



912 Cole St. #202 ~ San Francisco, CA 94117 ~ 1-877-776-2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SWOP-MI will be holding a Memorial Gathering at the Michigan State Capitol Building on Monday Dec 17th, 2pm - 3pm

We encourage all interested in attending to wear red and/or bring a red umbrella. We will be honoring those who have passed by reading a list of their names. We will also have a variety of readings such as poetry and thoughts of inspiration. We will be honoring those who have passed by reading the list of their names. We also hope to variety of readings such as poetry or thoughts of inspiration. We will be honoring those who have passed by reading the list of their names. We also hope to variety of readings such as poetry or thoughts of inspiration.

We hope to encourage strength within our community to recognize and stop the violence towards Sex Workers. We also aim to be acknowledged as a sincere gathering of concerned citizens. We would like to send a message that violence is not acceptable and those who commit it should be dealt with in a serious manner.

This is not a protest. There will not be any banners or signs posted. It is a Peaceful and Respectful Memorial Gathering. Being held at the State Capitol, it is open to the public. It is not the intention of SWOP-MI to have Media present.

The Green River Killer said: "The plan was, I wanted to kill as many women I thought were prostitutes as I possibly could. I picked prostitutes as victims because they were easy to pick up without being noticed. I picked prostitutes because I thought I could kill as many of them as I wanted without getting caught."

The systematic discrimination that condones violence has to stop!



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Michigan Victims:

- > In Lansing, MI August 7, 2007: Deborah Cooke, 36, is found under a tree in Hunter Park. Police will only say she was physically assaulted. Her Killer still remains at large, and there is no further investigation to locate him!
- > In Ann Arbor, MI April 20, 2003: Jessica Smith, 23 Smith was found in Canton Township. She had been shot five times - twice in the head, and once in the neck, back, and shoulder - with two separate guns, by a 47 year old male she met while working in a strip club. He then shot himself.
- > In the past year, a police officer in Orange County went to trial accused of stalking strippers as they were leaving the club after work, and extorting sexual acts from them. Internal Affairs concluded that this officer had been stalking strippers and suspended the officers badge. In the criminal trial this year, a jury of 11 white men and a woman found the officer "NOT GUILTY" of three felony charges that he'd used his badge to win sexual favors during a traffic stop. The Defense? They accused her of purposefully "weakening" Park so that he became "a man," not a cop during the traffic stop. "She got what she wanted," said the defense. "She's an overtly sexual person."

For the full article: <http://www.ocweekly.com/news/news/illegally-park-ed/26661/>

- > Last October, a sex worker who arrange a date via the web (Craig's List) wound up being raped at gunpoint by five men who had lured her to an abandoned building. When criminal charges against the defendant and head of this gang rape was brought before a Philadelphia judge, the judge dismissed the rape charges, instead dropping them to "theft of services". The contention is that a prostitute cannot be raped, only "robbed" of sex. The judge said that to pursue a rape charge in the case "minimizes true rape cases and demeans women who are really raped." The defendant was charged in an identical incident involving a 23-year-old woman four days later, and the Assistant District Attorney didn't even pursue charges.
- > In Grand Rapids, MI 1994 -1996: Authorities are puzzled by the slayings of 11 women -- nine of which were prostitutes -- in and around the Grand Rapids area.



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"When this started, the reaction we heard was rather casual, like the women who had been killed were too careless. But then more and more bodies were found."

The first victim, Lesa Otberg, 25, of Grand Rapids, was discovered in March 1994 in nearby Muskegon. Eight months later, another body, still unidentified, was found in neighboring Ottawa County. The others have been in the Grand Rapids area, including five since August, 1996. The latest victim was Victoria Moore, 29, whose decomposed body was spotted by a squirrel hunter two weeks ago 20 miles north of the city.

Police aren't certain they are dealing with a serial killer. "We're not denying that it's a possibility," said Lt. Carol Price, a spokeswoman for the 15-member task force assigned to the case. "But we don't concentrate on that theory to the exclusion of others."

At least five of the 11 victims had contacts with the Rose Haven Ministry, a sanctuary for prostitutes. Most of the victims have been young white women with dark hair. Case remains open with no suspects.