




Michelle Corrao

A STORY OF TRIUMPH OVER TRAGEDY



Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch, for the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow.

Leon Brown

“I am Detective Arthur Billingsley of the Fort Wayne Police Department hold on and I will get you out.”





Immediate Reactions...

◦ Fear

◦ Anger

◦ Denial

◦ Isolation

◦ Guilt

◦ Shame

◦ Embarrassment

◦ Shock

◦ Confusion

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FINAL
50¢

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA ♦ LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1863

Chase leads to woman in trunk, rape suspects

By Kelly Locker
The Journal Gazette

Concerned for his friends' safety, off-duty police detective Arthur Billingsley cruised past the Bandido's restaurant on Winchester Road while his friends closed the business about 11:30 p.m. Thursday.

He thought the men standing outside the restaurant were employees until they ran at the sight of Billingsley's police car.

Billingsley decided to follow.

The ensuing chase led to the discovery of a woman — who had been bound and sexually assaulted — in the trunk of a car.

It also led to the arrest of three men believed to be responsible for a string of rapes and abductions in Fort Wayne this summer.

Those arrested are:

♦ Bennie C. Copeland, 19, of the 2900 block of Winter Street, who was charged with criminal confinement and resisting law enforcement.

♦ Antoine C. Netherly, 23, of the 100 block of West Taber Street, and James Irby, 21, of the 1800 block of Griswold Avenue, both charged with criminal confinement, aiding in rape, aiding in criminal deviate conduct, aiding in carjacking, conspiracy to commit armed robbery and resisting law enforcement.

The three were held in the City-County Lockup on Friday without bond.

Billingsley chased the men from the restaurant to a wooded area, where he lost sight of them, police said.

They said he later spotted a vehicle on Kinnerk Road, and when he approached three men ran from the car.

Billingsley managed to catch Copeland, police said, and as he placed Copeland in his police car, he heard a thumping noise in the other car.

Billingsley said he heard a woman's voice from the trunk: "Is anybody out there? Please help me."

The woman, whose hands were bound and face was covered with a cloth, had been hit on the head and sexually assaulted.

The victim told police she was trying to enter her apartment on South Wayne Avenue about 9:30 p.m. when three men struck her on the top of her head and forced her into the trunk of her car.

But she was safe now, police said, because of Billingsley.

Police believe the men drove the victim to the 2900 block of Winter Street, where they sexually assaulted her.

The men again forced the woman into her trunk and drove her to the 7500 block of Kinross Road.

One of the men stayed in the car while the other two walked to Bandido's, which they intended to rob, police said.

Irby and Netherly were arrested after interviews Friday afternoon.

Fort Wayne police believe at least two of the three men were involved in each of three rapes and an abduction that have occurred in the city since mid-August.

They have not been charged in those attacks.

"At this point in the investigation, we have a comfort level that there is a relationship," Police Chief T. Neil Moore said.

Two women were raped by three men in a field

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Rape

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along St. Joe Road on Aug. 15. On Sept. 7, a Fort Wayne woman was forced into her trunk by armed men along St. Joe Center Road at about midnight, but managed to escape. Another Fort Wayne woman was raped near her home at 1:15 a.m. Sunday.

The attacks all happened on Fort Wayne's north side between midnight and 3 a.m.

The number of men involved in

the attacks has varied from two to three, but the victims' descriptions of the attackers are similar, police said.

Police said the men, who were armed with handguns, confined some of the victims in their vehicles and covered the women's eyes or face. The men have used the victims' cars to drive to another location.

A similar incident happened Sept. 7 in Bloomington. A woman was accosted by two men who tried to force her into a trunk. The men displayed a weapon that looked to the victim like a metal pipe.

Attacks on five women similar

By Kelly Locker
The Journal Gazette

Fort Wayne police are looking at a recent attempted abduction in Bloomington that is similar to a string of attacks in Fort Wayne.

In Bloomington, a woman was accosted Saturday by two men who tried to force her into a trunk. The men had a weapon that the victim thinks was a metal pipe.

Police said the woman, who escaped from the men, was able to help police create a composite sketch of one of the men.

Fort Wayne police are going to compare the drawing of the man to descriptions given by victims of three rapes and an abduction in Fort Wayne. Chief T. Neil Moore said.

Two women were raped by three men in a field along St. Joe Road on Aug. 15. On Sunday, a Fort Wayne woman was abducted and escaped along St. Joe Center Road about midnight, and another Fort Wayne woman was raped near her home at 1:15 a.m.

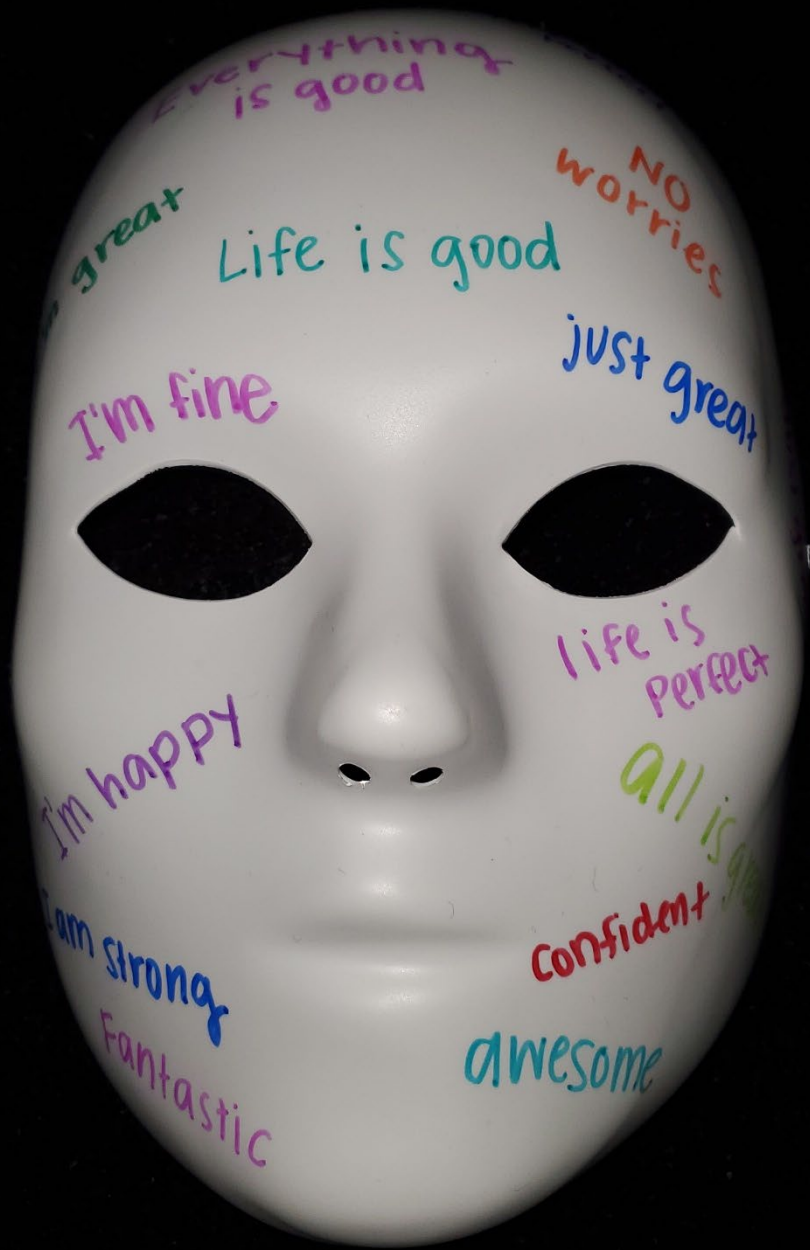
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They said the armed men confined some of the victims in their vehicles and covered the women's eyes or face.

Who I became...

- *Fearful*
- *In denial*
- *Angry*
- *Sad*
- *Uncomfortable*
- *No Self Esteem*
- *Guilt ridden*
- *Depressed*
- *Withdrawn*
- *Embarrassed*
- *Uncooperative*
- *Unrealistic*
- *Going crazy*
- *No interest in activities*
- *Numb/ Detached*
- *Difficulty Concentrating*
- *Nightmares*
- *Isolated/ Labeled*
- *Alone*





Captain Philips – “You are safe now”





What I needed....

- To feel safe
- A chance to breathe
- Someone to be present and listen
- Information and to be real
- Permission to express my emotions
- Affirmation
- Privacy
- HOPE

State seeks to drop some charges against rapist

By Dale Emch
The Journal Gazette

The state filed a motion Friday in Allen Superior Court to dismiss rape charges against a man police said was involved in a series of car-trunk attacks because of evidentiary deficiencies.

But although the case against

Antoine C. Netherly was dismissed, he won't be released from jail.

Netherly, 24, of the 400 block of West Lenox Avenue, was sentenced in November to 320 years in prison for his involvement in the rape and kidnapping of two Decatur women. He also faces charges in another Allen County case.

In the case that was dismissed,

Netherly was charged with raping a woman Sept. 12, 1996.

Police said Netherly and two other men attacked a woman outside her apartment, hit her on the head with a handgun, put her in a car trunk and drove her to a garage, where she was raped.

Bennie Copeland, 21, of the

2900 block of Winter Street, pleaded guilty to rape, kidnapping, and conspiracy to commit robbery in connection with the case.


He was sentenced to 70 years in prison.

James Irby, 22, of the 3700 block of Ferndale Drive, faces other charges in connection with the case and in one other case.



Thoughts of how to respond....

- Start By Believing
- Focus on listening
- Accept their feelings
- Validate their emotional feelings
- Don't blame them or criticize their reactions
- Don't dismiss their experience
- Only give advice if asked



*No human interaction is neutral, it is either
healing or wounding.*

Dr. Blount

21 year old

- Received 210 years
- Pled guilty, convicted of:
 - Rape, Kidnapping, Criminal Deviate Conduct, Armed Robbery, Carjacking, Conspiracy/Armed Robbery, Burglary.

19 year old

- Received 70 years
- Pled guilty, convicted of:
 - Rape, Criminal Deviate Conduct, Aiding/Kidnapping, Conspiracy/Armed Robbery.

23 year old

- Received 320 years
- Case dismissed but convicted in other incidents of:
 - Rape
 - Kidnapping
 - Burglary
 - Criminal Confinement
 - Armed Robbery
 - Carjacking
 - Criminal deviate conduct

Why you are needed...

Victims are...



- **13 times more likely to *abuse alcohol.***
- **26 times more likely to *abuse drugs.***
- **4 times more likely to *contemplate suicide.***
- **3 times more likely to *suffer from depression.***
- **6 times more likely to *suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.***

Secondary Victims...

- *Victims' friends and families are often overlooked.*
- *They can be just as traumatized as the victim.*
- *Families and friends should be informed about.*
 - *What they may expect from the victim physical.*
 - *How they can be supportive and helpful.*
 - *Services available for them.*



Our mission is to provide a Christian home that helps single, pregnant, homeless women improve their lives and the lives of their children.



*I am not interested in whether you've stood with the
great. I'm interested in whether you've sat with the
broken.*

-The Age of Enlightenment

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)


A multidisciplinary team providing victim centered response and high-quality care to survivors of sexual assault.



How did I get here today...

- My faith
- Art
- Chris
- Family
- Friends
- Therapy
- Journaling
- Educating myself on stakeholders in criminal and victim worlds
- Advocating
- Testimony of survivors
- My Children

...Taking it one day at a time



*“Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn,
or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of
living every minute with love, grace and gratitude.”*

Denis Waitley



Victory...
*“...is knowing that you fought for me no
matter the outcome”*

Kristine Korobov

Triumph Over Fear
With Grace and Gratitude:
The Michelle Corrao Story

FOUND



Michelle Corrao
with Emily Sutherland

Book Information

My book is currently
available

at the following and
several more venues:

- Amazon
- Barnes & Noble
- Books A Million

I would love a review
from you!



Q & A
Thank You!

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