

Plain Dealer, The (Cleveland, OH)

June 27, 2003

Edition: FINAL

Section: METRO

Page: B3

LAW & ORDER

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Article Text:

CLEVELAND

Suspect died of heart attack

A heart attack brought on by cocaine use killed a 50-year-old man who died in police custody this month, Cuyahoga County Coroner Elizabeth Balraj ruled yesterday. Bernard Bates of Cleveland was pronounced dead at 2:49 p.m. June 3 at Cleveland Clinic Hospital. Police took him to the hospital after he complained of chest pains and asked for water. Officers had arrested him after a chase that ended near Chester Avenue and East 93rd Street. Bates was wanted on outstanding warrants. Balraj said Bates had cocaine in his system and a heart weakened by the drug.

AKRON

Man charged in kidnapping

A Norton man accused of kidnapping his ex-girlfriend and spraying her office with gunfire was arraigned yesterday in Akron Municipal Court. Richard L. Hensley, 46, is charged with kidnapping and felonious assault. Judge Alison McCarty set a \$100,000 cash bond. Hensley is expected to appear in court today to make a plea. On Wednesday, Hensley went into Marketing Home Financial in Fairlawn and shot at his estranged girlfriend, Kathy Kunrye, of Wadsworth, before forcing her to leave with him, police said. Hensley told McCarty that he was upset about being unable to retrieve his personal belongings including his snowmobile after their breakup.

OAKWOOD

Woman crashes while on phone

An Akron woman was in critical condition yesterday after losing control of her car on Interstate 271 while talking on her cell phone. Selena Grooms, 26, was flown to MetroHealth Medical Center. A report on her condition was unavailable last night. She was driving south when she crashed her 1995 Oldsmobile Cutlass at 5 a.m. yesterday near Broadway Avenue. The car spun sideways before hitting the median and rolling several times, said Sgt. Mark Garrett of the Oakwood Police Department. Grooms was thrown from the vehicle and landed 119 feet away, just 7 feet from a northbound traffic lane, Garrett said. Grooms moved from Chicago to Akron this week. At the time of the accident, she was getting directions over her cell phone from her boyfriend in Mayfield Heights. He told police that the call abruptly ended. Northbound highway traffic, which had to be stopped for the helicopter, was stalled for more than two hours, Garrett said.

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