. All of these incidents have built pressure for better ATM security in the metro Atlanta area. (*Atlanta Journal/Atlanta Constitution*, December 27, Dennis McCafferty, reporter; and December 31).

- 17) Young Female Artist Believed Carjacked and Slain in Trenton, New Jersey -- ATM Camera Provides Photo - Kristin Huggins, 23, disappeared on Thursday, December 17, en route from her Lower Makefield, Pennsylvania, home to a job painting a mural at the Trenton Club in Trenton, New Jersey. Police believe Huggins was murdered after being carjacked, but have not been able to find her body. Ambrose Harris, 40, was arrested for the crime on December 27, carrying a .22 caliber handgun. On the afternoon Huggins disappeared, two teenage drug dealers allegedly were given a ride by Harris in Huggins' stolen red Toyota MR2. During the ride, the teenagers reportedly heard Harris brag, "I just killed a white girl." Harris also allegedly told the youths he kidnapped her in a carjacking just as she arrived at the Trenton Club at 9:30 that morning. Harris never told the youths directly that he shot Huggins, but Harris did show them a .22 caliber handgun while driving them around.



Harris was released from Trenton State Prison in July 1992 after serving 13 years for robbery, assault and weapons offenses, and was being held in jail on \$50,000 cash bail in connection with a separate rape charge filed over an incident on Christmas night.

Huggins' Money Access Card was used at least once after her disappearance and produced an ATM camera photo. The ATM camera image shows a man, thought to be Harris, with a frustrated look on his face, probably because no cash was dispensed to him without Huggins' PIN number. The dark, blurry surveillance picture was sent to the FBI for photographic enhancement. In the photo's background was a car that might be Huggins'. ([Trenton, New Jersey] *Trentonian*, January 21, Paul Mickle and Judy de Haven, reporters; January 21, Dave Goldiner, reporter; January 22 and 28, Paul Mickle, reporter).

- 18) Young South Carolina Woman Slain Near Her Home Three Days After Her Wallet and ATM Card Were Stolen - Shannon Jones, 20, was about to get into her car in front of her home in Easley, South Carolina at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 3, when she was struck about five times in the head with a blunt instrument. Her mother told police she heard a noise and looked out the window of the apartment and saw her daughter lying on the ground near her car. Shannon Jones was unconscious and died less than 24 hours later at a local hospital.

Just three days before the attack, Ms. Jones reported her wallet containing her ATM card was taken from her car in front of her home sometime between December 28 and December 31. She told police the car was locked and the vehicle's burglar alarm did not go off. She also reported three ATM withdrawals were made with her stolen ATM card at American Federal Bank on December 31. Two of the withdrawals were for \$40, the third was for \$200. American Federal officials have turned over all information - including ATM videotapes - to the Easley Police Department.



Shannon Jones

Police arrested Lemone Anderson, 30, of Easley with three counts of financial transaction card fraud, one count of financial transaction card theft and one count of auto break-in. He was released on bond Tuesday, January 5. Anderson is not a suspect in the murder of Shannon Jones at this time. (*Easley [South Carolina] Progress*, January 6).

- 19) Knife-Wielding Masked Men in Kansas City Abduct, Rob, and Torture Woman For ATM PIN Number - Two masked men, one armed with a knife, confronted a woman about 10 p.m. in a parking lot outside her Kansas City apartment as she was coming home from work. One man, armed with a knife, forced her back into her white 1989 Chrysler convertible and drove away. The accomplice followed behind in a separate vehicle. The men stole her credit cards and bank cards, and demanded her PIN number. The robbers bound the woman with duct tape and forced her to ride in the trunk. The robbers stabbed her repeatedly in her chest, jaw, and left and right thighs. They occasionally stopped to demand her PIN number. When she refused, they stabbed her again. The masked men also threatened to kill her.

One of the robbers tried unsuccessfully to use her credit card at an ATM in midtown Kansas City. The robbers got out of the victim's Chrysler about 12:30 a.m., and tried to set the car on fire with the victim still in the trunk. After the robbers fled, a witness called for help. Firefighters rescued the woman after hearing her pounding on the trunk. The robbers also slashed the woman's throat and pierced her larynx. She was treated at the hospital and recently was released. (*Kansas City [Missouri] Star*, January 1, John North, reporter).

- 20) Third Trial is the Charm in California ATM-Related Homicide: Two Men Found Guilty - The third trial of two men, Paul Nicholson, 27, and Michael Goldsberry, 22, in the September 8, 1991 murder of Valentin Montesdeoca, 43, was successful in getting a guilty verdict. Both men face life sentences without parole after their convictions on first degree murder and robbery. One of the men's friends was told by the men that they had beaten up a man for his ATM card and were in possession of the man's card and wallet.

The body of Montesdeoca was discovered on the afternoon of September 8, 1991 in a drainage ditch. The key to Goldsberry's hotel room was found embedded in the victim's back during an autopsy. Montesdeoca was last seen late in the evening of September 7, perhaps leaving the El Charro bar in Palmdale. It is believed he was beaten and forced to disclose his PIN number. The men convicted of the murder were observed by other ATM customers using an ATM card to pilfer Montesdeoca's bank account.

The first trial of the men ended in a mistrial last August when jurors admitted they had read a newspaper article about the case. A second trial early in December also ended in mistrial because the judge failed to give defense attorneys the correct number of peremptory challenges to which they were entitled in juror selection. (*Antelope Valley Press* [Palmdale, California], December 23, Mary Beth Alexander, reporter).

- 21) Philadelphia Teen Convicted of Murder of Rick Barbour, Jr.: Gets Additional Prison Time - Yerodeen Williams, sentenced to life in prison last April for his murder of Assistant Burlington County (New Jersey) Prosecutor Rick Barbour, 27, received an additional 10 to 20 years in prison on December 30 on charges related to the robbery and homicide. The additional term was imposed for conspiracy, forgery, and gun charges.

Eight sheriff's deputies ringed the courtroom, braced for a possible outburst by the defendant. When sentenced in April, Williams, 18, erupted in a torrent of curses and screamed at the jurors. At the December 30 sentencing, Williams remained composed. Defense counsel for Williams argued for a new trial on the basis that Williams' trial attorney was ineffective. Judge Eugene Clark, Jr., denied the defense request for a new trial. (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 31, Linda Loyd, reporter).

### ATM Service Team Incidents

- 22) 20-Year-Old ATM Servicer Suspected of Faking Robbery to Cover Theft - Long Beach, California detectives arrested Eugene Miller, a 20-year-old ATM servicer who earlier had reported he was robbed while working on an ATM. Police suspect Miller faked a robbery in order to cover up his part in an ATM cash theft. Miller was arrested Thursday, December 17, along with three others: Salamo Fonoti, 25; William Moreland, 21; and Pusa Noa, 23. No further details were available. ([Long Beach, California] *Press-Telegram*, December 19).
- 23) Two Former ATM Servicers Among Three Arrested in Attempted Robbery of California ATM Service Team - A joint investigation by the FBI and Escondido, California police into a November 27 attempted ATM service team robbery at a Wells Fargo branch in Oceanside, California, revealed that two of four suspects arrested, Daria Zarrabi, 25, and Brian Lee Flaherty, 23, were former employees of a company that serviced ATMs. Those two men, along with a third suspect, Steven Charles Jones, 25, were charged with attempted bank robbery, conspiracy, and aiding and abetting. In the November 27 service team attack, an ATM technician shot a fourth suspect, Fred W. Walko, who survived his gunshot wounds. (*San Diego Union-Tribune* [California], December 28).
- 24) Two Female ATM Servicers Robbed Near Baltimore - Wednesday morning, December 30, about 8:45 a.m., a single gunman robbed two female Maryland National Bank tellers as they prepared to fill an ATM at a branch in Catonsville, Baltimore County police said. The robber was described as a 5'10" black male with a slender build wearing blue jeans, jacket, and a red shirt. He fled the scene on foot. The amount of the loss was not disclosed. ([Baltimore, Maryland] *Sun*, December 31).
- 25) California Man Wearing Fake Beard and Mustache Arrested Just Before Robbing ATM Servicer in Safeway Store - About 6:05 p.m., Wednesday, December 30, a Safeway store security guard in Santa Rosa noticed a man standing near the ATM machine, carefully watching a technician who was unloading it. The security guard, a reserve police officer in Sebastopol, was suspicious because the man appeared to be wearing a fake beard and

mustache as a disguise. As the security guard went to notify the store manager, the suspect walked up behind the ATM servicer who quickly slammed shut the door of the machine. The would-be robber then fled and the security guard chased the man into a nearby field and held him at gunpoint until police arrived. The man, Kevin Cravea, 23, of Napa, was arrested on suspicion of trying to rob the ATM servicer, and possession of a handgun. ([Santa Rosa, California] *Press-Democrat*, December 31).

### Theft of Entire ATM Machines

- 26) Theft of Kansas City Convenience Store ATM Cryptically Noted - Two men walked into a 7-11 store in downtown Kansas City, Missouri at 4:32 a.m., Thursday morning, December 31. The cryptic newspaper report stated simply the men "walked out with an automatic teller machine." No further details were available. (*Kansas City [Missouri] Star*, January 1).
- 27) Maryland Burglars Cut Hole in Roof of Safeway to Steal ATM at 1:30 A.M. - A team of experienced burglars cut a hole in the roof of the Prince Frederick, Maryland Safeway grocery store about 1:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 24, and cut a 1,000 pound ATM from its mounting in the wall where it was chained, and then removed it out the grocery store's back door. Police estimate it took less than 20 minutes for the thieves to get the Chevy Chase ATM machine out of the store after cutting the chain that secured it to the floor.

A silent alarm was set off the minute the chain was cut at 1:30 a.m., but confusion delayed the law enforcement response. "The alarm came in off an ATM from Dares Beach Road" said an investigator for the Sheriff's Department. "Everyone automatically thought it was the [Calvert] Bank [and Trust] and responded there." Added to the delay was the fact that the ATM's silent alarm went through a private security firm before being relayed to the local 911 control center. By the time police figured out the alarm was coming from the Safeway Store ATM, both the suspects and the ATM were already gone, but apparently only by a couple of minutes. A newspaper delivery person for the *Baltimore Sun* was there. He said he had just seen someone inside run to the back of the store. The police canine unit responded but could not locate anyone. Then a police helicopter was dispatched but was unable to respond.

The burglary suspects destroyed the front office wall inside the Safeway where the ATM was mounted, using a saw to cut the ATM away from its mounting. There was sawdust and debris everywhere. In the sawdust were substantial foot and handprints, including a shoe print insignia "Nuclear."

About 4:05 a.m., an attendant at a Texaco gas station across the street saw a man walking toward the Safeway, who abruptly turned and ran in the woods when he saw two police officers in the Safeway still conducting their investigation. Police flooded the area and located James Edward Knapp, 33, in the woods at 4:30 a.m. When police found Knapp, they asked him about the incident. He denied any involvement. He told police that he was in the woods "staying away from the cops." When arrested, Knapp was wearing tennis shoes with the insignia "Nuclear" on the bottom. Knapp was charged with felony breaking and entering, malicious destruction of property and theft over \$300. Knapp has at least eight prior convictions, including breaking and entering and burglary with explosives. Police believe at least three or four other people were involved in the ATM machine theft.

A Safeway public affairs manager stated "this incident did not disrupt business at all. It just inconvenienced the ATM clients. But you can access the same type of transactions through our MOST machines at the checkout stands so there shouldn't be any problems." Editor's Note: Thus there appears to be another [hopefully very infrequently used] benefit to POS in grocery stores. ([Prince Frederick, Maryland] *Calvert Independent*, January 27, Angela Walters, reporter, front page story; and the [Prince Frederick, Maryland] *Recorder*, January 27, David Ropiski, reporter, front page story).

### Attacks On ATM Machines

- 28) Maryland Woman Beats Cash Machine - Shortly after noon on Saturday, December 5, a 32-year-old Annapolis woman, Victoria Sims, became enraged that the Farmers National Bank ATM swallowed her card. Police were called to the bank by employees who tried to explain to Ms. Sims that she couldn't get her card back until the ATM was opened on Monday. Police found Ms. Sims loudly cursing the machine and shouting that she had \$200 in her account. One officer asked her to quiet down, and she picked up a plastic brochure holder that was next to the ATM and began beating on the machine. Glass on the machine was broken, allegedly causing \$1,200 damage to the machine. Ms. Sims was arrested and charged with destruction of property, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. ([Annapolis, Maryland] *Capital*, December 7).
- 29) Georgia Burglar Damages ATM With Pry Tool On Christmas Eve - About 11:52 p.m., Thursday, December 24, a burglar damaged the ATM at Moultrie National Bank in Moultrie, Georgia. Apparently totally lacking Christmas spirit, the burglar was attempting to break into the ATM by using a prying tool. No cash was lost. No further details were available. (*Moultrie* [Georgia] *Observer*, December 28).
- 30) Rochester, Minnesota, ATM Drilled - A customer reported to officials of Marquette Bank in Rochester, Minnesota's Apache Mall that the drive-up ATM had a hole drilled into it. The ATM was still functioning, there was no cash loss and no further details are available (see following photo). ([Rochester, Minnesota] *Post-Bulletin*, December 28).



Phil Belghley/The Post-Bulletin

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### **ATM Camera Success Stories**

- 31) **ATM Camera Nails Maine Man in Ten-Minute Crime Wave** - On Wednesday evening, November 18, a man allegedly tried to commit three crimes during a ten-minute "crime wave." Jeffrey Scott Place, 25, turned himself in to police on Friday, December 24, when he learned via a Crimestoppers TV broadcast that police were looking for him. At 8:05 p.m., Place allegedly grabbed a woman and threatened to "blow her head off." She fought him off twice and escaped. A few minutes later, Place forced a male victim into the Fleet Bank ATM behind the bank's main office in Portsmouth, Maine. He

ordered the victim to withdraw \$250. The victim asked to see Place's gun, then turned and shoved Place against the wall. Again, the victim was unharmed and Place ran off. During this incident, the bank's video ATM camera captured the robber's image. In the third and final crime, Place allegedly grabbed a woman near the Piscataqua Savings Bank and asked her what time it was. He again (unsuccessfully) demanded money.

The ATM camera photo from the second crime later was broadcast on New Hampshire Crimestoppers on November 28. Before the Crimestoppers program was over, someone had called the police with information. All three crime victims later identified Place as the suspect in photo lineup. (*Portsmouth* [New Hampshire] *Herald*, December 5, Larissa Pawula, reporter, front page story; [Manchester, New Hampshire] *Union Leader*, December 5).

- 32) Four Murder Suspects in Los Angeles Located With ATM Photos and Are Convicted of Five ATM Robbery-Murders - Two men and two women were convicted on multiple murder charges Friday, December 18, in a series of credit card and ATM robbery-murders that terrorized the suburban San Gabriel Valley in 1991. Two of the victims, both middle-age women, were kidnapped from shopping malls and were found shot to death along freeways. One male victim was kidnapped near a bank and killed. A second male was abducted from his car and killed, and a third man was killed at his restaurant. The defendants, John Irving Lewis, 22, Vincent Hubbard, 27, Eileen Huber, 21, and Robin Machuca, 27, all lived together in West Covina, and were located through ATM camera pictures taken when three of them used a victim's bank card to withdraw cash from an ATM. ([Pleasanton, California] *Valley Times*, December 19).
- 33) Minneapolis ATM Camera Photo Leads Police to Serial Rapist Believed Responsible For 14 Sexual Assaults - A serial rapist who terrorized the Twin Cities was arrested after what is believed to have been his 14th sexual assault. The suspect, a Mr. Baugh, was located after his girlfriend, Corina Laramee, was photographed by an ATM surveillance camera using a cash card belonging to the 14th sexual assault victim. Ms. Laramee allegedly withdrew \$120 with the stolen credit card, and was identified by the public after police gave her picture to the news media. Her arrest led police to the arrest of Baugh's brother and cousin. Baugh himself, hunted tirelessly around the city, turned himself in three days later. (*Star Tribune* [Minneapolis, Minnesota], January 28, Kevin Diaz, reporter, front page story).
- 34) Iowa Man Pleads Guilty to Stealing Checks From the Mail After ATM Camera Captures Photo - George Sykes, Jr., 40, pleaded guilty in federal court February 2 of stealing mail from a post office delivery vehicle, and of depositing one of the checks for \$1,143 at an ATM at the National Bank of Waterloo. Sykes allegedly tried to withdraw money from the account four times, but was unable to because the amount requested was more than the daily dollar withdrawal limit allowed. Sykes was photographed by the ATM's camera and was later identified by that photo. (*Des Moines* [Iowa] *Register*, February 4, Jack Hovelson, reporter).
- 35) ATM Camera Provides Important Clues in Hit and Run Injury of Pedestrian Outside of Convenience Store in Fort Lauderdale, Florida - Broward Community College student Scott Holmquist was crossing the street from the Boca Cabana Restaurant where he worked as a waiter on an errand to a nearby convenience store when he was struck by a passing car and was seriously injured. Holmquist had been asked by his employer to get a gallon of milk from the convenience store across the street. The driver of the hit and run vehicle left the scene before a license number could be obtained.

Two hours after the accident, a man who repairs the ATM camera stopped in the store and learned of the hit and run. He suggested looking at photos from the ATM, which faces the street. Holmquist was not using the ATM, and was not even in the convenience store where the ATM is located, but the continuously-activated ATM camera recorded the hit and run incident in the background during its usual operation. In three pictures, the camera captured Holmquist crossing the street. The car could not be seen clearly in the pictures, but investigators are planning to enhance the images, hoping they will lead to a suspect. ([Fort Lauderdale, Florida] *Sun-Sentinel*, January 6, Jim Di Paola, reporter).

- 36) Florida ATM Camera Photos Nail Man on Probation Using Stolen Credit Card - The Monroe County (Florida) Sheriff's Office received a complaint from a bank credit card holder who said his account was billed \$1,300 for withdrawals charged to his card from ATMs during August and October. The man claimed he had never received the card or the PIN number that were supposed to have been mailed to him. Police detectives contacted the banks and got ATM camera photos of the person who withdrew the money.

The pictures were identified by a local probation officer as being of a man he was supervising, Jose Manuel, 34 years old. When Manuel was interviewed, he admitted using the card. He denied, however, that he had stolen it. He said it was given to him by someone named Omar, who told Manuel he had authority to use the card to get money to collect a gambling debt. Manuel said he took money out for Omar and received a payment for getting the cash. Manuel was charged with fraudulently obtaining a credit card, fraudulently using a credit card and receipt of money through false use of a credit card. (*Miami [Florida] Herald*, December 24).

- 37) California Police Officer Honored For Solving Abduction and ATM Robbery of Elderly Women - Perris, California police officer Jay Johnson was honored by local authorities for his work in solving a September 30 abduction and robbery of two elderly women. A robbery suspect abducted the women, drove them to Perris and forced one of the victims to withdraw cash from an ATM at Household Bank. The ATM surveillance camera captured a photo of the suspect, which was given to the Perris Police Department.

On the morning of October 10, Officer Johnson responded to a vehicle theft call. The reporting party matched the description of the suspect in the robbery and abduction case. In fact, Johnson noted, the suspect was wearing the same clothing as shown in the surveillance photo. Johnson arrested the man, and was commended for his activity. (*Perris [California] Progress*, December 30).

- 38) Two Men Identified As Suspects in Bay Area Abduction, Robbery and Murder Via ATM Camera Photos - On Tuesday evening, December 8, Francia Young (see photo at right) was abducted near the McArthur BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) station as she was getting into her car on her way home from work in San Francisco. Her assailants forced her into the back of the car, drove her to a nearby regional park and fatally shot her, escaping with her purse and the car, which they later crashed and abandoned. The men were photographed by a Wells Fargo Bank ATM camera later that evening (see photo below). As a result of



the publication of these photos in several newspapers and on Bay Area television,

Hayward police located Henry (Rooter) Glover, 18. During questioning he admitted that he was involved in Young's killing. The next day, as police widened their search and calls poured in from people with information. Keith Tyson Thomas, 19, surrendered to Oakland police. He told investigators that he saw his picture in the paper.



**Oakland police** are asking for help in identifying this man, photographed by a security camera at a Wells Fargo Bank ATM Dec. 8.

Police said based on eyewitness accounts of the abduction, the two men who were seen

throwing the screaming woman into the trunk of her car and driving away at a high rate of speed, matched both the physical and the clothing description that the suspects in the ATM camera photo were wearing when they used her ATM card shortly after she was kidnapped. A key tip that lead to the arrests came from Keith Thomas' mother, who saw the publicized photo of her son using Young's stolen ATM card and called police. (*San Francisco Examiner*, December 22, Don Martinez, reporter; *The San Francisco Chronicle*, December 29, Peter Fimrite and Yumi Wilson, reporters; and the [Fremont, California] *Argus*, December 30, Cecily Burt, reporter).



## IN THE NORTHEAST

- 39) Massachusetts Man Quickly Arrested After ATM "Snatch and Run" Robbery - About 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 22, a man walked up behind a 33-year-old woman at a Bay Bank ATM in Ashland, Massachusetts, and grabbed from her hand \$30 she had just withdrawn. The man jumped into a car and headed to a nearby highway. The victimized woman got the getaway car's license number, and police stopped Marvin Jones, 25, about half an hour later in a stolen vehicle. Jones was charged with the ATM robbery by Ashland police. (*Middlesex News* [Framingham, Massachusetts], December 23).
- 40) Erie, Pennsylvania Man Carjacked at 3:30 A.M., Makes Forced ATM Withdrawal, Is Stabbed, and Sees Perpetrators Arrested Two Hours Later - About 3:30 a.m., Sunday, November 22, James Carideo, 28, was leaving an after-hours nightclub in his car, when

a man approached him at a red light and jumped into his car on the passenger's side. The intruder displayed a knife and forced Carideo to drive to an ATM, where Carideo gave him less than \$40. "He wanted more, but I pushed the wrong PIN number on purpose and the machine ate my card. I told him I could not give him any more money." Carideo was then forced to drive to another location where he was told to leave his car. Carideo asked, "What do you want my car for? Why are you going to take my car?" Then the man lunged at Carideo and stabbed him in the upper chest. Carideo ran to a nearby convenience store where he asked clerks for help.

Investigating police realized that Carideo's address was in his car. A patrol car drove by his residence and saw two men sitting inside Carideo's vehicle. Erie police arrested Melvin Edmunds, 32, and questioned and released the second man, 29, who is not believed involved in the incident. (*Erie [Pennsylvania] Morning News*, November 23, Kevin Flowers, reporter).

- 41) Bat-Swinging Teenager Strikes Out in Attempted ATM Robbery in Pennsylvania - About 9:40 p.m. on Thursday night, December 3, a Mr. E. Hass had returned the his car after withdrawing money at the ATM at Progress Federal Bank in the Valley Forge Shopping Center in Upper Merion Township. Hass was approached by a teenager who broke the driver's side window and demanded cash. When Hass refused, the youth reportedly began to beat Hass on the head with the bat. The bat-wielding would-be robber fled the scene and was followed by Hass and a witness, who obtained the suspect's vehicle license number.

Police traced the suspect's car and learned that the car owner's son, Michael Gittoes, admitted driving the car at time of the attempted robbery. Gittoes and another man, Butch Smith, were in the car, but claimed they had no knowledge of the intentions of their third companion, Stephen Pinder, 18, when he grabbed the bat from under the back seat and attempted the robbery. ([Norristown, Pennsylvania] *Times Herald*, December 29).

- 42) Philadelphia Man Robbed at ATM and Abducted - Just before 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, Peter DeLuca, 41, had withdrawn \$200 from a MAC machine at the Woodhaven Mall in Bensalem, when he felt the barrel of a pistol pressing against the back of his head. The gunman took the \$200 just withdrawn and ordered DeLuca to make an additional withdrawal, but DeLuca was unable to complete the second transaction. When another customer pulled up to use the ATM, the gunman forced DeLuca into his car, and a second unarmed robber also got into DeLuca's vehicle. As DeLuca drove away, one of the robbers kept saying, "Shoot him, go ahead," and the other said, "No, he's cool, he's cool." During the terrifying drive, the robbers took DeLuca's wallet, a moneyclip holding \$25, his glasses, a gold necklace, a wristwatch, his business cards, and his boots. The robbers let DeLuca out of his car and drove away with his 1976 Chevrolet Malibu. ([Trenton, New Jersey] *Times*, December 12, Peter Page, reporter).

- 43) Two Thieves Rob Mother and Daughter Near New Jersey ATM - Monday evening, November 16, a mother was sitting in her car outside the Howard Savings Bank in South Orange, New Jersey, while her daughter was using the ATM. A young teenage male approached the mother and put a metal object at the back of her neck, demanding that she shut the car off and hand over the keys. Meanwhile, the robber's accomplice, a second teenage male, approached the daughter and took her ATM card and cash. The

thieves fled on foot. The ATM card was recovered later by police. ([Maplewood, New Jersey] *News-Record*, November 25).

- 44) Outraged Citizens Assist Police in Hammering Gun-Firing ATM Robber in Trenton - About 9:10 p.m., Friday, November 27, a car with five people in it pulled up to use an ATM outside National State Bank in Trenton. Marilyn Silva, the driver, got out to make withdrawals from the ATM. Passenger Mary Bush also was returning to the car when she was confronted by an armed man who demanded money. Bush refused, got back into the car and the armed man threatened one of the other occupants of the vehicle, again demanding cash. Ms. Silva drove quickly away, and the gunman fired one shot at the car, shattering the rear passenger side window.
- A group of neighbors who had witnessed the attack attempted to come to the victims' aid, but the armed man fired two more shots at the neighbors. A Trenton police officer on patrol was flagged down by witnesses to the crime who pointed out the suspect, later identified as Anthony Austin Hall, 24. Hall allegedly pointed his handgun at the officers and threatened to kill them and began to struggle with them. During the struggle, officer Martin Chell dropped his gun on the ground and it discharged. A neighbor became concerned for the officer's safety, and threw a hammer to Chell, which Chell used to strike the suspect on the right arm, forcing him to drop his gun. Police recovered Hall's gun, which they said contained two live rounds and three spent shells. Hall was charged with several offenses, and was in jail in lieu of bail. ([Trenton, New Jersey] *Times*, November 29, Emily J. Hornaday, reporter).
- 45) New Jersey Man Robbed at ATM, is Abducted and Taken to Home of Friend, Who Also is Robbed - About 11:00 p.m. on Monday, November 30, an 18-year-old who had just withdrawn \$20 from an ATM at the Midlantic Bank in Newark was confronted by a man believed to be Eric Staton, 23, who ordered the victim to withdraw all of the money from his account. Staton allegedly told the victim "he was going to die," if he did not withdraw the remaining \$18 in his account. Staton then allegedly took the victim's 1992 Ford Taurus and ordered the victim to follow him in the car Staton had been driving. The two vehicles drove to the nearby home of a friend of the victim, where Staton allegedly robbed that 20-year-old man of \$40. Staton was also charged with a second unrelated armed robbery and aggravated sexual contact. ([Newark, New Jersey] *Star-Ledger*, December 9, David Schwab, reporter).
- 46) New Jersey Woman's Screams Foil ATM Robber - About 4:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 22, Margie Rodriguez, 21, was using an ATM at Chemical Bank in Vineland, New Jersey. Rodriguez had placed her cash withdrawal in her car and was reaching back to the ATM to retrieve her card and receipt when a man grabbed her arm. She began to scream, and managed to break free and drive off. The man fled on foot. Rodriguez was not injured. ([Vineland, New Jersey] *Daily Journal*, December 23).
- 47) Two 14-Year-Old Delaware Youths Arrested For ATM Robbery - On Thursday, November 19, Delaware State Police detectives arrested two 14-year-old Wilmington boys in connection with a November 9 ATM robbery at a First State Plaza branch. Jeffrey Bullock and Brian Cammile were each charged with first degree robbery and second degree conspiracy. The two were stopped by a trooper at a nearby mall for an unrelated reason, which lead to their arrest and charging in the ATM crime. (*Delaware State News* [Dover, Delaware], November 25).

- 48) Delaware Woman Robbed at ATM on Sunday Morning - About 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 15, a woman using a MAC ATM in Delmar, Delaware was approached by a man as she got out of her car to use the ATM. The man forced the woman to make two cash withdrawals, then fled with the cash. The woman was unharmed. No further details were available. ([Seaford, Delaware] *Leader*, November 18).
- 49) Maryland Woman Robbed and Knocked Down at ATM - About 8:45 p.m., Friday, December 4, Bernadette Pritchett, 26, had just withdrawn more than \$300 from the Talbot Bank ATM in Boston, Maryland when two men knocked her to the ground and stole her money. The men fled the scene in a blue van. Pritchett was treated for minor injuries and released. ([Easton, Maryland] *Star-Democrat*, December 7).
- 50) Maryland Woman Flees Robbers, Leaves Her Cash in ATM - About 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, a 39-year-old Monkton woman was withdrawing cash from an ATM when two men approached her. One of the men displayed a gun and demanded her cash. The woman fled immediately on foot, and the two men grabbed the money that was beginning to be dispensed by the machine. The men fled the scene on foot. ([Towson, Maryland] *Baltimore Messenger*, December 23).



## IN THE SOUTH

- 51) Two Female ATM Robbers Arrested by Maryland Police - Tuesday, December 8, at 4:45 p.m., a 36-year-old man using an ATM at the Burtonsville Shopping Center in Rockville, Maryland, was approached from behind by two women who placed a hard object in his back and told him it was a gun. The women demanded the man's cash, which he gave them. A witness observed the robbery and recorded the license number of the female suspects' car. Howard County police arrested Donita Smith, 26, and Tarsha Henderson, 22, both of Baltimore, and charged them with the robbery. (*The Rockville [Maryland] Gazette*, December 16).
- 52) Two Baltimore Area ATM Robberies Detailed - A 21-year-old Randallstown man drove up to a Maryland National Bank ATM about 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8. As he returned to his car he noticed two men in an Oldsmobile had pulled up next to his driver's side door. As the ATM customer was getting into his car, the two men jumped out of the Oldsmobile, pulled a gun and demanded the victim's cash and brown wool coat. The two thieves then fled in their car.

In a separate incident, a Homeland man had just finished using an ATM at 2:31 p.m. on Friday, December 11, when he was approached from behind by a robber, who pulled a gun on him and demanded cash, which the victim gave the robber. The robber then fled on foot. (*Baltimore Messenger* [Towson, Maryland], December 16, Leslie Rice, reporter).

- 53) Charlottesville, Virginia Man Sought in Four ATM Robberies at One Machine - A single suspect (see photograph at right) is being sought by Charlottesville, Virginia police as the man who robbed four people of about \$2,000 in four separate attacks at a single NationsBank ATM on Barracks Road over a six-month period. The first robbery occurred on June 9 at 9:30 p.m., when a store manager was robbed of money she was about to deposit by a man with a gun. On October 18 at 4:30 p.m., a man was robbed at gunpoint of cash he has just withdrawn from the ATM and additional cash he had in his account. On November 10, a customer at the same ATM was robbed of cash after he placed it on the counter near the ATM at about 1:45 p.m. On November 19, cash was snatched from the hand of a man who had just made an ATM withdrawal. This victim was then threatened with a gun and told to withdraw more cash, but the robber was scared away by a passing car. ([Charlottesville, Virginia] *Daily Progress*, November 25, Anita Kumar, reporter).



- 54) Man Jailed For August Attempted ATM Robbery - William Kenneth Howard, 34, of Manassas, Virginia, plead guilty to attempted larceny in an August 9 attack on a woman at an AmeriBanc ATM about 6:00 p.m. Howard asked the woman for a ride, and the woman refused. Minutes later, as the machine was dispensing \$10, Howard grabbed the woman's arm and tried to take her money and ATM card. Howard fled after the woman fought free and ran to her car. Manassas police arrested Howard minutes after the attempted larceny after he was spotted running away from the scene. In a written confession Howard stated, "I, Ken Howard, smoked PCP ..., five big joints with a friend ... then I ran across the street [and] I tried to steall (sic) money from a lady. Then I ran down by Manassas Mall and I fell into a ditch and then a police officer arrested (sic) me." Howard was on probation for indecent exposure, and reportedly attempted suicide in jail. (*Potomac News* [Woodbridge, Virginia], December 24, Mike Fuhrman, reporter).
- 55) Virginia Woman Thwarts Robbery of ATM Deposit - Sunday evening, December 20, a woman making an ATM deposit at First Virginia Bank was confronted by a man who tried to grab her deposit envelope as she put it into the machine. The woman fought with the man, and was able to make the deposit before the would-be thief could grab her deposit envelope. ([Manassas, Virginia] *Journal Messenger*, December 21).
- 56) Man Robbed of \$450 At Virginia ATM - About 7:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, December 12, a visiting Massachusetts man was walking away from an ATM at Crestar Bank in Woodbridge, Virginia when he was approached by a pickup truck. A man got out of the vehicle, displayed a weapon and demanded \$450 from the ATM customer. The robber emptied the victim's pockets of cash, threw the wallet on the ground and left. (*Potomac News* [Woodbridge, Virginia], December 14).
- 57) Memphis Man Shot and Killed in His Driveway, Believed Followed From ATM - About 12:45 a.m., Sunday, December 27, James Gary Taylor, 38, was shot to death in the

driveway of his home in Memphis, Tennessee. Taylor and his wife Cathy, 37, had stopped at a First Tennessee ATM on their way home from a hockey game to get money to pay for their babysitter. Mrs. Taylor believes the two armed men who accosted her and her husband followed them the quarter-mile from the ATM to their home.

After the couple parked their car in the garage behind their home, they were walking up the driveway "when the first guy approached me with a gun in my face. 'Give me your money,'" Cathy Taylor quoted the robber as saying. She gave him her purse and fled to a neighbor's house. "When I was going through the (neighbor's) front yard, I heard the shot," Mrs. Taylor said. The murder came four months after police made four arrests they said cleared a string of 52 similar holdups in which victims were robbed while getting out of their vehicles upon returning home from stores and other places. Because of computer problems, police could not say whether the four men arrested in the earlier driveway robberies were still in custody. (*Memphis [Tennessee] Commercial Appeal*, December 28, Tom Bailey, Jr., reporter, front page story).

- 58) Nashville Newspaper Columnist Details His ATM Mugging and Stabbing - Dolph Honicker, a copy editor for the (Nashville) *Tennessean*, wrote a detailed first-person account of his midnight Tuesday, October 6, robbery at an ATM. Honicker lost \$26 and was stabbed in the chest. Honicker had just used a NationsBank ATM, and was confronted by two men who took his wallet and the \$20 the machine had just dispensed. He drove himself to a nearby hospital at speeds of more than 100 miles an hour. A postscript to the article notes that the NationsBank ATM and drive-in facility at 100 Oaks where the incident occurred, have been closed. The closure of the facility was planned long before the October 6th mugging of Honicker, according to the article. (December 7).
- 59) Information Sought in Two Greensboro, North Carolina ATM Robberies - Two separate robberies which occurred at a NationsBank ATM are the focus of a Greensboro police investigation. On October 13, a man approached a customer and demanded the cash just withdrawn from the ATM, and then demanded a second cash withdrawal. The same *modus operandi* was used in a November 23rd attack in which the robber threatened to kill the victim. (*High Point [North Carolina] Enterprise*, December 23).
- 60) South Carolina Ski Mask Robber Busted by Undercover Police Stakeout - At 2:30 a.m. on Wednesday, December 2, Brent Truesdale, 18, was arrested wearing a ski mask while following an undercover police officer up to an ATM. The officer laid a money bag on the counter of a kiosk ATM and began faking a transaction. Truesdale got out of his car and was peeking at the officer from behind the ATM booth when he was arrested for attempted robbery. There have been at least four ATM robberies in the area during the past few months. (*Columbia [South Carolina] State*, December 3, Bob Stuart, reporter).
- 61) South Carolina University Student Followed From ATM and Shot in Back - A 19-year-old South Carolina State University student reported he went to the First National Bank ATM in Orangeburg, South Carolina a little after midnight on Wednesday, December 9, to check his bank balance. He noticed a dark car in the parking lot as he completed his transaction. A man in the car called to him as he walked away from the ATM, but the student continued across the street and the car began to follow him. The student began to run when someone exited the car and began chasing him. The student looked back, saw a handgun and felt a stinging sensation as he dived to the ground. The victim walked back to his residence and was taken by his roommate to a nearby hospital where a doctor removed what appeared to be a .38 caliber bullet that had lodged under his skin.

Police believe the student was shot because the suspect intended to rob him. (*Orangeburg* [South Carolina] *Times and Democrat*, December 11, Sue Poole, reporter).

- 62) Charlotte Cab Driver Robbed of \$50 by "Police Officers" - Brian Allen McGreevy, 35, said he was sitting in his taxicab in Charlotte, South Carolina about 3:00 a.m., on Thursday, December 17, when two men walked up, identified themselves as police officers and got him out of his cab. The two men took him to an ATM, had him withdraw \$50 in cash and give it to them, and then left. McGreevy said they called the \$50 a "fine." ([Rock Hill, South Carolina] *Herald*, December 18).
- 63) South Carolina Teenage Female Abducted and Robbed of \$100 - Kelly Carter, 17, of Anderson, South Carolina, escaped uninjured after she was abducted about 9:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 22, at a NationsBank ATM. A man approached, said he had a gun, and demanded she withdraw all the money from her account. Ms. Carter withdrew \$85. The man took \$15 from her at the machine and then forced her to drive him to another neighborhood. The robber struck Ms. Carter in the face several times. (*Anderson* [South Carolina] *Independent-Mail*, December 24, Lesley Stedman, reporter).
- 64) Brother of Murder Suspect Arrested After Using The Murder Victim's Stolen ATM Card - Gregory Lindsey, 28, was arrested by Spartanburg, South Carolina police on January 2 on charges that he stole and misused an ATM card belonging to Dianne Mullenex. At least \$900 was taken from the victim's bank account. Ms. Mullenex was killed that same day. Police believe Lindsey's 33-year-old brother, Dennis, stabbed Mullenex to death with a butcher knife outside her home about 1:00 a.m. on Saturday. The victim's mother said she believes Dennis Lindsey killed her daughter because she had signed an arrest warrant for Gregory Lindsey on the ATM card and account theft charges. (*Spartanburg* [South Carolina] *Herald-Journal*, January 4).
- 65) Atlanta ATM Robbers Arrested in Alabama - On Thursday, December 31, a male customer was making an ATM withdrawal about 8:30 p.m. at a Georgia Federal Bank in Atlanta, Georgia. When he turned to leave, he saw two men standing near his 1992 Honda Accord. One of the men allegedly pulled a pistol on the victim, attempting to force him into the vehicle while demanding his money. The victim refused to hand over any money, began to struggle with the perpetrators, and was able to escape by running from the scene. The man's car was stolen by the two robbers who drove from the scene. On January 4, on a routine tag by Alabama State Troopers in Selma, the two suspects, David Earl Johnson, 51, and Bruce J. Houston, 32, were taken into custody. Both men had extensive criminal records and are expected to be extradited to Georgia. (Fulton County Police Press Release, January 8, 1993).
- 66) Hollywood, Florida, Man Injured in ATM Robbery Attempt - On Tuesday, December 29, John Mich, 44, was withdrawing cash from a First Union National Bank ATM in Hollywood when a strong-arm robber, thought to be Harrell Hildreth, allegedly attacked him from behind. Hildreth allegedly slammed Mitch forward into the ATM breaking his nose. But Mich was able to fight off his assailant, who then fled. Hildreth was charged with strong-arm robbery. (*Miami* [Florida] *Herald*, December 30).
- 67) Deaf Miami Bicyclist Reads Lips to Help Find Tot Abducted From ATM - Timothy Weiner, 28, is speech-impaired and hard of hearing. He reads lips to communicate. On Wednesday afternoon, December 30, Weiner was out for a bike ride when he saw a woman crying hysterically to sheriff's deputies outside a California Federal Bank branch

in Lauderdale Lakes. Weiner read the woman's lips to understand, "Someone took my baby. Please help me find my baby!"

Weiner continued to lip-read as Yvonne Vickers described to deputies what had happened. She had stopped at the bank to get some money from an ATM. Her 4-year-old son was in the back seat of her car. An 87-year-old Alzheimer's patient Vickers takes care of was in the front seat. Vickers, 30, was at the teller less than five minutes. When she came back to the car, her son was gone.

Weiner jumped on his bike and pedaled off in search of the child. Before long he spotted a man carrying a child. Weiner confronted the man who claimed the child was his. Weiner didn't believe him and rode back to the bank. Straining to make deputies understand him, he got into a squad car and directed them to the spot. Deputies found the missing 4-year-old boy with Everton Thomas, 20. Thomas was charged with kidnapping. (*Miami* [Florida] *Herald*, January 2, Trish Power, reporter).

- 68) 78-Year-Old West Palm Beach Woman Terrorized in Her Home to Get PIN Number - About midnight on Monday, January 4, a masked man removed a screen from a window and crept into a 78-year-old woman's home in suburban West Palm Beach. After ransacking the house, the man and an accomplice found her ATM card and woke her to get the PIN number. The men tied and gagged the woman and threatened to kill her if the number didn't work. While the accomplice went to a Great Western Bank ATM and withdrew \$600 from the woman's account, the masked man went through her bedroom, taking two jewelry boxes and three rings from her fingers, including her wedding band. At the ATM, a camera taped the image of a man shielding his face while using her card. After the men left, the woman freed herself and tried to phone for help, but the thieves had cut her telephone lines. Police solicited information from citizens. (*Palm Beach* [Florida] *Post*, January 7, Jenny Staletovich, reporter).
- 69) Little Rock, Arkansas, Woman Abducted, Raped and Taken to ATM - About 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 27, a 35-year-old Little Rock woman was abducted from the driveway of her home for three hours, taken to an ATM and raped by two masked men. The woman told police she was unloading groceries about 10:00 p.m. when two men, both wearing black ski masks and one carrying a sawed-off pump shotgun, approached her. The men robbed her of \$35 and an ATM card, and forced her to get back into her car and to drive them to North Little Rock. The woman was forced to withdraw \$370 in cash from an ATM and gave it to the men. After driving back to her home, both of the men raped her and assaulted her about the head. Police are searching for suspects. ([Little Rock] *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, December 29, Linda Satter, reporter).
- 70) Arkansas Woman Recants Confession In Theft of ATM Card and \$2,200 Fraudulent Withdrawal - A heated court hearing on Tuesday, December 1, resulted in the admission into court proceedings of a statement by Daisy Diane Shores, 22, that her husband actually stole an ATM card from Vera Wood and withdrew \$2,200 from Wood's account. In August, Shores gave a statement that she was the one who stole the card and made the fraudulent withdrawals, but in Tuesday's court hearings she said confessed to the crime only after her husband threatened to kill her if she didn't "take the rap." Shores' current statement that her husband committed the crime was allowed admissible in court. (Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas] *Sentinel-Record*, December 2).
- 71) Trail of ATM Transactions Leads Texas Detective to Two Women Involved in 25 to 30 Purse Thefts - Two women were arrested in Harris County, Texas, following an

investigation of a purse theft from a church choir room. Credit cards stolen from the purse were being used to withdraw cash from ATMs. ATM transaction records led a police detective to Sheryl Anislie and Christine Willis, who are believed to have used PIN numbers written on the back of stolen ATM and credit cards to make fraudulent withdrawals. Police hope to clear 25 to 30 purse thefts with the arrests of these two women. (*Humble Echo* [Channelview, Texas], November 18, Vicki Pruett, reporter).



## IN THE MIDWEST

- 72) Michigan ATM Robber Places "Out-Of-Order" Sign on Drive-Up ATM - About 9:45 p.m. on Monday, November 30 a Southfield, Michigan woman was robbed at knifepoint of her ATM card and \$50 she had just withdrawn from an ATM at a Comerica Bank. The robber had placed a bogus "out-of-order" sign on the bank's drive-through ATM, and directed ATM customers to another walkup ATM in the bank's doorway. The robber wore a tan ski mask and held a knife to the woman's throat. Southfield police are asking citizens for information about the crime. ([Royal Oak, Michigan] *Daily Tribune*, December 2).
- 73) Michigan Man Claims \$1,160 In ATM Withdrawals From His Credit Union Account Are Not His - A Michigan Center man was angry with America 1 Federal Credit Union officials who froze the \$50 remaining in his credit union checking account after someone used an ATM card to withdraw \$1,160 from the account in ATMs around the city. Someone made an empty envelope deposit of \$1,000 into the account on October 30. During the four days following the "deposit" someone withdrew money daily from the accounts. The thefts were noticed November 16. (*Jackson* [Michigan] *Citizen-Patriot*, December 4, Eric Jorgensen, reporter).
- 74) Michigan Teenager Admits Stealing ATM Cards and Fraudulent Withdrawal - A 15-year-old Southgate, Michigan boy admitted that he stole numerous credit cards between December 1 and December 19 from the wallet of a woman who owns a local book store. He told police other youths were with him on several occasions when he went to the store and took the cards, which were not noticed to be missing by the woman. The youth reportedly used her ATM card to remove \$80 from her bank account. (*Allen Park Heritage* [Southgate, Michigan], January 3).
- 75) Illinois Woman Faces Multiple Charges With Fraudulent ATM Deposits - Helen Michelle Knight, 27, was arrested December 2 on a warrant alleging she opened a checking account at First Farmers State Bank of Sullivan, Indiana, under a false name and then used ATMs across the state to access funds credited to the account with fraudulent deposits. In one incident, Knight allegedly used an ATM to indicate a \$500 deposit, when the deposit envelope actually only contained \$1. The woman is facing five figure fraud charges involving several other banks. (*Daily News* [Robinson, Illinois], December 7, Randy Harrison, reporter, front page story).
- 76) Attempted ATM Robbery in Iowa Foiled - Joe Ireland, 27, was alone in a Fort Madison, Iowa ATM kiosk about 6:10 p.m. on Saturday, December 12 when a man walked into the booth and demanded the money Ireland had on him. Ireland refused and was struck on the jaw, and a struggle began between the two men. The would-be robber fled without taking any cash. The incident is under investigation by local police. (*Fort Madison* [Iowa] *Daily Democrat*, December 14, front page story).

- 77) Iowa Man Charged in Mailbox Thefts of ATM Cards - Fayette County, Iowa officials have filed several felony charges against Cory Redecker of Mason City related to the theft of ATM cards and PIN numbers through mailboxes at Upper Iowa University, along with personal checks. Redecker allegedly intercepted three students' mail throughout the summer with the use of a mailbox key that he had obtained without the University's knowledge. A total of about \$5,000 was taken from the students' accounts. (*Fayette [Iowa] Leader*, December 24, front page story).
- 78) Minneapolis Woman Robbed of \$50 at ATM - About 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, December 15, a 70-year-old Bloomington, Minnesota, woman was robbed of \$50 in Christmas shopping money at a Norwest Bank ATM. A man standing behind her grabbed her money and her purse, saying "I'll take that. And I'll take that." The man fled in a white Pontiac. (*Star Tribune [Minneapolis, Minnesota]*, December 18).



## IN THE WEST

- 79) Two Drifters Sought in Abduction, ATM Theft and Disappearance of Arizona Man - Mohave County Sheriff's deputies are searching for Lesley Ore Fast, 34, and Richard Charles Aguirre, 27, in connection with the disappearance of Robert A. "Shaky" Jones, 62. Detectives said they suspect foul play. Jones stopped at Donna's Hillbilly Steakhouse on the evening of November 14, where two men asked him for a ride. Detectives said his ATM card was used later that evening to withdraw \$400 from a Valley National Bank ATM in Mohave Valley. But the card was not used by Jones, detectives said, presumably based on ATM camera photos.

Detectives report Jones was carrying a large amount of money when he disappeared, and that Jones suffered from Parkinson's Disease and would have had a difficult time resisting an attack. On November 19 Jones' pickup truck was discovered abandoned in Shasta County, California, after two men - believed to be Fast and Aguirre - abducted a California woman and took her red Pontiac Grand Am. The woman was bound to a tree with duct tape in a remote area but escaped unhurt. (*Mohave Valley Daily News [Bullhead City, Arizona]*, November 25, Janne Hanrahan, reporter, front page story).

- 80) Convict Out of Prison Three Months Pleads Guilty to Murder, Rape and ATM Robbery in New Mexico - Derek Brown, 25, a transient who had been out of San Quentin Prison in California for three months before the September 4, 1991 disappearance of 23-year-old Cathy Griego, plead guilty to several felony charges in connection with her abduction, ATM robbery, rape and murder in a New Mexico court in mid-November 1992. Brown faces a life sentence plus 52 years, in addition to "other aggravating circumstances" that could add up to 18 years to the sentence.



Griego

After Cathy Griego disappeared from the parking lot of a beauty college where she was a student, a massive search by her family and law enforcement officers resulted in the location of her body in a ravine. She had been "severely beaten, strangled and brutally raped." Brown was arrested the following day as he drove her car north on an Interstate highway. Griego's ATM card was used at several locations - 14 times in an hour and a half after she was kidnapped.

(*Albuquerque* [New Mexico] *Journal*, November 13, Susanne Burks, reporter, front page story).

- 81) Oregon Police Release Enhanced ATM Photo of Rape Suspect - On December 2 Oregon State police detectives released a technically enhanced ATM photo of a man suspected of kidnapping a 23-year-old Clackamas woman October 5 from a commuter parking lot



Police have issued an enhanced photo of a suspect in a rape and kidnapping.

(see October/November 1992 Newsletter, Item #108). The woman was hit in the face with a crowbar and stuffed into the trunk of the man's car and driven to a woods where she was sexually assaulted over the next several hours. Her ATM card was used to take \$200 out of her account, and the accompanying ATM camera photo was taken. The woman escaped by unlocking the trunk of her attacker's car from the inside and jumping out of the moving car into traffic where she narrowly escaped serious injury. (*The* [Portland] *Oregonian*, December 3).

- 82) Seattle Area Man "Bound Like a Mummy" in Home Invasion ATM Robbery - A 25-year-old Bellevue-area man was accosted in his pajamas around 6:00 a.m. when two men claiming to be private investigators persuaded the victim to open his apartment door. The men pushed their way into the apartment and hit the victim before they were joined by two other men who wrapped the victim with duct tape, "like a mummy," and held him captive in his apartment for five hours. The men demanded the victim's wallet, identification, ATM card and PIN number. Two of the men left the apartment to withdraw money. When the two robbers returned with the cash, all four assailants left, taking with them a VCR, CD player, and the man's 1982 Toyota station wagon. The man was not injured. (*Seattle* [Washington] *Times*, December 9, Katherine Long, reporter).

## California Events

- 83) Oakland Police Blotter Notes Two ATM Crimes - On November 24, the Oakland Police Blotter noted two ATM robberies:

"Armed robbery, 100 block of 40th Street, at 6:15 a.m. Male suspect at ATM simulated gun struggle ensued; no loss reported.

"Purse snatch, 4000 block of Piedmont Avenue, at 6:45 a.m. Male suspect at ATM grabbed cash, laughed and dropped it; loss of cash reported."

No further details were available. (*Montclairion - Oakland Edition*, November 24).

- 84) Hacienda Heights Woman Robbed of \$40 at ATM - About 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, a woman had just withdrawn \$40 from an ATM at the Puente Hills Mall when she noticed the man at the ATM next to her seemed to be having trouble with the machine. He was pushing buttons and cursing it. The man turned to the woman, put his hand in his pocket as if he had a weapon and said, "Give me your money or I'll blow your head off." The woman surrendered her \$40 and the man grabbed it and ran out of sight. (*Hacienda Heights Highlander*, November 25).

- 85) Three Men Arrested in Bank for Attempted ATM Scam - At 10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 20, Glendora police received a call from the Bank of America about a possible fraudulent transaction in progress. When police arrived, three men were in the bank and a fourth was waiting outside on a motorcycle. When the three suspects attempted to leave, officers stopped them, but the one on the motorcycle escaped.

The men had deposited checks in an ATM on an account which was closed the day before. A total of 15 checks had been deposited in Bank of America branches in the San Gabriel Valley on November 19. On November 20 they withdrew \$5,800 from several branches in Azusa and Valinda. When the men attempted to withdraw \$2,900 from the Charter Oak Bank of America, a teller became suspicious and called police. Arrested were Nelson Lee, 19, Rick Hsing, 19, and Adrian Cheng, also 19. (*Glendora Press* [Azusa, California], December 2).

- 86) Drive-Up ATM Robbery Reported Near Napa - Napa County Sheriff's officers arrested two men for robbing an American Canyon woman at a drive-up ATM on Tuesday evening, December 1. The woman had pulled up to an ATM at the American Canyon branch of Napa Valley Bank. She was sitting in her car when a man walked up to the window, pointed a chrome-plated semiautomatic handgun at her and demanded cash. The woman gave the suspect \$15, and he ran to a vehicle where a second man waited behind the wheel. A description of the suspect vehicle was broadcast and a deputy spotted the men some time later in Vallejo. Gregory Prado, 21, and Antonio Carranza, 18, were arrested. Inside their vehicle was found a gun, loaded with three bullets and the allegedly stolen cash. Bail was set at \$15,000. (*Napa Valley Register*, December 2).

- 87) La Mesa Man Taken to ATM, Robbed and Beaten at 2:15 A.M. - La Mesa police are trying to locate two men who contacted a man about 2:15 a.m. in a parking lot, asking the man to help them start their car. The man then was forced to go to an ATM to withdraw money. He was beaten and then dropped off. The two thieves also stole the victim's pickup truck. (*Daily Californian* [El Cajon], December 7, front page story).

- 88) Taco Bell Manager Robbed of Deposits at ATM in Modesto - In a startling turn of events, about 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8 a man standing at an ATM wheeled around and confronted the woman standing behind him in line with a pistol in his pants and a nylon mask over his face. The man demanded money from the woman, who was the manager of a Taco Bell about to deposit receipts. The bandit escaped with an unknown amount of cash. A motorist with a cellular telephone witnessed the robbery and called police immediately. The manager of the Taco Bell was not injured. It is not known if when confronted by the robber the Taco Bell Manager wanted to "run for the border." (*Modesto Bee*, December 9).
- 89) Davis Woman Abducted at Knifepoint, Taken to ATMs for \$800 In Withdrawals - About 11:10 p.m. on Thursday, December 10, a 23-year-old Davis woman was surprised in the hallway of her residence by a 30-year-old man in a raincoat who was armed with a butcher knife. The man threw the woman to the ground and held the knife to her throat while demanding money. The suspect then took the woman in her car to one ATM in Davis and to a second ATM in Sacramento, forcing her to withdraw a total of \$800 in cash. The woman was released without sexual assault or other physical injury. (*Davis Enterprise*, December 11, Melanie Turner, reporter).
- 90) Vallejo ATM Robbers Ignore Man's Challenge to "Shoot Me" - A man and a woman were robbed at gunpoint in Vallejo early Thursday, December 10, just after they had used a Bank of America ATM. When they returned to their car, the couple was confronted by two men with white cloths tied over their faces. The robbers demanded money and the male victim said, "I won't give you nothing." One suspect then pulled out a sawed-off shotgun and pointed it to the man's head. The second suspect drew a revolver and aimed it at the woman. In an amazing display of either savoir faire or stupidity, the man then said, "Shoot me." The woman set her purse on the ground. The man with the revolver grabbed it and both robbers fled. One of the fleeing robbers turned and fired his weapon but did not hit anyone. (*Vallejo Times-Herald*, December 11).
- 91) Huntington Beach Women Warned About Night-Time Attacks in Their Cars - A single perpetrator is believed responsible for three attacks on women in the Huntington Beach area who were traveling alone and/or in their parked cars at night. In the first attack on September 21, a gunman confronted a 30-year-old man and a 21-year-old woman in a parked car. He forced them to drive to a Security Pacific Bank and withdraw \$300.

In the two most recent incidents the victims were raped as well as being driven to ATMs for forced withdrawals. The most recent attack occurred at 5:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 13, when a gunman confronted two woman sitting in a car. The assailant pointed a small semiautomatic handgun at them and ordered the women to drive to an ATM at a Security Pacific Bank and withdraw \$300. When they told him they did not have an ATM card, he locked one of the victims in the trunk and raped her companion.

Five days earlier, a 35-year-old Huntington Beach woman was confronted by a gunman as she exited her car at 10:00 p.m. in front of her apartment. The assailant forced the woman back into her car, took her purse and ordered her to drive to the Bank of America ATM and withdraw \$300. After getting the money the perpetrator ordered the woman to drive to an unlit parking lot where he raped her. A composite drawing was released by police (see sketch at right). (*Huntington Beach/Fountain Valley Independent*, December 17, Morgan Sales, reporter, front page story).



Suspect composite sketch

- 92) Teenage LA Girl and Her Boyfriend Confess to Murdering Her Father - A 17-year-old girl and her 23-year-old boyfriend, Walter Rodriguez, admitted to police December 14 that they took the girl's father, Julio Martinez, 37, to a beach in San Pedro, taped him up and strangled him with a rope. In the following days, Rodriguez and the girl used Martinez's ATM card to withdraw the maximum amount allowed - about \$300 each time from his bank account. Los Angeles detectives arrested the pair on Monday, December 14, for using the ATM card and on suspicion of kidnap for ransom. ([San Pedro] *News-Pilot*, December 18, Larry Altman, reporter).
- 93) Woman Robbed of \$400 at Salinas ATM - About 7:15 p.m. on Monday, December 21, a woman making a transaction at an ATM was forced to withdraw \$400 by a man who pushed a pistol into her back. The robber also took the woman's ATM card, pushed her to the ground and then fled on foot. ([Monterey] *Herald*, December 23).
- 94) Compton Man Arrested in Carjacking and Forced ATM Withdrawal - Milton McClain, 21, was arrested Tuesday, December 22 in connection with the 7:00 p.m. carjacking on Friday, December 11 of a 35-year-old woman who was parking her 1990 Lexus in her garage in Torrance. The woman was approached from behind by two men. One held an automatic handgun to her head and told her to be quiet. The men took two rings from her, credit cards, and \$150 in cash. When they discovered her ATM card they demanded her PIN number, and withdrew \$200 from her account. The woman was forced to climb into the trunk, but was able to jump from the trunk of the moving car. She suffered only minor scrapes, and a passing motorist picked her up. ([Torrance] *Daily Breeze*, December 24, Larry Altman, reporter).
- 95) Los Angeles Man Shot and Seriously Injured in Early Christmas Eve Morning Attack - About 2:20 a.m. on Thursday, December 24, Ricardo Aguero, 40, was withdrawing cash from a Bank of America ATM when he was confronted by a gunman. The robber took an undetermined amount of cash from Aguero and shot him in the parking lot. Aguero managed to flag down a passing taxicab, and the taxi driver radioed for both police and an ambulance. A Los Angeles police detective said, "We've had five ATM robberies in Van Nuys in the last two months, with varied descriptions of suspects." Aguero was listed in stable condition at a nearby hospital. ([Los Angeles] *Daily News*, December 25).

- 96) One Dead, Two Wounded in South Central LA ATM Robbery - About 11:30 p.m., Saturday, December 26, three men at a Security Pacific Bank ATM in South Central Los Angeles were attacked by two gunmen. One man was shot to death and two others were wounded. Moses Buffin, 18, was arrested and booked without bail for investigation of murder. Patrol officers made the arrest about an hour after the shooting. ([Palm Springs] *Desert Sun*, December 28).
- 97) Vallejo Police Capture Accomplice of ATM Robber - About 9:20 p.m., Tuesday, December 29, a 43-year-old man was using an ATM in Vallejo when a robber got out of a nearby truck, stuck a gun in the victim's side and demanded his money. When the victim replied he had no money, the robber told him to leave. The gunman got back in the truck driven by a female accomplice and drove off. Police pulled over the suspect vehicle and arrested Crystal Ann Jones, 26, of Richmond, but her passenger, the attempted robber, had escaped. Police were unable to find the man. (*Vallejo Times-Herald*, December 31).
- 98) Lakewood Citizens Aid Police in Dramatic Chase and Capture of Two ATM Robbers - About 9:45 p.m., Tuesday, December 29, a female employee of Lechters Housewares planned to deposit the day's receipts at a Wells Fargo Bank ATM in Lakewood Center Mall. Two men robbed the woman, but were observed from a nearby restaurant parking lot by a citizen who flagged down a passing patrol car and pointed out the escaping robbers' vehicle. The suspects eventually abandoned their car after a police chase and fled on foot. A two-hour hunt involving police canines and a Sheriff's Department helicopter was concluded when a second citizen spotted one of the robbers hiding under a car and held him at gunpoint until deputies arrived. Arrested were Michael Utley, 21, and Larry Todd, 19. Both men were being held in lieu of \$25,000 bail each. Deputies recovered \$393 and a BB gun disguised as a handgun on the seat of the suspects' car. The next day, police found \$1,516 inside the still-sealed bank deposit envelope behind a home in the neighborhood where the chase took place. No injury to the ATM customer occurred. ([Long Beach] *Press-Telegram*, December 31, Daniel de Vise, reporter, front page story).



## INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

- 99) Belgian Police End Kidnapping of Swedish Horsewoman Using ATM Withdrawal Records - In late January, Belgian police rescued 28-year-old Swedish showjumper Ulrika Bidegard from a suburban Brussels apartment where she had been kept bound and blindfolded in a packing crate for five days. Bidegard's family had received several calls since her kidnapping, but the caller never identified a ransom amount or ransom payment method. Police used ATM records from Bidegard's ATM card after her abduction to locate the kidnapping suspect, another Swede, Lars Nilsson. Nilsson had previously installed flooring in the home of Bidegard's parents, in an affluent Brussels suburb. (*The Palumbo Report*, January 25).

## CONSUMER SAFETY EDUCATION

100) With The Year-End and Christmas Shopping Season in December, Several Papers Ran Holiday Safety Tips - A press release by the American Bankers Association was mentioned in ATM customer safety articles which appeared in the following newspapers:

- *Kansas City* (Missouri) *Star*, December 13.
- *San Antonio* (Texas) *Express-News*, December 11.
- *Phoenix* (Arizona) *Gazette*, December 21.
- (Springfield, Massachusetts) *Union-News*, December 23.
- (Cleveland, Ohio) *Plain Dealer*, February 5.

An ATM safety reminder distributed by the PLUS System was mentioned in the following newspapers:

- *Manhattan* (Kansas) *Mercury*, December 22.
- *St. Louis Watchman* (Clayton, Missouri), December 22.
- Spearfish (South Dakota) *Daily Queen City Mail*, December 22.
- *St. Charles Watchman* (Clayton, Missouri), December 22.
- The (Tucson, Arizona) *Daily Territorial*, December 24.
- *The Beavercreek News Currant* (Dayton, Ohio), December 26.
- *The Athens* (Georgia) *Daily News/Banner-Herald*, December 27.
- *The Broken Arrow* (Oklahoma) *Daily Ledger*, December 29
- (Vineland, New Jersey) *Daily Journal*, December 30.
- *The Edmond* (Oklahoma) *Evening Sun*, December 31.
- *The* (Coos Bay, Oregon) *World*, December 31.
- *The Alpena* (Michigan) *News*, January 25.

Independently-authored ATM security tips appeared in the following newspapers:

- *The Carpinteria* (California) *Herald*, November 26.
- *Today Midlothian* (Texas), December 24.
- *The* (Memphis, Tennessee) *Commercial Appeal*, December 29.

- 101) Syndicated Columnist David Horowitz reported in his "Fight Back" consumer advocacy column about the issue of ATM crime. Horowitz reported on the New York City ATM security law, and summarized national ATM customer victimization rate estimates and offered some ATM customer safety tips. *Boston (Massachusetts) Herald*, January 5.

## NEWS OF WEIRD ATM CRIMES

- 102) Southern California ATM Robber Wields Syringe As Weapon - About 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 13, a 19-year-old member of the U.S. Coast Guard was confronted by a robber at a Bank of America ATM in Monterey, California. The robber held a syringe to the victim's throat, and took \$200. The victim was not injured. ([Salinas] *Californian*, December 15).
- 103) Is Nothing Sacred? - Mississippi Woman Uses ATM Card Stolen From Fatal Car Wreck - Wanda Collum, 36, was given a suspended sentence in late November for her theft of an ATM card from the scene of a fatal automobile accident. Collum used the card to obtain cash from the deceased's bank account. She was sentenced to three suspended years at Parchman Prison, with three additional years of supervised probation, and was ordered to make full restitution to the estate of the victim. (*Yazoo Herald* [Yazoo City, Mississippi], November 21, front page story).
- 104) Bizarre Three Hour Standoff With Police Sparked by New York ATM Problem - In a bizarre incident on Friday, November 20, Yorktown, New York police spent about three hours at a shopping mall surrounding a man who was possibly armed in a vehicle, and was acting irrationally and incoherently. The problem apparently began at a Marine Midland ATM shortly before 10:30 a.m. when the 37-year-old Erie County man is believed to have lost an ATM card in the machine. The man became angry and began to bang on the machine. When the bank manager came out to see what the problem was, the man rushed from the scene to his car. The bank manager called mall security who followed the man to his car, and then blocked the man's car with their vehicle to prevent him from leaving.
- Mall security then called the police, and about a dozen police officers arrived to surround the vehicle, but the man refused to leave his car and continued to act irrationally, waving his arms outside the car and carrying on conversations that were irrelevant. About three hours later police saw the man attempt to start his vehicle. Police rushed the vehicle and took the man into custody with a minimal amount of force. He was committed to a hospital for observation, but was not charged with any crime. (*North County News* [Yorktown Heights, New York], November 25, Pat Sillery, reporter).
- 105) Michigan ATM Account Holders Use Pry Bar Instead of PIN Number to Attempt Access to Their Account - A man who was having difficulty getting cash from the ATM at the Security Bank and Trust ATM in Brownstown, Michigan, was arrested by police after he took a pry bar to the machine. Police received a report of a man pounding on the ATM. When an officer arrived, he saw a man using a pry bar on the ATM, attempting to open it. The front of the ATM had been pried open, but when the officer shined a spotlight on the culprit, he threw the pry bar away. He then approached police with his hands up and the officer ordered him to lay on the ground. When questioned, the 23-year-old man said he "didn't know" what he was doing at the machine. Later, he said that he and his cousin, who has an ATM account with the bank, were trying to get \$20

out of the cousin's account. They didn't have the PIN code to the account so the man's cousin started hitting the machine, then the arrested man joined in and the cousin left. Police recovered an ATM card from the arrestee's jacket that was in the cousin's name. (*Woodhaven-Brownstown Township News-Herald* [Wyandotte, Michigan], December 16, Barara Ziemba, reporter).

- 106) Virginia Woman Handcuffed, Abducted and Sexually Assaulted by Sheriff's Deputy - A woman on her way to school to meet students for a field trip stopped at a Virginia Beach ATM about 5:30 a.m. to get cash for the outing. A man came up behind her, threw her to the ground, handcuffed her and put a belt around her neck, leading her into his car. The woman was abducted to another location where her assailant kissed her, fondled her and attempted to sodomize her over a period of several hours. The woman identified Virginia Beach deputy William Scott McCotter, who had been working at the Virginia Beach jail for about 2½ years. Felony charges have been set against McCotter, who is being held in western Virginia for security reasons. (*Virginian-Pilot* and *The Ledger-Star* [Norfolk, Virginia], January 30, Angelita Plemmer, reporter).
- 107) San Francisco Judge Administers Street Justice to Men Attempting to Rob Him - John Conway, 53, was riding his bicycle home from his job as a San Francisco Municipal Court Judge on Tuesday afternoon, January 26, when he stopped at an ATM at 21st and Mission Streets. The judge made a cash withdrawal and put it in his wallet. And as he was about to put his wallet in pocket, a young man standing nearby with two friends snatched Conway's wallet out of his hand.

The young man didn't know he was dealing with a municipal judge, and a former US Marine. Conway grabbed the youth by the shirt and punched him in the face. "I think I got his nose. I know I got his teeth and some of his lip because my hand shows it," said the former Marine captain. The would-be robber staggered backwards, dropping the wallet. One of the youth's companions tried to take the judge's briefcase, but two other people at the ATM fought them off. (Editor's Note: Who said justice can't be swift and sure?). (*San Francisco Chronicle*, January 28, Theresa Moore, reporter).

## CLOSING NOTES

**Bonus Sections A through G for the December 1992 Newsletter follow:**

- Bonus A:** Drug Use Forecasting: 1991
- Bonus B:** Georgia ATM Security Bill (Senate Bill 355)
- Bonus C:** Jersey City, NJ Proposal
- Bonus D:** New Jersey State Proposal
- Bonus E:** New York City Task Force Appointments
- Bonus F:** Mark Rosen Security Journal Article
- Bonus G:** Illinois Appellate Court Dismissal of Class Action Suit

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