

Brawley family says abductors used 'mystery drug'

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. —Tawana Brawley, who has refused for several months to tell investigators details surrounding her four-day disappearance, may not remember many of the details because of a mysterious drug she was forced to take, according to published reports.

An unnamed member of the Brawley family said that abductors forced Miss Brawley to drink a mysterious "milky white" liquid that left her unable to move, speak or remember most of her disappearance last November, the Poughkeepsie Journal reported Sunday.

However, drug tests taken shortly after Miss Brawley was found revealed no traces of blood or alcohol in the 16-year-old girl's blood-

stream. Investigators say a single Valium pill was found in one of Tawana's pockets the day she was discovered.

Dr. Stanley Glick, chairman of the department of pharmacy at Albany Medical School, said any number of drugs or a combination of them, including Valium, could have been mixed in milk and could produce the paralyzed state Tawana told family members she was in.

Glick said such a concoction may or may not appear on drug tests.

The newspaper also reported that a key piece of physical evidence from the attack has been found — a black strap torn from the still-missing purse borrowed by Tawana from her mother the day she disappeared.

Brawley, who is black, claims she was kidnapped and sexually abused by up to six white men last November. Investigators have been frustrated in their attempts to get information on the case, largely because of the Brawley family's reluctance to cooperate with law enforcement officials.

Meanwhile, lawyers for Jason "Chico" Colon, 16, have told reporters that their client remembers seeing Brawley twice in an area of Newburgh known as "crack alley" during the time of her disappearance. Colon has been held at the Orange County Jail on charges of possession of crack with intent to sell since last February.

But Colon's mother, brother and sister this week told the Journal that Colon didn't know Tawana.

A number of youths also say they saw Brawley in Newburgh during one or more of the four days during which she alleges she was abducted, but there is little to substantiate their reports.

A so-called witness told WCBS-TV last week he had seen Tawana at a party, but he later recanted and his father said the boy made the story up.

"We're not in a position to comment on the credibility of any of the accounts of any of the sightings at this time," Abrams spokesman Timothy Gilles said Saturday.

Gilles emphasized that the one move that could clear up the innuendo and confusion is for Tawana to come forward and tell her story — something her lawyers reaffirmed Saturday they will not let her do.

Bowman Gray sets commencement

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outstanding faculty and as far as a total program, I felt they were the best for me."

Dr. Watts said that although the number of Afro-American house officers continues to increase, they still make up only a small percentage of the total number. She said also that while the number of minority students in Bowman Gray's graduating class is small, the school is running ahead of private medical schools in terms of minorities who graduate from the programs.

"We're just about the same as other schools in terms of the number of minority students who graduate," she said. "What's more unique for us this year is that we have two local minority students graduating. You find some private schools who don't even have 1 percent. We're very pleased with the students who have gone through here and they definitely have left a positive impression. They're going so many places and they've gotten good residencies. Almost all of them got their choice of residencies."

Douthit, the son of James S. Douthit and Mary Kinard Douthit, admits that there were times when the pressures of medical school got to be too much and he considered other career options. Fortunately, he said, he was able to stick to his guns and reach graduation.

"For me Sunday dinners sort of took the edge off of things," Douthit said. "There were a couple of moments when it seemed like it was just too much but once you start thinking about what else you can do you go back. You say, 'What else can I do?' and you look at the alternatives and they don't seem very pleasing so you stay with it. I made it through with the support of my family because I knew they would have accepted me no matter what."

Douthit and Allen agree that the most challenging part of medical school was developing the degree of discipline necessary to survive the often grueling schedule of medical school. Their advice to aspiring medical students is to be prepared to establish a routine and to develop enough discipline to make sacrifices of time and energy.

"Probably the biggest chal-

lenge of medical school is being able to discipline yourself to set schedules and go about things in a methodical way," Allen said. "Just like anything else, you have to train your mind to do it."

Douthit, a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said that it's never too early to start preparing for a career in medicine and that students planning to become physicians should concentrate on getting a well-rounded education and developing good study habits.

Acknowledging the decreasing numbers of minorities in medical schools, Allen and Douthit said that several factors have contributed to the shortage of minorities entering the field.

"I think that there is less financial aid available now," Douthit said. "That's a big reason there aren't as many minorities."

Allen said that the decline in minority students enrolling in medical school is consistent with a trend that is happening in all areas.

"There are more people going into business now than anything else," he said. "The fall off in medical school is following the general fall off."

Watts said that Allen, Douthit and each of the members of the graduating class have put a lot into earning their degrees and are fine examples for students that will come after them.

"We are especially proud of the accomplishments of Harvey and Jeffrey and their fellow black students here at Bowman Gray," Watts said. "They have worked very hard, they have accomplished much and their accomplishments have been recognized by the awarding of their house officer appointments. We wish them the very best in all of their endeavors."

Allen said that whatever additional accomplishments he is able to obtain will largely be a result of the training and support he received from the faculty and administrators at Bowman Gray.

"I look forward to graduating but it is really just the beginning," said Allen. "I'm really looking forward to my residency and I'm really happy about the support I got from my family and from Bowman Gray. I'd just like to thank Dr. Watts

and Dr. Hoban and Mrs. McLean. They really helped me a lot through medical school and for me it's been worth it. I never would have made it without them."

Other Bowman Gray minority students receiving house officer appointments were:

William E. Blalock, internal

medicine at Vanderbilt University in Nashville; Howard Bradnock, internal medicine at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y.; A. Renee Delahoussaye, internal medicine at Howard University Hospital in Washington; and Stephen Grevious, pediatrics at North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

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Traveling life grows on couple

By GWEN FARISS
Tampa Tribune Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM -- They have no real home to call their own, but their feet are on the ground and their heads are in the clouds.

Glen Boudreaux, a 45-year-old who calls himself a plant gypsy because he sells foliage up and down the East Coast, pitched a tent on Peters Creek Parkway at the old Cooks Discount Department Store location and at North Point Boulevard beside Jerry Watkins Cadillac about two weeks ago.

But even that green garden, marked by signs that read Cheap Charlie's Travelin' Plants, has no real roots here.

Boudreaux plans to move the family business to North Carolina and settle down in Winston-Salem with his new wife.

Two months ago he married his business partner, Paula Niles, at a small ceremony at the Hillsborough County Courthouse in Tampa. It's one touch of stability to an otherwise roving way of life.

"We live a very unique lifestyle," Boudreaux admitted with a laugh. "And now I have a wife to share it with."

The couple has worked side by side for two years. "You couldn't ask for any better," he said. Together they plan to continue their treks north in the summer and to North Carolina in winter.

Their tent here, on Peters Creek Parkway at the old Cooks Discount Department Store location and at North Point Boulevard beside Jerry Watkins Cadillac, will take in customers through Sunday, when the newlyweds will head for New England.

Cheap Charlie's is a gypsy plant sale operation that earned its name at Crawdaddy's pub in Clearwater, Fla.

"It started as a barroom joke," Boudreaux said. "It stuck because it was so tacky -- but had such a true message. It gave us a novelty and something people can remember year to year."

Beneath the Cheap Charlie's Travelin' Plants tents are potted plants and hanging plants, small plants and big plants, sleek plants and bushy plants.

There are pygmy palms, Chinese fan palms and ponytail trees. There are yucca plants and ficus trees.

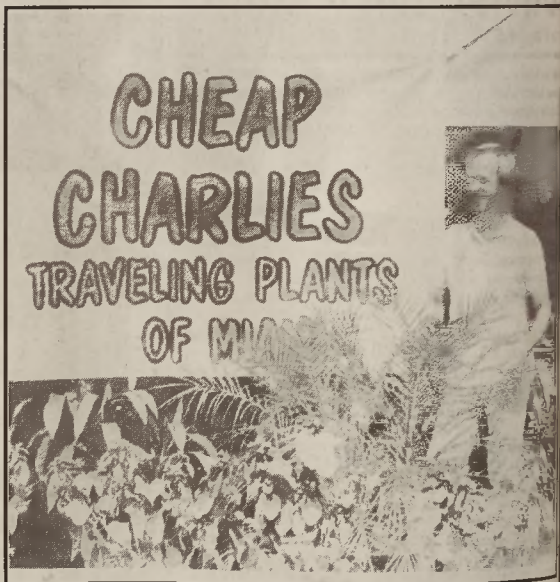


Photo by Rick Fronberg
Cheap Charlie's tents are located at Peter's Creek Parkway at the old Cook's Discount Department Store and North Point Boulevard beside Jerry Watkins Cadillac.

In all, Cheap Charlie's offers about 150 varieties of plants -- plenty for a green thumb to choose from and plenty to entice a novice.

The small plants sell for about \$5 to \$7 each; medium plants sell for about \$13 each or \$25 for two; the larger varieties are priced anywhere from \$25 and up.

Besides the specials on pairs and triplers, there are potted arrangements that mix up to nine different varieties. Also for sale are wicker baskets and plastic dishes. Rubber plants sell for \$5 each.

Boudreaux' roots are in Louisiana and the horticulturist calls himself a little Cajun boy with ambition.

"I've been in the foliage business since 1979," he said. "I saw someone who had run a little tent sale. I saw the potential in it, liked the business and a couple of months later had my own plants."

"I went back to my original form, which was the chance to travel, the freedom to do business the American way -- the right to free enterprise, to have an idea and go for it."

Along with the rewards, though, are the trials and tribulations of life on the road.

"The business is rough," he said. "It's seven days a week -- from 8 in the morning till 10 at night."

Home is a trailer and a constantly changing address.

But that could change. His dream now is to retain the traveling tent operation but to build a home office in Winston-Salem where he can reside year-round.

"You can't live like this forever," he said. "It's trying. Everybody wants roots. They want to know where their bed is that night and where the driveway is."

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Meet Anita Thompson

Anita Thompson has recently joined the staff of Flow Motors Inc. as Sales consultant. Anita's sales are varied including such vehicles as Volkswagen, Porsche, Audi, Honda, Nissan, BMW, Sterling, Acura, Hyundai



Anita previously served as a production supervisor with AT&T. She has a bachelor's degree from Winston-Salem State University and a master's degree from Virginia Tech.

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