

Detroit man arraigned in 3 gunpoint rapes

Detroit News, The (MI) - Monday, July 19, 1999

Author: George Hunter and David G. Grant The Detroit News

DETROIT -- A 29-year-old alleged serial rapist, who police say kidnapped and assaulted three women at **gunpoint** , was **arraigned** Sunday **in** 36th District Court.

Oscar Harris of **Detroit** is accused of raping a 15-year-old girl and a 23-year-old woman. Harris allegedly drove the woman to her job **in** Troy after the incident, according to court documents.

Detroit Police Insp. Fred Campbell said Harris also is a suspect **in** a third **rape** .

"The other victim refused to come down to headquarters to identify (Harris)," Campbell said. "But we strongly believe (Harris) raped her, as well."

The other victims picked Harris' photograph, which was on file from a previous encounter with police, Campbell said.

Harris pleaded not guilty to two counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, two counts of armed robbery, and one count of carjacking.

He was arrested Friday while asleep at a bus stop at the Lodge service drive and West Grand Boulevard.

Magistrate Robert Costello set Harris' bond at \$1 million.

"I find that these allegations show a great danger to the public," Costello told Harris.

On July 7, around 8 p.m., police said Harris approached a 15-year-old girl who was sitting **in** a 1991 silver Ford Escort outside a store at Van Dyke near Mack. The girl was waiting for her boyfriend, who went into the store to get a pack of cigarettes.

Harris allegedly put a gun to the girl's head and forced her to drive to a construction site near Interstate 75. When the girl began to cry, Harris punched her **in** the face, according to court documents.

He then forced the girl into the back seat of the car and raped her. He then stole \$2 from the girl's purse before dropping her off on East Grand Boulevard near Mack.

Last Monday, Harris used the stolen Escort to commit a second **rape** , police said. At around 7:30 a.m., Harris drove to a bus stop at McNichols and John R. He began talking with a 23-year-old woman who was waiting for the bus. After a few minutes, Harris pulled his gun and ordered the woman into the car. He drove her to a location near Interstate 75 and Holbrook and raped her.

After the **rape** , Harris took \$20 from the woman's purse, police said. Harris then drove the woman to her job **in** Troy.

"Sometimes people do strange things," Campbell said of Harris driving the woman to work. "I guess they feel remorseful."

Harris' preliminary examination is set for July 29.

Edition: Final

Section: Metro

Page: 1C

Dateline: DETROIT

Record Number: det2983094

Copyright (c) The Detroit News. All rights reserved. Reproduced with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. by NewsBank, inc.