

THOMAS J. DONOVAN, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOSHUA R. DIAMOND
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

WILLIAM E. GRIFFIN
CHIEF ASST. ATTORNEY
GENERAL



TEL: (802) 828-3171
FAX: (802) 828-3187

<http://www.ago.vermont.gov>

STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
109 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT
05609-1001

April 13, 2018

Craig A.C. McDermott
diggitnews@gmail.com

Re: Amended Public Records Request – Audrey Groat

Dear Mr. McDermott:

This letter is in response to your request for public records received by the Vermont Attorney General's Office on March 30, 2018 related to the Audrey Groat investigation.

Request

Your request for public records was summarized in the request to include the following:

1. SEEKING ALL AND ANY AUDIO OR VIDEO FILES ASSOCIATED WITH WITNESS/SUSPECT INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY ANY POLICE OR AGENT OF THE STATE WITH OR INVOLVING PATRICK JARVIS DOB 03/19/57.
2. PHONE TAPS, LINE RECORDINGS AS WELL IF THEY EXIST.
3. SEEKING ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION RELATED TO THE POLYGRAPH TEST PERFORMED ON PATRICK JARVIS DOB 03/19/57.
4. ALSO SEEKING ANY NEWS OR MEDIA FOOTAGE THAT WAS SAVED OR ATTACHED TO THIS CASE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THIS CASE/FILES. FOR INSTANCE, A WCAX REPORT ON VHS OR DIGITAL DISK THAT MAY HAVE BEEN SAVED OR ANY AND ALL MEDIA RELATED FOOTAGE AND AUDIO FILES.
5. ANY NEWS STORIES IN PRINT, VIDEO OR AUDIO.

Response

The Attorney General's Office has reviewed the case files in their possession which relate to the Audrey Groat investigation and respond to your request for public records related to that investigation as follows:

1. SEEKING ALL AND ANY AUDIO OR VIDEO FILES ASSOCIATED WITH WITNESS/SUSPECT INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED BY ANY POLICE OR AGENT OF THE STATE WITH OR INVOLVING PATRICK JARVIS DOB 03/19/57.

Records not produced

The video and audio files in the Audrey Groat case file are in the form of VHS tapes. They have been reviewed and there are no interviews with Patrick Jarvis or any other person on those VHS tapes.

2. PHONE TAPS, LINE RECORDINGS AS WELL IF THEY EXIST.

Records not produced

There are no phone taps or line recordings in the Audrey Groat case file.

3. SEEKING ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION RELATED TO THE POLYGRAPH TEST PERFORMED ON PATRICK JARVIS DOB 03/19/57.

Records not produced

Materials related to the polygraph examination on Patrick Jarvis are exempt from disclosure. Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(3), records which “would cause the custodian to violate duly adopted standards of ethics or conduct for any profession regulated by the State” are exempt from disclosure. 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(4) provides that the disclosure of records “which would cause the custodian to violate any statutory or common law privilege other than the common law deliberative process privilege as it applies to the General Assembly and the Executive Branch agencies of the State of Vermont” are also exempt from disclosure.

4. ALSO SEEKING ANY NEWS OR MEDIA FOOTAGE THAT WAS SAVED OR ATTACHED TO THIS CASE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THIS CASE/FILES. FOR INSTANCE, A WCAX REPORT ON VHS OR DIGITAL DISK THAT MAY HAVE BEEN SAVED OR ANY AND ALL MEDIA RELATED FOOTAGE AND AUDIO FILES.

Records not produced

There are no news or media footages in the Audrey Groat case file.

5. ANY NEWS STORIES IN PRINT, VIDEO OR AUDIO.

Records produced

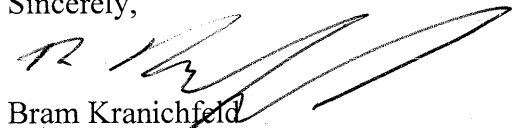
As a courtesy, news stories and all related print materials that were made public and in the Audrey Groat case file are attached.

Right to appeal

To the extent that this letter constitutes a denial of your request, you may appeal to the Deputy Attorney General. Any appeal should be in writing and addressed to:

Joshua Diamond
Deputy Attorney General
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Sincerely,



Bram Kranichfeld
Criminal Division Chief

Electronically Transmitted

Attachments

Police Express Frustration About Audrey Groat Case

By DIANE DERBY

Vermont Press Bureau

MIDDLESEX — In 18 years of police work, State Police Sgt. Gloria Danforth says she has never investigated a more frustrating case than the disappearance of Audrey Groat.

Volumes of court affidavits and search warrant requests detail the police work that has gone on in the case since Groat vanished on Aug. 21.

State police divers have probed the murky waters of the Wrightsville Reservoir. Police dogs have scoured a wooded area off Bolduc Road. Samples of freshly unearthed soil have been collected and sent to police labs.

But more than three months after Groat vanished, Danforth says police have little new information to go on, and state police say they need the public's help. A cash reward for information in the case is now being offered by Central Vermont Crimestoppers.

"I can tell you that I know where she isn't. I can't tell you where she is," said Danforth, relating how the various searches have ruled out some specific locations.

"The whole world is the hiding place," she said.

At the state police barracks earlier this week, Danforth and Sgt. James Ross expressed their hope that someone will come forward with information to corroborate or refute other leads that have been received.

The recent search of the reservoir

area by a team of state police divers has not ruled out the possibility that Groat's body may still be in the water at the foot of the Wrightsville Dam.

Since September, at least six people have offered independent accounts of having smelled a foul odor at the south end of the reservoir where the divers concentrated their search last month, according to Danforth.

While the area often harbors a swampy odor in late summer, Danforth and Ross say the reports bolster the possibility that Groat's body may be there.

"The more people who can tell us the same thing might lend some credibility to (the reports)," Ross said. The possibility of dragging or dredging the water has not been ruled out, they say.

The site is a short distance from Bolduc Road, where Patrick Jarvis reportedly told police he and Groat drank beer and had sex in a tent in the hours before she disappeared. Police believe Jarvis was at the campsite for at least two hours that night.

According to police affidavits, Jarvis said he then drove Groat back to her pick-up truck at a Montpelier commuter lot and left her there, although police say his accounts of how and when he last saw her have been inconsistent.

No one has reported seeing the mother of six since Aug. 21, and Jarvis has been called a suspect in her disappearance and probable homicide.

Trial

(Continued from Page One)

of sexual assault on a minor, has been jailed for lack of bail since Sept. 2.

His attorney, David Kidney, argued that Jarvis' constitutional rights entitled him to a speedy trial, and with that request, Judge Shireen A. Fisher set the December trial date.

During a hearing last week in Barre District Court, Fisher said Jarvis was entitled to be tried within 90 days, and denied Trono's request for an extension. In this case, "science is going to have to yield to due process," Fisher said.

Kidney has charged that the state is attempting to delay the case and keep Jarvis in jail while police try to connect Jarvis to the disappearance of Audrey Groat, the Northfield woman who has been missing since Aug. 21 and is presumed dead.

Police believe Jarvis is the last person to have seen Groat alive, and Trono has referred to him as a homicide suspect in the case.

Trono denied that he was purposely trying to delay matters in asking for the continuance. According to court papers, the DNA tests for blood and semen are being conducted at a state police laboratory, and the results will not be available until mid-January. Trono said the complex nature of the testing is causing the delay.

The sexual assault charges were brought as the result of the police

investigation into Groat's disappearance. During interviews, a girl told police that Jarvis repeatedly made her have sex in his apartment in July and August of this year, according to court affidavits.

Trono said the DNA results could offer "substantial independent corroboration" for the girl's allegations.

"Without such scientific corroboration, this case, as most child abuse cases, is essentially a credibility battle," Trono wrote.

The DNA samples were taken from a sleeping bag that was seized from Jarvis' Barre apartment shortly after his arrest. The bag contained blood and semen that the prosecution says may prove that Jarvis had sex with the girl.

Jarvis was initially charged with aggravated sexual assault, based on his previous conviction on a sexual molestation charge involving an 8-year-old girl. The charges were reduced because the earlier conviction, which occurred in South Carolina, did not constitute a sexual assault, but was the equivalent of Vermont's lewd and lascivious conduct charge.

Kidney sought to have the trial moved, saying pretrial publicity made it impossible for Jarvis to receive a fair trial in Washington County. Fisher has denied that request, but has agreed to sequester a jury for the trial, which is expected to last at least three days.

A response from the Supreme Court to Trono's request is expected within several days.

Search Continues for Missing Woman

By WILSON RING
The Associated Press

MONTPELIER — An attorney, trying to win Social Security benefits for the children of a missing Northfield woman is asking people in the area where she is believed to have disappeared for help.

Barre lawyer Gary McQuesten wants anyone in the Middlesex area who might have seen something last Aug. 21 that might be related to the disappearance of Audrey Groat to contact him.

"There are a number of people who have information who haven't gone to the police and have come forward since I became involved in January," McQuesten said Tuesday.

McQuesten has been seeking information since Groat's disappearance and renewed his request in this month's edition of the local Middlesex Occasional newspaper.

The Vermont State Police investigation into Groat's disappearance is also continuing.

"It is not a closed investigation," said Detective Sgt. Gloria Danforth. The police and other investigators have used airplanes, dogs, scuba divers and even psychics trying to locate Groat, but no trace of her has been found.

"If she should appear alive we'd be very happy," Danforth said, but

Groat is presumed to be dead.

Police have several more major searches planned for next month, but Danforth did not want to say what those plans were until they were ready to be carried out.

Groat, 41, was last seen alive Aug. 21 of last year after she returned from a trip to Burlington with her boyfriend, Patrick Jarvis of Barre.

Jarvis has since been convicted and jailed on a lewd and lascivious conduct charge, a case that police developed after beginning their investigation into Groat's disappearance.

Police have searched the Middlesex area near the Wrightsville Reservoir and where both Jarvis and Groat were seen separately the day she disappeared.

Groat left six children aged 13 to 21, and McQuesten is trying to win Social Security survivor benefits for them. But the federal agency cannot release any money until they have proof that Groat is dead.

McQuesten filed claims for Groat's children last winter. He said the initial claim was denied because there was no proof Groat was dead. He is appealing that decision.

Without a body or other convincing proof, the children will not be eligible to receive the money until Groat has been missing for seven years, McQuesten said.

McQuesten's investigation is separate from that being carried out by the police. His goal is to win Social Security benefits for the children, rather than trying to determine why Groat disappeared.

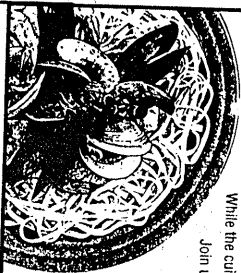
"I am not acting on behalf of the police. I am acting on behalf of the kids," McQuesten said. "These kids need to know where their mother is."

The children are living with friends and relatives in the Northfield area and one is in Maine. He said the children's physical needs were being met, but emotionally it was difficult for them. "They need closure."

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Children

(Continued from Page One)
mediately dried up. When the children needed help, the state turned its back, they say.

Even the school hot lunches that Groat's children were entitled to as part of the welfare benefits have stopped. Medicaid coverage had been cut off with the welfare checks, but has since been restored, according to one guardian.

The new guardians say their goal was to keep the girls together and out of foster homes, but their repeated telephone calls to state social service agencies failed to bring them any help in that effort.

"There is no one who seems to be really concerned about everything that happens to these kids," said Julie Lambert of Northfield, who with her husband, Gary, is caring for two of Groat's daughters.

"That's been the really hard thing for us," said Lambert, whose 17-year-old son is a classmate of one of the girls. "As much as the state says it cares for its kids, there's nobody who steps in when a family is devastated like this."

The soccer coach had a similar experience.

"We've contacted every agency that we are aware of," said Steve Dukette, who has three of his own children at home. "We didn't think it was going to be as tough as it has been."

Lambert, whose family grew from two children to four nearly overnight, says the issue is not entirely financial, and she fears that Groat's children will see it that way. It is also about needing support services to keep the girls together in emotionally troubling times, she said.

State officials say they cannot discuss the Groat case specifically, but they agree that it is an unusual case that points up a gap in human services.

Because of archaic federal regulations, the Department of Social Welfare cannot provide assistance when the caretakers are not related to the children by blood or marriage, according to Commissioner Jane Kitchel, who says her hands are tied by those rules.

"It's an incredible act of community responsibility and generosity. There's no question about it," Kitchel said of the caretakers' efforts. "Our policy really sends the wrong message, and I would be the first to say it."

Kitchel says the policy would be changed if the state's welfare reform plan were to pass, and she called the current federal rules "an absolutely crazy policy."

William Young, commissioner of Social and Rehabilitation Services,

said unless the case involved court placements resulting from abuse and neglect, his department could not get involved.

"You are talking about a very unusual case, and there is not a good solution," Young said.

While the state pays foster parents between \$321 and \$387 a month to care for a child, Young said such reimbursement is only available in abuse and neglect cases, when the children have become wards of the state. Lambert says she has no interest in turning the children over to the state for the financial benefits.

Sgt. Gloria Danforth, a state police detective who has spent months investigating Groat's disappearance, chides the state's response, and says she believes the bureaucracy could be more flexible in this case.

Danforth says she personally made repeated calls in an effort to get social service agencies involved.

"If there were ever a case where my tax dollars should be spent," Danforth said, "it should be this one."

Social Security death benefits may be available for the Groat's daughters, but the guardians must first prove that Groat has died. While investigators believe Groat is a homicide victim, numerous searches of sites in Middlesex and Montpelier have failed to turn up any trace of her.

Investigators say Patrick Jarvis of Barre is a suspect in Groat's disappearance and probable homicide, although no charges have been brought. Jarvis is in jail awaiting trial on charges that he sexually assaulted a minor, charges that arose from the investigation into Groat's disappearance.

Police believe Jarvis, who has been described as Groat's boyfriend, is the last person to have seen Groat alive.

Groat's children, meanwhile, wait for answers to the lingering questions about what happened to their mother.

"I think everybody has accepted the fact that she probably won't be coming back," said Angela Jutras of Brunswick, Maine, the eldest of the six daughters. But even a final acknowledgement that their mother is dead will be devastating, Jutras said.

Lambert said it is difficult to judge how well the other daughters are coping emotionally.

"It's hard to think past tomorrow for them," Lambert said. "The longer it goes on, you have to be able to detach yourself somewhat so you can get on with your life."

"They really do need some closure," Lambert said.

Groat

(Continued from Page One)
clues. The "missing person" posters still hang in the Barre city police station. Groat's smiling face stares out from the posters, a disturbing reminder that it's possible for someone to disappear with virtually no trace.

Barre lawyer Gary McQuesten is working for free to obtain Social Security benefits for Groat's children. In order to obtain those benefits — about \$200 per week per child — McQuesten must persuade the government that Groat is dead.

"The six kids have all had birthdays that have come and gone. A grandchild's been born — all with no contact from Mom. She was building her house. She had all the reason in the world not to leave and all the reason in the world to stay," he said.

So far, the bureaucrats are unconvinced. Despite 120 pages of evidence and legal argument, his petition was rejected once and is now being reconsidered by administrators. If that fails, McQuesten will appeal to an administrative law judge, he said.

McQuesten admits he is more than a little obsessed with the mystery.

"I remain convinced there are people out there with knowledge of Audrey's disappearance who have not come forward," he said. "It's time for those people to tell what they know, even if they do so anonymously. Audrey's children need their help."

State police, although frustrated by the failure to find her body, say the case remains a top priority.

"The investigation is very much open," said State Police Sgt. Gloria Danforth, who has looked for Groat for months. "... There are no limits as to what we will try to do as far as finding that body."

□□□

This much is publicly known about the Groat's disappearance: On Saturday, Aug. 21, 1993, Groat, 41, dropped one of her daughter's off at a friend's home in Middlesex. She was reported missing the following day after she failed to pick up her youngest child. Investigators believe the last time Groat was seen for certain was on Shady Rill Road in Middlesex about 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Police have a suspect in the case: Patrick L. Jarvis, 36, Groat's boyfriend who then lived in Barre. Jarvis told police that he and Groat spent the afternoon and evening of Aug. 21 together, shopping in South Burlington and later drinking beer in a tent, before he left her at her truck at a Montpelier parking lot around 10 p.m. that night.

But police have not confirmed much of Jarvis's account. They have said Groat probably never made it back to her truck that night.

Investigators believe Groat intended that Saturday last August to confront Jarvis because she knew he was having sexual relations with a young relative of hers.

Jarvis had served time in South Carolina for molesting an 8-year-old relative. He was charged last fall with sexual assault of a minor — a charge that stemmed from the investigation into Groat's disappearance, officials said. In Decem-



File Photo

Audrey Groat was last seen one year ago today.

ber, Jarvis reached a plea agreement with prosecutors. In exchange for his cooperation with police on the Groat case, he pled guilty to a reduced charge of lewd and lascivious conduct with a minor. The results of the polygraph test he took last year have not been made public.

Jarvis is jailed at the Northeast Regional Correctional Center in St. Johnsbury. With time off for good behavior, Jarvis could be released this December, authorities said.

Danforth said Jarvis remains a suspect in the case. "I will never say he's the only suspect. But he's certainly not ruled out in my book," she said.

But without a body — the most important piece of physical evidence — proving the case remains extremely difficult.

"At this point, we don't have enough evidence to charge anyone," said Washington County State's Attorney Terry Trono.

Not that police aren't looking. They combed Wrightsville Reservoir last November with underwater video cameras and dogs specially trained to detect cadavers. Dogs were also used to search a junkyard in Middlesex earlier this summer. Police have also blended science with straight detective work. They've retained a forensic anthropologist who specializes in finding burial sites. They've posted Groat's description on a national missing persons computer system and they've distributed special "Crimestoppers" posters — seeking anonymous information — within the state prison system, Danforth said.

The posters yielded a number of tips — but as yet no body, she said. "We've also got a variety of other things ongoing that I can't really disclose until after they get done," she said. "We've gotten very creative with this."

But the search now centers as much on eliminating possible sites as it does on finding Groat. "I can tell you where she isn't," Danforth said.

□□□

Prompted by Huard's discovery of hair in Marshfield Pond, state police will return to the area this week with divers. For Huard, the search is long overdue.

He said police took weeks to respond when he found the hair in June — and only followed up after

he called the governor's "hot line" to complain. After what he said was a cursory inspection of the pond, they gave up, Huard said.

"I am very confident there is a body there. But they (police) don't want it be anywhere but Wrightsville Dam. Instead of putting it down, they should be cooperating with me. But we're not getting that cooperation," he said.

Danforth and her superiors bristle at the suggestion that they have not followed up the tip.

"All I can tell you is we investigated and researched it as much as we can. I feel we have responded very appropriately to his information, with negative results," said Danforth.

But police decided to return "in order to eliminate that site once and for all or to confirm" that a body is beneath the water, said Lt. Bill O'Leary of the Middlesex state police barracks.

"We will try to coordinate having a member of our dive team and Mr. Huard present, so he can specifically point out the locations of sites of possible evidence," he said.

Both O'Leary and Danforth agree that what Huard found is human hair. But that doesn't mean it came from Groat, they said. "It could have been left by any number of people," O'Leary said. "We had indications the hair given to us hadn't been in the water very long. But that's still being analyzed. We have no reason to connect it with any one person whatsoever."

McQuesten, the Barre lawyer who is trying to prove Groat's death, said Huard — like many other people — was touched by the Groat tragedy and is doing what he can to help. Psychics, dowzers and others with less esoteric skills at finding people have contacted him to offer assistance, McQuesten said.

"Ron (Huard) is one of dozens of people who have volunteered their time, equipment and expertise and who have helped in the search for Audrey," he said.

Danforth said she wants to hear of any information McQuesten digs up — but she doesn't want freelance investigators getting in the way of police work.

"We don't mind getting the information. But we think it's our responsibility for the quality of the investigation that we do," she said. "If somebody's got information, please refer it to us. We don't need four people out there reinventing the wheel and we don't need four people reinterviewing witnesses."

But, ultimately, the search for Groat centers on helping her children, who have lived apart from each other since their mother's disappearance. One daughter lives in Maine while the rest are staying in Vermont.

Julie Lambert, a Northfield woman who took in Groat's second youngest child, said although the children seem to be adapting well to their new homes, the uncertainty of their mother's fate — the lack of closure, Lambert calls it — undoubtedly bothers them.

Although the kids probably believe she is dead, "the hardest thing is there's just no end for them," she said.

If their mother is found, "it would be a terrible trauma in the beginning, but maybe they'll feel they'll be able to go along with their lives," Lambert said.

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(Continued from Page One)
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"They really do need some closure," Lambert said.

JUNE 1994

Middlesex OCCASIONAL

Help Find Audrey Groat

On August 21, 1993 Audrey Groat a resident of Northfield, disappeared. Groat, age 41 and the mother of six, was last seen in the Shady Rill area of Middlesex.

Gary McQuesten, a Barre attorney, is representing the children of Audrey Groat, without fee, in an effort to obtain Social Security Survivor's Benefits. McQuesten believes there may be Middlesex residents who observed activities that may relate to the disappearance and who have not disclosed their suspicions. He is hopeful that additional evidence may help the children's case.

The area from Middlesex Village to Shady Rill, the Wrightsville Dam, Upper Terrace Street and Davy Road may all play a role in the disappearance. Audrey was a passenger in a beige Ford Escort when last seen.

Anyone with any information whatsoever is encouraged to contact Attorney McQuesten at 476-4181.

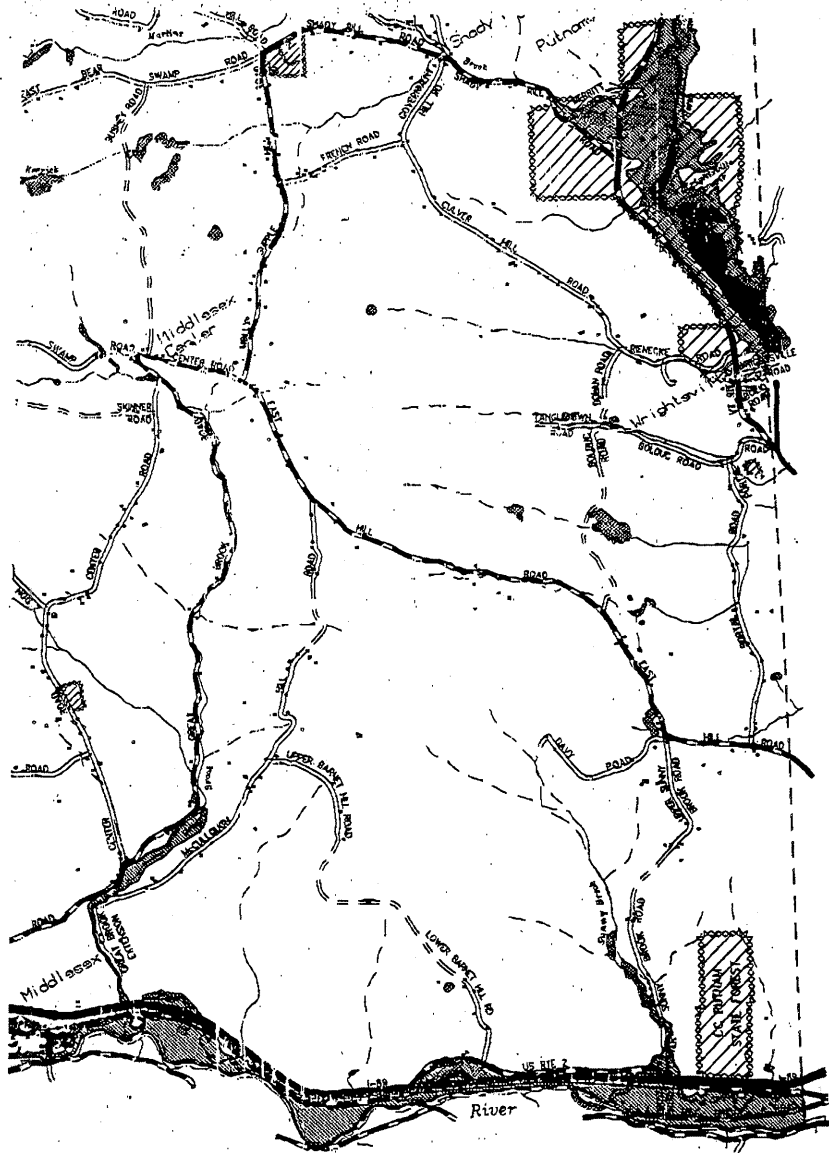
EDITOR'S NOTE

The last time that Audrey was seen for sure was on Shady Rill Road about 2:00 - 2:15 in the afternoon of August 21st.

For the sake of her six daughters, ages 13 to 21, please come forward if you think you have any information that will help solve this mystery. You may call the Middlesex State Police at 229-9191 or call Atty. McQuesten at 476-4181.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MUCH NEED HELP!

Audrey Groat Search Area



BERT FRENCH
 EXCAVATION CONTRACTOR
 "We Dig Vermont"

REMEMBER: WE WANT YOUR INFORMATION, NOT YOUR NAME

**** SPECIAL ALERT - VERMONT CORRECTIONAL CENTERS ****

MISSING PERSON * MISSING PERSON * MISSING PERSON

Central Vermont Crimestoppers

July 1, 1994



On Saturday, August 21, 1993, **AUDREY GROAT** of **NORTHFIELD, VT** failed to return to her residence. **MS. GROAT** is a forty one year old white female, long blonde hair and blue eyes, approximately five foot seven inches tall, approximately 120 pounds. **MS. GROAT** was last seen wearing black jeans, white sweater and Gitano brand sneakers.

MS. Groat was reported to have been last seen by her male companion at her GMC truck at the Montpelier commuter parking lot at approximately 10:00 PM on August 21, 1993.

MS. GROAT is the mother of six children, grandmother of two grandchildren. It is extremely unusual that she would not have returned to her residence. It is believed that Ms. Groat is dead.

If you have any information pertaining to the location of **MS. GROAT**, please contact:

By Telephone:

CENTRAL VERMONT CRIMESTOPPERS
COLLECT - (802) 476-9999 - COLLECT
or
1-800-529-9998

Crimestoppers will assign you a number at the time of your initial call - You will need to use that same number when making additional telephone calls to Crimestoppers.

By Mail:

RE: Audrey Groat
12 North Main Street
Barre, VT 05641

OR

Re: Audrey Groat
R. R. 1, Box 186
Bethel, VT 05032

Mail going to these addresses should be "signed" with a name (other than your own) or number which identifies the writer - You will need to use this same name or number in additional letters to this address.

Crimestoppers will pay cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and arraignment of the person(s) responsible for her disappearance.

ALERT:

Central Vermont Crimestoppers

CRIME OF THE WEEK

*****MONTPELIER***** 11/30/93

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 1993, AUDREY GROAT OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT FAILED TO RETURN TO HER RESIDENCE. MS GROAT IS A FORTY ONE YEAR OLD WHITE FEMALE, LONG BLONDE HAIR AND BLUE EYES, APPROXIMATELY FIVE FOOT SEVEN INCHES TALL, APPROXIMATELY 120 POUNDS. MS GROAT WAS LAST SEEN WEARING BLACK JEANS, WHITE SWEATER AND GITANO SNEAKERS.

MS GROAT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN LAST SEEN BY HER MALE COMPANION AT HER GMC TRUCK AT THE MONTPELIER COMMUTER PARKING LOT AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 PM ON AUGUST 21ST, 1993.

MS GROAT IS THE MOTHER OF SIX CHILDREN; IT IS EXTREMELY UNUSUAL THAT SHE WOULD NOT HAVE RETURNED TO HER RESIDENCE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE LOCATION OF MS GROAT CONTACT EITHER VERMONT STATE POLICE AT 229-9191 OR CENTRAL VERMONT CRIME STOPPERS AT 476-9999 OR 1-800-529-9998. CRIME STOPPERS WILL PAY CASH REWARDS FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND ARRAIGNMENT OF THE PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR HER DISAPPEARANCE.



Tipline: 476-9999

REMEMBER: We want your information, not your name.

(collect calls accepted)

Missing

Audrey Gail Groat
was last seen at
the Park and Drive
in Montpelier at
10 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 21.

She is 41 years old,
height 5'6 1/2",
weight 120 lbs.,
She has long blond
hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with any
information,
please call
Northfield Police
Dept. 485-9181.



(MR103-Sept. 1 1993) MIDDLESEX, VT USA--Patrick Jarvis of Barre, Vt., is led out from the state police barracks in Middlesex, Vt., on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 1993. Jarvis was arrested on a charge of aggravated sexual assault on a juvenile. Jarvis is also the last person to reportedly have seen Audrey Groat, a Northfield, Vt., woman who has been missing since Aug. 21, 1993. (AP Photo/toby talbot) CREDIT: AP by TOBY TALBOT(SMB TT)
AP LEAFDESK



AP LEAFDESK

PRESS RELEASE

TROOP E, VERMONT STATE POLICE

REF: Patrick Jarvis Arrested

DATE: September 1, 1993

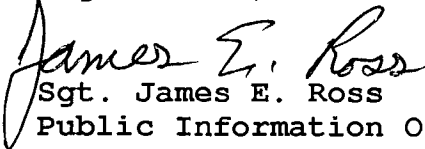
Patrick Jarvis, age 36, of Highgate Apartments in Barre, was arrested this afternoon for aggravated sexual assault on a juvenile. He was arrested without incident.

This arrest resulted from information obtained during the multi-agency investigation of Audrey Groat's disappearance.

Mr. Jarvis is reported to be the last individual to be seen with Audrey Groat on August 21, 1993.

Jarvis's vehicle is a 2 door, beige, 1986 Ford Escort, bearing Vermont registration ANK958. He is 5'11" tall, 160 Lbs, shoulder length brown hair, and blue eyes.

Anyone who may have seen him alone, or with Audrey Groat, since 21 August 1993, is asked to call State Police at 229-9191.


Sgt. James E. Ross
Public Information Officer
Troop E, Vermont State Police
229-9191

VERMONT STATE POLICE



The Vermont State Police and Northfield Police Department are investigating the disappearance of Audrey G. Groat, age 41, of Northfield, Vermont. Information developed to date, September 14, 1993, indicates that foul play is likely.

Audrey Groat was last seen alive on Saturday, August 21, 1993, in the company of Patrick L. Jarvis. Jarvis and Groat allegedly went shopping at the University Mall in South Burlington on Saturday afternoon (August 21, 1993) and then returned to the Barre/Montpelier area that evening.

Jarvis states that at approximately 10:00 p.m., August 21, 1993, he dropped Groat off at her vehicle which was parked in the Montpelier commuter parking lot located just off the Interstate 89 Montpelier exit.

Audrey Groat's vehicle was recovered at the commuter parking lot.

Jarvis allegedly then travelled back to the Burlington area later that night, August 21, 1993 early a.m. hours of Sunday (August 22, 1993) attempting to locate associate Steven B. Chapin who resides in the Shelburne/Burlington area and works for a Richard Longfellow. Jarvis then allegedly ended up in Milton, Vermont at a fishing access located a short distance off Exit 17 of Interstate 89, where he states he build a camp fire and fished until daybreak, at which time he returned to his residence in Barre, Vermont, arriving prior to 0700 hours, August 22, 1993, Sunday.

We are requesting assistance from police agencies in Chittenden County and the Milton Police Department in determining if any of your officers may have come in contact with Partrick Jarvis, Audrey Groat, Steven Chapin and Randy Campbell (Jarvis' roommate) between the hours of 1200 (August 21, 1993) and 1200 (August 22, 1993). Full physical descriptions and vehicle information is attached.

The information provided is confidential and is for police purposes only.

Thank you for your assistance in advance and any referrals can be made to Detective Sergeant Gloria Danforth or Detective Sergeant Jeff Cable at the Middlesex (229-9191) or Bethel (234-9933) State Police offices.



VERMONT STATE POLICE



(1) AUDREY G. GROAT

DOB: 06-10-52

WHITE, FEMALE, 5'6" in height, 120 to 130 POUNDS, LONG BLONDE HAIR, BLUE EYES

VEHICLE INFORMATION: 1984 GMC S-15 Pickup truck (King Cab)
Primer grey and red in color
Vermont truck registration ACR101

(2) PATRICK L. JARVIS

DOB: 03-19-57

WHITE, MALE, 5'11" in height, 160 POUNDS, DARK BROWN SHOULDER LENGTH HAIR,
BLUE EYES WITH FULL MUSTACHE

VEHICLE INFORMATION: 1986 FORD Escort, beige in color, Vermont registration ANK958
Mini spare tire in use on right rear at the time

(3) RANDY H. CAMPBELL

DOB: 02-26-64

WHITE, MALE, 5'0" in height, 100 POUNDS
HANDICAPPED: uses wheelchair or crutches

VEHICLE INFORMATION: 1971 CHEV Van, red and white, Vermont truck registration ANE570
with spotlights on both drivers and passenger side, handicap
plates Vehicle has hand controls

(4) STEVEN B. CHAPIN

DOB: 11-27-70

WHITE, MALE, 5'7" in height, 120 POUNDS, BROWN MEDIUM LENGTH HAIR, BLUE EYES

VEHICLE INFORMATION: 1980 SUBARU station wagon, red in color, Vermont registration
AKT889

PRESS RELEASE

TROOP E

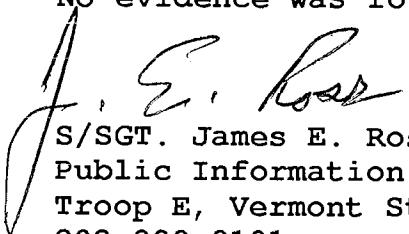
VERMONT STATE POLICE

DATE: August 24, 1994

REF: Search for Audrey Groat

State Police divers searched Marshfield Pond today looking for evidence in the Audrey Groat case. This was a continuation of follow-ups concerning several leads that have been received.

No evidence was found during the search.



S/SGT. James E. Ross
Public Information Officer
Troop E, Vermont State Police
802-229-9191

Crime Bill

al punishment. "We don't need it at the expense of executing citizens," she said.

nat's the price of opposition and times it's a hard price to pay," aid.

tle's campaign staff took pains int out how much money would to Vermont for the prevention rams, particularly the provision m as the Violence Against en Act.

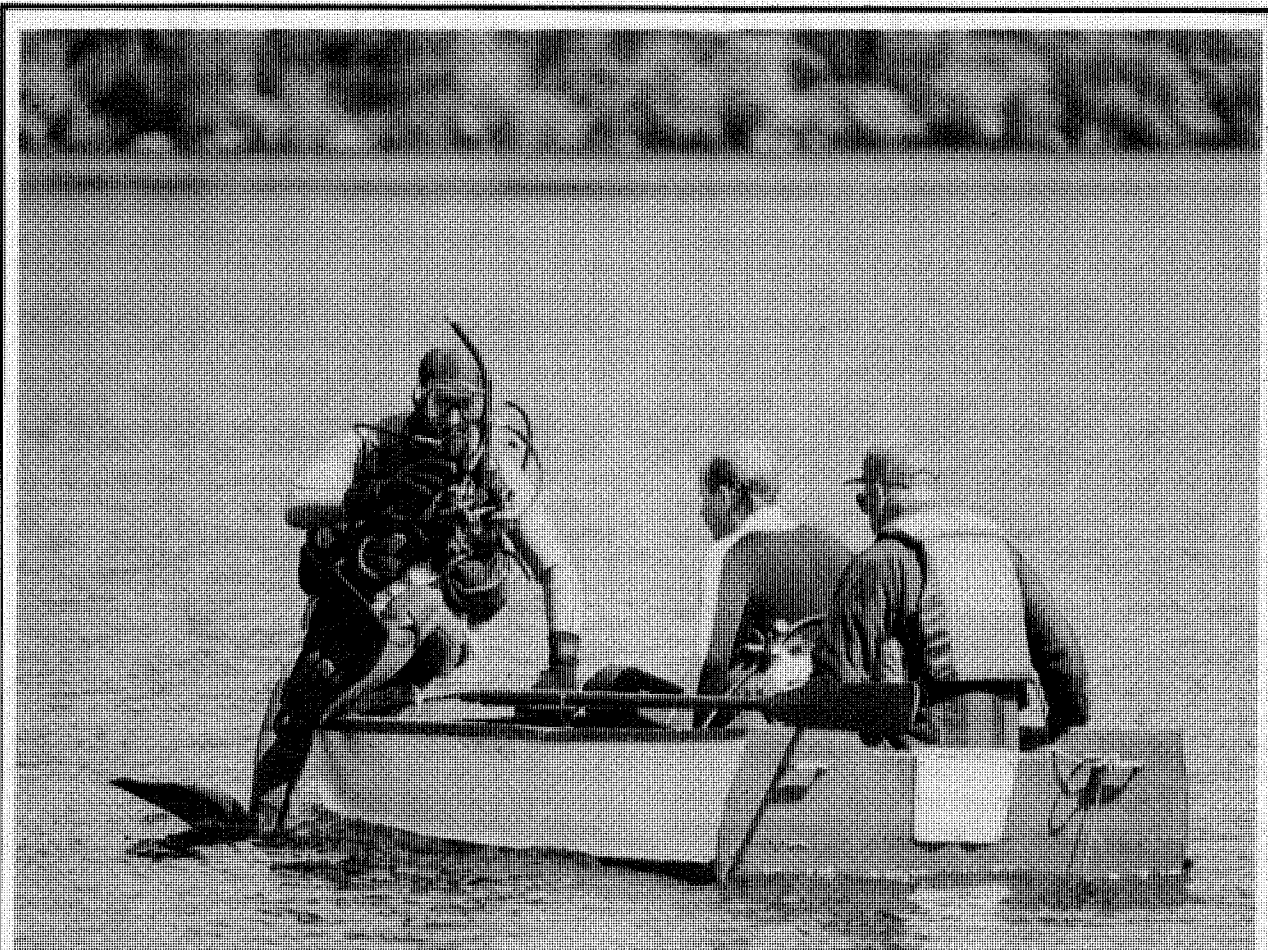
o throw away the Violence st Women Act, the battered en and children's shelters ... is unconscionable," said Micque nan, Costle's campaign rger. "We have to support this

kus said her position on the bill should not be interpreted position to some of its specific sions.

believe that I have a very good rong record as a state senator ing on legislation that has thened our crime prevention punishment measures in the of domestic abuse, child abuse, ance abuse," she said. "I e nationally we can continue h for the parts of this bill that rt expansion of police forces, help states with their other prevention measures."

ording to congressional es, Vermont would qualify for ollowing benefits under the bill:

- at least \$44 million to hire officers.
- 12 million for prison grants.
- \$6.5 million for rural law ement.



AP PHOTO

POND SEARCH - Vermont State Police diver John Underhill, left, enters the water of Marshfield Pond in Marshfield, Vt., Wednesday, to search for the body of Audrey Groat, a missing Northfield, Vt., woman, as Detective Sgt. Rod Stone, center, and Barre, Vt. resident Ron Hurard look on. Hurard was fishing at the site in June and pulled up what was believed to be human hair, prompting Wednesday's fruitless search.

SEARCH FOR NORTHFIELD WOMAN



BONNIE JO MOUNT, Free Press

Ed Stewart (standing), JoAnn Clark and Doug Larson, volunteers from New England Canine Search and Rescue, assist Vermont State Police on Saturday morning during a search for Audrey Groat at Wrightsville Reservoir. Groat has been missing since August. The dogs are capable of picking up a scent in water.

Dogs pick up scent at reservoir

By Shay Totten

Free Press Staff Writer

MIDDLESEX — State police might be a step closer to finding the body of a Northfield woman missing since August.

Members of New England Canine's search and rescue squad combed the Wrightsville Reservoir and its surrounding woods Saturday for the body of Audrey Groat, 41, a mother of six. After three hours, the rescue team focused on the southern part of the reservoir, near Wrightsville Dam, where several dogs appeared to pick up a human scent.

State police divers will search the water where the dogs reacted this week, but no date has been set, state police Sgt. James Ross said.

"We received some information that Audrey's body could be found in a large body of water in Middlesex, and in particular, this area," Ross said. Ross would not divulge the officers' source.

The reservoir, which is flooded farmland, is very silty and murky on the bottom and is believed to be about 30 feet deep at its deepest point, Ross said. The reservoir is about 5 miles outside of Montpelier on Vermont 12 nestled in the hills of Middlesex.

The site where Groat's body might

rest is less than 3 miles from Bolduc Road, the area that police searched in September for her, Ross said. "This was really our last chance, considering the time of year, so we had to take advantage of it as quickly as possible."

Groat was last seen when she left a daughter with a baby sitter. She spent the day with Patrick Jarvis, 36, of Barre.

Jarvis has told police that he and Groat went shopping that day and later drank beer in a tent in the woods in Middlesex Center. He said he last saw Groat when he left her that night in her pickup truck at a commuter lot near Exit 8 of Interstate 89.

Jarvis is being held on \$5,000 bail in the Northeast Regional Correctional Facility in St. Johnsbury on a charge of sexually assaulting a minor. That information came to light while police investigated Groat's disappearance.

Jarvis would become the leading suspect if Groat's body were found in the reservoir's murky water, Northfield Police Chief Michael O'Neill said.

Despite cold water and shifting winds, the dogs found a human scent, police said. The search teams began looking at about 9:30 a.m. and worked late into the afternoon. When one dog

Canine search

■ New England Canine search and rescue team: About 16 people, most with dogs, from Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Massachusetts. Eight dog teams were at Wrightsville Reservoir on Saturday.

■ Breed of dog: German shepherds are most suited for the work, but other breeds, including Australian shepherds and Labradors, work well, too.

■ How dogs detect a scent underwater: These rescue dogs, called "air-scent" dogs, don't detect a specific scent of a victim, but the general scent of a human being. Either body particles, volatile oils, or both, float to the water's surface, emitting a scent the dogs recognize.

reacted to a scent, other dogs were brought by the same area to determine whether they detected anything.

"The technique is to bring the dogs into the wind so if the scent is being picked up from the water, it will be carried to them and then they can track it back to the source," said JoAnn Clark of St. Johnsbury, president of New England Canine.

Vt. GOP re-elects chairman

By Wilson Ring

The Associated Press

MONTPELIER — Allen Martin was re-elected Saturday as chairman of the Vermont Republican Committee.

The Burlington lawyer defeated his more conservative challenger John Gropper, 51 to 25.

"This is where we leave 1992 behind and head to 1994," Martin said after his victory was announced during the Republican Party's annual convention in Montpelier. "It's time to learn from mistakes of 1992 and build on our victories."

In the nominating speeches before the vote, Martin was credited with being a master fund-raiser who took the Vermont Republican Party out of debt and helped regain control of the Vermont Senate, where the GOP holds a 16 to 14 majority.

The overriding concern of the Republican delegates at the meeting was how the party can best elect candidates to the Legislature.

At issue between Martin and Gropper was how best to accomplish that goal.

"The Vermont Republican Party is a broad, open party willing to accept people with broad, divergent views," Martin said. Using that base, the party "can deepen our control of the Senate and take back the House."

He repeatedly said the Republicans needed to gain enough strength in the Vermont House "to send Speaker Ralph Wright back to Bennington."

Rather than being divided by their differences of opinion, Martin said, Republicans need to focus on the values they share: a desire to reduce the size of government, government spending, and regulation of business.

The talk of unity was an apparent reference to some party members who thought that Martin and the Vermont Republican Party allow too many liberal views.

Gropper supporters have said the Rochester computer consultant wanted to make the Vermont Republican Party more ideologically pure.

"This party consists of diverse views and diverse opinions," Gropper said before the balloting. "As long as we can stay focused on what Republicanism is, we can work together."

Speakers attest to Vermont's need for diversity

By Maria Blackburn

Free Press Staff Writer

More than 100 people turned out Saturday for a daylong conference to discuss the importance of diversity in the community, the workplace, and higher education.

"Valuing Differences: Toward the Year 2000" brought speakers from New England and Canada to discuss diversity with residents in the least culturally diverse state in the union, according to the 1990 U.S. Census. Businessman Patrick Brown coordinated the forum.

"Multicultural diversity is just a po-

litically correct term," said Stephanie Wilson, a native Vermonter who lives in Winooski. "Vermont has gotten worse in terms of racism. It's time we take responsibility, and we went back for everything being perpetuated against us."

Dorothy Williams, an adjunct professor and director of multicultural affairs



Patrick Brown

at St. Michael's College, gave powerful testimony about the need for diversity by revealing that a swastika and the words "Kill Dot Williams" had been discovered recently on a blackboard at the college.

"If it is going to get better, we have to be a part of that change," she said. "It's all our work."

Burlington Mayor Peter Brownell said the conference was so successful he hoped it would be the first of many.

"People have seen forums on television where there is a long line of angry people waiting to speak," he said. "I think Patrick showed us a new way to

help us open people's minds."

"I thought the conference was outstanding," said Glenn Taulton, 42, of South Burlington. "When people get an opportunity to know diverse sides of intelligent people of color, women, and other groups, it's much easier to understand they are not a threat."

Caroline Kelly, an educator from Montreal, Quebec, said the event made an impact on her outlook.

"I never really stopped to think about diversity, I just accepted things as they were," she said. "Now I will look at everything differently."

Vermont Report

SECTION
D

AND THE SUNDAY TIMES ARGUS

AUGUST 21, 1994

R

Police, Others Continue Search For Groat

Northfield Mother Of Six Disappeared One Year Ago

By JOHN DILLON
Sunday Staff Writer

Casting for bass in Marshfield pond, Ron Huard of Barre found more than a fish. His treble hook pulled up a wad of hair. Reddish blonde human hair.

Since that day in June, Huard has gone back to the remote pond every week, dredging and probing the bottom to find the body he is convinced is mired in the muck. State police, who searched one area of the pond earlier this summer, will return this week with

divers to scour the water where Huard found the hair.

Huard's quixotic search is one of several efforts — both public and private — to find Audrey Groat, a Northfield mother of six who disappeared a year ago today. Although still officially classified as a missing person, police fear Groat was killed and her body hidden.

Huard said he knows the police are working on the case. But he said he is convinced something is at the bottom of Marshfield Pond and he wants to do what he can to find out if it is the missing Northfield

woman. His doggedness stems from a desire to help Groat's children, he said.

"I knew Audrey. She was a previous tenant of mine," said Huard, who used to manage the Highgate apartments in Barre. "I had seven children. ... I know the agony I went through when I lost a son. But at least I could go to his grave and put flowers on it."

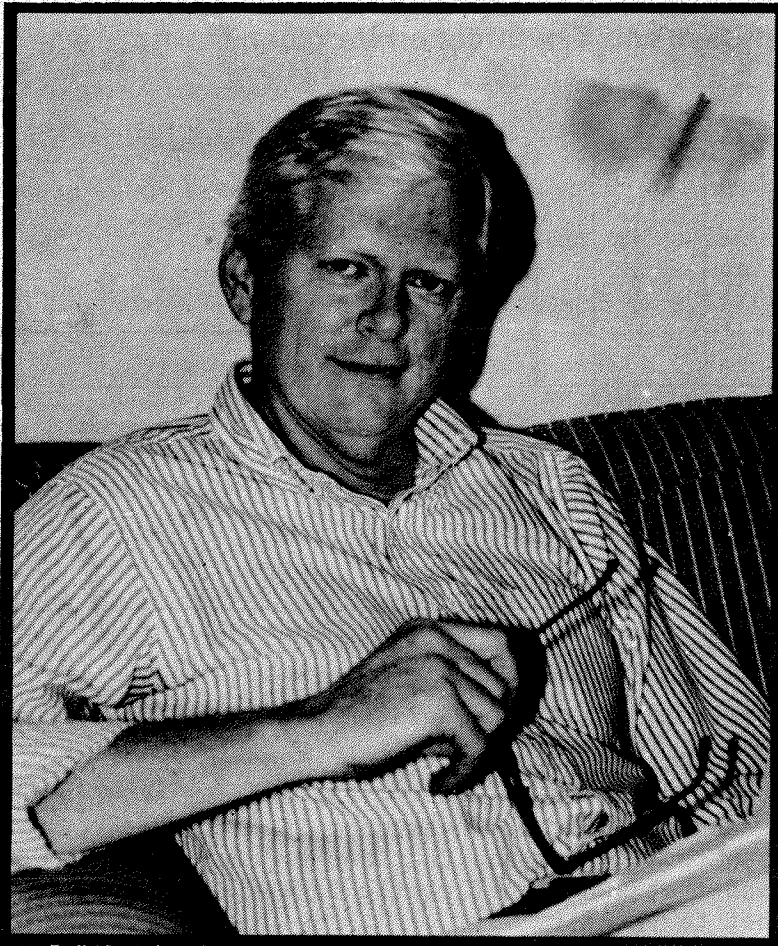
Like Huard, many people have been touched by Groat's disappearance. In the year since she vanished, dozens of volunteers — from scuba divers, to pilots, to owners of search dogs — have offered their time and expertise to find her.

But the past year has yielded precious few concrete

See Page 2: Groat

COWSPOKE

Gary McQuesten, Attorney



THE SEARCH FOR AUDREY GROAT CONTINUES

The search for clues to the disappearance of Audrey Groat continues. She was last seen in the Shady Rill section of Middlesex.

Gary McQuesten, the Barre attorney who represents the children of Ms. Groat in a quest for Federal benefits, says, "I remain convinced that there are residents of Middlesex who observed activity on August 21 which may play a role. I encourage anyone with any information, no matter how insignificant they feel it is, to come forward."

McQuesten confirmed that last month's article in the Middlesex Occasional resulted in additional information that is still being investigated.

Attorney McQuesten can be reached at 476-4181.

EDITOR'S NOTE

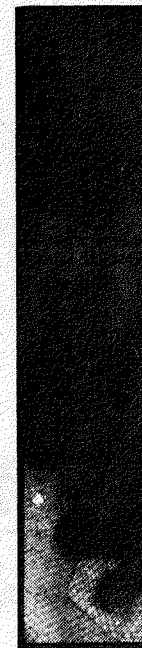
The last time that Audrey was seen for sure was on Shady Rill Road about 2:00 - 2:15 in the afternoon of August 21st.

For the sake of her six daughters, ages 13 to 21, please come forward if you think you have any information that will help solve this mystery. You may call the Middlesex State Police at 229-9191 or call Atty. McQuesten at 476-4181.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MUCH NEEDED HELP!

Letter to the Editor.....

AC



come here
we grew
to Midd

You can
address
We'll s



Editor & Publish

MIDDLESEX DEPARTMENT AUCTION

By Marty McMahon
VP, Fundraising

MIDDLESEX RESIDENTS
We are kicking off this year's
AUCTION to be held Satur

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR MUCH NEEDED HELP!

Letter to the Editor..... Please help find Audrey

DEAR NEELY,

Thanks for your article in The Occasional reminding everyone that Audrey Groat has not yet been found. You may know that one of her daughters lives with us now, and has since the day her mom disappeared, and we keep in close touch with the others. Sometimes it seems that everyone else has forgotten Audrey ever existed, and we feel lost in a big void. We know the police are doing all they can, and know they're very busy with other cases as well. The world has kept turning and life hasn't stopped for everyone that doesn't know her.

We hope for a break, someone will remember something or she will be found. I wish we could hope she was still alive, but knowing Audrey, we know it's not possible. We hope to find her and maybe even something that connects whoever did this with enough evidence to convict.

We appreciate you bringing the subject up and keeping it fresh in people's minds. It'll be a year in August. That's a long time for these girls to be left hanging.

Thanks.

COOKIE HOLMES
Shady Rill

Editor & Publish

MIDDLESEX DEPARTMENT AUCTION

By Marty McMahon
VP, Fundraising

MIDDLESEX RESIDENTS
We are kicking off this year's
AUCTION to be held Saturday
9:00 a.m.

How can you help? We need
vices. If your spring cleaning
no longer have a use for, what
tion? If you have a business
auction it off and use the cash
ment.

You can drop off items

Tuesday and Thursday
Station,

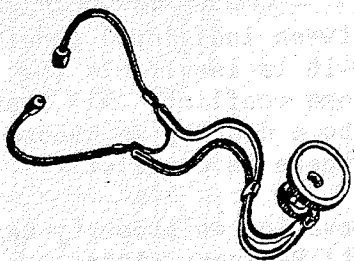
During our regular meetings
the 1st and 3rd Tuesday

Sunday mornings from
Rumney Station on 5

If your donated item is too large
hand getting it to us, call Cheryl
make arrangements.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000
tanker truck and get it back
a direct donation to the department
ate your generosity!

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Comprehensive Inpatient Care	Physician Practice
Outpatient/Ambulatory Services	Same-Day Surgery
Dedicated Mammography Center	Health Promotion

Central Vermont Medical Center - Box 1

The Times Argus

VOL. 97 NO. 225 USPS 630-820

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 3, 1993

BARRE-MONTPELIER, VERMONT

20 PAGES — FIFTY CENTS

State Drops All Aid To Groat's Children



Audrey Groat

By DIANE DERBY
Vermont Press Bureau

MONTPELIER — Friends say Audrey Groat did her best as a single mother to support her six daughters. She built her own home — albeit a basic one — deep in the woods of Northfield. She sometimes worked two jobs to pay the bills. When her car wasn't running, she rode a bicycle.

The hardships toughened her. According to those who knew the 41-year-old Groat, she was a strong-willed woman who could hold up her end of a battle. But try as she did to support her family, Groat turned to the welfare system for help.

Days after Groat's disappearance

in late August, the semi-monthly welfare check came in the mail. One of her daughters held onto the check, waiting for her mother to return home and bank it.

Audrey Groat never returned, and that was the last welfare payment that ever arrived. Shortly after Groat was reported missing, the "Aid to Needy Families with Children" was terminated when it was needed the most, according to those close to the case.

Groat's two oldest daughters, aged 19 and 21, live on their own, but the youngest four girls — all under 18 — have since relied on the generosity of others.

From the outside, the case appears to be the quintessential ex-

ample of a small Vermont town pulling together in times of hardship: A school soccer coach and his family took in Groat's youngest daughter, who turned 12 a week after her mother disappeared; Groat's car mechanic and his family assumed care for two other girls. A fourth daughter was living with a family in Middlesex, although she recently decided to move to her estranged father's home in New York.

But the surrogate families, who have been appointed as guardians by the court, say they quickly learned that "the system" is flawed. When the mother disappeared, the funds to support her children im-

(See Children, Page 8)

Judge Hastens Jarvis Assault Trial

By DIANE DERBY
Vermont Press Bureau

MONTPELIER — Citing a defendant's right to a speedy trial, a district court judge has set a Dec. 14 trial date for the sexual assault charges pending against Patrick Jarvis, but the prosecutor is asking the state Supreme Court to reverse that decision.

Related Article, Page 8

Washington County State's Attorney Terry Trono filed his appeal with the state's high court on Thursday, saying the trial court erred in not granting his request for a one-month continuance while DNA tests are completed.

Jarvis, a 36-year-old Barre resident who is charged with four counts (See Trial, Page 8)

Police Hunt Clues In Groat Disappearance

Times Argus Staff

NORTHFIELD — Police are continuing to hunt down leads in the disappearance of 41-year-old Audrey Gail Groat of Northfield, who has been missing since last Saturday.

A three-hour search Friday morning of a wooded area near a Montpelier commuter parking lot where the Northfield woman was last seen failed to turn up any new information, Northfield Police Chief Michael O'Neill said Friday evening.

O'Neill, who is heading the search, said that he has assigned several officers to track down each of the many leads they have received in the case.

"We have had a constant barrage of phone calls," O'Neill said. "We're

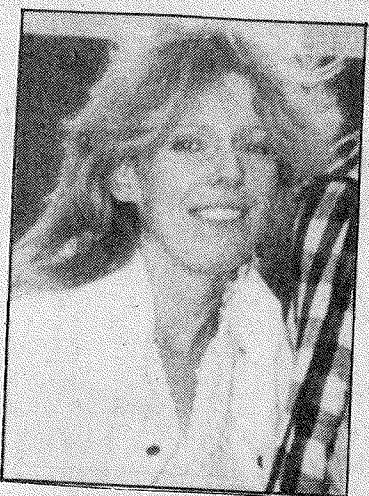
checking out each call and it's extremely time-consuming."

O'Neill said that he hasn't been able to substantiate any of the leads yet and is still considering Groat, who is a mother of six, a "missing person."

"At this point in time we have no idea where she went," he said.

Groat's family and friends have posted hundreds of fliers around the state showing her picture with the word "Missing," at the top. Acquaintances have said that she is not the type of person to leave without giving notice.

She was reportedly last seen at 10 p.m. last Saturday when she was dropped off by a friend at the commuter parking lot near the Montpelier exit of Interstate 89, on (See Police, Page 8)



Audrey Gail Groat, of Northfield, has been missing now for a week.

Police

(Continued from Page One)

the Montpelier Junction road. She was to have driven her red and silver Chevrolet S-10 pick-up home after a day of shopping in Burlington. Police do not believe she ever got into her truck.

A babysitter reported Groat missing on Sunday but her disappearance was not made public until Wednesday while police contacted family members and determined that she was in fact missing.

The Burlington Free Press

Missing woman leaves no trace

Northfield daughters fear the worst

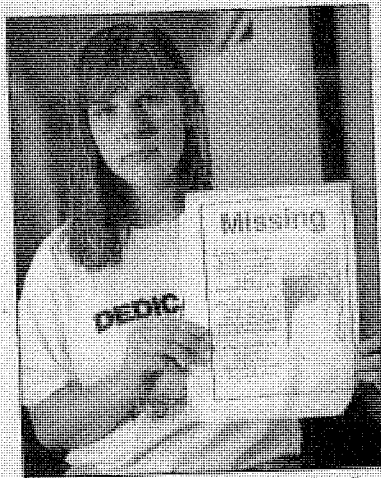
By Ann E. Donlan
Free Press Staff Writer

NORTHFIELD — The daughter of a woman missing since a Saturday shopping trip to Burlington with a male friend said she fears the worst.

Audrey Gail Groat, 41, has disappeared, leaving friends, family and investigators vexed and frantic about her safety. Family friends told police Groat was missing Sunday after she failed to pick up a daughter who was babysitting for them, said Tonya Cote, Groat's 18-year-old daughter.

"My mother would never just leave any of my sisters at home alone and not call," Cote said Friday. "My mother has those days where she just gets up and goes. But she tells us when she's leaving and when she'll be back. When she's an hour late, she'll call."

The telephone rang constantly Friday afternoon as Cote tried to comfort a younger sister. But none of the calls from



BONNIE JO MOUNT, Free Press

Tonya Cote, 18, and her sisters are distributing fliers seeking information about their missing mother, Audrey Groat of Northfield. * See Back Side

How to help

Authorities ask anyone with information about Audrey Gail Groat, 41, of Northfield, who has been missing since Sunday, to call: 485-9181.

police, friends and the girls' out-of-state father brought an end to the mystery.

After searching Friday for clues about Groat's whereabouts, police were unable to bring the daughters' week-long nightmare to an end.

"We have absolutely nothing concrete," Police Chief Michael O'Neill said. "It's extremely frustrating. We (are) ... going out and re-interviewing, hoping that somebody can say something that they had forgotten before. We're grasping, actually."

State Police Capt. Kerry Sleeper could not offer much more optimism.

"We're hopeful that it's a missing person, but as time goes by, the more concerned we are that something else may have happened," Sleeper said. "I'm very hopeful for her and her family that she calls from some place and says she just needed some time away. But we also have to prepare for other circumstances. That's what we're doing now."

O'Neill said a male friend he would not identify dropped Groat off Saturday night at her pickup truck in a Junction Road commuter lot near Exit 8 of Interstate 89 in Montpelier.

Police found the woman's truck there Sunday, and Northfield police impounded it Wednesday. On Friday, about

See MISSING, 2A *

VERMONT

Friday, August 27, 1993 ■ Metro Editor: Rob Eley, 660-1862 or (800) 427-3124

Northfield woman
off at lot, 6B

Police continue search for missing woman

The Associated Press

MONTPELIER — Three police departments are searching for a Northfield woman who was last seen in a deserted Montpelier parking lot Saturday night.

After a shopping trip to the Burlington area, Audrey Gail Groat, 41, of Northfield was dropped off by a friend in a commuter parking lot near Interstate 89 at about 10 p.m., Northfield Police Chief Michael O'Neill said. Her pickup was later found in the parking lot.

She was reported missing Sunday by a baby-sitter.

O'Neill stopped short of calling Groat's disappearance an abduction, but he said it would be uncharacteristic for the mother of six to leave without word. Groat's children range in age from 12 to 20.

"We're treating it as a mysterious disappearance," said O'Neill, who declined to provide specifics about the investigation, "Anybody who just vanishes with no note, no reason, no trace — it's mysterious."

O'Neill would not say whether he suspected foul play.

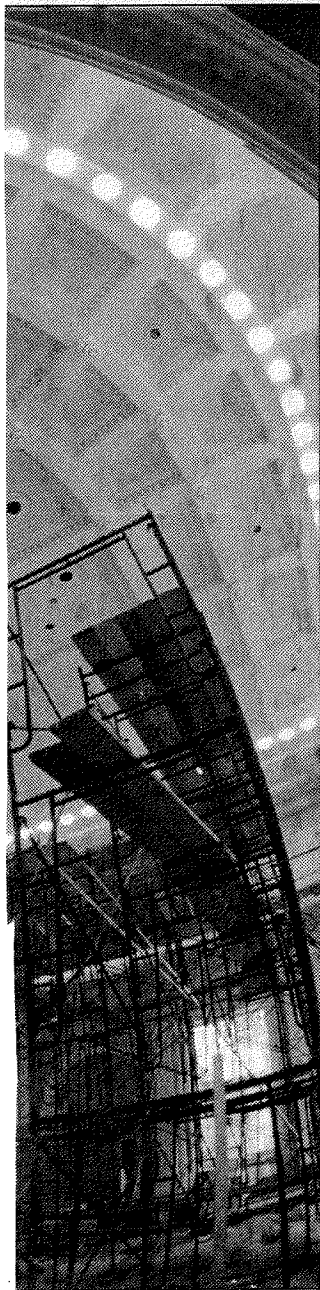
O'Neill said police are following up several leads in the case, but he would not provide details.

Police from Northfield and Montpelier and the state police are investigating.

Police described Groat as being 5 feet, 6 inches tall, about 120 pounds, with long, blond hair and blue eyes.

page 6B

Albright said that by removing the sanctions, "We have and to undertake huge reconstruction and building projects.



TOBY TALBOT, The Associated Press
measurement Friday
use in Montpelier. The
ted as part of a major

MISSING: Woman vanishes without a trace

Continued from Page 1A

25 police officers, investigators and volunteers scoured the woods around the parking lot for three hours, but found nothing, O'Neill said.

After Cote learned her mother was missing Monday, she said she talked to her mother's friend, whom she identified as Patrick Jarvis.

"Pat told me that he dropped my mother off at a quarter after 10 Saturday and that she was going to call somebody" for a ride, Cote said.

Jarvis' whereabouts were not known Friday night. O'Neill said he had "heard that (version) before," but would not say from whom.

"We have no suspects," O'Neill said. "The problem is we don't have a suspect because we don't have a crime. All we have is a missing person. And we're trying to find out where that person went."

Three state police investigators have joined a pair of Northfield officers on the case, Sleeper said.

"We wouldn't be putting this many investigators into the investigation if we weren't concerned there was the potential for some type of criminal activity," Sleeper said. "We've learned over the years that it's imperative that you do an extensive amount of background when someone turns up missing so you're not at square one should the worse-case scenario develop."

Cote said her mother and father, James "Butch" Cote, divorced 13 years ago. For four years, Cote said, she lived with several foster families and in two group homes because of her drinking and truancy.

In the past, neighbors said Groat had worked two jobs to support her girls and build a home for them. But she had been unemployed for the past three months and on public assistance, Cote said.

Around town and in the countryside where four of the six girls live with their mother in an unfinished home on a quarter-acre plot, neighbors and residents share concern about the woman and her children.

"I know what a lot of these kinds of cases can work out to be," said neighbor Grace-Ardelle Shwab, a 72-year-old retired Massachusetts police secretary.

Downtown, the case has caused a buzz of gossip and discussion about the missing mother.

"The majority of people I talk to ... are concerned for her well-being and the kids," said Belinda Thayer, 36, the nighttime operator of the Common Cafe.

Meanwhile, Cote is trying to step in and tend to the needs of her sisters, Lorena, 17; Amanda, 15; Corena, 14; and Jamesina, 12. An older sister, Angela Jutras, lives in Maine, Cote said. The girls are staying with family members and friends, she said.

"I found out about this (disappearance) Monday, and it was just like 10,000 pounds on my shoulders," Cote said. "It's called growing up real fast."

The Times Argus

26 F

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 26, 1993

BARRE-MONTPELIER, VERMONT

Police Searching For Missing Northfield Woman

By DIANE DERBY
Vermont Press Bureau
MONTPELIER — Three police departments are investigating what they are terming the "mysterious disappearance" of a Northfield woman who was last reportedly seen in a deserted Montpelier parking lot Saturday night.

After a shopping trip to the Burlington area, Audrey Gail Groat, 41, of Northfield was dropped off by a friend in a commuter parking lot near the Interstate 89 exit at about 10 p.m., according to Northfield Police Chief Michael O'Neill. Her

pickup truck was later found in the parking lot.

O'Neill stopped short of calling Groat's disappearance an abduction, but said it would be uncharacteristic for the mother of six to leave without any word. Groat's children range in age from 12 to 20.

"We're treating it as a mysterious disappearance," said O'Neill, who declined to provide specifics about the investigation. "Anybody who just vanishes with no note, no reason, no trace, it's mysterious." Asked whether police suspect

foul play in the case, O'Neill responded, "We really don't have any idea now. It's under investigation, and we're trying to put some answers to this."

"There's really no indication that she would pack up and take off," the chief said.

O'Neill said police are following up several leads in the case, but he did not provide details. He said police were talking with friends and relatives of the divorced woman.

Police from Northfield, Montpelier and the state police barracks in Middlesex are investigating the

case. Representatives from the three departments met Wednesday night to review what they had learned, according to O'Neill.

On Tuesday, police searched the area near the parking lot where Groat was last reported seen. O'Neill said they found no trace of the woman, nor her personal possessions. She was reported missing on Sunday by a babysitter.

Groat's pickup truck was impounded from the lot, but O'Neill said the truck showed no evidence of a struggle.

(See Missing, Page 8)

(Continued from Page One)

Asked if there was a particular area where police were looking for the missing woman, he replied, "If we knew where to search, we'd search."

Police described Groat as being 5 feet, 6 inches tall, about 120 pounds, with long blond hair and blue eyes.

The Burlington Free Press

VERMONT

Wednesday, September 1, 1993 ■ Metro Editor: Rob Eley, 660-1862 or (800)

TAX WINDFALL

Clinton plan
brings millions
more to Vermont, 5B

MISSING WOMAN'S TRACKS

Police used a Connecticut police dog Tuesday to search a Middlesex area off Bolduc Road for clues about the disappearance of a Northfield woman.

The search failed to turn up a trace of Audrey Gail Groat, 41, who has been missing since Aug. 21, police said.

She is described as 5 feet, 6 inches, 120 pounds, with long, blonde hair and blue eyes.

Groat left home Saturday for a shopping trip with a male friend, police said. The pair might have been with a male friend at University Mall in South Burlington. Police said the friend apparently dropped off Groat on Saturday night at her truck, which was parked in a Junction Road commuter lot near Exit 8 of Interstate 89 in Montpelier.

Anyone who might have seen Groat at those locations or after 10 p.m. Saturday at the Lamoille River fishing access in Milton is asked to call police at 229-9191.

P. 1-13

The Times Argus

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WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 1, 1993

BARRE-MONTPELIER, VERMONT

630-820

Police Expand Search For Missing Woman

By DIANE DERBY
Vermont Press Bureau

MIDDLESEX — State police plan to search the shores of the Lamoille River in Milton within the next day for signs of Audrey Gail Groat, the Northfield mother of six who has been missing since Aug. 21.

State police Sgt. James Ross of the Middlesex barracks said police were trying today to put together a search team. He said he expected the search would take place Thursday.

But Ross said police have no solid evidence that Groat was at the location.

"It's a fishing expedition, basically," he said today.

On Monday police issued a public

appeal, asking anyone who may have been at the Lamoille River fishing access the night of Aug. 21 to call police. He declined to say what information police had that would lead them to the area, other than to say it was just one of many leads police were following.

On Tuesday police searched a remote area off Bolduc Road in Middlesex, but the effort — aided by the use of a police dog — turned up no trace of the missing woman.

Ross said police have no confirmed sighting of Groat in that area, but said it was just another lead. The dog, which is specially trained to detect buried bodies, was on loan from the Connecticut state police.

(See Search, Page 10)

Search

(Continued from Page One)

Police also have not been able to confirm that Groat was at the University Mall in South Burlington on Aug. 21, the day she disappeared. Police went to the mall with photos of Groat, but there have been no confirmed sightings of her, according to Ross.

Groat's companion, Patrick Jarvis of Barre, has reportedly told police the two had been shopping at the mall before he left her off at her truck, which was parked in a commuter parking lot in Montpelier. Groat has not been heard or seen since, according to police.

Bolduc Road is a densely wooded area that runs between Middlesex and Montpelier. The search covered about two acres and involved about a half-dozen law enforcement officials, Ross said.

The search followed a 90-minute meeting at the Middlesex barracks Tuesday, which was attended by nearly a dozen detectives, sheriffs and officers who are working on the case.

Groat was reported missing on Aug. 22 after she failed to pick up her 12-year-old daughter at a babysitter's home.

Groat's Daughter Faults Police F

By DIANE DERBY
Vermont Press Bureau

Only after the evening news televised the story did Angela Jutras learn that her missing mother's boyfriend, Patrick L. Jarvis of Barre, had been arrested on Sept. 1.

Jutras, who lives in Brunswick, Maine, was told of the arrest by a cousin who saw the newscast and telephoned her from Vermont.

Jutras is the oldest daughter of 41-year-old Audrey Groat of Northfield, who has been missing since Aug. 21. Police arrested Jarvis on a sexual assault charge that they say grew out of their investigation into Groat's disappearance.

For Jutras, the past three weeks have been spent trying to learn whatever details she can about her missing mother while trying to keep tabs on her five younger sisters, who range in age from 12 to 18.

But the 21-year-old Jutras said police have done little to keep her and other family members informed. According to Jutras, she has not had a conversation with Northfield police chief, Michael O'Neill, since her mother vanished, and a Sept. 1 phone call to the state police barracks in Middlesex has not yet been returned.

"They have not informed us of anything whatsoever. Everything we know we know from the newspapers and television," said Jutras, who is expecting

"They have not informed us of anything whatsoever. Everything we know we know from the newspapers and television. I would think the police would let us know what's going on before they let others know."

*— Angela Jutras,
Audrey Groat's daughter*

her second child any day. "I would think the police would let us know what's going on before they let others know."

Her 67-year-old grandmother — Groat's mother — drove from Connecticut to Vermont because she was so frustrated by the lack of information she had received from police, according to Jutras.

On Thursday, Jutras will travel to Vermont for a probate court hearing on the guardianship of her four sisters who are juveniles. Since their mother's disappearance, the girls have been separated, staying with families or friends in Northfield and in Waterbury.

Daughter

(Continued from Page One)
police the two were shopping that day.

Asked whether police were waiting and hoping that Jarvis might supply more information, Ross replied, "He might. Or she might turn up. Who knows what could happen? But certainly, something has to happen before we can do much more."

Ross said he did not know why there apparently had been so little

communication between state police and Groat's family members.

"It would be the investigators who would do that," Ross said. "I guess I can't really answer that."

Jarvis' car, a beige Ford Escort, has been impounded and is now at the Middlesex barracks. District court records indicate that no search warrants have been executed for Jarvis' car or for his Barre apartment.

Ross, however, said he believed

police had searched Jarvis' apartment following his arrest. The search, which was based on the sexual assault investigation, turned up no evidence related to Groat's disappearance, Ross said.

With no evidence of foul play in Groat's disappearance, Ross said police had no grounds to obtain a search warrant for Jarvis' car.

"You still need evidence of probable cause," Ross said. "You can't just get a warrant on a whim."

Friends of Groat's say they are worried that with Jarvis jailed on the sexual assault charge, the efforts to determine what happened to Groat will wane. Hundreds of "missing" posters bearing Groat's photo have been circulated throughout the state.

"We're afraid people will forget," said one Northfield resident. "They'll forget about her when it's no longer in the newspapers or on television."

or Leaving Family In Dark

Northfield police headed the investigation when Groat was reported missing on Aug. 22, one day after she failed to pick up her youngest daughter from the babysitter's home. On Aug. 30, state police took over the case.

Jarvis, 36, remains jailed in St. Johnsbury for lack of \$25,000 cash bail. Police arrested him on Sept. 1 on a charge of aggravated sexual assault on a juvenile. The victim, police said, was related to Audrey Groat.

As he argued for high bail during Jarvis' Sept. 2 arraignment, Washington County State's Attorney Perry Trono suggested that Jarvis was a suspect in what he characterized as a homicide investigation related to Groat's disappearance.

Jarvis has a criminal history that dates back 20 years, according to court records. In 1990, he was convicted of engaging in oral sex with an 8-year-old girl in South Carolina, and served time for violating his probation on that conviction. He returned to Vermont a year ago.

Jutras said she believes her mother, who met Jarvis when the two worked together in Montpelier, knew of his conviction in South Carolina.

Police affidavits would back her belief. According to the affidavits, Groat had cautioned her children about being alone with Jarvis, and told her daughters that when they visited Jarvis, they should al-

ways go in pairs.

"When asked why they should take this precaution, their mother responded, 'Ask Pat,'" the police affidavit said.

Jutras said she believes that the latest sexual assault charge against Jarvis is related to her mother's disappearance.

"My mother's mother and I strongly feel there is foul play as far as her boyfriend is concerned," said Jutras, who said she spoke with her mother by phone every weekend.

Police searched areas in Montpelier, Middlesex and Milton in the two weeks after Groat disappeared, but found no trace of the missing woman. Police now suggest that any trail has gone cold.

"We have no leads to follow, and we haven't had any for quite some time," Sgt. James Ross of the Middlesex barracks said on Monday afternoon. "I don't expect much more to be done."

Police believe Jarvis was the last person to see Groat. He has reportedly told police that the pair went on a shopping trip to the Burlington area on Aug. 21, and that he last saw her when he left her at her truck in a commuter parking lot in Montpelier. Her truck was later recovered at the lot.

Police, however, say they have no confirmed sightings at the locations where Jarvis has reportedly told

(See Daughter, Page 8)

Jarvis

MONTPELIER, VERMONT

22 PAGES — FIFTY CENTS

MISSING

(Continued from Page One)

he left her at her pick-up truck in a commuter parking lot in Montpelier.

"We still haven't the slightest idea where she is," Ross said today.

A state police boat was expected to return to Milton today to continue searching for Groat near the Lamoille River fishing access. Jarvis has reportedly told investigators he went fishing at the access on the day of Groat's disappearance.

Investigators had kept a watchful eye on Jarvis for several days before arresting him on the Barre-Montpelier Road in Berlin Wednesday afternoon. Police said the 36-year-old Jarvis, resident of the Highgate Apartments, did not resist arrest.

He was employed as a production worker at Community Products in Montpelier, makers of Rain Forest Crunch candy, for about a year. Police said he was traveling between his home and work when the arrest was made. He was held overnight in the Chittenden County jail in South Burlington.

With Jarvis in custody, police hope to obtain search warrants for his home and his car, a beige Ford Escort that was impounded by police after his arrest.

According to district court records, Jarvis pleaded guilty in 1990 to a charge of criminal sexual conduct with a minor when he lived in Greenville, S.C. He was given a five-year suspended sentence, but records indicate he was sentenced in 1991 to serve 30 months in jail for violating proba-

tion. Just how long Jarvis spent in jail was unclear.

South Carolina records indicate Jarvis was divorced from his wife in February 1993.

Jarvis has a criminal record in Vermont that dates to 1973. Those charges include possession of burglary tools, trespassing, reckless endangerment and violation of probation, court records indicate.

In January 1993 he was arrested for simple assault after a bar fight at Charlie O's in Montpelier. According to court records, he assaulted another bar patron whom he accused of having "unwanted sexual contact" with his unidentified girlfriend. He pleaded guilty in April and was fined \$200.

Friends of Groat said they believe she had no knowledge of Jarvis' criminal history in South Carolina.

"She thought he was wonderful," said one friend of the missing woman. Friends say Groat knew Jarvis for about a year. Court records indicate that he moved to the Montpelier area from South Carolina around September 1992.

Groat's six children range in age from 12 to 21, with the youngest four girls sharing her Northfield home. Friends say Groat had put back-to-school clothes on layaway at the Ames Department Store in Berlin about a week before she disappeared.

Friends of Groat are making arrangements to take the children, who are staying at various locations. The children are scheduled to start school next week.

ESTABLISHED
1897

The Times A

VOL. 97 NO. 146 USPS 630-820

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 2, 1993

BARRE-MONT

Groat's Friend Is Arrested

Held For Sex Assault On Minor

By DIANE DERBY
Vermont Press Bureau

MIDDLESEX — Patrick Jarvis, the Barre man whom police believe was the last person to see Audrey Groat before she vanished on Aug. 21, was scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon on charges that he sexually assaulted a juvenile on several occasions last month in Barre.

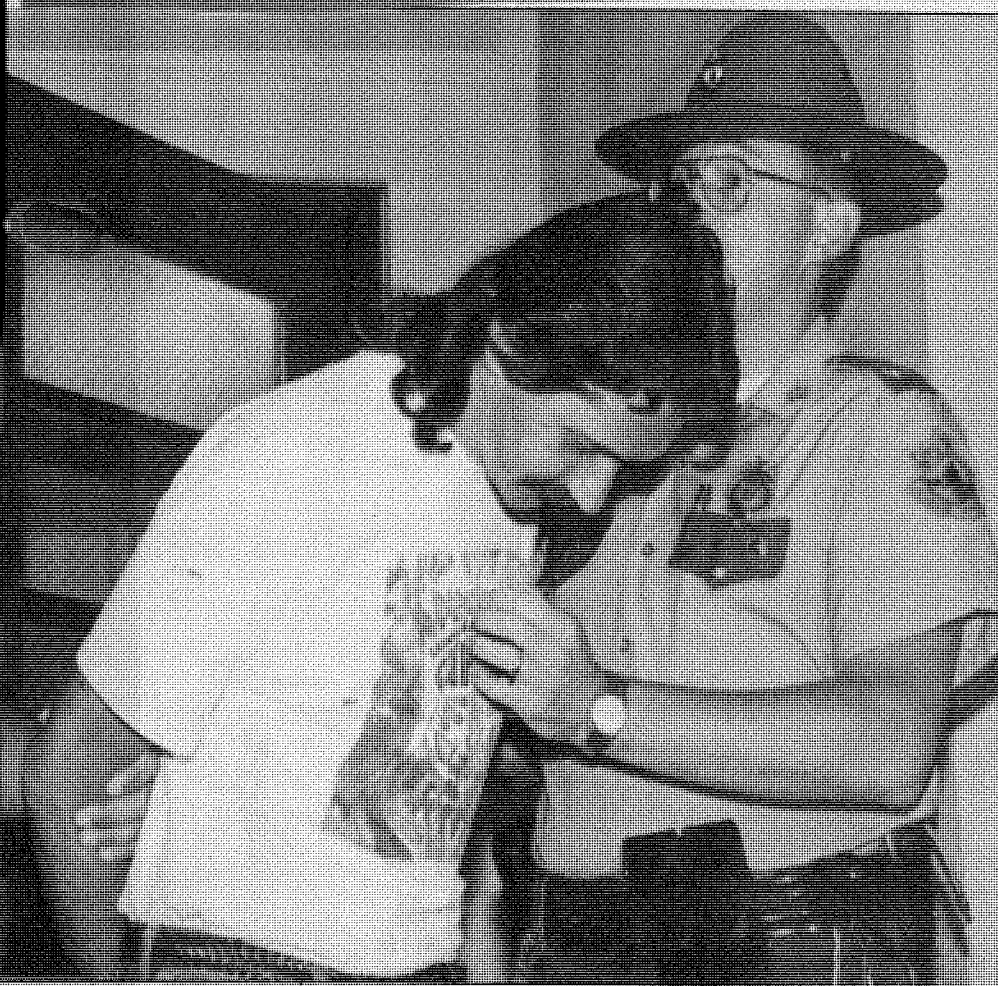
The arrest was based on information police uncovered while investigating Groat's disappearance, according to State Police Sgt. James Ross. But state police have not indicated how Jarvis' arrest might be related to that disappearance.

Asked if any of the new evidence would implicate Jarvis in the missing woman case, Ross responded, "I would stop short of calling him a suspect, but I would say we are very interested in where he has been and what he has been doing."

Friends and family of the Northfield woman have described Groat as a devoted mother to her six daughters, who would not have left the area on her own will. But despite searches in Montpelier, Middlesex and Milton, police still have no proof that foul play is involved in the Groat case.

Police have had no independent sightings of Groat since Aug. 21, and have little to go on besides what Jarvis has told them. Jarvis has reportedly told police he last saw Groat on Aug. 21 at 10 p.m. when

(Missing, Page 8)



AP Photo/Tony Talbot

Patrick Jarvis, the 36-year-old companion of a missing Northfield woman, was arrested Wednesday and faces a charge of aggravated sexual assault on a juvenile.

Police hope festival yields leads on missing woman

By Mike Donoghue
Free Press Staff Writer

NORTHFIELD — Two weeks ago today Audrey Gail Groat, a Northfield mother of six girls, dropped out of sight, and police say they hope an old-time fall festival will help develop new leads.



A crowd of **Audrey Groat** more than 10,000 is expected to attend the annual four-day Labor Day weekend celebration in Northfield.

Police Chief Mike O'Neill said officers mingling with visitors to previous festivals have received information on unsolved crimes. O'Neill says he hopes

people are able to provide information on the disappearance of Groat.

He said the police department — with three full-time officers and a handful of part-timers — has been working overtime the past two weeks trying to trace Groat's whereabouts.

O'Neill said officers will investigate Groat's disappearance and maintain a presence at the festival, which began Friday night and runs through Monday afternoon.

Groat's boyfriend from Barre has said he last saw her alive at 10 p.m. Aug. 21 in Montpelier. Patrick L. Jarvis says he dropped Groat off by her small pickup truck in the commuter parking lot on the Junction Road near the Exit 8 of Interstate 89.

Jarvis, 36, of Highgate Apartments, was arrested Wednesday

on a charge of aggravated sexual assault on a child, who officials say was related to Groat. Officials say that while investigating Groat's disappearance, they uncovered the aggravated sexual assault, which occurred last month in Barre.

Without Jarvis' statements, the last time Groat was seen was at about 2 p.m. Aug. 21 when leaving a baby sitter's home in Middlesex. She and Jarvis were headed to Burlington for a shopping trip.

Jarvis was next seen at his Barre residence at about 10:15 that night. He told police that he returned to Chittenden County to go fishing on the Lamoille River, where it enters Lake Champlain in Milton.

Times Argus

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1993

BARRE-MONTPELIER, VERMONT

16 PAGES — FIFTY

Foul Play Is Suspected In Missing Woman Case

By DIANE DERBY

Vermont Press Bureau

MIDDLESEX — If police do have any ideas about what may have happened to Audrey Gail Groat, they are not revealing them.

Detectives from several police agencies huddled this morning to discuss their probe into the disappearance of the 41-year-old Northfield woman. The meeting came one day after police announced they now suspect foul play.

State police took the case over from the Northfield police department on Monday. The change in command came after police broadened their search for Groat, a mother of six daughters who family and friends say would not have simply picked up and left.

For unexplained reasons, state police said Monday they now want to hear from anyone who may have been at the Lamoille River fishing access in Milton in the late evening of Saturday, Aug. 21, the night Groat is believed to have disappeared. State police did not indicate if Groat was seen at the access area.

State police took the case over because more than a week had passed since Groat was last seen, according to State Police Sgt.



Audrey Gail Groat, who has been missing for more than a week, is described as 5-foot, six-inches tall, weighing 120 pounds. She has blue eyes and long blond hair. When last seen she was wearing black jeans, a white sweater and white sneakers.

James Ross of the Middlesex barracks.

"We are now shifting to the mode
(See Missing, Page 8)

Missing

(Continued from Page One)

that foul play is suspected," Ross said.

Groat was last reported seen by a male companion who told police he dropped her off at a Montpelier parking lot to retrieve her truck after a day of shopping in the Burlington area.

A babysitter reported Groat missing the following day when she failed to pick up her 12-year-old daughter at the babysitter's home. Groat's small Chevrolet truck was found in the Montpelier parking lot that day, and was later impounded by police.

There was no evidence of a struggle in or around the truck, and several searches of the woods near the parking lot have turned up no trace of the woman, according to police.

Before Monday, Northfield Police Chief Michael O'Neill had characterized the case as a "mysterious disappearance" and suggested that Groat may have left the area on her own will.

Ross would not say why the search has turned towards Milton, except to suggest that it was one of the many tips police have received in the case. He would not identify the type of vehicle driven by the man who was with Groat before her disappearance.

Police have interviewed the man, but they have not publicly identified him nor commented on whether he is a suspect. Police are not talking about possible suspects because they have no solid evidence that a crime has been committed, according to Ross.

Efforts to reach the man, who is a 36-year-old resident of Barre's Highgate Apartment complex, were unsuccessful. A man answering the phone at the apartment today said he had gone out for several hours.

No search warrants have been issued in the case, according to police and court records.

Police have also been mum on whether they have confirmed the man's claims that he and Groat were shopping at the University

The Burlington Free Press

ber 3, 1993 • •

35 cents, four news

Searchers name Barre man suspect

By Mike Donoghue

From Press Staff Writer

BARRE — A Barre man charged with sexual abuse of a girl is a suspect in the mysterious disappearance of a Northfield woman last month, a prosecutor said Thursday in Vermont District Court.

Patrick L. Jarvis, 36, pleaded innocent to a charge of aggravated sexual assault on a child. He was ordered held for lack of \$25,000 bail.

Jarvis had sexual intercourse about a half-dozen times with the minor at his residence at Highgate Apartments in August, Northfield Patrolman Tim Tro-

no said in a court affidavit. Police collected more evidence

Thursday during a court-ordered search at Jarvis' apartment, officials said.

State's Attorney Terry Trono said in court the assault victim is a relative of the missing woman, Audrey Gail Groat, 41, who was last seen Aug. 21. The sex charge is based on information uncovered while police were investigating Groat's disappearance.

Jarvis has told investigators that he last saw Groat — the mother of six girls, ages 12 to 20 — when he dropped her off about 10 p.m. Aug. 21 at a commuter parking lot in Montpelier. Groat had left her small pickup at the lot while the couple went shopping in the Burlington area.

Excluding statements by Jarvis, police say Groat was last seen at a baby-

sitter's house in Middlesex about 2 p.m. Aug. 21 as she left with Jarvis.

Jarvis was next seen at his residence about 10:15 that night, Northfield Police Chief Mike O'Neil said.

Aggravated sexual assault carries a possible life sentence. The sexual assault is considered aggravated because Jarvis has a previous sex crime conviction in South Carolina with his 8-year-old step-daughter, Trono said.

Defense lawyer David Kidney tried to get the aggravated portion thrown out on the grounds the earlier conviction was lewd and lascivious conduct.

Judge Dean Pinales said the seven pages of supporting affidavits provided some corroboration for the charge.

VERMONT

Thursday, September 2, 1993 ■ Metro Editor: Rob Eley, 660-1862 or (800) 427-3124

Missing woman's friend arrested

Barre man held in sex charge on child

By Mike Donoghue
Free Press Staff Writer

BARRE — A Barre man who says he was the last person to see a Northfield woman alive before her mysterious disappearance last month was arrested Wednesday on a related charge of aggravated sexual assault on a child.

The charge against Patrick Jarvis, 36, of Highgate Apartments is based on information uncovered while police investigated the disappearance of one of his friends, Audrey Gail Groat, 41, of Northfield, state police said.



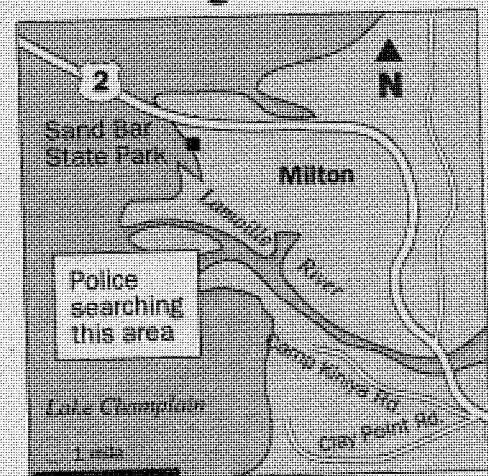
Audrey Groat

Groat, a mother of six girls ages 12 to 20, dropped out of sight Aug. 21. The sex charge, involving an unidentified minor, is based on several incidents in Barre during August, state police said. Jarvis was arrested without incident as he drove on the Barre-Montpelier Road. His two-door, beige Ford Escort was impounded, state police said.

Jarvis has a criminal record, which includes most recently lewd conduct convictions, officials said.

Jarvis was taken to a correctional center late Wednesday to await arraignment today in Vermont District Court in Barre. If convicted, Jarvis could receive a life sentence for the sex crime.

His arrest might slow the investiga-



tion of Groat's disappearance because police will have limited access to question him further.

Jarvis has said that he spent Aug. 21 with Groat shopping in the Burlington area, including University Mall in South Burlington. He has said he dropped her off at about 10 p.m. in a commuter parking lot on the Junction Road in Montpelier near Exit 8 of Interstate 89, police said.

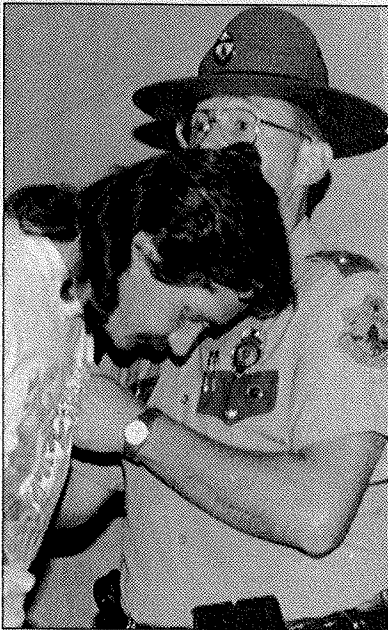
Jarvis said he then drove back to Chittenden County and did some fishing at the Lamoille River Fishing Access near Lake Champlain, state police Sgt. James Ross said.

Investigators are attempting to confirm those statements, officials said. Jarvis was cooperative initially with police, but he has since retained a lawyer and refused to take a lie detector test, they said.

They admit they have little to go on

See ARREST, 5B

ARREST: Friend held in sex case



Continued from Page 1B
but the information provided by Jarvis.

"We have nothing other than his statement," Ross said. "We are very much interested in where he has been and what he has done since the 21st of August," Ross said.

Relatives and friends of Groat say it is uncharacteristic of her to disappear without leaving word of her whereabouts.

Groat is described as 5 feet, 6 inches, 120 pounds, with long, blond hair and blue eyes. Groat lives with four of her six daughters in an unfinished Northfield home that she was working on.

State police boats checked the Lamoille River area Wednesday for clues, and auxiliary troopers are expected to return to the area today.

Police were called when Groat failed to pick up her 12-year-old daughter Aug. 22, the day after the alleged shopping

"We have nothing other than his statement."

James Ross, state police sergeant

trip.

Groat's pickup was found in the parking lot that night by Montpelier police. There was no sign of Groat or any struggle. Her truck was locked. Northfield police impounded her truck three days later.

State, Northfield and Montpelier police were joined by the Washington County Sheriff's Department to comb the area for clues, but they had no luck.

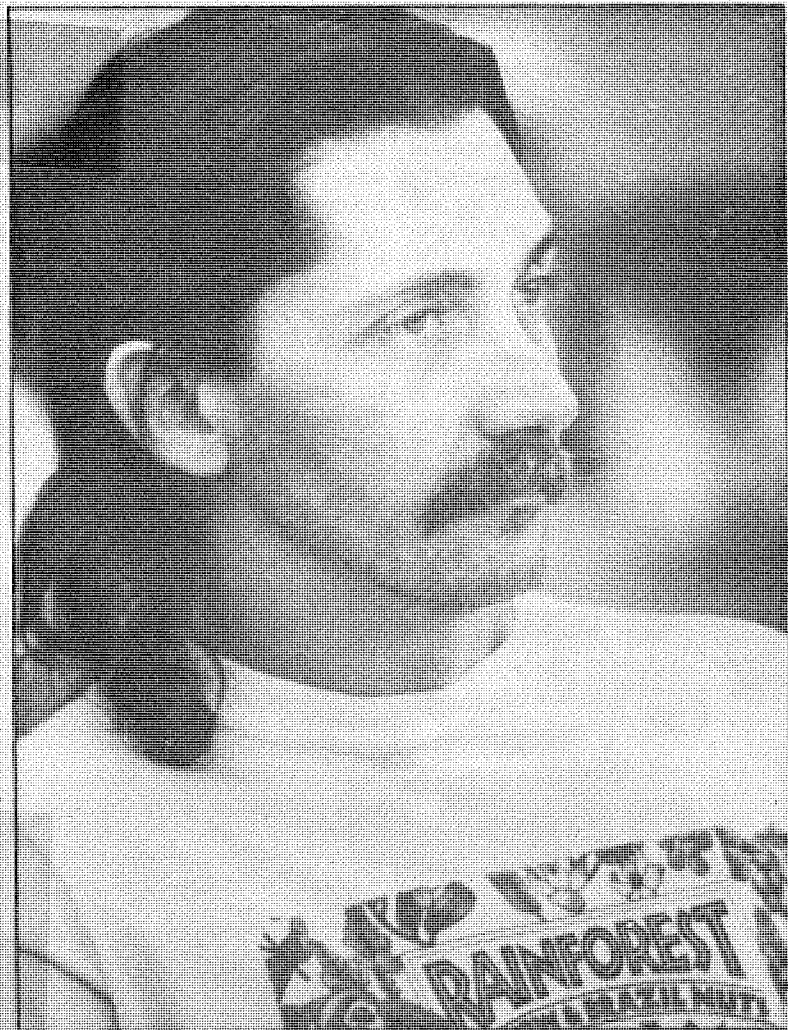
ALDEN PELLETT, for the Free Press
Patrick Jarvis, 36, of Barre, who is believed to be the last person to see Audrey Gail Groat of Northfield, is arrested Wednesday in an unrelated sex case involving a child.



Times Argus

NOON, SEPTEMBER 3, 1993

BARRE-MONTPELIER



Chris Gee/Times Argus

Patrick Jarvis of Barre was arraigned Thursday in Vermont District Court, Barre, on charges of aggravated sexual assault on a juvenile.

