

# TULSA WORLD

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FYI

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Mr. Pickard-

I try to correct any misperceptions or errors in my stories, if they warrant such action of course, as soon as possible. So, if you see any errors in the stories I send you, please let me know and I'll forward the information to my editors, who make the final decision on what I write, what I don't write, etc.

I'm familiar with Paul Hulebak's case. However, I could never find Kirsten Reynolds but since the charge was dismissed, that makes it much less newsworthy in my view. However, it should be looked at in any case, and I thank you for her contact information.

I also knew of Skinner's arrest in New Jersey, and I think we reported it in one of my stories somewhere. I also knew of the fraud stuff, but we never went into great detail in it because my editors were not interested in that aspect. It's the phenomenon of the ever-shrinking newspaper.

Our court reporter, Bill Braun, is covering Skinner's deal now. I just cover them up until they get into the system, so any info on the trial would come from stories which he writes.

According to OSCN, Skinner's jury trial is set to begin Dec. 6. Records also show that some stuff has been filed relating to evidence of other crimes he's committed, so I'm sure that his past will be brought to light in some form during the trial, unless it's suppressed in some way.

If there's anything else you think I should know about, please let me keep me in mind. I researched Skinner pretty well so although every single aspect of his background may not make it into my stories, there's only so much that stands up for publication in a daily newspaper. He'd make a great book subject though.

If there's anything else I can help you with, please let me know.



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## Teen tells of six days of drugged torment

MATT ELLIOTT World Staff Writer

09/14/2003

Tulsa World (Final Home Edition), Page A19 of News



### **Gordon Skinner**

Tulsa police allege that Skinner drugged and tortured a teenage boy over a six-day period.

### **Three have been charged in his alleged abduction and assault in July.**

The 18-year-old awoke in a pasture after six days of alleged torture.

Vomiting, disoriented, bloodied and insect-bitten, he tried to make sense of his surroundings.

He had spent the night wrapped in a blanket in the field, next to a gravel road where a white Toyota was parked -- the car was his own, but he did not recognize it. In the distance lay an expressway, thick with traffic.

Dehydrated and nearly naked, the Broken Arrow teenager had no clue where he was, but he knew he needed help.

His clearest memory of what happened before he was dumped in the field was waking up in a hotel bathroom, bound, gagged and half-naked.

Staggering to the highway between exhausted collapses, he threw the blanket over a barbed-wire fence, climbed over and made it to the edge of the road.

"It was consistent traffic the entire time," he said. "There was even times I would get on my knees and hold my hands up . . . just so people would know that I was alive and notice me."

**Stranger than fiction:** A police car eventually stopped and picked up the teenager -- whose name is not being used in this story -- about 8 a.m. July 11, according to Texas City, Texas, police.

"He thought I was a heroin addict. He just kept saying, 'Where are the drugs at?' " the teen said. "And I was like, 'All I want is water.' "

Texas City Police Sgt. Brian Goetschius said the teen had visible bruises and cuts but that dehydration was his biggest problem.

Doctors at the Mainland Medical Center in Texas City, just miles from where the teen was found, told him that if he had been in the field 45 minutes longer, he would have died.

Gordon Todd Skinner, Krystle Ann Cole Skinner and William Ernest Hauck were charged Thursday with kidnapping the teen from Tulsa's Doubletree Hotel Downtown during the Independence Day weekend.

Tulsa police allege that Gordon Skinner drugged and tortured the teen over a six-day period.

The Skinners and Hauck took the victim from the Doubletree about July 7 to a hotel in the Houston area, where he was tortured further, police allege.

Gordon Skinner was charged with kidnapping, conspiracy to commit kidnapping and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Hauck and Krystle Skinner were charged with kidnapping and conspiracy.

"I think people make the mistake of saying they've seen it all," said Tulsa Police Cpl. Gene Watkins. "This is definitely a new one."

**High priest of psychedelia:** Gordon Skinner, who grew up in Tulsa, is a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration informant who intended to set up a large LSD lab in the former Atlas-E ballistic missile silo that he once owned near Wamego, Kan.

Federal agents raided the lab in November 2000, and Skinner, now 39, testified for the government against two chemists, William Pickard and Clyde Apperson, who were found guilty of drug offenses in March, court records show.

The Broken Arrow teen said he was caught up in the lifestyle of drugs and money that Skinner flaunted.

The teen's former girlfriend, University of Tulsa student Krystle Skinner, is Gordon Skinner's wife. She helped ensnare the teen, police allege.

An affidavit written by Watkins says Hauck told police that Skinner was angry the teen had slept with his wife and Skinner wanted to get even.

Skinner is jailed in Nevada, and DEA officials would not comment.

An e-mail sent to Krystle Skinner's University of Tulsa address was not answered. Police are unsure where she is.

Skinner considers himself a high priest of psychedelic drugs, Watkins alleges, and the torture began after the teen willingly took a communion wafer laced with chemicals extracted from psychedelic mushrooms.

The next thing the teen knew, he awoke on the bathroom floor of a Tulsa hotel suite.

Krystle Skinner tried to convince him that he had gone crazy and had to be restrained when he took the drugs, he said.

**A credibility problem:** Given his drug history and Skinner's marriage to his former girlfriend, the teen said he understands the skepticism he might face.

He used to be a drug dealer, selling drugs to his high-school friends, he admitted. In May, he spent three days in a Lebanon, Mo., jail for felony drug possession.

He also admits smoking marijuana regularly for the last three years.

"One of the policemen made a comment to my dad that it was going to be harder to prosecute because I agreed to taking the psychedelic on that day," he said.

But Watkins said he has checked the teen's story. Witnesses, medical records and the Texas City police incident report support the teen's account.

"Did he take the drugs voluntarily? Yes, he did. But did he take the drugs to be assaulted in the groin area, to be tied up, to have someone shave (his) whole body, leave (him) for dead, trying to fry (his) brains?" Watkins asked. "No one deserves to have that happen to them."

**The alleged ringleader:** Gordon Skinner is currently jailed in Reno, Nev., on a federal drug-trafficking charge.

He was in Nevada over the Labor Day weekend to attend the Burning Man festival, Watkins said.

The counter-culture gala, fueled by drugs, art, sex and music, culminates in the burning of a 40-foot-tall wooden man.

Watkins said in an interview that Skinner used Hauck, an Oklahoma City-based truck driver, and Krystle Skinner to do his dirty work. Krystle Skinner followed Hauck and picked him up from the field after he dumped the teen, Watkins said.

To cover up his disappearance, the teen said, they planned to tell his friends he went crazy after he found out that the two had married, so he fled in a drug binge to Galveston, Texas.

Gordon Skinner checked into the Doubletree on July 1, billing records show, and checked out July 7. Watkins said Skinner followed his wife and Hauck to Texas, staying in Houston, where the torture continued.

The teen's medical records paint a harrowing picture.

Pinpoint needle marks dotted his arms and genitalia; ligature marks discolored his wrist; and bruises covered his body.

The teen said he doesn't know what chemicals may have been injected into him but that he remembers Skinner saying he had a drug that would erase his memory.

Hauck saw Skinner wrap a phone cord around the teen's penis and pull on it until he heard a pop, an affidavit filed by Watkins states.

Hauck told Watkins that he also saw Skinner grab the teen by the scrotum and pull him off a bed onto the floor, the corporal told the Tulsa World. Then Skinner allegedly bragged that the teen was so "doped up" that he could not feel any pain from the assault, Watkins said.

The Skinners' attempts to discredit the teen went even further, Watkins alleges.

The affidavit states the detective believes that the teen was sexually assaulted so police would think he was gay and was injected with chemicals so authorities would refuse to believe him.

Sexual assault charges have not been filed.

**Looking over his shoulder:** The teen has found a job and plans to enroll in college in December.

He also claims to have turned his back on drugs.

He is in hiding but said he fears that Gordon and Krystle Skinner might know how to find him to do

him further harm.

The teen says he lost about 25 pounds during his ordeal and was confined to a wheelchair after his hospitalization. Only recently has he regained the ability to eat solid foods.

As Hauck drove him to Texas City while Krystle Skinner followed, the teen recalled, he just wanted to rest and wanted the pain to stop.

He said he'll never forget the peace he felt when the car stopped that night next to a pasture. He said Hauck laid him in soft grass under the night sky. The sensation of the grass against his skin was comforting.

"I was really happy that I could finally go to sleep," he said.

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## Tulsa kidnapping defendant handed 4 years in drug case

AP Wire Service

06/23/2004

Tulsa World (Final Home Edition), Page A15 of News

### **The man had pleaded guilty to giving away the drug ecstasy at a Nevada counterculture festival.**

RENO, Nev. (AP) -- An Oklahoman who is facing kidnapping and assault charges in his home state has been sentenced to four years in prison for giving away the illegal drug ecstasy at the Burning Man festival in Nevada.

Gordon Todd Skinner, 39, also must complete 250 hours of community service and be supervised for three years upon his release from prison under the sentence U.S. District Judge David Hagen handed down Monday.

Skinner was indicted by a federal grand jury in September and pleaded guilty in March to one count of possession of the drug with an intent to distribute.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Denney said Skinner had been handing out the pills at last year's annual counterculture festival on the Black Rock Desert north of Reno.

Authorities found about 10 ounces of ecstasy when they searched his vehicle, Denney said.

Along with his wife, Krystle Skinner, and truck driver William Ernest Hauck, Skinner is accused in Tulsa of kidnapping an 18-year-old man from a hotel over the Fourth of July last year.

Police said the victim was taken to Houston and held captive in a hotel, where he was tortured with beatings and chemical injections.

The victim, bloody and dehydrated, was found July 11 in a field in Texas City, Texas. Police picked him up and took him to a hospital.

Authorities said the victim indicated that he met the couple at a rave party when he was a high school student and dated Krystle Skinner while she and Gordon Skinner had broken up temporarily.

Prosecutors in Tulsa said they intend to extradite Gordon Skinner back to Oklahoma as soon as possible to stand trial.

Related Photos & Graphics



Skinner

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## Abduction case figure surrenders

Staff Reports

09/24/2003

Tulsa World (Final Home Edition), Page A15 of News



A woman who is charged in a kidnapping and torture case surrendered to police Tuesday.

Krystle Ann Cole Skinner, 22, was booked into the Tulsa Jail on kidnapping and conspiracy charges about 4:45 p.m. Tuesday after reportedly turning herself in, jail records show.

She was charged Sept. 11 along with her husband, Gordon Todd Skinner, and William Ernest Hauck in the July abduction of a Broken Arrow teenager.

### **Skinner**

Gordon Skinner was charged with kidnapping and conspiracy as well as assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

After taking a psychedelic drug, the teenager allegedly was assaulted over a roughly six-day period in Oklahoma and Texas starting about July 4.

Police allege that Hauck, an Oklahoma City-based truck driver, dumped the teenager in a Texas City, Texas, field about July 11.

Gordon Skinner is jailed in Reno, Nev., on an unrelated federal drug-trafficking charge.

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## Suspect in kidnapping case surrenders

MATT ELLIOTT World Staff Writer

09/20/2003

Tulsa World (Final Home Edition), Page A17 of News

A man charged in a Tulsa kidnapping and torture case surrendered to police on Friday.

William Ernest Hauck was booked in to Tulsa jail at 11:19 a.m. in connection with kidnapping and conspiracy charges. Bond was set at \$100,000 for each of the two charges.

Hauck, 43, was charged Sept. 11 along with Gordon Todd Skinner and Krystle Ann Cole Skinner, in the abduction of a Broken Arrow teen.



**Hauck**

Gordon Skinner was charged with kidnapping and conspiracy as well as assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. His wife, Krystle Skinner, was charged with kidnapping and conspiracy.

After taking a psychedelic drug, the teen was allegedly assaulted for about six days in Oklahoma and Texas starting around July 4.

Police allege Hauck, an Oklahoma City-based truck driver, dumped the teen in a field around July 11 in Texas City, Texas.

Gordon Skinner is jailed in Reno, Nev., on an unrelated federal drug trafficking charge. Krystle Skinner, the victim's former girlfriend, remains at large.

Police are looking for a witness, Kristy Roberts, who may be in the Pryor area, said Tulsa Police Officer Scott Walton.

Anyone with information about Krystle Skinner or Kristy Roberts' whereabouts can call Crime Stoppers at 596-COPS. The Citizens Crime Commission pays rewards for information leading to the arrest of people who are charged with crimes. Callers can be anonymous.

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## Charges allege teen kidnapped, tortured

MATT ELLIOTT World Staff Writer

09/12/2003

Tulsa World (Final Home Edition), Page A1 of News

Three people were charged Thursday in a Tulsa County kidnapping in which the victim reportedly was held for six days and repeatedly tortured.

Gordon Todd Skinner, Krystle Ann Cole Skinner and William Ernest Hauck were charged with kidnapping a Broken Arrow teenager during the Fourth of July weekend at the Doubletree Hotel Downtown, 616 W. Seventh St.



### **Gordon Todd Skinner**

The 39-year-old is charged with kidnapping, conspiracy to commit kidnapping and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Police allege that the victim, 18, was held captive in the hotel, where he was tortured with beatings and chemical injections.

Gordon Skinner, Krystle Skinner and Hauck took the victim from the Doubletree around July 7 to a hotel in the Houston area, where he was tortured further, police allege.

The teen, broken, bloody and dehydrated, was found July 11 in a field in Texas City, Texas. Police picked him up and took him to a hospital.

Gordon Skinner was charged with kidnapping, conspiracy to commit kidnapping and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Hauck and Krystle Skinner were charged with kidnapping and conspiracy.

A police affidavit indicates that the teen was also sexually assaulted, but charges regarding those allegations have not been filed.

Gordon Skinner is jailed in Reno, Nev., on federal drug-trafficking charges. He was in the state to attend Burning Man, a counterculture festival that takes place each Labor Day weekend.

Skinner, who grew up in Tulsa, reportedly is a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration informant who intended to set up a large LSD lab inside a former Atlas-E ballistic missile silo that he once owned near Wamego, Kan.

Federal agents raided the lab in November 2000, and Skinner, now 39, testified for the government against two chemists, William Pickard and Clyde Apperson.

Apperson and Pickard were found guilty of drug offenses in March, records for the U.S. District Court in Topeka, Kan., indicate. They have asked for a new trial, records show.

Krystle Skinner, a University of Tulsa student, is the victim's former girlfriend. She married Skinner around June.

The victim met the couple at a rave party when he was a high school student and dated Krystle Skinner while she and Gordon Skinner had temporarily broken up, the victim said.

He admitted that on the night he was taken prisoner, he willingly took a psychedelic drug called "the Eucharist," a communion wafer laced with chemicals extracted from psilocybin mushrooms.

The next thing he can recall is waking up on the bathroom floor of a hotel suite, with his wrists bound, his mouth gagged and his pants down around his ankles, he said.

Tulsa Police Cpl. Gene Watkins said Hauck, an Oklahoma City truck driver, is in Arkansas and is expected to turn himself in. Hauck has been cooperating with police, he said.

Krystle Skinner may be in Reno, he said.

An affidavit by Watkins says that Hauck told police that Skinner was angry that the victim had slept with his wife and that Skinner wanted to get even with him.

Police allege that Skinner injected the victim's penis with chemicals that Skinner thought would cause it to become gangrenous and fall off, the affidavit shows.

Medical records from the Mainland Medical Center in Texas City released to the Tulsa World by the victim detail needle marks on his right arm, left hand, left foot and genitals.

His body was also covered with a rash, which the records state may have been a reaction to the injected drugs.

Skinner is accused of injecting the victim with drugs that would cloud his memory and cause police to disbelieve the victim's story.

Police also accuse Skinner of injecting the teen with a chemical that made him convulse repeatedly, the affidavit shows.

The victim has been in hiding since his release from a Texas hospital.

He told the Tulsa World that he only recently regained the ability to eat solid foods and that he was confined to a wheelchair for two weeks after his hospital stay.

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## Ex-informant in Tulsa Jail

MATT ELLIOTT World Staff Writer

09/03/2004

Tulsa World (Final Home Edition), Page A13 of News

A former government informant is back in Tulsa to face allegations that he kidnapped and tortured a Broken Arrow teenager last year.

Tulsa County sheriff's deputies brought Gordon Todd Skinner, 40, from a federal correctional facility in El Reno on Thursday to the Tulsa Jail, where he will be held on felony charges of kidnapping, conspiracy and assault.

Skinner, who was sentenced to federal prison in June for drug possession, faces a Sept. 9 arraignment on the state counts.

The federal charges came after his Aug. 30, 2003, arrest for drug possession at the Burning Man festival in Black Rock City, Nev., by U.S. Bureau of Land Management Special Agent Mark Pirtle.

The counterculture festival culminates in the burning of a 40-foot-tall wooden man and draws thousands of people to the area each year.

Some festivalgoers flagged down patrol rangers and reported that Skinner was acting suspiciously while staying in a recreational vehicle with his estranged wife, Krystle Ann Cole Skinner, who had left for Reno, Nev., before rangers showed up, Pirtle said.

"He was passing out what he told people were different kinds of vitamins, pills, food supplements," Pirtle said in a recent telephone interview.

The rangers contacted Pirtle, who runs the drug portion of the bureau's law enforcement program in the area, and he went to the location.

A crowd began to form at the RV, and one person alleged that Skinner had been handing out ecstasy.

Ecstasy, a stimulant and mild hallucinogenic, is a synthetic drug, usually taken in pill form. It is popular in dance-club settings.

Pirtle knocked on the door, and Skinner consented to a search of the RV, Pirtle said.

Officers sifted through piles of trash, food, other people's identification cards and jars of "health food," he said.

"The last place we searched was the couch he was sitting on," Pirtle said.

Investigators found two bags -- one inside the other -- near the couch. One bag contained a white powder, which field-tested positive for ecstasy, and the second held empty capsules.

"His answer for that was, 'I don't know how that got there.' Typical," Pirtle said.

Skinner pleaded guilty to a federal charge of ecstasy possession and was sentenced to four years and two months in prison, Pirtle said.

Shortly after his arrest in Nevada, Skinner was charged Sept. 11, 2003, in the Tulsa County kidnapping.

The victim, who was then 18, was held captive at a downtown Tulsa hotel and then abducted during last year's Fourth of July weekend.

Authorities allege that Skinner tortured and assaulted the teenager with chemical injections and beatings before having his alleged accomplice, William Ernest Hauck, dump the victim in a field in Texas City, Texas.

An affidavit written by Tulsa Police Cpl. Gene Watkins alleges that Skinner was angry that the victim had slept with his wife and that Skinner wanted to get even.

Also facing trial in the abduction are Krystle Skinner and Hauck, who face kidnapping and conspiracy counts. They posted bond after their arrests in September 2003.

Krystle Skinner has an annulment of her marriage to Skinner pending. Authorities allege that she helped lure the victim into the kidnapping plot.

Gordon Skinner, who grew up in Tulsa, once was a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration informant after federal authorities found a large LSD lab in the former Atlas-E ballistic missile silo that he owned near Wamego, Kan.

Federal agents raided the lab in November 2000, and Skinner testified for the government against chemist William Pickard and Clyde Apperson, who were found guilty of drug offenses in March 2003, court records show.

Skinner's status as a former informant came back to haunt him in Nevada.

While he was being held during his federal trial there, his fellow prisoners, among whom he had established quite a following, attacked him after they learned about his role in the LSD trial, Pirtle said.

Skinner had to be kept in isolation for about a month for his protection, Pirtle said.

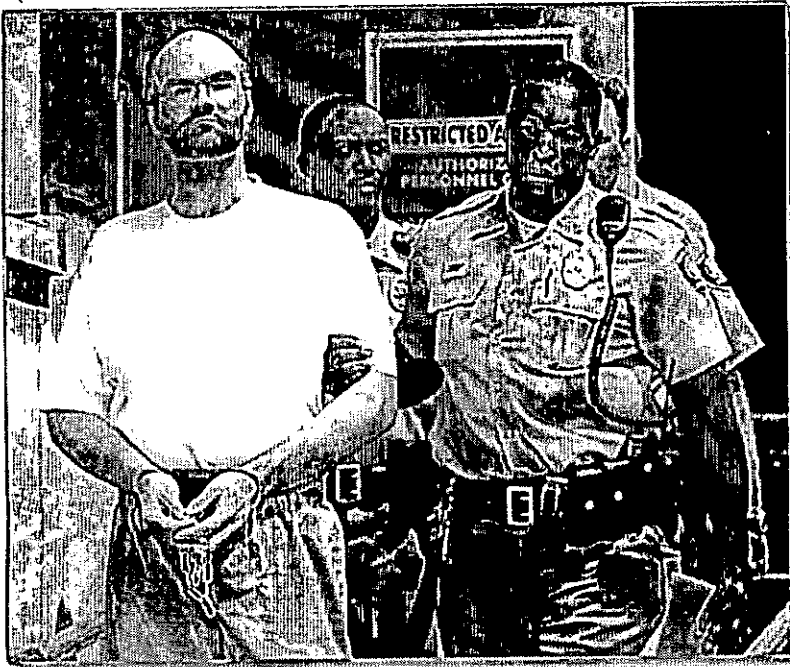
"That broke him," he said.

It was after Skinner was placed in isolation that he pleaded guilty to the ecstasy charge.

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Related Photos & Graphics



Gordon Todd Skinner is escorted to the Tulsa Jail by Tulsa County Deputies Michael Elliott (right) and Anaias Carson (center). A third deputy (back right) is unidentified. Skinner has been in federal custody on a drug conviction and faces kidnapping and assault charges here.  
DAVID CRENSHAW / Tulsa World

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