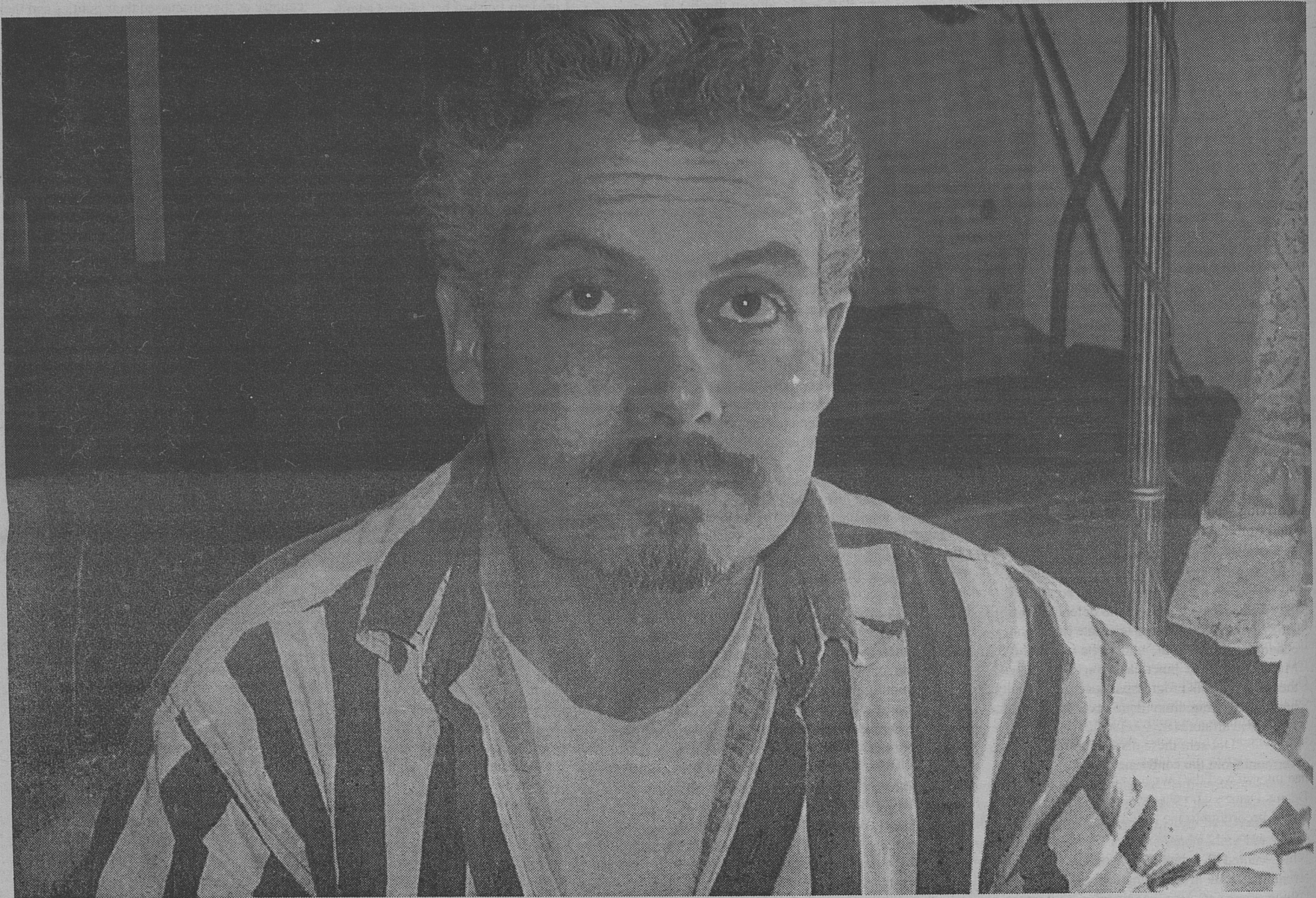


Justice Delayed



This Christmas will be the second one since George Smith reported being assaulted in a bar just down the street from his Montgomery Center home.

continued from page 1 It's later in the evening and now there are 26 people there, and some of the earlier folks had left. This guy [whom he names] came over to me with a brass palm piece and hit me in the back of the head four times. His hand was cut. I saw the brass thing and the cut. I was groggy and in and out of consciousness from then on.

"The owner of the bar was holding me down. Someone boxed my ears. I was fighting back and smashed some of the people in the mouth. I smashed Adam in the forehead. I was on my back with my arms held down and I was being raped anally. I thought it was a dream – the doctor I saw said that was part of the date-rape thing."

"I woke up again and different people were punching me. Some of the people I didn't even

know. All I could think of was 'Why are they doing this to me, what a horrible dream this is!' It all went pretty smooth, and that tells me that they've done it before. I'm not the first and I won't be the last if they're allowed to stay open.

"The door to the bar was locked. Eventually I was able to break free and got out. The lights had been on, and when I got away, they were off, so I know a lot of time had gone by. [The man he had identified had earlier] told me he was homophobic. He [had] even offered to buy me a drink if I'd get away from the pool table.

"I came home, and I couldn't go to sleep. I kept having flashbacks. I called my mother, I called 911, I called the state police, who called an ambulance. The ambulance attendant said that if I went with them it would cost me \$600. I didn't

trust anyone that night, so I didn't go.

"At first I didn't tell anyone about the sexual assault part because I didn't believe they'd care. I did tell NUSI [the Northwest Unit on Special Investigations] several months later.

"I hope the bartender loses his right to serve alcohol in the state of Vermont.

"I've talked to so many attorneys and as soon as I tell them I was raped they tell me they're not interested or they have a conflict of interest. Every time I talk about it I feel like it's happening again. I have to do the right thing and the right thing is to tell what really happened.

"Afterward, I pretty much locked myself into my apartment and painted everything I had to deal with my feelings. After the assault I wanted to kill myself. It's too much on top of being disabled, you know what I

mean? And I'm so tired of having to explain myself for things that heterosexuals take for granted. 'You went to a neighborhood bar – are you nuts?'"

The paintings he refers to are plain wooden panel-back kitchen chairs. One is painted black and blue.

Piles of Documents – No Results

George Smith hunts in his tiny cluttered apartment for a folder of assault-related documents, "helped" by two frisky half-grown kittens.

The first document is a sheet of notes dated October 22 and taken by Doctor Robert Zelazo of the Richford Health Center detailing George's injuries:

Cut in center of nose
Defensive wounds on right hand 5

On left hand 6
Left forearm [sic] 6 defensive wounds, brouisings [bruising]
Right forearm [sic] defensive?
Right upper arm boot mark
Left upper arm
R eye
L eye blood vessle [sic] broke
Right foot

Calf 2
Thy [sic] 3
Buttox [sic] 1
Left foot
Calf
Thy [sic]
Buttox [sic] Bruise leftside

Back
Chest Leftside bruise by heart
Abdomen bruise
Right side ribs
Left side ribs
Right neck
Left [ditto]
Front [ditto]