

Drug Link Found In Slaying Of Honors Student

By Bill Bryan
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

An 18-year-old woman from University City was slain when a \$30,000 drug deal turned into a robbery and shooting, St. Louis homicide detectives said Thursday. The killing happened July 6 behind Northwest High School in the city.

The victim, Donyelle Ewing, was an honors student at University City High School, a scholarship-winning volleyball player and was described in loving terms by family, friends and co-workers at a fast-food restaurant

where she had worked.

Yet, Ewing was involved in some way with drugs, police said.

A pistol, a beeper and a cellular telephone were found in her car the night of the killing, and \$16,000 was found the following day in the bedroom of her home, in the 6900 block of Plymouth Avenue.

"We don't know what her actual involvement in the drug business was," said homicide Detective Jeff Kowalski. "She may have been OK herself but involved with the wrong people."

Kowalski and his partner, Detective Joe Right, spoke of the drug connection to the killing after arresting one of three suspects.

Jermaine Wooten, 20, of the 6000 block of Thekla Avenue, was arrested Wednesday night and charged Thursday with second-degree murder, first-degree assault and two counts of armed criminal action.

"Wooten is not suspected of being one of the actual shooters, but we believe he set up the drug deal that went bad," Kowalski said.

The detectives said they believe a

friend of Ewing gave \$30,000 to Wooten and was then supposed to pick up a kilogram of cocaine at midnight behind Northwest High, at 5140 River-view Boulevard.

The drug dealers, believing Ewing and her friend had the cash on them, decided to shoot the couple and keep the cocaine, the detectives said. Ewing was shot three times in the neck and chest; the friend, a 21-year-old man, was shot five times in the chest. He has recovered.

Ewing's grandfather, Leslie Ewing, 56, said he was shocked to learn about

the drug connection to the killing. He and his wife raised Donyelle.

"Only my granddaughter can say what her involvement was, and she's not here," Leslie Ewing said Thursday.

Ewing's friend "had a pretty car, and I thought something might have been a little funny," Leslie Ewing said. "I told her she should try to keep better company, but what can you do?"

"It's a shame she got mixed up in this," he said.



Donyelle Ewing
Murder victim

Westfall Wants Tax Break On Two Buildings

Clayton, School District Say No; They Would Lose \$200,000 A Year

By Virgil Tipton
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

These days, a lot of people are looking for tax breaks — including the St. Louis county government, one of the biggest taxing entities in the area.

At a meeting Thursday of the County Council, County Executive George R. "Buzz" Westfall said he would hold fast to his decision not to pay taxes on two county office buildings in Clayton.

Westfall made the remarks after hearing arguments to the contrary from an attorney representing the Clayton School District and Clayton, which would take a hit of almost \$200,000 a year if the county stops paying taxes on the buildings.

At issue are two buildings formerly owned by the Seven-Up Co. and now used for county offices. The buildings — and an adjacent parking garage — were bought in 1987 by the County Economic Council, a quasi-governmental corporation separate from the county. They are at 111 and 121 South Meramec Avenue.

In an agreement with the Economic Council, the county has been paying property taxes on the buildings since then. But Westfall said the buildings should not be assessed taxes.

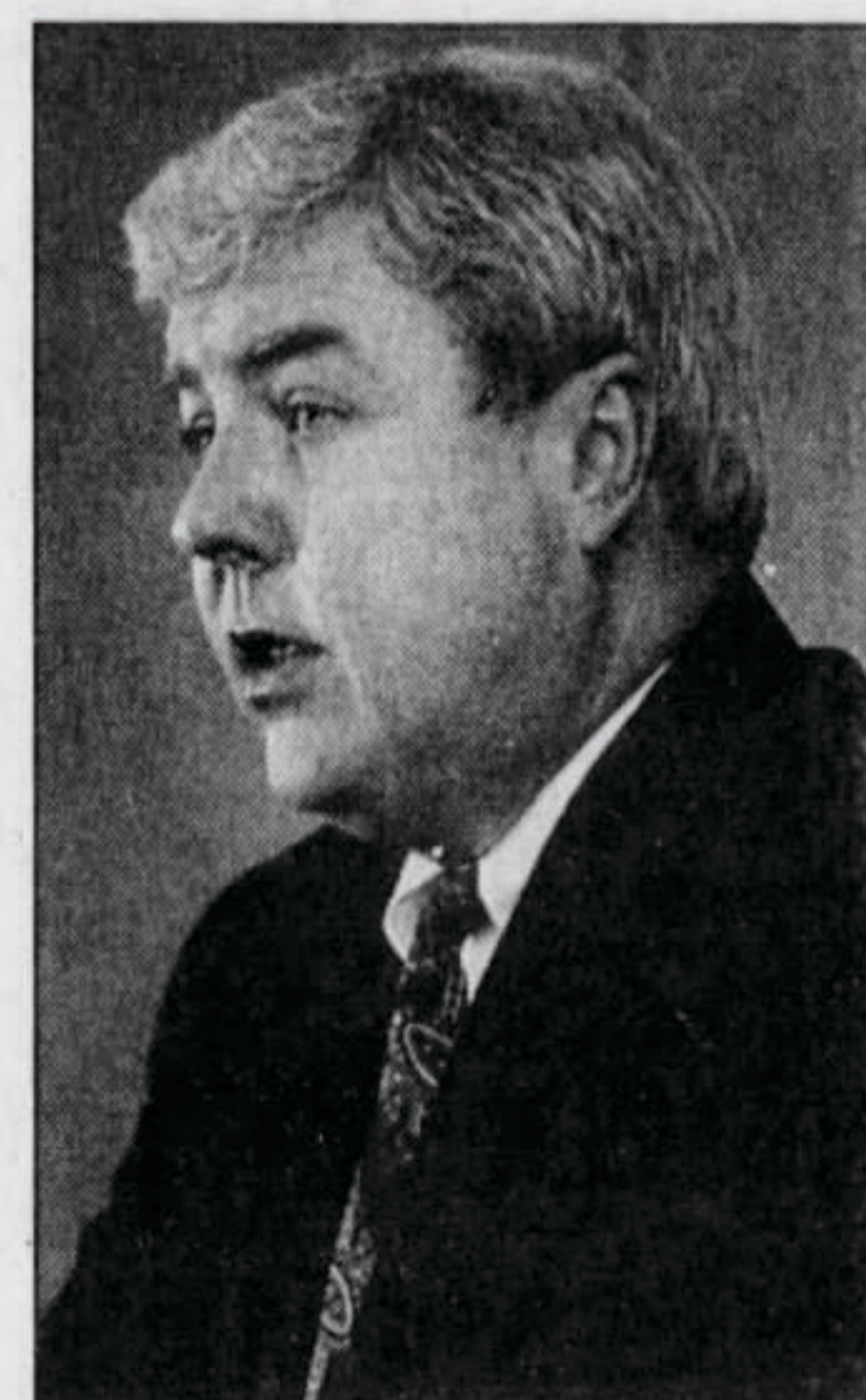
Although the building is not owned by the county, "It's a government building, and it should be tax-exempt," Westfall said.

This year, the taxes on the building would amount to \$376,000, Westfall said. Of that, \$145,000 would go to Clayton schools and \$45,000 to Clayton.

Additionally, if any school district could handle a cut, the Clayton School District could, Westfall said. The county uses its general revenue to pay the taxes, "and there's no reason for the rest of the county to be subsidizing what is no doubt the richest school district in the state," Westfall said.

The county's Board of Equalization agreed with that argument and ruled in the county's favor three weeks ago.

George Bude, the attorney representing Clayton and the school district, asked the County Council Thursday to review the matter.



George R. "Buzz" Westfall
Stands by tax decision

Bude said the buildings should not be tax-free because, he said, the Economic Council is not a charity — as Westfall's administration argues — and the buildings are being held as investments.

In addition, he said, county officials under the administration of then-County Executive Gene McNary promised in 1987 that the county would pay taxes.

The County Council agreed to Bude's request to hear the matter before the council's revenue and personnel committee. The hearing is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 24.

In other action, the County Council: Debated a plan to move the South County health clinic. The existing clinic, at 177 Kingston, is in a building that is deteriorating, said Dr. Alpha Fowler Bryan, the county's health chief. The council is considering building an expanded South County clinic at the intersection of Lindbergh Boulevard and Gravois Road. That move is opposed by Councilman Carl W. Breihan of South County, R-6th District. A hearing is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 17.

Passed on a 5-1 vote a funding measure for the Bi-State Transit System Agency, giving the transit system \$33.5 million for the fiscal year that started in July.



Robert C. Holt Jr.

Uriel Starbuck (right) teaching paper sculpting techniques to students at Taproots School of the Arts in the Dutchtown neighborhood. Facing Starbuck are (from left) Jan Mahannah, Frank Moskus, Marge Biddle and Roland Mayer.

The Learning Curve

Adults Flocking Back To School In Record Numbers In Area

By Patricia Rice
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Last fall, Betty Gordon's son Shawn, 9, read to her because she could barely read. Now after nine months in a literacy class at the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis in midtown, she reads at the sixth-grade level and is helping him with reading.

"This fall she looks forward to reading the Bible — something she could not do at her mother's funeral in July.

"I can sound out most words now," she said. "I didn't know how to do that before."

Adults are returning to school in record numbers across the region. Some, like Betty Gordon, want to fill in gaps in basic education. Others want to improve job skills or to stretch their dollars. Others are eager to find creative outlets, have fun and make friends.

In the 1991-92 school year, St. Louis Community College's three campuses all had "the biggest year ever for non-credit courses" with 77,583 enrolled in them, says college spokeswoman Jean Schildz. That is a 24 percent increase over the past three years and a 4 percent jump from the previous year, she says.

It's happening all across the region. Adult enrichment classes at Belleville Community College have increased about 50 percent over the past two years, said Martha Giordano, Belleville director of adult education. Adult enrollment at the Craft Alliance in University City is up 12 percent. At University City's Center for Contemporary Arts — COCA — summer adult enrollment was up 85 percent, and that trend continues in early fall enrollments.

Courses that filled first are directly related to job skills, said Pam McIntyre, associate dean of continuing education at the Meramec campus. Classes in data processing, computers and spreadsheets filled fast at community colleges.

At the University of Missouri at St. Louis Continuing Education-Extension, the demand for computer-related courses "is real crazy; the only trouble is finding enough teachers," said David Klostermann, dean of continuing education. Two classes in computer pagination offered for the first time this fall at the Belleville Area College's Belleville campus filled within days. Belleville's most popular computer course remains its beginners' "Computers Don't Bite."

Teachers, day-care workers and company supervisors quickly fill classes in sign languages at several campuses of Belleville Area Community College.

Virtually all of UMSL's non-credit management courses are in demand, especially one aimed at helping managers supervise employees from diverse cultural backgrounds, he said.

COCA's class in auditioning for musical theater and the Stanislavsky "method" acting class at the Midtown Arts Center, 3207 Washington Avenue, are attracting actors interested in remaining in St. Louis to polish their skills.

Some who need help the most are sidelined this fall. Laid-off individuals and their spouses took a two-day, 16-hour, free class on surviving layoff

"The course was one of the most rewarding things I have ever done."

ANNE CASE,
master gardening graduate

and finding work, offered 15 times last fall and spring by the University of Missouri Extension. Despite its long waiting list, there is no funding to continue the course, said extension labor specialist Roz Sherman Voellinger.

New technology has sent many back to class. Many workers are required to study to maintain professional certification. Community colleges in Missouri and Illinois have high enrollment in courses required for certification for nursing home managers, child-care providers, accountants and emergency vehicle technicians. Law, medical and teachers' associations sponsor courses required of some members. Studying modern technology is a boon in the spectrum of industries.

"There are so many new technologies in acrylic paint finishes that I take every class I can at paint stores," said Frank Neal, co-owner of Cheap Tricks, in the Tower Grove East neighborhood. He finishes marbled, simulated-grained furniture. "I am not going to spend \$30 a gallon for new acrylic paint and find it does not fit my applica-

tion. It would be as foolish as buying a computer and not learning how to use it."

Courses helping consumers get value for dollars are hot. These range from learning to winterize windows at the Urban League to a course on getting more out of the St. Louis Symphony. About 120 are expected in an eight-week course on specific music scheduled at Powell Hall concerts this year.

Money itself as a hot topic. Lowered interest yields in money market funds and mortgages have many students signing up for St. Louis Community College courses "How to Pick Stocks and Bonds" and "How to Invest Cash for the 90s."

Courses for small businesses or for those going into the consulting field are filling fast, McIntyre said. Belleville's stock and bond courses were the first to fill of hundreds of non-credit courses offered at the Illinois school's 26 sites, Giordano said.

"It must be the crazy stock market; every class a good number sign up, but it often does not fill up," she said.

Ten of thousands of area residents study for the fun of it. Many choose things different from what they do from 9 to 5. They release stress in courses in tap dancing, painting and ballroom dancing at COCA; they play golf at driving ranges and community colleges; they make paper and learn sculptural welding at Taproots School of the Arts in the city's Dutchtown neighborhood; they make masks and other ritual clay objects at the Craft Alliance; and they play violin or piano at CASA in University City.

At the Missouri Botanical Garden, gardeners are signing up for 55 courses, including those on insects from "Growing Butterflies At Home" to "Biological Pest Management." Forty gardeners have filled a two-year course leading to a certificate as a master gardener.

"The course was one of the most rewarding things I have ever done, and one of the most technical," said Ann Case of Ladue, a master gardening graduate. "We all made wonderful friends."

Betty Gordon holds identical sentiments about her literacy classes. In fact, she's now branching out into basic mathematics. Last week, she got a 100 on an assignment on fractions.

Grand Jury Will Weigh Fatal Shot By Recruit

By Kim Bell
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

A grand jury in St. Louis County will hear the case next week of a county police recruit who said he accidentally shot his roommate to death on the eve of the recruit's police academy graduation.

The case will go to the grand jury Thursday, said County Police Major Dennis Long. The jurors will decide if the recruit, Andrew Noto, should face

criminal charges in the death Aug. 19 of Mark Dulle.

Dulle, 22, was shot in the head in the apartment he shared with Noto at the Oak Forest Apartments near Lindbergh Boulevard and Page Avenue.

Noto, 23, had just completed 16 weeks of training at the St. Louis County Police Academy and taken home his department-issued pistol. Noto told police that, just inside the door of his apartment, he had been trying to un-

load the gun when it accidentally fired a shot.

Normally, a police officer unloading a gun would:

- Put the safety on.
- Push a release button that causes the magazine holding several rounds to drop out of the gun.
- Pull back on a slide on the top of the gun to eject the remaining round in the gun's chamber.

Investigators said that the safety had not been on and that Noto had not ejected the magazine when he tried to pull back on the slide.

"He told us he was in the process of pulling the slide back and it slipped and slid back, and that apparently startled him" while his finger was on

the trigger, Long said Thursday.

For a shooting to be considered involuntary manslaughter, Long has said, recklessness — over and beyond negligence — must be shown.

Recklessness would more likely be proved if a gun had accidentally fired when the gunman was playing quick draw or Russian roulette, he said.

Noto was a good student at the academy who did not present any disciplinary problems, said Maj. Jerry Lee of county police. Long, chief of detectives, added that Noto had had no problems with firearms training.



Noto

Police Arrest Former Convict In Shooting Of Baby At Market

A former convict was arrested Thursday in the shooting of a 10-month-old girl, who was wounded while being held by her mother in a supermarket parking lot in the Central West End, police said.

The victim, Rachel Bostic, who was shot in the back, was in satisfactory condition Thursday at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

The suspect, a 24-year-old resident of the Windsor Hotel at 4209 Lindell Boulevard, was booked on suspicion of first-degree assault, armed criminal action and drug possession. Investigators found about 15 pieces of crack cocaine in the suspect's hotel room, police said. Warrants will be sought today.

Police also will seek a federal charge against the suspect for being a felon in possession of a firearm — a 9mm pistol found in the hotel room.

The Windsor is just down the street from the National supermarket on Lindell where the baby was shot about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday.

"We believe our suspect was either trying to shoot someone in his room or was simply firing at random out his window," said Detective Sgt. Mike Guzy.

"We know for certain that shots were fired from our suspect's room." "Luckily for the victim, the distance was such that [the] bullet had lost its velocity," Guzy said.

family a lot closer," said Valerie Trumbo, 19, one of Tony's four sisters. "Now, we just want peace."

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

"I know that the Lord has my brother, and that it must have been his time," Valerie Trumbo said.

She said her mother, Rose Trumbo, was "in pieces. The agony and stress had really taken a toll on her."

"My mother has had dreams in which Tony was calling for help."

Tony also is survived by a brother, 9.

"Tony was the man of the family," Valerie Trumbo said. "He and his little brother, Greg, were very close."

"Greg is very lonely right now."



James Trumbo

Bill McClellan Is On Vacation