

## Punk rocker's soap didn't have GHB, tests show

*By Elena Gaona*  
UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER  
April 18, 2007

ESCONDIDO – The Germ is clean.

That's what new tests of liquid soap carried by drummer Don Bolles of the punk band the Germs have determined. The peppermint soap, made by Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps of Escondido, had tested positive for GHB, a rave-scene drug, in a police field test.

Yesterday, however, all charges against the Los Angeles-based musician were dropped by the Orange County District Attorney's Office after more detailed crime lab tests came back negative for GHB.

"It was obviously ridiculous," said Bolles, 50, whose real name is Jimmy Michael Giorsetti. The whole thing was "a result of strange and anachronistic profiling."

After hearing of the case, Dr. Bronner's took up Bolles' cause, bailing him out after he spent more than three days in jail, paying for an attorney and questioning his arrest.

The negative results make the case more disturbing, said David Bronner, president of Dr. Bronner's, who alleged that the drug-testing kits used by Newport Beach police are faulty.

Bronner said he purchased five NarcoPouch 928 kits from ODV Inc., the same company that supplies the Newport Beach Police Department. All five produced false positives for GHB when tested on Dr. Bronner's, Neutrogena and Tom's of Maine soaps, he said.

"What kind of justice system allows police to use field drug tests that deprive citizens of their God-given liberty, that test positive for something as common as soap?" Bronner said in a news release.

Bronner said he is asking ODV to at least warn users that the kits can produce false positives with items such as soap.

Representatives of ODV, which is based in Florida, could not be reached for comment yesterday. But Newport Beach police Sgt. Evan Sailor said the tests have proved reliable in the past.

"We've never had a false positive," Sailor said. "This is the first one."

Sailor also said Bolles was not searched without cause. He was stopped by Newport Beach police on April 4 because of a broken taillight.

It appeared Bolles was trying to conceal something, Sailor said, and police found the bottle of soap in a duffel bag next to some marijuana. (Bolles' attorney said his client is allowed to possess marijuana for medical reasons.)

Based on officers' training on the appearance of GHB, Sailor said, the bottle of soap was tested. When it read positive, Bolles was arrested.

But the crime lab tests this week showed that the "yellowish, soapy oily liquid, net weight of 53.4 grams," was, in fact, just soap.

“Based on the results of the crime lab test, we have dismissed the case,” said Farrah Emami, spokeswoman for the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

Police rely on the information from the field test, Emami said, and it indicated that Bolles had GHB in his possession. The drug, which is called “soap” among other street names, causes intoxication and is sometimes associated with date rape.

Bolles described his arrest as “a million kinds of wrongs. It could happen to anyone, not just me. You could spend over three days in jail for carrying around soap.”

*Elena Gaona: (760) 737-7575; elena.gaona@uniontrib.com*

*Find this article at: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/northcounty/20070418-9999-1mi18soap.html>*