

# 'TOP GUN' FIEND HELD IN NEW CASE Sicko back on trial

## But jury won't hear of '82 attack on star

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THE UNREPENTANT SEX fiend who raped "Top Gun" actress Kelly McGillis two decades ago is about to go on trial again, for a vicious attack on two women in Greenwich Village.

But prosecutors cannot grill Leroy Johnson Jr. about the earlier assault if he takes the stand, a judge ruled yesterday.

Johnson, 38, was a teen thug with a juvenile record when he and an accomplice ambushed McGillis, then a Juilliard student, in her apartment in 1982.

At knifepoint, they took turns violating her, threatening to kill her and bombarding her with racial slurs before fleeing after someone called the police.

McGillis identified them from mug shots.

"I wanted those guys caught," she said later. "I wanted to hurt them as much as they hurt me."

Johnson pleaded guilty and served three years in prison, while McGillis went on to star in "Witness," "Top Gun" and "The Accused."

She played a hard-nosed rape prosecutor in the latter and talked about the anguish of her own ordeal — eating disorders and drinking binges — when it was released.

"I'm still afraid and will be for the rest of my life," she said.

After raping McGillis, Johnson did two more prison stints after being accused of sex crimes, and wound up in federal lockup for threatening to kill Presidents George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan.

He was arrested again last year after cold-case investigators used a sophisticated DNA database to link him to a 1996 double rape.

In that case, a knife-wielding creep followed home a 22-year-old woman — then raped and sodomized her and her 23-year-old roommate.

Just before jury selection began yesterday, Assistant District Attorney Michele Bayer asked for permission to question Johnson about his criminal past.

Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Renee White said she would allow cross-examination about crimes that happened in the past 10 years.

That excludes the attack on McGillis, who was referred to only as a "well-known actress" in court.

McGillis, 48, was told of Johnson's latest bust by prosecutors, her agent said. She is shooting a movie in Hawaii and could not be reached for comment.

Johnson's lawyer, Bryan Konoski, said he plans to mount a science-based defense.

"It looks like the DNA was tampered with, or it's not pure," he said of the prosecutors' key evidence.

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BOB GREENE

Actress Kelly McGillis, seen in 1997 photo, learned through prosecutors that fiend who raped her in 1982 will be tried for two more sex crimes.

## W talks up plan to ban gay nuptials

BY THOMAS M. DeFRANK  
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WASHINGTON — President Bush tossed another bone to his splintered political base yesterday, again embracing a doomed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage.

"Marriage is the most fundamental institution of civilization, and it should not be redefined by activist judges," Bush told a gathering of conservative and religious leaders. "I am proud to stand with you."

"Our policies should aim to strengthen families, not undermine them," he added, "and changing the definition of marriage would undermine the family structure."

The Senate takes up the controversial amendment tomorrow, but even its supporters say there's no chance it will muster the 67 votes needed for passage.

Aides said Bush's support is principled, not a politically expedient gesture to conservative backers who have begun abandoning a President whose support has nosedived steadily since his reelection.

"He's not a homophobe and this isn't his thing," a close Bush adviser said yesterday. "But he has to do it."

"The base needs shoring up," echoed a GOP official, adding that many of Bush's most conservative supporters vigorously oppose his immigration reform package unveiled last month.

Democrats accused Bush of ignoring more pressing domestic and international matters in hopes of rallying his once-loyal political base for the November midterm elections.

"Instead of offering solutions to the real problems facing our country, President Bush is pandering to extremists," People for the American Way President Ralph Neas charged.

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## FDA may OK test on inducing labor

WASHINGTON — One in five pregnant women has her labor induced. The question: Are doctors inducing labor for sound medical reasons, or just trying to make childbirth more convenient?

The Food and Drug Administration is considering whether a simple vaginal test designed to detect premature labor should be approved to determine whether labor should be induced.

The test measures traces of fetal fibronectin, or fFN, a protein considered sort of a uterine glue. If it seeps into the vaginal tract anytime from midpregnancy onward, it's thought to signal that membranes are breaking so that labor might begin fairly soon.

Thus the presence of fFN could indicate a woman is ready to induce.

The Associated Press

## Research finds bio clock ticks for men

WASHINGTON — It isn't only women who face a ticking biological clock.

New research has found that as men age, the quality of their sperm deteriorates, making it more likely they will have trouble becoming fathers and increasing the possibility of having a child with dwarfism.

For centuries, this tendency toward birth defects with aging was blamed on the woman, whose fertility plummets with age.

"Our research suggests that men, too, have a biological time clock — only it is different," said Brenda

Eskenazi of the University of California Berkeley's School of Public Health, who led the study with Andrew Wyrobek of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Their findings appear in the online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The same team had previously found that as men age their sperm count declines and their sperm becomes less active.

The new report looked at 97 men aged 22 to 80 and found increased fragmentation of the DNA in sperm as men age.

News Wire Services

## Study on breast cancer Rx disputed

ATLANTA — Final results from a big study comparing two drugs for preventing breast cancer in high-risk women reveal surprises that challenge the government's claim that one is clearly better.

The study compared the old standby, tamoxifen, with raloxifene, a newer drug so far approved only for preventing the bone disease osteoporosis.

The government contends raloxifene is safer.

At a news conference in April, the National Cancer Institute, which paid for the \$88 million study, said both drugs were equally effective at lowering the risk of serious forms of breast cancer.

But raloxifene users had 36% fewer uterine cancers and 29% fewer blood clots, making it a safer choice, government researchers said.

However, data made public yesterday show that the uterine cancer results were not statistically significant. This means the actual number of cases differed so little that they could have happened by chance.

The Associated Press