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## **Woman Describes Alleged Rape by Bel-Air Couple**

SANTA MONICA - A woman who alleges that she was held captive and raped repeatedly for 19 hours by a wealthy Bel-Air couple told a judge Friday that she felt as if she were in a dream during the ordeal.

The woman was allegedly given the so-called date rape drug GHB before she was taken to the mansion of Joseph Simon Arsenault, 40, and Heather Lynn Moe, 24. Once there, the couple allegedly forced the woman to perform numerous sex acts, drink alcohol and use cocaine. Throughout the incident, the woman said, she was unable to get up and leave.

"It was like I was in a dream, and you can't get out of a dream," the woman, 22, testified at a preliminary hearing in Santa Monica Superior Court. "I'm not that type of person. I don't do these kinds of things."

Defense lawyers, however insist that Arsenault and Moe have been framed and want Judge Steven Suzukawa to throw out the case. The defense contends that numerous photographs taken of the alleged victim that night show that she willingly attended a sex party at the mansion. They said she had drunk heavily and used cocaine on her own that evening and said the same applied to a second woman who has accused the couple of drugging and raping her. Police say the couple used the drug GHB, or gamma-hydroxybutyrate, to sedate the women. However, drug tests failed to show evidence of GHB in the two women's systems.

An LAPD narcotics detail raided Arsenault's Sunset Boulevard mansion Oct. 5, kicking in a heavy master bedroom door that was braced shut by a couch. Police found a bedroom littered with bags of cocaine, mirrors, spoons, straws and pen caps. In a guest house 50 yards from the main house, searchers discovered seven plastic bottles containing the drug GHB.

At the hearing, defense lawyers said the drug belonged to a renter, not Arsenault. The hearing is to continue Monday

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# **Couple's rape charges dropped Alleged victim's stories didn't fit**

CITY NEWS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES - A couple expressed bitterness over spending nearly seven weeks behind bars before charges that they drugged and sexually assaulted two women at a Bel-Air mansion were dropped.

Prosecutors dismissed the charges Tuesday during a preliminary hearing for Joseph Simon Arsenault, 40, and Heather Lynn Moe, 24, citing inconsistencies in the statements the supposed victims gave police.

Arsenault and Moe still face felony drug charges, but would be eligible for a rehabilitation program and could get their records wiped clean upon completion of it if convicted.

The dark-haired man, a New York investment banker-turned actor, and the young blond embraced for several seconds after meeting outside Men's Central Jail on Wednesday.

"We're relieved that finally the truth came out," Arsenault said. "I have to tell you, if this is any indication what hell's like, I don't want to be back here, man."

The two were arrested at Arsenault's \$4.5 million mansion on Sunset Boulevard on Oct. 5.

They were picked up after police served a search warrant and supposedly found seven bottles of the "date rape" drug GHB and a "large amount" of cocaine.

Police also confiscated video tapes that investigators believed featured drugged women being sexually assaulted.

Defense attorney James Blatt said the GHB belonged to someone who had leased a guesthouse from Arsenault.

Moe told reporters she "knew that (the 100-year sentence she and Arsenault could have faced) would never happen, because I knew that we didn't do what they were accusing us of."

Blatt said there "were a tremendous amount of inconsistencies and omissions that came out, in reference to the victims testifying."

The women claimed they were drugged during parties, the raped. Photos taken reportedly showed them awake.

Arsenault believes the police went after him because his neighbor complained about the parties he threw.

He added, "You don't come in and arrest a couple and throw them in jail without doing some serious investigation first. And the wrecked (our) lives."