Lawrence — The suspect in the recent homicide of a Kansas University student drove nearly 23 hours to New Jersey last week before police found his former girlfriend’s body at his Lawrence home, according to a timeline of events that police released Monday.

Jana Mackey, 25, was found dead at the home of her ex-boyfriend, Adolfo Garcia-Nunez, a 46-year-old Lawrence artist who also went by the name Fito Garache.

She likely was killed between 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, when she was last seen in class at KU, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, when Garcia-Nunez was seen at a Lawrence convenience store before driving to New Jersey, police said.

A friend reported Mackey missing at 4:36 p.m. Thursday after she didn’t show up to class. About two hours later, Mackey’s vehicle was found in the parking lot of Lawrence Memorial Hospital, near Garcia-Nunez’s home.

Lawrence Police said they found Mackey’s body at 11:07 p.m. Thursday in Garcia-Nunez’s home after interviewing people the suspect was associated with.

By the time Mackey’s body was found, Garcia-Nunez had been in New Jersey about five hours. He arrived there with his 18-year-old son and 19-year-old daughter. The children’s mother lives in New Jersey.

“The son and daughter were not privy to what had occurred, fortunately,” Ward said. “They were not involved.”

About 5:30 a.m. Friday, Garcia-Nunez’s truck was found in Elizabeth, N.J. Within hours, four Lawrence Police detectives were on a plane to New Jersey.

About 5 p.m. Friday, Elizabeth, N.J., police found Garcia-Nunez at a home and arrested him on a second-degree murder warrant from Douglas County.

While awaiting extradition, Garcia-Nunez hanged himself at Elizabeth police headquarters, where his body was found in a holding cell early Saturday morning, Union County New Jersey prosecutor spokesman John Holl said.

— The Lawrence Journal World

www.ljworld.com
Kansas University has announced students who met requirements to be named to the 2008 spring honor roll. Those from this area are: Logan Jones, son of Barry and Amy Jones, Frankfort; Sheila Miller, daughter of Dennis and Marge Miller, and Gina Gerstner, daughter of Daniel and Jean Gerstner, Frankfort.
TOPEKA (AP) — Mild weather allowed marginal ant and termite colonies to survive the winter, and persistent rainfall into the summer is helping them survive and invade homes in bigger numbers than in the past, experts say.

In Topeka, reports of ant infestations are up 10 percent to 15 percent, while termite infestations are up almost 50 percent from previous years, local exterminators said.

“It would be my assumption that because we had a wet winter that wasn’t too cold and we’ve had a long, wet spring, most insects are able to reproduce and live better,” said Zachary Falin, collection manager with the University of Kansas Division of Entomology.

“The conditions could allow marginal colonies to squeak by in the winter and then boom around now,” he said. “Usually around this time, it’s too hot to see this much activity.”

Pete Lake, branch manager for Terminex in Topeka, said ants are expanding in homes to more locations than the typical kitchen and bathroom.

“Usually around this time, it’s too hot to see this much activity.”

Jeff Bodine, co-owner of Bodine’s Pest Control, said he’s not as concerned about the ants as he is termites.

“The tiny little ants are what we’ve been seeing more of, and they’re really just a nuisance,” Bodine said. “The termites are a bigger concern for me.”

People should wash ant trails with warm, soapy water, experts said, seal any cracks around doors and windows and keep food put away.
Dear Friend,

Welcome to “This Week in Congress.” Kansans remain frustrated by the high cost of energy, including gasoline, and the lack of progress toward finding solutions. Like Kansans, I am bothered by the partisan politics that prevent Congress from finding solutions to these critical problems. Click here to read about efforts I support to reduce the cost of energy and click here to vote in my online poll. I hope you find this newsletter useful.

House Passes Fixes for Pharmacies, Medical Providers

I supported House passage of legislation this week to improve Medicare regulations for patients and health care providers. The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act includes several important fixes for health care providers in Kansas. As a founder of the Congressional Community Pharmacy Caucus, I am especially pleased with the provisions of this bill that help community pharmacists. The legislation requires pharmacies to be reimbursed in a timely manner for prescriptions already dispensed to patients. The bill also delays the implementation of the Average Manufacturing Price payment system, which would reimburse pharmacists for less than what it costs to fill Medicaid prescriptions. In addition, the bill suspends the current bidding program for Durable Medical Equipment. The current program could compromise Kansans’ access to equipment and create more overhead costs for equipment providers.

It also suspends for 18 months a reduction in Medicare payments to physicians, establishes new grants for mental health services to Iraq war veterans in rural areas and begins a demonstration program for integrating care in rural communities. These changes will help keep health care professionals on a level playing field whether they are serving patients in rural or urban areas. It will also help keep the doors open to local hospitals, doctor’s offices and pharmacies. The Senate now needs to quickly pass this bill.

Disaster Declaration Requested for Chapman, Manhattan and Other Communities

On Thursday, Governor Sebelius formally asked the federal government to provide disaster assistance to 49 Kansas counties that suffered damage from severe storms and tornadoes beginning May 22 and ending June 16. I have urged President Bush to quickly approve the assistance so that public buildings and infrastructure can be repaired.

The day after tornadoes and strong storms rolled through central and northeast Kansas, I visited Chapman and Manhattan to view the damage. I returned to Chapman the following day to encourage residents. The destruction was great in these two communities, but many other Kansas towns have also suffered. The request for federal assistance is welcome news to Kansans that live in these storm-damaged communities.


Pressing Air Force Officials to Rebid Tanker Contract

After upholding Boeing’s
protest last week of the Air Force's decision to award the 
aerial refueling tanker contract to Northrop Grumman and 
Europe's EADS, the Government Accountability Office 
(GAO) said Wednesday that Boeing would have likely won 
the bid had significant errors not been made. The findings of 
the GAO report are disturbing. It is critical the Air Force start 
this competition over and work to make it right.

Together with other Members of Congress, I asked the 
Air Force Acting Secretary to 
take into account all of the 
GAO findings and re-open a fair competition in a manner 
that corrects the significant errors identified by the GAO. 
According to the GAO report, the Air Force failed to judge the competitive bids based on the Air Force's own 
evaluation criteria, made significant mistakes in considering 
the life cycle costs of each of the two aircraft and "conducted misleading 
and unequal discussions with Boeing." I also joined Congressmen 
Todd Tiahrt this week in introducing legislation that directs the Department of Defense to begin a new competition on the tanker contract if the Air Force fails to award the contract to Boeing. The legislation calls on the Department of Defense to take into account national security, industrial base concerns and foreign subsidies in the new competition.

Supporting the Americans with Disabilities Act Restoration Act

This week, I supported House passage of legislation that will ensure the right for all people to be evaluated on their job performance. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Restoration Act restores the law to Congress' original intent by harmonizing the ADA with other civil rights laws and requiring the courts to interpret the law fairly. Overly broad court interpreta
tions have weakened the law by allowing employees to say a person is "too dis
abled" to do the job but not "disabled enough" to be protected by the law. The ADA Restoration Act will correct this problem.

I spoke on the House floor about the need for these re
forms and was able to share the thoughts expressed by former Senator Bob Dole, a true disability rights advocate, on the passage of the original ADA in 1990. Click here to view my comments in support of this bill.

Emergency Grazing of CRP Acres Approved for Kansas Counties

Producers in eight Kansas counties received good news this week when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved a request for emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. Producers in Grant, Hamilton, Haskell, Morton, Sherman, Stanton, Stevens and Wallace Counties are now eligible to begin sign-up for emergency grazing of CRP acres. Producers in these Kansas counties are enduring months of drought. Allowing producers to graze CRP acres will help them maintain their herds during this time of extreme conditions.

Emergency grazing is allowed through September 30, 2008. All livestock must be removed by the end of the 
grazing period. According to the Kansas Farm Service 
Agency (FSA), producers must not graze at least 25 percent of each field or contiguous CRP fields or graze no more than 75 percent of the stocking rate. Producers participating in the emergency grazing will also face a 25 percent reduction in the annual rental payment for the grazed acres. Producers should visit their local FSA office for information about the restrictions on use and to begin the sign-up process.

Celebrating the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy Expansion

I was in Wichita on Monday to participate in the ceremonial 
signing of state legislation that will allocate $20 million in bonds plus an additional $39 million for the expansion of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy. The funding will also allow the School of Pharmacy to conduct more pharmaceutical research. With the expansion of the school, nearly 200 more students will be able to enter the pharmacy program at the KU School of Medicine-Wichita and at a new building on the main campus in Lawrence. At a time when pharmacists are struggling to keep their doors open, the pharmacy expansion is a ray of hope for the profession and our state.

KU has a strong record for retaining graduates within our state. Sixty-three percent of KU Pharmacy graduates live and work in Kansas. Increasing the educational capacity will give more students an opportunity to learn and will also help address the pharmacist shortage in Kansas. I would like to commend the leadership and faculty at KU and the Kansas State Legislature for having the foresight to invest in such a worthwhile project. Being with KU officials also allowed me the opportunity to encourage additional enrollments within the School of Medicine in order to better help Kansans meet the need for physicians, especially primary care doctors.

Before attending the ceremony, I attended a meeting of the Downtown Rotary Club in Wichita. It was good to join fellow Rotarians for a discussion of current issues.

Testifying about Unique Health Care Challenges in Rural America

I had the opportunity again this week to testify before a congressional subcommittee about the unique challenges Kansans face in getting the health care they need. It is im-

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important for Congress to understand the circumstances of rural health care delivery as we look at ways to improve health care across the country. An aging population, the lack of public transportation and the difficulty of recruiting new emergency medical service volunteers all present special challenges that health care reform must address. Click here to view my remarks before the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.

Agriculture Committee Holds Hearing on Oil Markets
I participated in an Agriculture Committee hearing on Tuesday about energy markets. Many Americans are concerned that speculation in energy futures markets is driving up the cost of oil. The Agriculture Committee has jurisdiction over the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), which is responsible for preventing fraud and manipulation. Later in the week, the House passed legislation strengthening CFTC’s authority in its oversight of trading in the oil futures market.

Contact Me
It is an honor to serve you in Washington, D.C. Please let me know how I can be of assistance. To send me an email click here. You can also click here to contact me through one of my Kansas offices or my Washington, D.C., office.

Very truly yours,
Jerry Haskel Co. Monitor-Chief Sublette, KS Circ. 1151 From Page: 6 7/2/2008 31285
Officials hoping Obama smears do little harm to campaign

By CHRIS GREEN
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — Chain e-mail messages that repeat false claims about Barack Obama's religion, patriotism or life story pop up in Glenn Staab's inbox almost daily.

When it happens, the Ellis County Democratic Party Chairman and Hays resident simply hits “reply all” and directs recipients to passages about Obama on Snopes.com, a Web site that catalogs and often debunks urban legends.

“I use it as a chance to educate,” Staab said. “I think the people that are going to believe those e-mails aren't going to be voting for a Democratic candidate.”

Despite near-constant media reports refuting them, falsehoods about the U.S. senator and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee continue to circulate widely across the nation, including Kansas.

Often surfacing over the Internet in e-mails and blogs, some of the most common messages falsely assert Obama, a Christian, is secretly a Muslim, took his oath of office on the Islamic faith's holy book or refuses to pledge allegiance to the flag.

Obama's campaign is actively working to refute the rumors through its “Fight the Smears” Web site, which lists and counters the untruths and links their spread to individuals and groups politically opposed to Obama.

Despite such efforts, the message appears to have taken hold in the minds of at least some Americans heading into the Nov. 4 general election. A nationwide survey released earlier this year by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press showed at least one in 10 voters believing Obama is a Muslim.

Although the Internet rumor phenomenon hasn't skipped Kansas, officials representing both of the state's main political parties say they don't see smears having much of an effect on how Kansans cast their ballots.

Jenny Davidson, a spokesman for the state Democratic Party, said she thinks Kansas voters will care mostly about Obama's plans for helping the nation's reeling economy.

“I think the people of Kansas are looking for a leader with a plan to address what's happening at the gas station or with food in the grocery stores,” Davidson said. “Senator Obama's background lends itself to addressing these issues, and I think that's what (voters) will really be focusing on.”

Christian Morgan, executive director of the state Republican Party, isn't a fan of Obama's politics or policies. He and his party regularly send out e-mail missives attacking Obama's stands for being too liberal for Kansas.
Yet Morgan said he hopes Kansas voters will cast their ballots for the Republican nominee, Arizona Sen. John McCain, because his policies are better, rather than because of "silly Internet rumors."

"Anybody that participates in that silliness is just really doing a disservice to not only Senator Obama — who deserves our respect — they're also doing a disservice to John McCain," Morgan said.

Staab said he sees most of the falsehoods about Obama surface through e-mail but rarely hears them uttered in everyday conversation. He figures the e-mail campaign is mostly the work of underhanded Obama opponents who will do whatever they think is necessary to win.

"I think most of the people that use it like that are very small-minded," Staab said.

Vic Moser, an Abilene Democrat who is the party's 1st District and Reno County chairman, said he hears false rumors about Obama's religion circulating in his region, too.

He worries erroneous beliefs could cost Obama votes at the polls, because people often put a lot of stock in stories their friends or families tell them. But Moser said he's hopeful Obama, who wasn't widely known before the presidential campaign began, will be able to allay most people's fears as time goes on.

"I think as he gets to be seen more, it will become a little more clear," Moser said.

Voters lack of familiarity with Obama, as well as his unusual name and background, likely contribute to the resonance of falsehoods being circulated about him on the Web, according to a University of Kansas professor who has written about the growing use of Internet media in political debate.

Obama, who would become the nation's first black president should he win, is the son of a Kansas woman, who was white, and a Kenyan father, who was black. Obama, whose middle name is Hussein, grew up with his mother in Hawaii and lived in Indonesia for a few years.

But David Perlmutter, a professor at KU's School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the author of "Blogwars," said false rumors about Obama only gain traction when people find the elements of them attractive to believe.

In many respects, the Obama rumor phenomenon is nothing new. Political candidates have battled rumors throughout history.
Kansas University releases spring 2008 semester honors

LAWRENCE — More than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2008 semester.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum grade-point average for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

The following students represent Claflin and Hoisington:

Kristi Lyn Jensen, daughter of Ronald and Susan Jensen of Claflin, liberal arts undergraduate sophomore, graduate of Hoisington High School; Blake A. Letourneau, son of Richard and Mary Lou Letourneau of Claflin, education undergraduate senior, graduate of Claflin High School; Jordan M. Bates, daughter of Gary and Donna Bates of Hoisington, business undergraduate senior, graduate of Hoisington High School; Brianne L. Koester, daughter of Richard and Pamela Koester of Hoisington, liberal arts undergraduate senior, graduate of Hoisington High School; Jacquelyn Renee Koester, daughter of Richard and Pamela Koester of Hoisington, liberal arts undergraduate sophomore, graduate of Hoisington High School; Tanner T. Polzin, son of Patricia and Duane Polzin of Hoisington, engineering undergraduate senior, graduate of Hoisington High School; Sarah Jerree Ritter, daughter of Steven and Sonja Ritter of Hoisington, liberal arts undergraduate junior, graduate of Hoisington High School.
Local Ellinwood students among those named to KU spring 2008 honor roll

Lawrence, KS — More than 4,900 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2008 semester.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who met requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the schools of allied health, architecture and urban planning, business, education, engineering, fine arts, journalism, nursing and social welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university’s academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum grade-point average for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Local students named to the honor roll from Ellinwood are:

Andrea Nicole Macy, daughter of Marla Macy
Amanda Joelle Winkleman, daughter of Michele Edwards
Student Luminaries

LAWRENCE—Students from Cloud County named to the Spring 2008 Semester Honor Roll at the University of Kansas were Sherlynn Cailteux, Clyde, daughter of Kerry and Gillia Cailteux, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Junior; Jere Lundquist, Clyde, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior; Spencer Brown, Concordia, son of Bruce and Irene Brown, Pharmacy Professional Senior; and Devin Lowell, Concordia, son of Jim and Lori Lowell, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior.
TYLER D. YOUNG

Young earns master's in political science

Tyler D. Young, son of Rev. Larry D. and M. Dean Young, of Ellinwood, graduated from the University of Kansas' College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in a master's hooding ceremony Saturday, May 17.

Young received his master's degree in political science.

He graduated from Chapman High School in Chapman in 2000, received his associate's degree from Barton County Community College, Great Bend, in 2002 and went on to receive his Bachelor of Science in political science from KU in 2005.

Young was involved in a number of activities while attending KU including Student Senate, Graduate Student Executive Committee, JayWalk, Alternative Spring Break, Delta Force, Political Science Graduate Association, and spent a semester studying in Washington, D.C.

Prior to college, Young obtained his an Eagle Scout in 1997, and was an exchange student with Chapman High School to Rossosh, Russia in 1997.

He married Jennifer Gray of Lawrence in June.
By DAVID KLEPPER
The Kansas City Star

LAWRENCE, Kan. — White Owl has found his spring chicken, and we’re all invited to the wedding.

“I’m blessed,” said the Vietnam veteran-turned-free-spirited campus character. “She wants to be Ms. White Owl,” he said. “She’s the greatest friend to me. God has granted my prayers.”

He said a few people had questioned the couple’s age difference, but “love is love.”

For her part, Lee said she felt an immediate connection to White Owl. She said she’s unsure why so many people are interested in the engagement. The couple’s love story has been written up in the student newspaper, and it’s big talk around campus.

“I don’t know why there’s so much interest, but it’s wonderful.” Lee said.

Save the date: The wedding is at 2 p.m. July 27 at the Loose Park Rose Garden. White Owl said he’s serious when he says everyone is invited. He’s also serious about the dress code. “I want everybody to dress comfortably,” he said. “It’ll be hot.”

The happy couple plans to roost in Lawrence. Citing the phrase, “Bloom where you are planted,” White Owl said, “I’m planted.”

Before he took root in Lawrence, White Owl was a familiar face in Westport for the many years he dispensed musical advice to enthusiasts.

Since Pennylane Records closed, he worked at other record stores and disc jockeyed at local bars. He worked on a book about the chemical Agent Orange which he blames for disabling him during Vietnam.

“People down here in Lawrence think they know me the best,” he said. “But Kansas City has known me for years.”

White Owl said he now feels at home on the KU campus where, thanks to his age, he can audit classes, whichever ones he wants on any given day for free.

After befriending student athletes, he became a regular at football and basketball games.

White Owl’s dances were featured on ESPN, YouTube and in countless photos this year as the Jayhawks won the Orange Bowl and then the national championship in basketball.