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ATM Crime & Security Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 4

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KEY EVENTS NATIONALLY

ATM-Related Homicides And Serious Injuries

- 1) ATM Photo Is Major Clue In Abduction And Murder Of Washington D.C. Man - On Friday February 25, Lawrence O'Connell, 35, disappeared after leaving his office at 4:05 p.m. at the U.S. Information Agency in southwest Washington D.C. to walk to his parking space a few blocks away. O'Connell was found dead the next day near RFK Memorial stadium. Police said he had been beaten to death, and that his wallet and wristwatch were missing.

On April 5, police said they have pictures taken by an ATM security camera at 4:25 p.m. on February 25, just 20 minutes after O'Connell left work. The ATM pictures show a woman wearing a sequined baseball cap attempting to withdraw cash from O'Connell's bank account. During the ATM transaction on O'Connell's card, the correct PIN number was used, however the machine malfunctioned and no cash was dispensed.

Police believe O'Connell was abducted by strangers as he was walking from his office building to his car. The woman shown in the bank photos matches an earlier composite drawing released by police (see right).



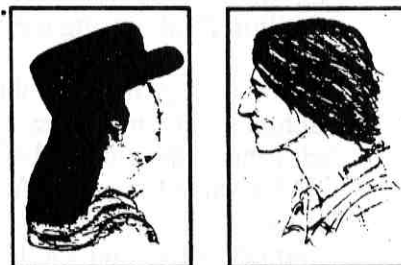
Police composite of a woman who police believe used Lawrence O'Connell's cash card just moments after he was abducted. Police found his body near the Anacostia River.

The composite drawing was made by clerks who helped a woman purchase items on O'Connell's credit cards within 3 1/2 hours after O'Connell's disappearance in a store on Capitol Hill and in a store in Charles County Maryland, 20 miles south of Washington. No one has used O'Connell's bank or credit cards since then. Police don't have any strong leads on the woman's identity, and hope release of the ATM photos will prompt recognition and identification of the woman. (*McLean* [Virginia] *Providence Journal and Fairfax Herald*, April 7, Melinda Nerber, reporter; [Woburn, Massachusetts] *Daily Times Chronicle*, April 7, front page story).

- 2) Woman Robbed and Shot Dead At San Pablo, California ATM - About 10 p.m. on Tuesday April 12, Etta Kelly Armas, 35, left her home and went to a nearby Bank of America ATM in the El Portal shopping center in San Pablo, California where she was apparently robbed and shot in the chest. By the time police arrived she was dead. No arrests have been made in the case.

The victim's husband, Kenneth Armas, is angry the bank did not have a guard at the ATM. "What would it cost to have a guard there until midnight and then turn the machine off?" he asked. Kenneth Armas reportedly wants to start a petition to get banks either to shut down the ATMs at night or to post guards. ([Richmond, California] *West County Times*, April 14; April 17, front page story, Rob Shea, reporter).

- 3) Two Suspects In Slaying Of Two Albuquerque Teen Females Used Their Stolen ATM Card - About 10 p.m. Saturday April 9, the gagged bodies of Albuquerque, New Mexico women Michelle Goffe, 19, and Kimberly Cotner, 17, were found inside an apartment complex in Albuquerque where Goffe lived. An ATM card which apparently belonged to Goffe was used at an Albuquerque bank on the evenings of Sunday April 10 and Monday April 11. ATM photographs of the two male suspects in the case were apparently obtained from the card transactions on Goffe's ATM card. Police are searching for the two male suspects in the double homicide. (See sketches at right.)



Police sketches of suspects

Police have remained tight-lipped about the investigation. There was no sign of forced entry into the Goffe apartment. Current speculation is that the women might have been victims of random violence. One suspect is described as a light-complexioned male in his mid-20s to early 30s, about 5'8" and nearly 200 lbs with unwashed, shoulder-length sandy brown hair and possibly a mustache. He was last seen wearing a black biker-type hat, faded jeans and nylon water slippers. The second suspect is described as a light-complexioned male in his early 30s with long brown hair. The suspects might have been driving a 1980s dark or light green Chevette-type vehicle. (*Albuquerque* [New Mexico] *Tribune*, April 22, Gilbert Gallegos and Tim Archuleta, reporters).

- 4) Greenville, North Carolina Woman Shot Several Times In Abdomen During ATM Robbery - About 9:10 p.m. on Friday April 29, a woman at the State Employees Credit Union ATM in Greenville, North Carolina received multiple gunshot wounds to the left side of her abdomen. Harold Ross was driving by about 9:15 p.m. when a young boy flagged him down in traffic. The boy told Ross that his mother had just been shot and robbed. Ross said he pulled around the corner and saw the woman lying on the pavement by the bank machine clutching her bank card. He said she managed to get up and get back into her car and tried to drive to get help. Ross said, "She looked at me and said, 'Take me to the doctor.'"

Immediately after the shooting, police began searching for a male suspect wearing black baggy pants riding a 10-speed bicycle, and within minutes of the shooting picked up a man matching that description. Police said they were going to review a videotape of the incident which was captured by an ATM camera to see if the suspect arrested matched anyone on the tape. The woman, who was not identified, did not have her condition released by hospital officials at press time. ([Greenville, North Carolina] *Daily Reflector*, April 30, Joseph D. Harris, reporter).

- 5) Wichita, Kansas Man Shot In Neck And Shoulder During Attempted ATM Robbery - About 8:30 p.m. Monday April 25, Pablo Alvarez, 30, was confronted by two bandits at an ATM in northeast Wichita, Kansas. The men demanded cash, and Alvarez struggled with one of the men. Alvarez was shot twice with a .25 caliber handgun, once in the neck and once in the shoulder. Alvarez was in serious condition at a local hospital after undergoing surgery. The robbers escaped in a white four-door Plymouth. Police have no suspects in custody. This is reported to be the first Wichita ATM robbery involving a serious injury. No further details were published. (*Wichita* [Kansas] *Eagle*, April 27, Hurst Laziana, reporter).

ATM-Related Fraud Schemes

- 6) Six Pennsylvania Men Arrested For Exploiting Software "Glitch" On New ATM For \$17,660 - Six Lancaster, Pennsylvania men were arrested on charges of computer fraud for their theft of \$17,660 from three MAC ATMs at the Park City branch of CoreStates Hamilton Bank during the weekend of October 21 to 24, 1993.

The men allegedly took the cash after they discovered a glitch in ATM software on the machines. The machines involved had just been installed at the bank and were the first of their kind in the entire MAC network. The men discovered a way to make repeated, small withdrawals of money. Arrested were Michael Stoner, 20, William Hatfield, Jr., 20, Ryan Lahnman, 20, Marc Eckert, 20, David Smith, 19, and Todd Lovell, 19. Charges included computer fraud and theft by deception. The men were identified by their ATM card numbers.

After the theft, the six men reported that their MAC cards were stolen in an attempt to cover up the theft. Police detective Michael Landis said the theft was "unique in that it was entirely the result of this glitch with the program." A MAC network spokesman said, "This is one of the larger incidents of this type that we've experienced. MAC is reimbursing CoreStates for the losses," Banford said. ([Lancaster, Pennsylvania] *New Era*, April 20, Cindy Stauffer, reporter and April 23).

- 7) Former Bank Security Processor And His Brother Arrested In San Francisco For Theft Of \$100,000 Using Stolen Credit Card And PIN Information - During the third week of April, Brian Michael Allen, 26, and his brother Brad, 22, were arrested in San Francisco, California on charges of stealing about \$100,000 from credit card accounts at ATM machines. The thefts occurred between mid-January and early March 1994.

Brian Allen is believed to be the mastermind of the thefts. He formerly worked as a security processor with a Stockton bank and gained access to a dozen credit card and PIN numbers, which he used to withdraw cash from the ATMs. The two brothers allegedly used the cards in the San Diego, Santa Barbara and San Francisco areas. In San Diego alone, Brad Allen withdrew about \$30,000 using the credit cards, police said. ([Stockton, California] *Record*, April 26).

UNDERSTANDING AND COMBATTING ATM CRIME

- 8) American Bankers Association Releases "ATM Security: A Banker Resource Kit" - The Security Management Committee of the American Bankers Association (ABA) has developed a spiral bound booklet of "practical suggestions and related information to assist bankers in improving security for their ATM customers." The document consists of three chapters covering a total of 39 pages: 1) Banks and ATMs; 2) The Media and ATMs and 3) The Law and ATMs.

ATM security basics are reviewed and explained including "The three L's: Location, Lighting and Landscaping". For example, landscaping guidelines include: 1) "Plant slow-growing shrubbery that needs trimming less frequently" and 2) "Trim shrubbery to a maximum of 24 inches above ground level. Trees should be 'branch free' below the 6 foot level". Sample forms for crime record keeping at ATM locations are included as well as location and landscaping inspection, lighting inspection, camera inspection and an ATM site security check-list. The document also has reprinted nine recent professional journal articles related to ATM security in an appendix. The spiral-bound document is for sale from ABA for \$50 (contact Sonia Barbara of ABA at (202) 663-5469 for information).

- 9) U.S. Department Of Justice Research Shows National Robbery Rate Has Decreased In Last Twenty Years - A Department of Justice publication, "Criminal Victimization in the United States: 1973-92 Trends" was published in July 1994 and has summarized the 20-year history of the so called "dark side" of crime in the United States. In contrast to the numbers of crimes reported to law enforcement, the National Crime Victimization Survey has assessed the rate of all crimes (whether reported to police or not) by an annual systematic sampling of households across the United States. Over 20 years, more than 4 million interviewees were included in the studies' samples.

Of particular interest to professionals tracking ATM crime are two comparisons. First, as the accompanying text and graphs note, "The rate of robbery victimization was 6.7 per 1,000 persons in 1973. By 1985 the rate had declined to 5.1 per 1,000: Rates recorded

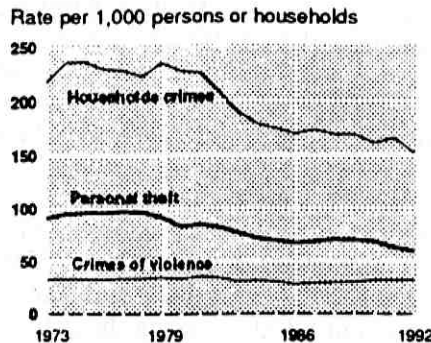
from 1985 through 1990 were generally lower than those prior to 1981. There were 5.9 robberies per 1,000 persons in 1992.”

While ATM robberies are not broken out as a subcategory of “robbery” in these studies, these data do provide a counterpoint to the public perception of a rapidly rising rate of robbery in the United States from print and broadcast media reports.

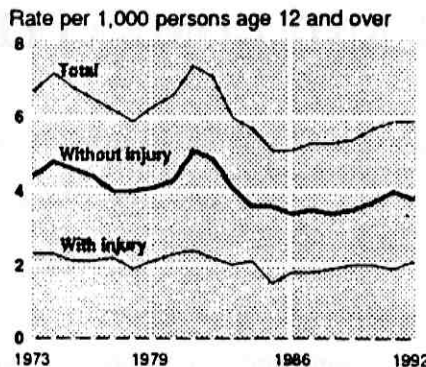
Since the inception of the NCVS (formerly NCS) in 1973 it has been possible to trace fluctuations in crime levels and rates over extended periods. The level of crime, overall, has decreased since its peak year in 1981. Over 41 million personal and household crimes were committed in 1981 compared to more than 33 million in 1992 — a decrease of 19%. However, rates for the major crimes have tended to fluctuate from year to year:

The victimization rate for violent crimes increased between 1977 and 1981. The 1981 rate of 35.3 violent crimes per 1,000 persons was significantly higher than at anytime prior to 1977. After 1982 the violent crime rate declined until it reached its low between 1986 and 1989. By 1992 the rate had risen to 32.1 crimes per 1,000.

Victimization rate trends, 1973-92



Robbery: Victimization rates, 1973-92



The full text of this report may be ordered from:

Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 179, Department BJS-236
Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701-0179.
or call 1-800-732-3277.

Request this document (see title above), NCJ Item 147006.

Robbery

The rate of robbery victimization was 6.7 per 1,000 persons in 1973. By 1985 the rate had declined to 5.1 per 1,000: Rates recorded from 1985 through 1990 were generally lower than those prior to 1981. There were 5.9 robberies per 1,000 persons in 1992.

The pattern of robbery victimization for males was very similar to that for the overall robbery rate. There was little detectable change in the robbery rate for females throughout the 1970's. In 1981 the rate peaked at 5.2 robberies per 1,000 females and remained near this level through 1982. After 1982 the rate declined, returning to its previous levels.

Trends were difficult to discern within the various age categories. Persons from 25 to 34 years of age had a higher robbery rate in 1982 than at any point in the 1970's. For victims age 50 and older, robbery rates measured after 1983 were generally lower than those measured in the 1970's.

- 10) ATM Installed In Chicago Police Station In District Filled With "Poverty And Crime" - On April 1 *The New York Times* ran a front page story about the experience of Marquette National Bank in Chicago responding to the request of a South Side community activist group to install a Cash Station ATM in the Seventh District police station on a 6-month trial basis. The machine was installed around Christmas 1993 in a move one observer said was, "A way to stop the neighborhood's physical and spiritual mugging." Otis Monroe 3d, president of a not-for-profit neighborhood training program said, "We need to begin to see other images around here other than poverty and crime. We need to see investments. We need to feel as bankable as any other part of the city."

The new ATM is located across from the main desk in the lobby of the police station, which is busy with police activity 24 hours a day. So far the machine has handled about 450 transactions a month, well below the bank's target of 1000. Improved signage outside

the police station is hoped to increase neighborhood residents' awareness of the availability of the ATM. Police Commander Ronnie Watson said, "This is what community policing is all about."

One ATM customer using the police station ATM said the location does not make him feel much safer. Keion Hightower said, "It's not going to really cut down on all these robberies. Look at all the crime in this neighborhood right near the police station. What we need around here is some more jobs. Then you wouldn't need to put a cash machine in the police station." (*New York Times*, April 1, Don Terry, reporter, front page story).

- 11) Tampa Area McDonald's Restaurants Installing 19 ATMs - On April 18, Suncoast Schools Federal Credit Union began installing ATMs at 19 McDonald's restaurants in Hillsborough County and Pasco County, Florida. The Tampa area has been hard hit by ATM customer robberies during the last six months (see November/December 1993 *Newsletter*, Item #1 and October 1993 *Newsletter*, Item #1). Tom Dorety of Suncoast Federal said, "ATMs ... offer our members immediate access to cash in the safety and convenience of a clean, well-lit environment." The ATMs installed will handle cash withdrawals, account transfers and balance inquires but will not accept deposits. These are believed to be the first McDonald's in Florida with ATMs, but not the first in the country (see June 1993 *Newsletter*, Item #9). (*St. Petersburg [Florida] Times*, April 9, Robert Trigaux, reporter).
- 12) Maryland Man Markets System For Storing ATM Camera Photos On Computer Hard-Drive For Quick Retrieval - James Dimmette, the owner of Visioncorp in White Hall, Maryland is marketing a system which will videotape ATM transactions and automatically scan the images onto a computer hard-drive. The advantage is instead of needing to search for hours on videotape for a specific image, the computerized system will be able to retrieve the desired photo in less than a minute. Dimmette says the system can be hooked up to allow a individual to monitor an ATM site visually from a remote location using a voice-grade telephone line. He says, "The biggest advantage to this (system) is that it's faster than slow-scan and it provides color images instead of black and white." ([Aberdeen, Maryland] *Harford Business Ledger*, April 1994, Abby Caplan, reporter).

ATM SECURITY LEGISLATION

- 13) Alexandria, Virginia Passes Law Prohibiting Panhandling Within 15 Feet Of ATMs - On Saturday April 16, the Alexandria, Virginia City Council unanimously passed an ordinance that prohibits panhandling in certain areas, including within 15 feet of ATMs (see **Bonus Section A** for full text). The new law makes it illegal for anyone to panhandle in an aggressive way. That means touching people, "not accepting 'no' gracefully," using foul language, or otherwise harassing residents or tourists, said Mayor Patricia Ticer. The ordinance is similar to one passed nearly a year ago in the adjacent District of Columbia. Violators in Alexandria face a fine of up to \$500, as opposed to a fine of up to \$300 and up to ten days in jail in the District.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) objected to the measure, questioning "the wisdom of adopting any anti-panhandling ordinance, no matter how carefully it has been designed to avoid violating constitutionally protected speech." City council members conceded the new law won't eliminate the panhandling problem in the city, because it is unlikely that panhandlers charged with the offense will appear in court or pay the fine. City Council member Lonnie Rich said, "part of it is sending the message to the broader

community. . . . that this particular action is not good, so don't do it." (Alexandria [Virginia] *Port Gazette Packet*, April 14, Peter Chisholm, reporter; *The Washington [DC] Post*, April 18, Robert O'Harrow, Jr., reporter).

- 14) Baltimore, Maryland Passes Law Prohibiting Panhandling Within 10 Feet Of Any ATM - On December 23, 1993, Baltimore, Maryland passed Ordinance No. 275 (see **Bonus Section B** for full text) which bans panhandling within 10 feet of any city ATM. The ordinance became effective January 22, 1994.



The dilemma of panhandling near ATM's is excellently illustrated by this photo from the *San Francisco Examiner*. This photo, copyright 1994, is reprinted with permission here.

ATM-RELATED LITIGATION

- 15) 62-Year-Old Woman Stabbed At Atlanta ATM During Robbery Sues First Union For \$2 Million - About 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 12, Peggy Hanley, 62, was stabbed repeatedly during an ATM transaction at a First Union ATM in Atlanta at North River Plaza on Roswell Road (see November/December 1993 *Newsletter*, Item #86).

On Wednesday, October 5, attorney Robert Finlayson filed suit on her behalf in Georgia State Court against First Union Bank and an unidentified company responsible for the operation of the ATM. The suit claims Hanley sustained serious wrist and hand injuries requiring several operations and continued treatment. The suit alleges the bank and the ATM operator did not provide adequate security for customers using the ATM. The suit seeks \$2 million in damages. (*Atlanta [Georgia] Journal/Atlanta Constitution*, October 6).

- 16) Manhattan Woman's Lawsuit Against National Westminster Bank Alleges "Severe, Profound and Permanent Psychiatric Injuries" to Victim During ATM Robbery With No Physical Injury - About 2:45 p.m. on October 28, 1992, Laurie Anne Kahn withdrew \$60 from an ATM at the National Westminster Bank at Broadway and 38th Street in midtown Manhattan. On that Wednesday afternoon, the bank was open, and employees inside the branch had a clear view of the ATMs which are located in the bank's vestibule. Apparently no one in the bank noticed when a man approached Ms Kahn from behind and placed a sharp instrument against her back. The robber ordered the victim to turn over the cash she had just withdrawn or else he threatened he would "cut her." Ms Kahn complied. After the robbery was over she entered the bank looking for a security guard.

Ms Kahn ended up speaking with the branch's assistant manager and their brief conversation is at question in a lawsuit Kahn brought against the bank for the "severe, profound, and permanent psychiatric injuries" she claims to have sustained as a result of the robbery. Ms Kahn also claims she was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, a condition for which she is still being treated. Ms Kahn reported that the bank's assistant manager stated that Kahn's was not the first robbery to take place at the busy midtown branch, and that other robberies had taken place at the bank's revolving door. However, in an affidavit, the bank assistant manager told the court that "prior to October 28, 1992 I was not aware of any robberies, or attempted robberies, of ATM customers" at the bank branch.

The conversation with the bank manager apparently is crucial to Kahn's negligent security case, because property owners are liable if they do not take precautions against "reasonably foreseeable criminal acts." If there had been robberies in the vestibule prior to Kahn's, she would have a much easier time arguing that her robbery had been "foreseeable." On March 21, the State Supreme Court denied a motion by National Westminster Bank to dismiss Kahn's lawsuit. The case has been set over for trial. (*New York [New York] Observer*, April 11, Warren St. John, report, front page story).

ATTACKS ON ATM SERVICE TEAMS

- 17) Two Thugs Rob Burbank, California ATM Servicer - On or about Friday April 8, two men in Burbank, California robbed cash from a female employee of ATMC, a company that services ATMs, after she had finished stocking an ATM on Hollywood Way with cash from an armored car, which had driven away.

The servicer, who had arrived in a separate vehicle, was double-checking the ATM safe when a man who claimed to have a gun demanded she open the safe. Using the woman's keys, the robber began to open the safe. She ran to a nearby guard station, but discovered that a second robber was holding the guard at gunpoint. The servicer ran and hid behind a car.

Both robbers escaped in a dark blue Ford Explorer or Chevrolet Blazer. They were described as about 20 years old about 6 feet tall and black. (*Burbank [California] Leader*, April 9).

- 18) Two ATM Servicers Attacked Near Universal City California, And Driver Is Abducted In Armored Vehicle - About 6:10 a.m. on Wednesday April 20, a Wells Fargo Armored crew making a delivery to an ATM at Universal City Plaza was attacked by two robbers. The armored car driver had returned to the truck for supplies while his partner was still inside the ATM kiosk when a man armed with a semi-automatic pistol confronted the driver. After a brief struggle, a second robber armed with a revolver approached the driver and told him to be still. The driver was forced into the armored car and the suspects drove the vehicle to a residential area. After the truck had been looted, the robbers left the truck, its keys and the driver behind. The abducted driver followed the robbers in their late 1980's silver compact car with a hatchback and tinted windows briefly, then drove back to the involved ATM to get his servicing partner.

The two robbers took an undetermined amount of cash from the armored vehicle and last were seen driving south on the Hollywood Freeway (Highway 101). The suspects were black men, one 5'11" tall, weighing 130 pounds in his early 20s and wearing a tan and silver jacket. The second man was 6'1" tall, weighing 200 pounds, in his 20s and wearing a black hooded jacket. One Wells Fargo guard suffered a minor bruise, no other injuries were reported. ([Los Angeles, California] *Daily News*, April 21, Jaxon Van Derbeken, reporter).

THEFTS BY ATM SERVICERS

- 19) Former New Jersey Police Officer Found Guilty Of Theft Of \$102,500 While Servicing ATMs - On April 21, a federal jury convicted John F. Lamb, 46, of the theft of \$102,500 in \$5 and \$20 bills from an ATM at First Fidelity Bank in Pequannock, New Jersey, on October 18, 1992. At the time Lamb was working for a company contracted by First Fidelity to service its ATMs. The prosecution showed during trial that the cash was put into the machine on Friday afternoon, and was gone when the bank opened Monday morning. Lamb admitted he was in the bank at the time computer records showed the door to the ATM was opened. Lamb maintained that he was there but all the money was gone when he arrived.

Lamb also was accused of laundering money while buying a 1991 Saturn SL2 from a Saturn dealership with a \$12,580 check which Lamb bought with \$20 bills at another bank. Lamb said he kept large amounts of cash on hand because of unfavorable experiences with his ex-wives. Lamb believes he got "burned" financially after one of his three divorces, and therefore needed to keep his assets liquid. ([Newark, New Jersey] *Sunday Star-Ledger*, April 24, David VanHorn, reporter).

- 20) Tennessee Police Officer Working Off-Duty In Uniform As ATM Security Escort Pleads Guilty To \$12,000 In Thefts - On April 26, Lawrence R. "Larry" Winter Jr. entered a plea of guilty to charges that he stole \$12,000 from two First Tennessee Bank ATM machines while working in his police uniform off duty as a security guard.

The first incident occurred September 21, 1993 when First Tennessee Bank officials discovered a \$2,000 shortage at an ATM. Winter was the security officer on duty that day.

A video camera was in place to record the second theft committed by Winter. On February 4, 1994 a bank employee accompanied by Winter resupplied a First Tennessee Bank ATM in Alcoa, Tennessee. "Immediately after the cash was loaded into the ATM, and after the employee and Winter had left the area, bank officials conducted an audit of the ATM money supply and discovered that \$10,000 was missing," Maryville Police Chief Terry Nichols said. Later that day, FBI agents confronted Winter at the Maryville (Tennessee) Police department and Winter admitted taking money from the ATMs both times. The FBI searched Winter's automobile and found \$10,000 in currency hidden inside the lining of a jacket in the center console of his vehicle. Winter was fired the same day. Prosecutors say that the bank employee who loaded cash into the ATM had paperwork and other duties at the machine, and Winter took the \$10,000 when the bank employee was not looking. (*Knoxville [Tennessee] News-Sentinel*, April 27, Randy Kenner, reporter).

- 21) Former Texas Police Chief And ATM Servicer Pleads Guilty To \$20,000 ATM Theft - Former small-town Texas police chief Anthony Lee Fourman, 26, pleaded guilty in federal court on April 21 to the theft of \$20,000 from a Bank One Texas ATM (See March 1994 *Newsletter*, Item # 7). Fourman allegedly took \$20,000 from an ATM he was reloading on August 11, and a second \$20,000 from a different ATM on August 18.

Under his plea agreement, the second count of bank larceny was dropped. Fourman admitted he used the money to buy a new car, firearms and jewelry. Fourman could be sentenced to up to 10 years in federal prison but the sentence more likely will be in the 18- to 24-month range. (*Waco [Texas] Tribune-Herald*, April 22, Andrew Kilpatrick, reporter).

BURGLARIES OF ATM MACHINES

- 22) Easter Sunday Burglars In New York Hit ATMs In Two Closed Grocery Stores For \$43,000 Loss And \$26,600 Loss - Burglars broke into two closed grocery stores in New York on Easter Sunday morning April 3, and pummeled the ATMs open with a blunt instrument, possibly a sledgehammer, yielding large cash losses in both cases. In Monroe, New York, burglars entered the Grand Union Supermarket some time between 1 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning and noon. An assistant manager checking on the Monroe store at noon found the damaged ATM and called police, who discovered that thieves had used a crowbar to break the lock on the rear door. Once inside the store, they smashed the door off the ATM. An estimated \$43,000 was missing. In the Monroe Grand Union Supermarket burglary, the burglars were unsuccessful in breaking into the store safe.

A second robbery on Easter Sunday took place in a Grand Union Supermarket in Pawling, New York. The ATM inside the store was owned by Putnam Savings Bank, and was heavily damaged when thieves stole \$26,600.

Police believe these two supermarket burglaries, as well as other recent similar New York supermarket burglaries may be the work of an organized ring. One week earlier burglars

hit the Big V Grocery store in the village of Florida, New York, and made off with an estimated \$50,000 from the ATM chest (see March 1994 *Newsletter*, Item # 9). ([Middletown, New York] *Times Herald Record*, April 5, Susanne Aberback, reporter; [Monroe, New York] *Photo News*, April 6, Claudia Wysocki, reporter, front page story; and [Amenia, New York] *Harlem Valley Times*, April 14, Alison Bennett, reporter).

DAMAGE TO ATM MACHINES

- 23) Massachusetts Man Uses Crowbar To Retrieve His \$20 Bill - About 4:55 p.m. on Tuesday April 5, police departments from Watertown and Waltham, Massachusetts responded quickly to a BayBank on Main Street in Watertown after a patron there went to use the ATM and saw a man with a crowbar working on the front of the machine. When police arrived, they found an ATM customer attempting to retrieve a \$20 bill that had become stuck when he made an ATM withdrawal earlier in the day. The man had gone into the bank and reported his money being stuck in the ATM, but was told he would have to wait until a repairperson could check the machine. The man decided he would make another attempt to free the bill with a crowbar. (*Watertown [Massachusetts] Press*, April 14).
- 24) South Carolina Man In U-HAUL Truck Knocks Over ATM And Flees - About 9 a.m. on Monday April 11, a man driving a U-HAUL truck hit and knocked over an ATM at the Carolina Bank near Bennettsville, South Carolina and then fled the scene. A witness reported the incident to a bank employee who then called police. The driver of the truck is known locally, and reportedly hit the ATM with the truck and knocked it to ground, damaging the front of the machine and the front of the truck.

Police contacted the owner of the rental truck who identified the man who had rented the vehicle that day and had returned it in a slightly damaged condition. Police contacted the truck's driver who admitted he had hit the ATM and provided insurance information. Damage was estimated at \$100 to the truck, but no damage estimate was available for the damage done to the ATM. ([Bennettsville, South Carolina] *Marlboro Herald-Advocate*, April 14).

ATM CAMERA SUCCESS STORIES

- 25) Con Artist Identified In Indianapolis With ATM Camera Photo - On April 11, an arrest warrant was issued for Rebrandt Bryant, 33, who police said ran at least a dozen scams on elderly East Side Indianapolis residents during January and February 1994. Police investigation of the case got a big break when Bryant was identified as a suspect from ATM camera videos when he allegedly withdrew money from a local ATM using an ATM card conned from one of his victims. The ATM camera photo was matched with the photo of a suspect wanted in Ohio for offenses similar to those perpetrated in Indianapolis. Police said Bryant has a long criminal history of fraud scams in Florida, Maryland and Michigan.

In Indianapolis, Bryant was thought to have knocked on the door of his victims' homes pretending to be an undercover



Rebrandt Bryant

police officer tracing bank robbers and stolen cash to their residence. Instead, he would befriend the victims, search their homes and ask to see their cash to verify if it was used in one of the "robberies". One victim said she can't believe she fell for his con, but he appeared legitimate because he was well-dressed and mannerable.

Since May 1993 Bryant has been sought in Cincinnati in connection with six similar scams, in which he allegedly swindled victims out of \$12,000 in cash and jewelry using the "Jamaican switch" con. ([Indianapolis] *Indiana Herald*, April 16, front page story).

- 26) Illinois Man Identified In Theft Of Neighbors' ATM Card With Help Of ATM Camera Photos - A West Frankfort, Illinois man, Thomas Vaughn, 38, was arrested on April 7 and was charged with the theft and use of his neighbor's ATM card for cash withdrawals. Police believe Vaughn stole his neighbor's card, and then used it at several area banks. He was identified after police viewed him on ATM camera videotapes of transactions made on the stolen card. ([West Frankfort, Illinois] *Daily American*, front page story).
- 27) Wyoming Purse And Card Thief Identified From ATM Camera Photos - On February 27, a thief entered the parked vehicle Jeanne Orkney of Cody, Wyoming and removed her purse, which contained \$350 cash, a payroll check for \$800, several credit cards, a checkbook and other personal items. The victim reported that before she could cancel her Discover credit card, someone had used the card at an ATM for a \$500 withdrawal. Cody police learned the ATM which was used was at the Key Bank in Cody. The bank provided ATM photos of the transactions on February 27. The person using the card was later identified as Brent Daniels, 20, of Cody. Daniels is presently facing two felony charges in connection with the theft of the purse and cards, and fraudulent uses of the cards. Daniels reportedly confessed to the purse theft and card uses after being advised of his Miranda rights. (*Powell* [Wyoming] *Tribune*, April 7).



IN THE NORTHEAST

- 28) MIT Undergraduate Robbed Of \$30, ATM Card, PIN Number And Backpack - About 10:45 p.m. on Sunday April 10, Josh Hartmann, an undergraduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge was confronted by two thugs who forced him into an alley, told him they had a gun, and robbed him of \$30, his ATM card and PIN and his backpack, "which included all of his class notes and a textbook" before they fled on foot. ([Cambridge, Massachusetts] *Tech*, April 12, Sarah Keightley, reporter, front page story).
- 29) 68-Year-Old Connecticut Woman Carjacked At Knifepoint For ATM Withdrawal - About 8 p.m. on Tuesday April 12, Marge Solecki, 68, of North Haven, Connecticut was leaving work when a man came up to her, displayed a knife and demanded that she drive him to her bank. The victim drove the carjacker to a CenterBank branch where he withdrew cash from an ATM using her card. When the perpetrator got out of the car to use the ATM, the victim drove off. Police said the camera at the ATM was not working. The amount of cash lost was unknown. (*New Haven* [Connecticut] *Register*, April 14).
- 30) Niagara Falls Woman Goes "Up The River" For 90 Days For \$350 Theft On Stolen ATM Card - On April 7, Allyson Allen, 31, of Niagara Falls, New York was sentenced to 90 days in jail after pleading guilty to using a stolen ATM card to withdraw \$350 from two ATMs in Niagara Falls. (*Niagara* [Falls, New York] *Gazette*, April 8).

- 31) Off-Duty Uniformed Police Officer In Syracuse New York Captures ATM Robber In The Act - About 11 a.m. on Thursday April 21, Syracuse Police officer Joel Cordone was off duty, but in uniform as he worked at a parking ramp. A woman came up to him and whispered to him that something was going on inside the bank. Cordone walked into the bank and saw a man walking toward two ATMs. The man said, "I want the money from them, too." Officer Cordone walked up behind the man and told him to put his hands on the ATM machine in front of him. The man, John L. Davis, 44, complied, and Cordone, a five-year veteran of the police force, quickly handcuffed him. ([Syracuse, New York] *Post Standard*, April 22).
- 32) Schenectady Woman Charged In Theft Of ATM Card From Mailbox And \$300 ATM Theft - On Friday April 22, Awilda Benieves, 21, of Schenectady, New York was charged with stealing an ATM card from a mailbox on her street on March 28, and then using it to withdraw \$300 from a Fleet Bank ATM. Benieves spent the weekend in jail but was released after her arraignment. ([Schenectady, New York] *Daily Gazette*, April 26).
- 33) New Jersey Man Gets 24 Years Prison For Rapes and Robberies Including Forced ATM Withdrawal - On April 4, William Conover, 25, was sentenced to 24 years in prison for a series of rapes and robberies which occurred in 1992. In one of the incidents on June 4, 1992, Conover rang the doorbell at the home of a 26-year-old woman. The woman heard a key in the lock of her front door and turned to see Conover enter her home. Conover grabbed the woman, said he had a gun and demanded that she give him cash. The victim gave Conover \$4 and some jewelry after which he demanded more cash and then raped her. The victim suggested that she could get more cash if she drove him to an ATM. The woman then drove Conover to a MAC ATM, where she took out cash and gave it to him before dropping him off in New Brunswick. Conover will serve at least 12 years before becoming eligible for parole. ([Woodbridge, New Jersey] *News Tribune*, April 5, Paul Fiorilla, reporter).
- 34) Delaware Woman Loses \$50 To Knife-Wielding ATM Robber - About 4:30 p.m. on Saturday April 16, a 35-year-old woman at a Mellon Bank ATM in Wilmington, Delaware was robbed of \$50 by a knife-wielding robber. The victim was withdrawing cash when the robber appeared, wearing a brown ski-mask and demanding cash. The victim said she didn't know how to operate the ATM and the bandit, holding a knife to the victim's stomach pushed the "fast cash" button and fled with the money. The woman was not injured. ([Wilmington, Delaware] *Sunday News Journal*, April 17).
- 35) Pennsylvania Man Is Followed Home From ATM By Three Thugs And Is Maced And Zapped By Stun Gun In Robbery - About 5 p.m. on Wednesday March 30, an East Goshen, Pennsylvania man was attacked in his home by three thugs who are thought to have followed him home after he made an ATM withdrawal. The assailants sprayed a pepper-spray irritant in the victim's face and zapped him with a stun gun in an attempt to rob him. The robbers got no cash and did not steal anything of value from the victim's home. The victim told police he noticed a vehicle like the one driven by the robbers at the PNC Bank ATM in Westtown where he had just made an ATM withdrawal before driving home. Police are investigating the incident. ([West Chester, Pennsylvania] *Daily Local News*, April 1, Sondra Roberto, reporter, front page story).
- 36) Pennsylvania Woman Is Abducted By Gunman And Taken To ATM Twice For Forced Withdrawals - About 5 p.m. on Saturday April 2, Ms. Jay Park, 41, went to a MAC ATM at a Meridian Bank in Norristown, Pennsylvania. There a man approached her from behind, grabbed her by the hair and held a gun to the back of her head. The gunman told Park he was a janitor in a neighboring building and ordered her to take \$1,000 out of the ATM and give it to him. Park was only able to withdraw \$400, which she turned over to

the gunman. The robber then took Park to the basement of a nearby building where he hid her and threatened to kill her. The gunman took Park back to the ATM to attempt another transaction, but Park was unable to withdraw additional cash. Once again, the woman was led back to the basement where the gunman threatened to kill her. He then took her purse which contained \$80 and left. ([Norristown, Pennsylvania] *Times Herald*, April 4, P. J. Reilly, reporter).

- 37) Pennsylvania Teen Charged With Withdrawing \$480 From ATMs On Girlfriend's Credit Card - On April 6, Jeremy Stripling, 18, of Burnsville, Pennsylvania was released on \$10,000 bail on 10 charges of theft by unlawful taking and related additional charges. Police said that Stripling took his girlfriend's credit card and withdrew \$480 from ATMs at several banks. ([Reading, Pennsylvania] *Times*, April 7).
- 38) Pennsylvania Thug Forces Woman To Put ATM Card And PIN In Machine And Leave For \$25 Loss - About 5:15 p.m. Saturday April 9, a woman using an ATM at the Nazareth National Bank in Easton, Pennsylvania had just finished a transaction when a man came up behind her and told her to reinsert her card in the machine. The robber then told the victim to enter her PIN number and to leave the ATM without turning around. The victim, Dawn Taormina, did what the robber asked and left the area. Police reported \$25 was stolen from her account. ([Easton, Pennsylvania] *Express-Times*, April 13).
- 39) ATM Card Forgotten In Philly ATM Is Used For \$200 Withdrawal - In a cryptic police report, at 5:30 p.m. on March 31 a woman was reported to have left her MAC ATM card in a MAC machine in the 3600 Block of Midvale Ave. in Philadelphia. Someone used the forgotten card to withdraw \$200 from the victim's account. ([Philadelphia, Pennsylvania] *Review*, April 13).
- 40) Pennsylvania Police File False Report Charges Against Man Who Reported \$80 ATM Robbery - About 9:11 p.m. on Monday April 11, McMurray, Pennsylvania man reported to police that he was robbed of \$80 he had just withdrawn from an ATM at the PNC Bank in Washington, Pennsylvania. The victim stated he was at the ATM when he was approached by a man who grabbed his arm, said, "Give me your money," and threatened him if he did not turn over his cash. Police originally said they had witnesses and a suspect in the case.

The next day, police stated that this crime report was false, and that charges were pending against the unidentified man who filed the false report. ([Washington, Pennsylvania] *Observer-Reporter*, April 13; April 23, editorial).

- 41) Pennsylvania Man Charged In Theft Of Purse And ATM Card From Parked Car And Using Stolen ATM Card 12 Times - On April 12, Kingston, Pennsylvania police arrested Paul Gasper, 47, and accused him of smashing a window on a parked car and removing a woman's purse. The purse was found in a nearby garbage bin, but the ATM card and \$100 cash was missing. The stolen ATM card then was used 12 times at various ATMs. Gasper posted \$6,000 bail and was released. ([Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania] *Times Leader*, April 16).
- 42) Pennsylvania Woman Identifies 14-Year-Old Boy As ATM Robber - About 9:35 p.m. on Tuesday April 19, a 38-year-old woman making an ATM withdrawal in Carlisle, Pennsylvania was approached from behind by a youth who demanded her cash. The woman turned around, got into her car and fled before reporting the incident to police. About 20 minutes later, she spotted the boy and identified him for police as the one who tried to rob her. The 14-year-old youth was taken into custody on a charge of attempted robbery. ([Carlisle, Pennsylvania] *Sentinel*, April 20).

- 43) 23-Year-Old Pennsylvania Man Arrested For Theft Of ATM Card And \$2,046 - Daniel Gilbert, 23, address unknown, was arrested for the theft of a MAC card from a woman's purse while he was in her vehicle in late January. Gilbert allegedly used the stolen card to withdraw \$2,046 from the victim's accounts during a nine-day period in February at various ATMs in the Coventry Mall. Gilbert was arrested on April 20 and was charged with theft, receiving stolen property and forgery. ([Pottstown, Pennsylvania] *Mercury*, April 27).



IN THE SOUTH

- 44) Alert Maryland Police Arrest Two ATM Robbers Fleeing In Corvette - About 1 a.m. on Tuesday April 5, Wayne Lee Jenkins Jr., had withdrawn an undisclosed amount of cash from an ATM at a First National Bank branch in Brooklyn Park, Maryland when two men walked up and threatened him with a gun. Jenkins turned over his cash and the two men ran across the parking lot to a 1982 Chevrolet Corvette in which they drove away.

An alert county police officer saw the two men running in the parking lot, followed their Corvette and stopped it on the highway. Police arrested Julian Sharpe, 31, of Baltimore and Steve Sherman, 36, of Glen Burnie, and discovered a BB gun in their car. Both men were charged with armed robbery. ([Baltimore, Maryland] *Sun*, April 6).

- 45) Maryland Man Robbed At ATM And Carjacked - About 3 p.m. on Saturday April 23, a 23-year-old Maryland man was walking from his parked car to a Citibank ATM in Laurel when he was approached by a young man who asked him for directions. When the victim returned to his car, the young man and an accomplice approached him from opposite sides of his vehicle, both brandishing handguns. The robbers took the victim's bank card and withdrew \$200, then demanded that he let them drive his car, with the victim as a passenger. The robbers drove to a nearby shopping center where they escaped in their own Ford. ([Lanham, Maryland] *Prince George's Journal*, April 29, Julia Gordon, reporter).

- 46) Photo Released Of Man Using Stolen ATM Card In Washington, D. C. - About 11 p.m. on Thursday December 2, a woman who had just parked her car and was walking to her apartment in Annandale, Virginia was approached by a man who asked her for change. When the woman started to walk away, the man announced a robbery and brandished a handgun. The woman gave the robber her purse and he fled on foot. Hours later, a man attempted to use the woman's ATM card at a Crestar Bank ATM in southeast Washington, D.C. An ATM video camera



Photo taken by ATM camera in Southeast Washington

captured the accompanying image of the man using the stolen card. Fairfax County Virginia Crime Solvers is offering a \$1,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest of the robber in this case. (*Fairfax [Virginia] Journal*, April 7).

- 47) Third Virginia Teen Convicted In Two December ATM Robberies - Three Richmond, Virginia-area teenagers face prison sentences after being found guilty in a December 22 robbery and shooting-spree at two Chesterfield County, Virginia ATMs. About 8 p.m. a man stopped to withdraw cash from the Crestar Bank ATM in a shopping center when the three youths, Emory Goodson, 18, Corey Johnson, 19, and Herbert Ross, 17, pulled up in a car behind the victim's 1991 Mustang and fired shots. The victim sped away uninjured.

Two hours later, Irvin Condrey, a shopping center employee, was robbed of \$150 at gunpoint by the trio at a NationsBank ATM on Midlothian Turnpike. When the teen trio sped away, Condrey pursued them in his pickup truck. The robbers fired about 20 shots in his direction.

Emory Goodson was found guilty of two counts of attempted first degree murder, attempted robbery, robbery, use of a firearm during attempted murder and use of a firearm during a robbery. The jury recommended a 39-year prison sentence. Herbert Ross pleaded guilty April 20 to attempted capital murder, attempted first degree murder and attempted robbery in the same two ATM robberies. Corey Johnson was found guilty on the same day of attempted first degree murder, robbery, use of a firearm during a robbery and use of a firearm during attempted murder. (*Richmond [Virginia] Times-Dispatch*, April 22, Stacey Adams, reporter).

- 48) North Carolina Woman Loses \$20 To Knife-Wielding ATM Robber - On Sunday night April 10, Terry Welter was withdrawing \$20 from a First Union ATM in Greensboro, North Carolina when a man with a knife threatened her. The victim gave the robber her cash and he fled. No injuries were reported, and police are investigating. ([Greensboro, North Carolina] *News & Record*, April 12).

- 49) North Carolina Grade School Secretary Intercepts ATM Card And Bank Statements In Mail To Steal \$3,317 - On April 12, Carla McIntosh Mitchell, 34, of Rowland, North Carolina was arrested for her theft of a Visa card sent to an employee of the grade school where Mitchell works as a school secretary. As part of her secretarial duties, Mitchell handles all of the incoming mail at the school. She acknowledged intercepting a Visa credit card sent to the school library, and later intercepting the statements sent to the customer. Mitchell purchased clothing and jewelry and Christmas gifts with the stolen credit cards. She later ordered a replacement card and was able to obtain the account PIN number, which allowed her to secure cash advances. Mitchell was charged with felonious financial transaction card theft and other charges. ([Lumberton, North Carolina] *Robesonian*, April 13, Norm Morton, reporter, front page story).

- 50) South Carolina Bystanders And Cellular Phone Quickly Net ATM Robber - About 8 p.m. on Monday April 11, a woman at a Summerville, South Carolina NationsBank ATM was approached by a man who began a conversation with her as she made a cash withdrawal. The woman withdrew \$25 from the ATM and a man, allegedly Ronald B. Jones, 29, shoved her against the wall, grabbed the cash and ran. Four bystanders joined in the chase after the robber, one of them calling police on a cellular telephone. Jones was arrested within minutes after his attempted escape from the crime scene. (*Summerville [South Carolina] Journal-Scene*, April 15, Julie Smith, reporter, front page story).

- 51) South Carolina ATM Robbery Suspect Escapes Patrol Car Through Opened Window But Is Recaptured - About 7:25 p.m. on Thursday April 14, a man claimed he was robbed of \$140 at a South Carolina National Bank ATM in Florence, South Carolina. Minutes later, police officers spotted Keith Allen Jones, 21, running behind a group of apartments nearby. When stopped, Jones said he was jogging while waiting for his cousin.

Police detained Jones in the patrol car, but when another officer arrived, Jones reportedly climbed out of the police vehicle through an opened window and led police on a foot chase. He was recaptured and taken back to the bank, where he was positively identified as the robber. Jones reportedly then gave a confession which led to the recovery of the stolen cash, the weapon used in the robbery and clothes shed during the chase. (*Florence* [South Carolina] *Morning News*, April 16, Nicole Gustin, reporter).

- 52) South Carolina Nursing Home Aide Arrested For ATM And Credit Card Theft From Residents - Charleston, South Carolina police have arrested a former nursing home aide, Stephanie Beauford, 27, and her husband Spencer, 25, in connection with the theft of credit cards and ATM cards from elderly nursing home patients and using them to buy goods and services. The U.S. Secret Service worked with local police after a bank notified the Secret Service of a suspicious ATM card transaction. Stephanie Beauford was suspended from her job at Eagle Landing Health Care Center in Hanahan on April 13. A spokesperson said, "She was a caretaker of these people...She had access to their personal belongings." The investigation is continuing and further arrests are expected. ([Orangeburg, South Carolina] *Times & Democrat*, April 29).

- 53) "Gentleman Robber" Suspect Is Arrested In Atlanta By Plainclothes Cop Watching ATM - On Sunday, April 3, Atlanta Detective C. M. Long was in his car doing surveillance of an ATM when he was approached by a man trying to sell him a day-old newspaper. The man was about 6 feet tall, 200 pounds with a round face and a gap between his teeth -- a perfect match with the description of the "Gentleman Robber" who has robbed as many as 16 people in the Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta since January (see March 1994 *Newsletter*, Item # 44).

Detective Long searched the man and found a white-handled pistol in a brown holster tucked into his waistband - also matching victims' descriptions of the "Gentleman Robber". The pistol turned out to be a cap-gun. The suspect was identified as Charles Anderson, 46, an Atlanta native recently paroled for armed robbery. Anderson has spent most of his adult life behind bars. One Atlanta police detective said, "I don't think we're going to have a (robbery) problem after this morning from Mr. Personality." (*Atlanta* [Georgia] *Constitution*, April 4, Mark Silk, reporter).

- 54) Georgia Woman Robbed By Three Men At ATM - In a cryptic police blotter report, DeKalb Georgia police noted that at 2 a.m. on Thursday April 7, a 30-year-old woman reported being robbed by force by three men as she was attempting to use a Wachovia Bank ATM on Buford Highway. No further details were published. (*Decatur-DeKalb* [Georgia] *News/Era*, April 21, Phillip Hermann, reporter).

- 55) Georgia Man At ATM Robbed, Beaten And Dragged Into Pickup Truck By Six Thugs - Early on Saturday morning April 10, Adam Malone was robbed, beaten and briefly abducted from a Trust Company Bank ATM in Athens, Georgia. The victim told officers he was assaulted by three men who took the money he had just withdrawn from the ATM and then dragged him to a nearby small pickup truck. Three additional men pulled him into the back of the pickup truck. The truck pulled away and drove off. Malone told police he escaped when the truck stopped for a traffic light. The victim suffered visible injuries, police said. (*Athens* [Georgia] *Daily News/Banner-Herald*, April 10).

- 56) Florida Man Robbed At Knifepoint After Midnight ATM Withdrawal - About 12:10 a.m. on Monday April 4, Josue Garriga, 28, was withdrawing cash from a Barnett Bank ATM on Dunn Ave. in Jacksonville when a car pulled up and two men, one armed with a knife got out and demanded his cash. Garriga gave them his cash and then followed their escaping car with his, but lost track of the robbers. ([Jacksonville] *Florida Times-Union*, April 5).
- 57) Florida Woman Charged In \$1200 Theft Using Another Woman's ATM Card - On April 1, Luanna Cadden of Starke, Florida was arrested after using the ATM card of Penny Hannnah to withdraw \$1200 between March 16 and March 28. Cadden was released on her own recognizance. ([Keystone Heights, Florida] *Lake Region Monitor*, April 7).
- 58) Teenage FSU Couple Robbed At Gunpoint At ATM - About 11:10 p.m. on Friday April 8, a 19 year-old male and a 19 year-old female Florida State University student had stopped at a NationsBank to get some cash when two men with handguns approached. The first man put his gun to the woman's back and told her to withdraw her available balance. The woman did as directed, then the robbers made the victim couple get on their knees and face the bank door. The robbers took the victim's car keys and a change purse and fled on foot into a wooded area on the north side of the bank.
- One week later, a Tallahassee man was making a withdrawal from a Barnett Bank ATM on South Calhoun Street at 11:10 p.m. on Friday April 15, when a gunman, wearing a cloth over his face took the cash the man had just withdrawn and fled. (*Tallahassee* [Florida] *Democrat*, April 10; April 17).
- 59) Miami Man Struck And Robbed At ATM - In a cryptic police blotter report, three men were reported to have robbed an ATM customer at Eastern Financial on North University Drive in Miami about 10:15 p.m. on Thursday April 14. The victim was struck on the back and on the right ear. No further details were published. (*Miami* [Florida] *Herald*, April 24).
- 60) Mississippi Man Shot In Jaw Through Car Windshield While Fleeing ATM Robber - About 9:30 p.m. on Thursday March 31, Clark Smith, 32, withdrew a small amount of cash from the Magnolia Federal Bank in Clinton, Mississippi. As he got back into his vehicle, he noticed a man running toward him shouting something like he wanted his money. When Smith got into his vehicle and attempted to drive off, the perpetrator shot at him. The bullet went through the windshield and hit Smith in the jaw. Smith drove home and his wife took him to the hospital. The bullet was either a .22 or .25 caliber. Smith underwent surgery for the injury. Clinton police are examining ATM surveillance camera images to see if the robbery was recorded. (*Clinton* [Mississippi] *News*, April 7, front page story).
- 61) Oklahoma Teen Faces Felony For \$360 ATM Cash Advance On "Found" Credit Card - A Tahlequah youth, Ricky Dean Vaughn, 18, faces a felony charge for allegedly taking a credit card from a wallet belonging to JoAnn Bradley and taking it to an ATM at Northeastern State University and taking a cash advance of \$360. Vaughn told police he found the wallet lying in the City Hall lobby on Friday morning April 8. Vaughn allegedly used \$300 of the cash advance to make a down payment on a used car. Vaughn was placed on a \$10,000 bond on Monday, and faces a court appearance on Wednesday April 13. (*Tahlequah* [Oklahoma] *Daily Times Journal*, April 12).
- 62) Texas Woman Hit By Car While Running From ATM Robbery Scene - About 10:40 p.m. on Sunday April 9, a 32-year-old Killeen, Texas woman was injured on her arm, back and legs after being hit by a car in a parking lot as she was running from the scene of an ATM robbery. The ATM robbery attempt was unsuccessful and involved two young teenage

boys armed with a chrome handgun. A friend of the robbery victim fled on foot to call police when she was hit in the parking lot by a vehicle not involved in the robbery. No further details were available. (*Temple [Texas] Daily Telegram*, April 20, John Clark, reporter).

- 63) University of Houston Student Carjacked And Forced To Make \$100 ATM Withdrawal - About 5 p.m. on April 23, a female University of Houston student who was sitting in her car in an apartment building parking lot was approached by a man with a gun who forced her to drive to an ATM and make a \$100 withdrawal. The robber then forced the victim to give him her jewelry and cash. The carjacker made the student drive to various parts of Houston and park in secluded spot. He began to sexually assault the student, at which point she pushed him out of her car and drove off. The suspect (see photo at right) allegedly fired one gunshot at her car. The victim escaped without any physical injuries. ([University of Houston, Texas] *Daily Cougar*, April 28, Tanya Eiserer, reporter, front page story).



Suspect



IN THE MIDWEST

- 64) Michigan Man Robbed Of Cash, Cellular Phone, Wallet And Beeper At ATM - About 2:45 a.m. on Friday morning April 1, a 29-year-old Berkley, Michigan man withdrew cash from a Commerce Bank branch near Pontiac. After the victim withdrew a small amount of money, he walked back to his car where he was approached by two men who demanded his cash. One thug went into the victim's car and removed his cellular telephone. The other robber searched the man's pockets and took his wallet, beeper and a small amount of other cash. One of the robbers hit the man on the head with his hand and knocked him to his knees, but the victim was not injured. The victim drove home and reported the robbery to police on Friday afternoon. ([Pontiac, Michigan] *Oakland Press*, April 5, Tom Murphy, reporter).
- 65) Ann Arbor Woman Robbed At ATM Of \$220 And Her Bicycle - At 7:05 a.m. Sunday April 10, a 49-year-old Ann Arbor woman was robbed after riding her bicycle to a Standard Federal Savings Bank ATM. The woman had just withdrawn \$20 from her account when a man approached, stuck a hard object into her back and demanded she withdraw more cash. The robber then withdrew \$200 from the woman's bank account, pushed the victim off her bike and rode off on it. (*Ann Arbor [Michigan] News*, April 11).
- 66) Pontiac, Michigan Woman Carjacked At Stoplight And Forced To Several ATMs For Forced Withdrawals - About 4 a.m. on Sunday April 17, a 23-year-old Pontiac, Michigan woman was carjacked by a man who jumped in her car while she was waiting at a stoplight. The man poked something into her side, and hid on the floor, warning her not to look at him. The carjacker then ordered her to drive to several ATMs where he forced her to withdraw cash and give it to him. The man then got out of her car and fled on foot. ([Pontiac, Michigan] *Oakland Press*, April 20, John Pletz, reporter).
- 67) Michigan Police Spot Boys With Father's ATM Card Attempting Unauthorized Withdrawal - Late at night on the weekend of April 16 - 17, a Thomas Township Michigan police officer observed two young boys trying to use an ATM. Because of the late hour, the police officer contacted the youths and one of them admitted that he was using his father's ATM card without permission. The boys had completed a \$200 withdrawal from the

machine. The officer returned the cash, the card and the boys to the father of one of the youths. No further details were published. ([Saginaw, Michigan] *Township Times*, April 20).

- 68) ATM Photo Published Of Unauthorized \$500 Withdrawal On Stolen ATM Card - On April 20, an ATM camera photo from a First of America Bank in Oakland County, Michigan was published (see right). The man pictured was making an unauthorized \$500 withdrawal on a card which was stolen during a November 1993 burglary of an Oxford Township home. Police are seeking information. (*Oxford [Michigan] Leader*, April 20).



- 69) Honking Car Horn In Michigan Scares Off Teenage ATM Robber - About 2 a.m. on Sunday April 24, a 22-year-old woman stopped at a First of America ATM in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. She was confronted by a teenager holding a pistol. The woman "started honking her (car) horn and the guy fled on his bicycle without any money," a police spokesperson said. No further details were published. ([Mt. Clemens, Michigan] *Macomb Daily*, April 26).

- 70) 60-Year-Old Chicago Woman Loses \$200 To "Helpful" ATM Thief - About 5:30 p.m. on Saturday April 23, a 60-year-old Chicago woman was about to make a deposit in her account at an ATM in a bank parking lot on North Broadway when a man came up from behind her and said, "I'll help you." The man then punched the withdrawal buttons, grabbed the woman's \$200 and fled on foot. ([Chicago, Illinois] *Booster*, April 27).

- 71) Photos Of Withdrawals Made On Stolen Kansas ATM Cards Are Published - The Hays (Kansas) Police department has published two photographs of a man using a stolen ATM card to obtain cash advances at bank facilities in Hays, Salina, Topeka, Kansas City and Mission. The ATM card was stolen from the victim's purse on March 2 at an elementary school. Withdrawals totaling \$2,100 had been made before the victim realized the card was stolen. Police are seeking information. (*Hays [Kansas] Daily News*, April 10).





IN THE WEST

- 72) Idaho Couple Use Mail Sorting Error To Apply For ATM Card Fraudulently And Steal \$3,800 - An Usk, Idaho couple, Troy Radan, 24, and his wife Kimberly, 26, were charged April 21 with using a fraudulently-obtained ATM card to make 11 ATM withdrawals totaling \$3825 during May 1993.

Prosecutors allege the Radans applied for an ATM card after receiving a bank statement for Newport Development, Inc., in a post office box they had just rented. Instead of forwarding the mail to the firm, the Radans applied for an ATM card on the corporation's bank account. After receiving the card and the PIN, they made the 11 fraudulent withdrawals. Prosecutors said the PIN number belonging to the account was found in a car the Radans had owned. Troy Radan was arrested, but released on \$2000 bond. ([Sandpoint, Idaho] *Bonner County Daily Bee*, April 26, Dave Turner, reporter).

- 73) Two ATM Robberies Reported In Scottsdale Arizona - On Wednesday April 13, an armed robber stole almost \$200 from a man leaving a First Interstate Bank ATM on North Scottsdale Road. No further details were published.

Eight days later, at 11 p.m. on Thursday April 21, a 30-year-old Scottsdale man was withdrawing \$20 from a BankOne ATM on North Scottsdale Road when two men came up behind him. One of the robbers stuck a gun in the victim's back. The gunman ordered the victim to turn over the \$20 and to take an additional \$300 out of his account. The man told the robbers that he did not have that much cash in his account. Then, a vehicle pulled into the bank parking lot, apparently startling the robbers who fled on foot. (*Scottsdale [Arizona] Progress*, April 23).

- 74) Hawaii Woman Staying With Ex-Husband And Current Wife Alleges Forced ATM Withdrawal - On the morning of April 11, an unnamed woman, age 35, who had been staying with her ex-husband and his current wife at their Portlock, Hawaii home reported that the man showed her a handgun he was carrying in his pocket and forced the victim to drive to an ATM and withdraw cash. The ex-husband then allegedly ordered the victim to go into the bank to write a check. The victim later contacted police, and the 37-year-old man was arrested for kidnapping and robbing his ex-wife. ([Kaneohe] *Hawaii Kai Sun Press*, April 21).

California Incidents

- 75) Two ATM Robberies In Two Days In San Pedro - About 11:10 p.m. on Thursday March 31, a 44-year-old fisherman had just withdrawn \$20 from a Bank of America ATM on South Pacific Ave. in San Pedro when a gunman demanded his cash. The victim complied, and the bandit fled on foot. At the same ATM two days earlier on Tuesday March 29 about 9:50 p.m., a 26-year-old man was robbed at gunpoint of \$220. It is unknown if the two robberies are related. ([San Pedro] *News-Pilot*, April 2).
- 76) Driveup ATM Robbery In Ontario - About 9 p.m. on Sunday April 3, a 19-year-old man drove up to a Wells Fargo Bank ATM on Moreno St. in Ontario and made a cash withdrawal. Suddenly, a robber reached through the open driver's side window and grabbed the cash. The startled youth turned to see a robber, who pointed a handgun at the victim's head and ordered him to drive away. The victim complied. No injury was

reported. ([Ontario] *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*, April 5).

- 77) Man Stabbed Near Oceanside ATM - No Motive Clear - About 7:20 p.m. on Sunday April 10, Bryan Bishop, 22 was stabbed near a Bank of America ATM on Mission Avenue in Oceanside. The victim told police a man who was lurking nearby attacked him for no reason. The assailant stabbed Bishop in the side and left without demanding anything, the victim reported to police. A police spokesperson said, "I'm sure there's more to it than that, but he won't tell us." ([Oceanside] *North County Blade-Citizen*, April 11).
- 78) Simi Valley Man Cut In Robbery Near ATM - About 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday April 12, Scott Everts, 24, of Simi Valley was using an ATM at the Great Western Bank in Thousand Oaks when two male teens with shaven heads and wearing gang-type clothing accosted him. They threw Everts up against the wall of the bank, cut him slightly with a knife on his cheek and jaw and then took his wallet. The robbers removed the cash and then tossed the wallet. Everts said he had made an ATM deposit and decided to see if his ATM card was working properly. Everts refused medical treatment following his injury. Police launched an intense search which included the use of a police helicopter, but were unable to locate the two robbery suspects. (*Simi Valley Enterprise*, April 13, Roberta Landman, reporter).



Victim Scott Everts describes being robbed to police.

- 79) Seal Beach ATM Robbery Victim Recognizes Gun As Plastic Replica And Struggles With ATM Robber - About 8:14 p.m. on Wednesday April 6, an ATM customer at a Farmers and Merchants Bank ATM on Seal Beach Blvd. was confronted by a robber wearing a black ski mask and holding a handgun against the victim's side. The robber demanded the

victim withdraw cash, but the victim recognized the handgun as a plastic replica and grabbed it away from the robber. A brief struggle followed, with the victim being struck in the face several times. The suspect fled on foot without any cash. (*Seal Beach Sun*, April 14).

- 80) San Clemente Woman Robbed In Car After Visit To ATM - About 7:55 p.m. Tuesday night April 12, a 25-year-old woman walked up to a Wells Fargo ATM in San Clemente and was about to begin a transaction when she realized she had left her ATM card in her car. The woman returned to her car and was seated in the driver's seat looking for her ATM card when she felt a gun at the back of her head, and heard a man ordering her not to look up. The woman handed over her purse as was demanded, and then the robber fled on foot through the parking lot. ([San Clemente] *Sun Post News*, April 14, front page story).
- 81) Two ATM Robberies Reported In 30 Minutes In Upscale Bay Area Towns - On Wednesday night April 13, a woman using a Bank of America ATM in Mill Valley was confronted by a robber with a knife who escaped with her cash and a \$10 grocery certificate. The woman was not injured. About 30 minutes later, police in nearby Greenbrae received a call from a woman who said she was held up at a Bank of America ATM. No further details were available in the second robbery, and police do not know if the two ATM incidents are related. ([Novato] *Marin Independent Journal*, April 16, Ingrid Becker, reporter, front page story).
- 82) Two Roseville ATM Robbers Take Gold Necklace, Watch And Wallet - Shortly after midnight on Sunday April 24, two armed robbers confronted a man at an ATM at Sacramento Savings Bank in Roseville. One man was armed with a .25-caliber handgun, and demanded the victim hand over his cash. The robber's accomplice, also armed with a handgun, robbed three other bystanders. As both gunmen were fleeing, one suspect turned and fired his weapon in the direction of the ATM. The robbers made off with a gold necklace, a Citizen's brand watch, a gold chain and a wallet. The Roseville Crime Stoppers is offering a \$1000 reward for information about the crimes. ([Roseville] *Press-Tribune*, April 26).
- 83) Four Young Teens Arrested In Robbery And Shooting Spree Near Sacramento, Including Shooting Of ATM Robbery Victim - On April 28, four teens believed involved in a spree of robberies and shootings in the Sacramento area were arrested. One was 13 years old, two were 14 years old and the fourth member of the gang was 17 years old. The youths are believed involved in several shootings and robberies, led by the 13-year-old who was the "designated shooter".

On February 27, the 13-year-old allegedly chased down and shot a couple, Patricia and Robert Warren, who were out for an evening stroll. The youth said, "Don't care about nobody," when he returned to the car. "Just chase someone down and shoot 'em."

Later that night there was a struggle with a woman over \$20 at an ATM in Sacramento. She was shot in the arm, but the ATM camera photographed one of the teens. The alleged ringleaders of the youth gang will be charged with three counts of attempted murder, five of auto theft, several robberies and at least three burglaries. (*Sacramento Bee*, April 29, Mareza Brown and Kimberly Moy, reporters, front page story).

- 84) Alert Sheriffs Deputy Thwarts Possible ATM Holdup Near Mission Viejo - Just before 11 p.m. Thursday April 28, an Orange County Sheriffs Deputy spotted a man in dark clothing walking between two banks. A sheriff's spokesman said, "It appears that our suspect may have been lying in wait to commit a robbery at one of the Automated Teller Machines." Arthur Bedford III, 33-years-old, surrendered after a brief foot chase. Bedford apparently

dropped an unloaded .40 caliber Glock semi-automatic handgun during the chase and had ammunition for the gun in his pocket when he was captured. ([Covina] *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, April 30)



INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

85) ATM Customer In Berlin, Germany Robbed By Four Thugs With A Gun - In a cryptic police report from the Berlin Morgen Post, a 23-year-old man, Stipo Z. was confronted and robbed after he had withdrawn cash from an ATM on Brunnenstrasse in Berlin by four robbers from south Germany who had a pistol. No further details were published. (*Berlin [Germany] Morgen Post*, June 28)

ATM CONSUMER SAFETY EDUCATION

During the month of April very few ATM consumer safety education items were located. Among those were:

- *Detroit [Michigan] Free Press*, April 1
- *Palos Verdes [California] Peninsula News*, April 2
- [El Centro, California] *Sunday*, April 3, David Little, reporter and
- *Manteca [California] Bulletin*, April 12, Rex Osborn, reporter.

NEWS OF WEIRD ATM INCIDENTS

86) Kentucky Man Reconditioning ATM Discovers And Returns \$86,500 Left in Machine And Returns It For \$2500 Reward - A few days before Christmas 1993, Wayne Scott, working for an ATM reconditioning firm in Kentucky, was inspecting a warehouse full of used ATMs and came upon a machine that had been sitting around for a year. In the vault where customers' ATM deposits are stored, Scott found bundles of cash, some of it inside a bag marked with a west coast bank's name. The servicer said, "My eyes got all watery, chills went up my back. I locked the ATM up and immediately went for a supervisor--I didn't want to take any chances. I was in awe."

Wayne Scott's uncle, David Scott, president of the firm, Systems Service Supply International in Henderson, Kentucky said the West Coast bank that decommissioned the machine in July 1992 never determined how it lost track of the \$86,500 packaged in \$20 and \$5 bills. David Scott said the bank involved was a great deal less than thunder-struck with the remanufacturer's offer to return the cash. "I thought we would bring down the bank, that they would shout for joy that the amount that mysteriously disappeared was at last found. I was surprised when they couldn't specifically ID their loss. We continued to work with them as they audited their ATMs and went back through all their paperwork. But they never did come up with that specific loss. Still, it was in their ATM and in their money bag, so we concluded that it was theirs." David Scott said he suspects someone may have been attempting to steal the cash. The bank paid legal expenses incurred by the ATM reconditioning firm in connection with the discovery, and rewarded the younger Scott with \$2500. ([Lynn, Massachusetts] *Daily Evening Item*, April 8, Byron Rohrig, reporter, front page story).

87) Vicious Ski-Masked ATM Robber In California Shoots Woman In Jaw, And Her Barking Dog - About 10:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, a woman who had just driven up and withdrawn cash from a Bank of America ATM in Hayward, California was confronted by a vicious thug wearing a ski mask and carrying a pistol. The robber demanded her cash, and the woman's dog began barking and startled the robber. The robber shot the dog, and then turned and shot the woman once in the jaw and took the \$40 she had just withdrawn from the ATM. The robber fled on foot. The woman was treated and released at a local hospital. The dog also was reported to be recovering. ([Hayward, California] *Daily Review*, April 18).

88) ATM Cash Deposits "Reeking Of Marijuana" Are Probable Cause For Police Search, And Arrest Of California Drug Dealer - Robert Laughrey, a Ukiah, California clock repairperson, was arrested in 1992 after a teller at a local Bank of the West alerted law enforcement to the pungent odor of marijuana that clung to \$20 and \$100 bills which he deposited in his bank's ATM. The bank teller told police that no other customer's deposits had the same smell. Drug agents took a whiff of Laughrey's deposit and decided to run a check on him. Police discovered that he had a prior marijuana conviction and reviewed his bank records. Police discovered Laughrey deposited about \$28,000 during a six month period when he reported considerably less income to tax authorities. Police judged the odor of marijuana on the cash he had deposited was probable cause for a drug search of his home, which revealed marijuana plants growing.

Laughrey was convicted of drug-related charges, and his attorney appealed the conviction, arguing the odor of marijuana on Laughrey's cash was not sufficient probable cause for a drug search. A California Appeals Court judge in San Francisco stated, "It does not require a genius to think that a person who seems to have the only marijuana-smelling money in the neighborhood is somehow in regular contact with marijuana." Laughrey lost his appeal, needless to say. ([Santa Rosa, California] *Press Democratic*, April 22, Mike Geniella, reporter, front page story).

89) Connecticut Prostitute Claiming To Be Police Decoy Prostitute Handcuffs and Tricks "Arrested" Johns Into Making ATM Cash Withdrawals - Hartford, Connecticut police report the bold scam of several men by a 22-year-old 4'11" prostitute named Mary Mastrangelo. On February 18, a 41-year-old man picked up a female hitchhiker, alleged to be Mastrangelo and accepted her proposition for sex. The woman then stated that she was an undercover police officer, and that the man was under arrest. "This female then talked into the collar of her blouse, using police jargon while simulating she was wearing a wireless transmitter, which convinced the victim that she was, in fact, a police officer," the affidavit said. The woman frisked the man, took \$50 from his pocket and demanded \$200 as bail if he wanted to avoid jail. When the man answered that he didn't have the cash, she asked for a credit card and told him to drive to an ATM. The man complied, and the woman withdrew \$200 from the man's account before telling him "to drive her back to her post."

The second incident in which Mastrangelo is charged occurred March 11 and involved a 38-year-old man who allegedly picked her up while she was hitchhiking and accepted her offer for a "really good" sexual act for \$20. The man drove to an ATM and withdrew \$60, but when he gave the woman \$20 she started to scream and announce, "My name is Lt. Theresa Stevens with the Hartford Police Department. Don't you know that prostitution is illegal." She ordered the man to the back of his car, where she searched and handcuffed him. Again the woman, "acted as though she was talking into a police radio secured inside her jacket," the complaint stated. Meanwhile the man "was convinced that this female was a police officer at that time due to her mannerism and use of police jargon." Then the

woman offered the man three choices--post \$250 for bail, go to jail , or have his car impounded. She drove his car to an ATM, and the man described how his handcuffs were moved to the front and covered with a coat because the female indicated that she did not want anyone to see him, and so that he would not embarrass himself." The woman took \$220 from the man's account, plus the earlier \$20 he withdrew for the sexual act he never did receive, according to the affidavit. After the transaction, "the victim was repeatedly told that a female backup officer was watching the two the entire time."

But on March 14, the 38-year-old man went to the real police, and from a photo lineup "without hesitation" identified Mastrangelo as the fictitious Lt. Theresa Stevens. Further investigation turned up a bank surveillance videotape of a handcuffed man and Mastrangelo at the ATM, the affidavit said. The second man--who lost a total of \$250, his driver's license and a credit card to the scam--complained to police on March 21. He also, without hesitation, selected Mastrangelo from a police photo lineup. Police investigation also revealed that Mastrangelo was arrested in August 1993 on charges of third-degree robbery and impersonating a police officer, both stemming from a incident nearly identical to the two current ones. Mastrangelo was charged with first degree kidnapping, first degree larceny, criminal impersonation, sixth degree larceny and prostitution. Unrelated charges of possessing narcotics and violating probation also are pending. ([Manchester, Connecticut] *Journal Inquirer*, April 19, Rhonda Stearley, reporter).

CONCLUDING NOTES

Bonus Sections A and **B** follow.