

# ON THE DOCKET

Compiled from selected court reports

## West Haven drug case defendant asks for continuance

MILFORD — A West Haven man accused of selling drugs at a West Haven bar appeared Tuesday in Superior Court.

Espauel Esquilin, 39, of First Avenue, appeared with his attorney Tara Knight to ask that his case be continued until next month. Knight said there might be a disposition in the case at that time.

Esquilin is accused of dealing drugs at Lad's Cafe on Campbell Avenue between March 1998 and April 1999 with two co-defendants, Harry Collins, 23, of Hine Street, and Daniel Trasacco, 25, of Second Avenue.

The men were arrested last summer on warrants after an investigation by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. The task force, comprised of agents from the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration, in conjunction with the West Haven, New Haven and Hamden police departments, began investigating after receiving a tip from a longtime DEA source. According to the 35-page arrest warrant affidavit, the informant and an undercover police officer purchased cocaine from Esquilin, Collins and Trasacco on 17 occasions.

Esquilin is charged with seven counts each of sale of illegal drugs and sale of drugs near a prohibited place, and two counts each of conspiracy to sell illegal drugs and conspiracy to sell drugs near a prohibited place. He is to appear in court Feb. 9. The cases against his co-defendants are pending.

## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS