

newspaper in 1977, shortly after the discovery was made, had been very sketchy. The evidence given by the anthropologist and the use of a photographic line-up in a reverse role (i.e. to identify a victim versus a suspect) also precipitated comments. One judge stated that policemen must take an accused as found, and not make judgement as to the suspect's competency, mental or otherwise. He believes that it is up to the courts to determine competency, and therefore, they must be afforded every opportunity to do so. A tape recorded statement, as was presented in this case, gives the court the opportunity to hear the interview verbatim in its entirety. When it is not recorded or provided in its complete form, the court must depend on the policeman's interpretation and recollection of the content, which could be unreliable.

Why did the suspect confess? Perhaps we will never know for certain. Two possible theories exist. The suspect was obviously suffering from depression when arrested, probably attributable to drug abuse on the days prior to his arrest. This condition was augmented by the lack of recognition he had received for what he appeared to believe were substantial crimes. Whatever his reasons, they appeared to have evaporated after two days in custody. This change in attitude was evident by his abrupt silence and efforts in subsequent trials to gain acquittals of the charges he faced. Without the 48 hours of co-operation, these crimes would probably have remained unsolved. In addition, this clever criminal, with a demonstrated potential for violence, would most likely be still at large, committing similar crimes. ■

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 4)

Dear Editor:

Any collector of police patches, badges, caps, helmets, or other police paraphernalia who wishes to correspond with a police officer with the Bavarian County Police Department in Kempten, West Germany, may write:

Thomas Gansert
8960 Kempten
Aybuehlweg 12
West Germany

Mr. Gansert has been a police officer for 6 years, and will correspond in German or English. ■

Getting Lost Pays Off

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statements were obtained admitting to this robbery and two others.

The ages of the two individuals classified them as young offenders. They both came from good homes, had no criminal record and were certainly not

under any suspicion for armed robbery. It is highly unlikely that they would have been apprehended had our member and his witnesses not become lost while trying to get out of Dartmouth. ■