

Three white police officers charged in death of black man

■ **CRIME:** Jonny Gammage died of suffocation seven minutes after being stopped by police

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Two white policemen were charged today with homicide and a third was charged with manslaughter in the death of a black businessman who suffocated in police custody after a traffic stop.

Two other officers were not charged, including one who will be a prosecution witness against the other three. Allegheny County District Attorney Robert Colville said.

A black leader expressed disappointment that all five weren't charged with first-degree murder.

Jonny Gammage, a cousin of Pittsburgh Steelers football player Ray Seals, died early Oct. 12 after a low-speed chase by police from Brentwood, a Pittsburgh suburb, into Pittsburgh. Two separate autopsies indicated that Gammage, 31, suffocated because of pressure on his chest and neck. "I am deeply committed to the idea that Mr. Gammage should not be dead after seven minutes in police custody," Colville said.

Colville said Lt. Milton Mulholland and Officer John Vojtas of the Brentwood police were charged with third-degree homicide, involuntary manslaughter and official oppression. Third-degree homicide is punishable by a prison sentence of 20 to 40 years.

Baldwin Police Officer Michael Albert was charged with involuntary manslaughter. Colville said Albert arrived at the scene later and did not express the malice necessary for a third-degree homicide charge.

All five officers are white. The FBI is investigating whether Gammage's civil rights were violated.

Earlier, Colville had ruled out bringing first- or second-degree murder charges in the case. He said intent was required for first-degree murder and he found none. He also said a death during the commission of another felony is required for a second-degree murder charge, and he found that did not apply.

Whitehall Police Officers Sean

Patterson and Keith Henderson were not charged. Colville said Henderson is a prosecution witness.

The three officers who face charges surrendered early today, were arraigned and were ordered to appear at a preliminary hearing Dec. 6.

"We are satisfied with the two top charges," Gammage's mother, Narves, said in Syracuse, N.Y. "But involuntary manslaughter, that is like a slap on the wrist to me. It's like someone went in the store and stole a candy bar. So we are not completely satisfied with that decision."

She said all five should serve time. "None of them tried to stop it," she said.

A coroner's jury recommended early this month that all five officers be charged with criminal homicide, a category that encompasses first-, second- and third-degree murder as well as voluntary and involuntary manslaughter.

The Pittsburgh chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had called for a charge of first-degree murder, the most severe count possible. A black leader repeated that call today.

"All five of them should be charged with murder because unless a strong message is sent here, it will happen again," said Jim Tarpley, a member of the Million Man March organizing committee. "We have black people here who are afraid to go outside the city of Pittsburgh."

Mulholland testified at a coroner's inquest that he began following the 1988 Jaguar that Gammage was driving because the car kept slowing down and speeding up and its rear end seemed low. The car finally stopped, after going through three red lights, and a struggle ensued, officers testified.

One used a collapsible metal baton to push down on Gammage's shoulders and the back of his neck to force him to lie still.

Dr. Al Shakir, a forensic pathologist with the Allegheny County coroner's office, testified that Gammage may have been flailing and kicking just because he was trying to breathe.

FDA approves new drug to fight most lethal form of leukemia

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new drug to fight one of the most lethal forms of leukemia.

Promyelocytic leukemia is fairly rare, affecting about 2,500 Americans, the FDA said. But it is one of the most aggressive forms, causing sudden and serious internal bleeding and very rapidly advancing to become life-threatening.

Standard therapy is the cancer drug anthracycline, but it fails 75 percent of the time, said Dr. Ray Warrell of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Those patients' last hope is a risky bone marrow transplant.

A study of 1,500 patients found Hoffmann La-Roche's drug Vesanoïd can complete remissions in half of the leukemia suf-

ferers who had relapsed after standard therapy, the FDA said. It approved the drug Monday for this use, a move Warrell said could largely eliminate bone marrow transplants for these patients.

Other studies show at least 65 percent of Vesanoïd patients lived five years after their leukemia diagnosis, compared with just 25 percent of patients who receive standard therapy, Warrell said. Such promising data has persuaded Sloan Kettering to use Vesanoïd as first-line therapy for newly diagnosed patients, and Roche is preparing to ask the FDA to agree.

Vesanoïd, known chemically as all-trans retinoic acid, works by causing the leukemia cells to age rapidly and die off. The body then replaces them with normal cells.

Anti-abortion activists must pay fees

■ **COURT:** Supreme Court rules demonstrators will pay lawyer for clinic

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court piled on more bad news for anti-abortion activists Monday, refusing to free five demonstrators from paying nearly \$100,000 in lawyer fees to an abortion clinic they targeted.

The action, taken without comment in a case from Sacramento, Calif., extended abortion foes' recent streak in court. It marked the first time the issue of lawyer-fee awards in abortion-linked litigation had been considered by the justices.

"That the court would let this \$100,000 penalty stand is outrageous, and sends a very chilling message to pro-life demonstrators," said Jay Sekulow, a lawyer with the anti-abortion American Center for Law and Justice.

In other matters the court:

- Turned down the appeal of a Tennessee girl who says her free-speech rights were violated when she received a grade of zero for doing her ninth-grade English research paper about Jesus Christ. The teacher had told her to choose another topic.

- Refused to revive an Alabama lawsuit that accused the South's timber industry of illegal racial bias in barring blacks from certain jobs.

- Turned away arguments aimed at limiting the scope of a second trial for a former Hare Krishna leader accused of using murder, kidnapping and fraud to protect a multimillion-dollar criminal enterprise — the religious community he founded in West Virginia.

In the Sacramento case, the justices let stand rulings that said the lawyer-fees award against the abortion protesters did not violate or wrongly "chill" their free-speech rights.

Last month, the court rejected a free-speech appeal by Cal-

ifornia protesters arrested for picketing too near an abortion doctor's home.

And the court last month also rejected a sweeping challenge to federal limits on abortion clinic protests.

Sekulow said the court "is sending a message that it's not interested in these types of cases at this time. But ... we will continue to bring them to the court."

"The court was pretty clear [in past rulings] on setting the boundaries regarding the clinic-violence issue," Priscilla Smith of the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy said.

In the past year, the justices have turned away appeals by anti-abortion activists who say they are being wrongly sued as racketeers in their efforts to stop women from having abortions.

The court in 1992 ruled that states cannot ban most abortions, reaffirming the constitutional right of abortion it first announced in 1973.

Freshman Seminars Winter Term 1996

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ENG 199	Science Fiction: A New Mythology?
INTL 199	Australia Through Autobiography
CPSY 199	Sexual Diversity in the '90s
LIB 199	Aspects of the Book
PPPM 199	Building Community
GEOG 199	Reason vs. Justification in Ethno-Territorial Disputes
MUS 199	Humor in Music
CPSY 199	Understanding Attachment, Separation, and Personal Relationships
SOC 199	Aging as a Social Issue in the Twenty-First Century
EDPM 199	The University of Oregon as a Workplace
PSY 199	Life History: Understanding and Studying People Over the Life Span
PHIL 199	Applied Ethics: A Multicultural Approach
J 199	Behind the Front Page: News-Making
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