

# Chicago police point to strong evidence against slaying suspect

CHICAGO (UPI) — Citing "concrete, relevant and tangible" evidence, police have charged a house painter suspected in as many as 21 slayings with murder and concealing a homicide in the dismemberment death of a 16-year-old boy.

"Larry Eyler has been charged with murder," Belmont Area Police Commander Edward Wodnicki said late Wednesday.

Also Wednesday, Kenosha sheriff's department said it had sent detectives to Chicago to investigate a possible link between Eyler and the slaying of an 18-year-old man whose dismembered body was found in Petrifying Springs park.

The body of Eric Hansen of St. Francis was found Oct. 4.

"Our subject, like this one, had been dismembered and discarded in plastic bags, so there are some similarities," Ormsen said. "You're always looking to get these cases solved, especially when it's this gruesome."

The Wisconsin investigation and the Bridges slaying bring to 21 the number of slayings in which Eyler is a suspect. Eyler had previously been linked to the slayings of 19 men in Illinois and Indiana between October 1982 and October 1983.

Daniel Bridges was stabbed in the chest before his body was cut into pieces and thrown into a trash dumpster, a spokesman for the Cook County medical examiner's office said.

Bridges' body was discovered Tuesday in a dumpster outside Eyler's North Side apartment building.

A Cook County grand jury was expected to be asked later this week to examine evidence against Eyler, who was arrested Tuesday, said a spokesman for the Cook County state's attorney's office.

Police said charges had been delayed because "we did not want to come out and give you anything that was presumptive," and that the evidence was "concrete, relevant and tangible."

Bridges' body, which had been cut into eight pieces and stuffed in six plastic bags, was discovered by janitor Joseph Balla. Balla told police he saw Eyler put the bags in the dumpster Monday afternoon.

Balla called police Tuesday after he began removing the bags from the dumpster and body parts fell out of one broken bag, police said.

Bridges' parents, Noble and Austin Bridges, made a positive identification. Bridges, a victim of two alleged indecent liberties attacks, had been missing from his home since Sunday night, but a missing persons report was never filed, police said.

Eyler previously was charged with murder in the death of Ralph Calise and ordered held on \$1 million bond.

But Lake County Circuit Judge William Block reduced Eyler's bond to \$10,000 after ruling evidence recovered by Indiana authorities in the slaying of Calise, 28, a Chicago electrician, was inadmissible.

Calise's body was found in a shallow grave in Lake County.

Block ruled Eyler, who had been in jail since his arrest last Oct. 29 by Lake County authorities, had previously been detained illegally by Indiana police and his property had been seized without probable cause.

Indiana police had confiscated handcuffs, a blood-stained knife, tape, rope and a pair of boots from Eyler's truck.

Block noted Illinois law provides that if a motion to suppress evidence is allowed, the defendant shall be released without bond unless there are reasons not to do so.

"I set some sort of bond to keep some sort of restrictions on him," Block said, adding that if it weren't for the nature of the crimes Eyler was accused of committing he would have been released without any bond.

The Lake County state's attorney's office has an appeal of Block's ruling on the evidence pending with the Illinois Appellate Court.