



Nick Leoncavallo/The Gamecock

### Is it here yet?

Waiting for the train, Passangers of the late night Amtrak bound for Miami bide their time on the arrival platform at the Columbia train station Friday.

## Man confesses to quadruple murder in Rock Hill; no motive uncovered

By The Associated Press

An Indiana man with a history of mental illness has confessed to killing his grandparents and another couple, said authorities, who still have many questions about events leading to the slayings.

Gary Rimert, 21, of Lafayette, Ind., seemed confused when officers questioned him after his arrest Saturday on four counts of murder, York County Sheriff George Eaton said.

Officers have talked to Rimert's parents, but have not found out why the young man left Indiana on Friday night for his grandparents' home in the exclusive Rock Hill community of River Hills, Eaton said. He arrived there about 8 a.m. Saturday.

At least one sheriff's detective will travel to Indiana this week to talk with people in the Rimerts' hometown, the sheriff said.

Eaton said Rimert has admitted stabbing to death his grandparents, Henry Rohrs, 81, and his wife Alice, 82, and their neighbors, Ralph Petersen, 71, and his wife Dee, 69. Police have offered no motive for the slayings.

Authorities say Rimert was taking anti-psychotic medication but failed to bring it with him to River Hills.

The sheriff's department has identified the medication as Loxitane, a drug prescribed to schizophrenia patients, and Cogentin, which is used to counteract the side-effects of Loxitane.

Eaton said the fact that Rimert had been off the medication contributed to his emotional disorder and could be used as a defense against capital punishment.

"I think it's a capital offense that you have two people — the Petersens — in their own home on a Saturday morning, and someone comes in and just kills them," Eaton said. "People have a right to be safe in their own homes and anybody who does this deserves the death penalty."

Rohrs was found stabbed to death in the entrance of his house. Mrs. Rohrs was found at the entrance to the Petersens' home, where she apparently ran for help.

Mrs. Petersen's body was found in her kitchen, and her husband's body was found in the couple's garage.

Each had stab wounds at least 5½ inches deep, police said. Authorities identified the murder weapon as a 14-inch carving knife.

Under South Carolina law, a murder must be committed under aggravated circumstances before a defendant can be sentenced to death.

## Programs like South Carolina's help lower infant mortality rates, study finds

By The Associated Press

Programs such as one in South Carolina that sends midwives to the homes of low-income families helps reduce child abuse and prenatal problems such as low birth-weight babies and should be encouraged, according to a federal study.

A study by the General Accounting Office, the watchdog arm of Congress, found that home vis-

its conducted in conjunction with other community services help families that are poor, uneducated or headed by teen-age parents obtain health care or social services.

"Home visiting is a promising strategy for delivering or improving access to early intervention services that can help at-risk families become healthier and more sufficient," according to the study released Monday.

The study recommends Congress amend Medicaid statutes to allow more states to pay for house calls by health care workers. Twenty-six states, including South Carolina, do not cover such home visits through Medicaid.

Estimating the funding of a national network of these programs could cost between \$95 million, if it was optional, to \$625 million if mandatory.

To bolster its opinion that the programs deserve more funding, the GAO noted South Carolina's Resource Mothers Program and eight other home visitation programs across the nation.

The state's Resource Mothers Program showed that the percentage of underweight infants was reduced by 50 percent after their adolescent mothers had been visited by "lay workers" in 16

counties.

"I think home visitations are going to be one of the answers to infant mortality," program coordinator Madie Robinson said. "If people don't know what programs are available to them, it's not going to do any good to have the programs. Outreach programs, like ours, are going to be crucial."

Despite its success, the state still ranks 48th in the nation in infant

deaths, according to the National Commission to Prevent Infant Mortality. Only Mississippi and Washington, D.C., have worse rates.

Funded in 1989 with \$167,000 in state funds and \$353,000 in federal block grants, the program's "resource mothers" help educate teen-agers about nutrition, family planning and parenting skills.

## Animal rights activist gets 32 months in bombing of surgical supplies company

By The Associated Press

An animal rights activist who pleaded no contest to trying to bomb the head of a company that uses dogs in medical demonstrations has been sentenced to 32 months in prison.

Fran Trutt was accused of planting a pipe bomb near the parking space of Leon C. Hirsch, chairman and chief executive of Norwalk-based U.S. Surgical

Corp., in November 1988. The company uses anesthetized live dogs to show surgeons how to use its surgical staplers, used in some cases in places of sutures.

Trutt, 35, of New York, pleaded no contest April 16 to charges of attempted murder, possession of explosives and bomb manufacturing in the incident.

Stamford Superior Court Judge Joette Katz imposed a sentence of 10 years for each charge, to run concur-

rently and suspended after 32 months. With credit for time already served, Trutt will be released from prison next March 31.

Trutt told Katz that she feels she is a scapegoat. "Here I am taking the brunt for it. This is unbelievable," she said. She had said in interviews that she wanted to scare Hirsch, not kill him.

Animal protection groups, citing an abhorrence of

violence, did not rally behind Trutt until her attorney, John R. Williams, alleged the company had set her up.

According to Williams, Mary Lou Sapone was hired by U.S. Surgical to befriend Trutt and spy on her, then later encouraged her to proceed with the pipe bomb despite Trutt's reservations.

U.S. Surgical acknowledged hiring Sapone to spy on Trutt after hearing of her plans against Hirsch.

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