

Girls found after 10 years

by Rachel Maples
Editorial Editor

On Mon., May 6, the city of Cleveland cheered as three women who disappeared over a decade ago were discovered in a local residence. The women found are Amanda Berry (27), Gina DeJesus (23), and Michelle Knight (32), along with a girl later identified as Berry's daughter (6).

The women were found in said home after a local neighbor, Charles Ramsey, spotted Berry attempting to escape. "I heard screaming," Ramsey told reporters later. "I come outside. I see this girl going nuts trying to get out of a house." After Berry called 911 to alert police to her presence, she revealed that more women were being held captive in the house as well. Other neighbors heard the screaming and assisted Ramsey, including Angel Cordero, who claims to have helped Berry first. Another neighbor, Aurora Marti, also saw Berry and hurried to help, but she was confused due to the fact that she thought Berry was already dead.

Allegedly, the women were taken by Ariel Castro a decade ago when he offered them each a ride in his car. Once taken into the house, the women were kept in separate rooms in prisoner-of-war conditions. The women were let out into the backyard seldom and only briefly, as the majority of their time was spent in the house. Knight helped deliver Berry's child in a kiddie swimming pool in the backyard.

Cleveland resident Castro, the owner of the home, was originally taken into custody along with his two brothers. Police determined later that it was solely Ariel who kidnapped, raped, and tortured the three women for over a decade. He is currently in jail awaiting trial, and police have been reporting that Castro is behaving oddly in captivity.

For now, the victims and their families are simply satisfied to be reunited after so many years. Kayla Rogers, a friend of DeJesus, told reporters that she'd "been praying." She swore that she "never forgot about her, ever." Although this is an unlikely happy ending to a tragic tale, the victims will undoubtedly need time to recover from such a hideous ordeal. Their families and friends will contribute to their healing. (Sources: ABC News, Journal Sentinel)



HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT: The home where the girls were kept and tortured.

DC dinner hosts many

by Rachel Salisbury
News Editor

The White House Correspondents' Dinner began as the top tier of journalists and some of the most significant politicians in America filled the Washington Hilton on May 3. Held by the White House Correspondents Association, the dinner focuses on building the relationship between our nation and the media, often through comedic and satiric speeches.

The most prominent speaker of the night was President Barack Obama, who entered while DJ Khaled's "All I Do Is Win" played in the background. His speech covered both lighthearted and more serious subjects, and focused on satire throughout. He started off by poking fun at himself and his blunders over his past two terms, and then moved on to making jokes about Congress, Fox News, and other facets of government and media. One of his more outrageous jokes of the night was when he stated, "I'm not the strapping young Muslim Socialist that I used to be." He ended his speech on a more serious note, stating how important the connection between media and the government is, especially in times of crisis.

His speech was followed by television personality Conan O'Brien, who also entertained the crowd with a series of jokes centered around politicians and others who had attended the dinner. Despite his humorous speech and reputation, O'Brien also shared sentimental and meaningful thoughts on the tragedy in Boston.

The dinner was generally star-studded, with other celebrities like MC Hammer, Katy Perry, and Psy. Along with those commonly spotted on the red carpet, many senators and house representatives were also in attendance.

Seema Jilani had a very different experience at the dinner, which she attended with her journalist husband. After leaving the dinner for only a few minutes, she attempted to return without a ticket, but was denied for what turned out to be unacceptable reasons.

"I watched as they let countless other women through—all Caucasian—without even asking to see their tickets," Jilani wrote in her article for the Huffington Post. After she confronted the guard about this injustice, he threatened to have the Secret Service throw her out of the building. She was outraged that the guard denied her entry because of her skin tone. The guard's behavior was a reminder of racial strife that continues, even in the midst of those who claim to represent equality. (Sources: Washington Post, Huffington Post)



MIX AND MINGLE: The Correspondents' Dinner brings together people of all vocations.

Guantanamo fights back

by Kelsey Fleming
News Editor

Of the 166 inmates currently held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 102 are on hunger strikes. In early February, the military's supposed mishandling of the Qur'an triggered these strikes. According to Lt. Col. Samuel House, thirty of the inmates are now being force-fed through tubes while others have been hospitalized.

For years, the Obama administration and Congress have been debating over whether or not to shut down the prison camp. Now, the crisis unfolding at Guantanamo Bay is shedding light on the problems that it has been experiencing.

Hoping to gain the upper hand and promote political change at Guantanamo, inmates are refusing to take their liquid nutritional supplements. In response to this mass resistance, guards are force-feeding a number of inmates through drips of Ensure. This has caused controversy; the American Medical Association and human rights groups claim that the force-feeding of inmates at Guantanamo is not only painful, but incredibly inhumane.

Knowing that this is their only tool of resistance, the inmates will not back down. Padraig O'Malley, a professor at the University of Massachusetts and the author of 'Biting the Grave: The Irish Hunger Strikes and the Politics of Despair,' said, "[The hunger strikes] are a form of fighting back. It draws attention. And the closer they come to death, the more attention they draw."

Samir Najj al Hasan Moqbel, a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay, said in a telephone call to his lawyers at the legal charity Reprieve, "I've been on a hunger strike since Feb. 10 and have lost well over 30 pounds. I will not eat until they restore my dignity. I've been detained at Guantanamo for 11 years and three months. I have never been charged with any crime. I have never received a trial." He went on to say, "During one force-feeding the nurse pushed the tube about 18 inches into my stomach, hurting me more than usual, because she was doing things so hastily... It was so painful that I begged them to stop feeding me. The nurse refused to stop feeding me. As they were finishing, some of the 'food' spilled on my clothes. I asked them to change my clothes, but the guard refused to allow me to hold on to this last shred of my dignity."

In a White House news conference, President Barack Obama said, "I think it is critical for us to understand that Guantanamo is not necessary to keep America safe. It is expensive. It is inefficient. It hurts us, in terms of our international standing. It lessens cooperation with our allies on counter-terrorism efforts. It is a recruitment tool for extremists. It needs to be closed."

Capt. Jason Wright, a military lawyer representing inmates at Guantanamo, said, "I think there is a serious problem in Guantanamo Bay with the current administration. As a military officer and a lawyer, I am very disturbed that in our country—at least in our nation's military—we have this concept called the chain of command, and nobody is watching Guantanamo. Nobody. And so something has to be done." (Sources: CNN, Huffington Post, Washington Post, New York Times)



FORCED FEEDINGS: Prisoners who refuse meals are restrained.

Limo catches fire, kills 5

by Justine Reyes
Graphic Designer

San Mateo County Coroner Robert Foucault suggests that the recent limousine fire along the San Mateo bridge on May 11, 2013, was a result of miscommunication between the nine passengers and the driver of the limousine.

On the afternoon of May 11, nine passengers on a stretch limousine were on their way to a bridal shower party when their vehicle began to flame up. It is unknown whether the fire came from within the vehicle or if it started from the outside. Investigators do not believe the fire was a result of a collision and will be looking into whether the vehicle had any prior issues.



all photos courtesy elibrary

BURNT BEYOND REPAIR: Police officials and first responders investigate the utterly devastated vehicle and its passengers.

The group was heading from Alameda, California, to Foster City, to join the bride's new husband to celebrate their nuptials. However, when the limousine driver heard one of the women banging on the partition complaining of smelling smoke, he didn't understand what she was trying to say.

"They had the music up in the back, and I figured she was asking, 'Can I smoke?' " the limousine driver Orville Brown told the San Francisco Chronicle. "I said, 'The owner doesn't allow smoking in the car, and we only have four minutes to the destination.'" Shortly after, the women banged on the partition again, which he rolled down to hear them screaming "smoke, smoke" and "pull over!"

Five of the nine women were killed that Saturday night when fire completely engulfed the limousine. Four other occupants escaped with injuries including burns and smoke inhalation, California Highway Patrol Officer Art Montiel said. Though the driver escaped unharmed, the newly pronounced bride was among the five killed that night. (Sources: Huffington Post, NBC News)