

Extradition treaties block death penalty

One suspect in the 1997 beach murders was captured in Texas, the other in Mexico

By Lauren Dodge
The Associated Press

ASTORIA — Saying his hand was forced by extradition treaties, a prosecutor decided Wednesday against seeking the death penalty for one "thrill killing" suspect caught in Mexico. But he left his options open for another arrested on this side of the border.

Clatsop County District Attorney Josh Marquis said he had no choice in the case of 23-year-old Bradley Charles Price, who was taken into custody Tuesday night at the Mexico City disco bar where he worked. Mexico does not extradite suspects if prosecutors plan to seek the death penalty.

"It was not something I did easily or wanted to do," Marquis told reporters. "But it was made clear that without this assurance we would not get him back."

That's not the case, however, with alleged accomplice Jesse Carl McCallister, 20, who was arrested just after he crossed the border into Brownsville, Texas, early

Sunday.

In a brief arraignment Wednesday, McCallister walked into court wearing a bulletproof vest and smiled at family members before Circuit Judge Paula Brownhill entered an innocent plea on his behalf to two counts of aggravated murder.

Marquis said he wanted more time to decide how to proceed against McCallister. But Frank Nimz, the father of one of the victims, said the prosecutor assured him that he would seek the death penalty.

"They gave my son the death penalty — they should get what they handed out," Nimz said.

Price and McCallister are accused in the July 14, 1997, slayings of Gabriella Brooke Goza, 26, and Frank "Kacy" Nimz Jr., who were shot in the head as they watched the sunrise on a Seaside beach.

Police called it a random slaying, influenced by the movie the pair had rented four times — the dramatization of the Truman Capote true-crime book "In Cold Blood." McCallister allegedly phoned a friend the morning of the slayings and said the couple was killed "for the hell of it."

Chaney: 'Wild and crazy guy'

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Condon Hall. His chalkboard notes, some of which Donald has preserved in his office, have been compared to indecipherable mosaics.

"He was my best friend," Donald said. "I'm doing everything I can just to keep it together."

"I was waiting for him, even though he's not coming back," he said. "I even went over and knocked on the door. I just wanted to hear him go 'Come in!'"

A memorial service will be held 11 a.m. Friday at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 1850 Emerald Street.



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