

5 ACCUSED IN RAPES ARE GOING TO TRIAL

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Author: MEI-LING HOPGOOD FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

A Detroit judge ordered five people bound over for **trial** Tuesday on charges of repeatedly raping four Wisconsin teenagers, including a girl who says she was held captive for more than two weeks.

After hearing two days of testimony from the girls, Judge David Martin Bradfield of 36th District Court set a **trial** date of Nov. 12.

He even approved charges that Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Larry Shulman was **going to** drop.

Bradfield said the youths -- who **are** reputedly members of a Hmong gang -- used "psychological pressure" **to** coerce the girls. He indicated that there was probable cause **to** believe the youths pretended **to** befriend the girls and that all were **in** on assaulting them. He noted that even though the girls said certain youths involved hadn't raped every one of them, those young men also hadn't helped them get away.

Accused are Ladsamee Lee, 20, and Van Yee Leng Chang, 17, both of Warren; and Jinabson Ang, 16, Yeng Chang, 15, and Sa Lee, 14, all of Detroit. They all face several charges of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

The defendants will remain **in** custody **in** lieu of \$1-million bonds each. They say they **are** not guilty, and that the girls consented **to** sex.

"I don't think a jury is **going to** believe these girls," said Salle Erwin, Sa Lee's lawyer.

Testimony on Tuesday included the revelation that one of the girls, a 16-year-old from Green Bay, Wis., had sex with one of the defendants several hours before the alleged **rapes** began. That girl also testified that Van Yee Leng Chang flashed a **gun to** them. Another girl, 15, from Appleton, Wis., said that she had initially told police no one had raped her because she feared for her family.

Authorities still don't know whether the alleged victims, ages 14 **to** 17, will be released from protective custody soon.

Many Hmong, an Asian ethnic group, come from Laos. The defendants and alleged victims **are** all of Hmong descent.

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