

Dirt from Sowell house being sold online

PAT GALBINCEA
Plain Dealer Reporter

You can now get the real dirt on convicted serial killer Anthony Sowell.

Not "dirt" as in "malicious gossip" but real dirt — soil — from Sowell's home on Imperial Avenue. It's the hottest item being sold online at serialkillersink.net and \$25 will get you one gram of soil packed in a jewelry bag, according to Serial Killers Ink company owner Eric Gein, who is based in Jackson, Fla.

"The brutality and sickness of Sowell's crimes has drawn attention not only nationally, but worldwide," Gein said. "I sold

three bags the first day I posted that authentic soil from the Imperial Avenue Strangler's yard was available on Sunday. And I've sold three more bags today (Monday).

"We live in a sick world, and this soil is valuable to people because Sowell's victims were buried in it. It's true that there is a fascination with dark history."

Gein's website also sells items from many of U.S. history's most famed serial killers like Charles Manson, Richard "Night Stalker" Ramirez, Henry Lee Lucas and David "Son of Sam" Berkowitz.

"Many of the items I sell, they sent to me," Gein said. "Manson sent me some of his hair and per-

sonal drawings. He also sent me letters, and recently I just obtained a letter from the "Unabomber," Ted Kaczynski, which I'm selling for \$250."

One of Gein's associates went to Sowell's home two weeks ago and collected two sandwich bags full of soil. He said that amounts to 20 bags of soil containing one gram. At \$25 each, he will earn \$500 for this particular memorabilia.

Gein, 42, said Sowell has been drawing worldwide attention for the past year for killing 11 women, and that Gein had sold letters Sowell had sent him last year. Gein said the soil was obtained from near the home's curb

and fenceline.

Gein said his business has been booming since it was created in 1996. His website was created four years ago. He said his business is no different from the authors or companies that produce books, movies and television documentaries based on true crimes.

Has he sold any soil to a Cleveland yet?

"No, and I'm not likely to," Gein said. "I'll sell more to professors of criminal law around the country than I will in Cleveland."

"After all, all a Clevelander has to do is go to Imperial Avenue and get it on their own."

HIGHER EDUCATION

University of Dayton offers future freshmen free books

The University of Dayton has a new incentive for prospective students: free textbooks.

Any prospective freshman for fall 2012 who visits the campus, applies for admission and fills out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1 will receive \$500 for textbooks each semester for four years if accepted for admission to the college.

"Through this initiative, we want to underscore that a University of Dayton education is affordable and we are committed to helping families in very tangible ways," Kathy McEuen Harmon, assistant vice president and dean of admission and financial aid, said in a release on the university's website.

A campus visit is important for students to decide if Dayton is a good fit, and parents should complete the FAFSA instead of assuming they won't qualify, she said.

Harmon said the university estimates 75 percent of incoming students will meet the requirements to receive free books and that it will cost the university about \$1.5 million annually. The program is expected to continue for several years.



KAREN FARKAS

receives grant: The National Center for Welding Education and Training, located at Lorain County Community College, has been awarded a \$2.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The center, known as Weld-Ed, will use the three-year grant to expand its curriculum and professional development, research and recruitment activities.

Weld-Ed was founded in 2007 through a \$5 million grant from the science foundation. It brings together the American Welding Society industry partners Lockheed Martin and Lincoln Electric, 140 business and industry affiliates and more than 80 educational affiliates.

More than 1,700 students graduated in 2010 and nearly all found jobs in industries including automotive, shipbuilding, aerospace, mining, defense and energy.

Scholarships for volunteers: Charter One's parent company, Citizens Financial Group, will give scholarships to students whose volunteer efforts have made a difference in their communities.

The program is open to high school seniors and current college students in four-year schools.

Scholarships will be awarded to students who reside in or plan to attend college in the 12 states with Citizens Financial Group banks, including Ohio. One student will receive \$7,500, four will receive \$5,000, and 15 will receive \$1,500.

Applicants can write an essay of no more than 500 words or tape a 90-second video. For details and to apply, go to charterone.com/scholarship. The application deadline is Sept. 16. Winners will be announced in November.

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Students to collect food: Notre Dame College's incoming students will be collecting non-perishable food on Saturday to benefit the Heights Emergency Food Center.

Students wearing college T-shirts will knock on doors in South Euclid from 9 a.m. to noon and request donations of canned goods. Residents who will not be home at that time can place donations marked "NDC Food Drive" on their doorstep. Anyone outside of South Euclid can bring donations to the Regina Hall Gym on South Green Road that morning.

Last year, more than 400 students collected 5,000 pounds of food for the center, which serves residents of Cleveland Heights, University Heights, South Euclid and Lyndhurst.

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GUS CHAN | THE PLAIN DEALER

Phillis and Phillip Clippis bow their heads in prayer during Mass at the Community of St. Peter church on Euclid Avenue in Cleveland. The Clippis, whose parish was closed last year, visited St. Peter's Sunday as part of an ongoing search for a new spiritual home.

ROAMERS

FROM B1
Parishioners travel from church to church

"We hope they can find their way," he said.

The Roamin' Catholics said that if they win their appeal, they'll stop their wandering and go back to their spiritual home. If not, they'll stay together and decide in which parish to settle.

"The majority of the parishes have been very welcoming," said Sanders. "A few of them have not."

But no matter how warm the welcome, it hasn't been enough to soften some Adalbert members who, in bitterness over losing their church, have turned their backs on religion.

George Gamble, 28, of East 93rd Street, was baptized at St. Adalbert's when he was a baby. It was his home away from home, he said, a place where he learned his academic lessons and his Christian values.

"The ordinary black kid in our community doesn't get a chance to experience a place like St. Ad-

albert's," he said. "I am very proud of my St. Adalbert community — so proud that I can't go to any other community."

"My Sunday mornings are just another day," he said. "I'm just not religiously focused these days. The tears are still in my eyes."

Rudy Thompson, 64, who runs a Sunoco station in the Buckeye neighborhood on the city's East Side, raised his family at St. Adalbert's.

He too has given up on the church.

"Bishop Lennon pulled the rug out from under us," said Thompson, who did a lot of volunteer maintenance at the church. "We had a big, happy family at St. Adalbert's, but it's all been taken away from us. When something like that is broken up, what do you do?"

St. Adalbert's traced its roots to the long-defunct Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, established in 1922 as Cleveland's first and only black Catholic church.

By the 1960s, Blessed Sacrament, a small church on East 79th Street, was in need of major repairs, so the diocese closed it and the congregation migrated a few blocks away to St. Adalbert's — a dying Bohemian parish in a predominantly black neighbor-

hood.

The new tenants — about 1,000 of them — moved into the twin-towered church, painted the faces of Jesus, Mary and Joseph black and built a school.

When the diocese shuttered the 100-year-old building last year, the congregation was down to about 225.

Lennon has closed 50 churches in the eight-county diocese over the last two years, citing changing demographics and shortages of priests.

Most of the closings were in inner-city neighborhoods, including two other black Cleveland churches, St. Cecilia at Kinsman Road and East 152nd Street and the nearby Epiphany on Oakfield Avenue.

Church closings on Cleveland's East Side in recent years have created a big gap in Catholic presence, stretching from the Shaker Heights border to near downtown. Most of the area's residents are black.

"For many black families, the church is their whole life," said the Rev. Dan Begin, who had been pastor at both Epiphany and St. Cecilia. "Now there's nothing convenient for them to get to. A lot of them are just not going to Mass. It's unfortunate."

Tayek said the gap in black Catholic churches created by the closings was one of the diocese's biggest concerns during reconfiguration discussions.

"We wrestled really hard on trying to close that hole," he said. "And that's one we're still wrestling with."

Begin, who is now associate pastor at Communion of Saints (created by the merger of four parishes) in the Cleveland Heights, said that of the 700 parishioners at Epiphany and St. Cecilia, 100 were elderly or shut-ins who couldn't get to Mass on their own, so he either went to them or set up car pools.

To help continue that ministry, Begin has created a website called Scattered Seed (scatteredseed.org), described as a church without walls, a social network linking his former parishioners.

Like the Adalbert roamers, Begin and his "scattered seeds" travel once a month to different churches, where they hold African-style Masses and dinners.

"I try to keep up with them as much as possible," said Begin. "I've made a commitment to be their pastor."

CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S FUGITIVES

Four sought for violating probation or failing to appear

Deputies are asking for help in finding these fugitives wanted in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court. Anyone with information is asked to call 216-443-6085.

■ Chevez Burton, 24, of Lakewood, violated probation after pleading guilty in October 2009 to attempted drug possession. He sold crack cocaine to an informant in May 2009.

Burton lived in the 1200 block of Marlowe Avenue.

■ David Walker, 39, of Cleveland, was free on a \$1,500 bond and failed to appear for arraignment June 1 on a drug possession charge. Police say he had crack cocaine with him when he was detained April 22 for trespassing near East 13th Street and Chester Avenue.

Walker lived in the 3100 block of West 14th Street and the 1500 block of Superior Avenue.

■ Shelly Driscoll, 47, of Cleveland, was free on a \$1,000 bond and failed to appear in court Aug. 3 on a charge of receiving a stolen vehicle. Police say she was driving another woman's stolen Pontiac Bonneville in March.

Driscoll lived in the 12700 block of Emery Road.

■ Anthony Frasso, 28, of Cleveland, violated probation after pleading guilty to drug possession in September and failing to complete an intervention program. Police found crack in his car during a traffic stop in May 2010.

Frasso lived in the 3300 block of West 63rd Street and the 8600 block of Willard Avenue.



Burton Walker



Driscoll Frasso

See more fugitives on the sheriff's Facebook page.

HONORED

Parma teacher receives recognition

The Great Lakes Scholars Program recently named Jeannette Dumot as its 2011 Teacher of the Year. Dumot is a fifth-grade teacher at Pleasant Valley Elementary School in Parma. Dumot was nominated by student Sean Demko in a 200-word essay, stating that his teacher pushed him to be the best he could be.

HAPPENING

Business association marks anniversary

The Fairfax Business Association will host its 15th anniversary block party from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday on East 86th Street near Cedar Avenue. The party is open to the public. The FBA, a nonprofit organization, has worked with Fairfax businesses to help them improve economic growth in the community.

MORRIS

FROM B1
Harmless stunt could prove serious

That is already happening of course. Cyber-inspired flash mobs have been around since at least 2003, when the term was invented. Their playful, benign nature, which where originally mostly organized for the likes of public pillow fights, spirited dancing, or other juvenile stunts, have long been scrutinized for meaning by academics and oth-

ers. And now in the wake of the Arab Spring, where tyrannical and oppressive governments in Tunisia and Egypt experienced relatively bloodless revolutions launched by activists using social media, the power of cyberspace (in the hand of the individual) has never been more studied, appreciated — and feared.

And it is that fear, especially, I believe, that causes many of America's leaders, as well as its citizens, restless nights as we ponder the fate of our own nation, a nation that continues to see a severe widening in the divide between the haves and the have-nots.

It would be hyperbole to say that America is on the brink of anything approaching revolution, but it's no stretch to say that we are a chronically worried nation that feels long held gains slipping away. That poses its own dangers and vulnerabilities.

The current generation of young people consistently say they don't believe they will do as well as their parents; they don't believe they will be given the same social and economic opportunities as those a generation removed; they don't believe things are getting better.

And it is those rising levels of discontentment, anger and alienation that can be manipulated or channeled in any number of ways by those who manage to amplify their voice and develop committed cyber followings. Indeed, at no time in the history of modern civilization

have the collective ears of the socially aggrieved been so easily accessed by progressive visionaries, but also by charlatans and anarchists.

That is why the antics of Machine Gun Kelly are so vivid and useful. He managed to commandeer a mall for a brief period of time Saturday because he wanted to laugh and play with other people's property.

But there are those among us who patiently plot to make the young rapper's stunt look like the child's play it was. That's what makes our technology so exciting, fearful and promising when wielded by the right hands.

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Lost & Found

<p>Lost and Found Rewards</p> <p>LOST DOG - (Dachs-hund) Parma Heights / Solitaire ring, Sylvan's Parma 8/6/2011 Brown short hair, some grey hair on neck & under chin. He was given away (long story) at a Willoughby Hills to Yard Sale in Parma Lakewood Tuesday Au- Heights on Maplecliff & gust 9, 2011 Very senti- Chesterfield on 8/7/11 mental, 3 very dia- or 8/8/11. Please help mounds, pink center bring back the family stone. THANK YOU if dog of the last 11 years. you find it and call!!! (440)336-1706</p>	<p>Lost and Found Rewards</p> <p>LOST: Family keepsake Area, REWARD! 419-271-2210</p> <p>LOST Wedding Ring away (Long story) Hills to</p>	<p>House Hunting?</p> <p>Get on the right track with The Power of Two: The Plain Dealer and cleveland.com/homes.</p>
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Tuesday ~ Week 34

HERE IS TODAY'S BINGO NUMBER

THE PLAIN DEALER

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BINGO