

# Police charged with murder

DETROIT (AP) — Two police officers were charged Monday with murder and one with manslaughter in the beating death of a black motorist, a case that drew parallels with the Rodney King confrontation in Los Angeles.

A fourth officer was charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm. Three other officers who had also been suspended after the Nov. 5 beating of Malice Green were not charged.

Green, 35, died of head injuries after being beaten on an inner-city street near a suspected drug house.

"I feel justice is done. ... I think they handled it very well," said the victim's father, Jessie Green Jr. He had urged calm in the days after his son's death.

"He's dead, and any charges aren't going to bring him back. I got to live on."

Three of the officers charged,

including the two charged with murder, are white. The one charged with manslaughter is black.

While the beating of an unarmed motorist drew parallels to the videotaped beating of King, NAACP officials have said the Detroit case was different.

They credited quick action by Police Chief Stanley Knox in suspending the officers allegedly involved. Mayor Coleman Young publicly denounced the beating. Knox and Young are black.

Knox said he did not believe the beating was racially motivated, and Wayne County Prosecutor John D. O'Hair said Monday no racial epithets were used during shouting that witnesses said was going on during the beating.

"What was in their minds is hard to tell," he said.

Fifty-eight percent of the 3,850-member force is black in a city that is 75 percent black.

## 'What was in their minds is hard to tell.'

— John D. O'Hair, Wayne County prosecutor

Knox had suspended seven officers Nov. 6, a day after Green's death. O'Hair said there was not enough evidence to charge the three other officers. Those officers remain on indefinite suspension, police Sgt. Christopher Buck said Monday.

Jack Gravely, NAACP national director of special projects, said quick action by Detroit officials helped defuse the tension.

"What is different in Detroit is the leadership," Gravely said. "When we compare what happened in Detroit with what happened on the other coast, it does make a difference. Without it, this city probably would still be burning at its walls today."

## JAIL

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this society," Hoop said.

"We have to remember that this issue was not about students kicking in windows," Hoop said, "but about a man by the name of Rodney King who was beaten near to death by a dozen L.A. cops who walked away for free, and in Eugene they're throwing students in jail for kicking in windows."

"I just question whether or not this is an appropriate sentence for this behavior," he said.

A third University student arrested in connection with the Federal Building violence was granted a pre-trial diversion Oct. 26.

As part of the diversion program, Efrem Mehretab, 20, must perform 200 hours community service and pay \$415.38 in restitution.

After Mehretab completes the agreements of the diversion program the government

will drop the charges against him, said Bob Larson, Mehretab's attorney.

"This acknowledges his role in the situation," Larson said.

At the Sept. 8 hearing, Ray said he offered the diversion to Mehretab because of the senior finance major's efforts to calm the crowd following the window-breaking protest.

The violence at the Federal Building followed a rally in the EMU Courtyard, where students expressed outrage over the not-guilty verdicts of the policemen accused in connection with the much-publicized King beating.

The rally moved to the Federal Building, where protesters broke 15 windows and two doors.

Videotaped footage of the April 30 protest at the Federal Building was broadcast on two local television stations, and a photograph of Hoop kicking in a window during the protest ran on the front page of the Register-Guard.

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