

POLICE

Commission to Review Hanging Death

Suspicious
linger that
victim's hands
were tied
behind his back

(AP)—The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will review the death of a black man found hanging from a tree because of lingering suspicions that his hands were tied behind his back, an official said.

Bobby Doctor, director of the commission's southern regional office, said he will interview family members and police investigators. The commission then would decide whether to dispatch an investigative team.

"When you get this kind of allegation, that the young man's hands were tied behind his back, you have to take it seriously," Doctor said.

Feraris "Ray" Golden, 32, was

found hanging outside his grandmother's house on May 28 in Belle Glade, Fla. Some relatives initially said it was impossible he'd committed suicide, claiming Golden was found with his hands tied behind his back.

Sevell Brown, the Florida president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, called for the civil rights commission's intervention following a judge's ruling Tuesday that Golden committed suicide and could not have been lynched.

The decision, along with eight hours of testimony and boxes of evidence in a rare public inquest, failed to quell suspicions among blacks in this rural, largely segregated town of 15,000, where about half of the residents are black and many are poor.

Brown told a newspaper that the organization, which the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. helped start, found "serious inconsistencies" during testimony.

"Historically, (with) hangings of black males, inquests have always found suicide," Brown told

Although some family members say they now see suicide as "possible," other relatives, friends and community leaders say they still have questions about whether Golden's hands were tied before his death, whether he was unconscious, and whether police officers

tainted the scene when they drove onto the lawn and ran across it to cut Golden's body from his noose.

"There's nothing to change my mind, nothing to lead me to believe that he would do this to himself," said Jamila Smith, Golden's former sister-in-law.

Critics weren't mollified by the pictures of Golden's body - clean of bruises and blood except for a large purple strip around his neck. Or the testimony of experts who said Golden was likely depressed, or the statement by a police of-

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The Palm Beach Post for its Wednesday edition. He would not elaborate on the inconsistencies.

Any findings by the commission, which investigates allegations of discrimination in the justice system, could be used by the Justice Department to launch a criminal investigation.



Bernice Golden, the mother of Feraris "Ray" Golden, awaits the outcome of an inquest into her son's death alongside her common-law husband Henry Drummer at the West County Courthouse in Belle Glade, Fla. (AP photo)

ficer that Golden's grandmother initially said Golden told her: "No-body loves me. I'm going to kill myself."

The evidence showed Golden, 32, to be a troubled, divorced, unemployed father of four who was behind in his child-support payments. Golden was a habitual drinker, and when he died he had traces of cocaine in his system

and a blood-alcohol level of 0.334 percent.

NAACP leaders, who had called for the inquest, likened the proceedings to a charade, aimed only to prove police conclusions that Golden took his own life rather than examine the rumors that he was lynched, possibly because he was dating a white policeman's daughter.

Father Charged in Son's Death

(AP) — A Beaverton man has been arrested and charged with beating his two-year-old son to death.

Issac Bynum, 20, is being held at the Washington County Jail.

His son, Ryshawn, was pronounced dead Friday at Oregon Health and Science University.

The boy had suffered a se-



Issac Bynum

vere brain injury, bleeding in his eye, a broken neck and at least two broken ribs. He also had

whip marks on his legs, buttocks, back and chest.

Police said the death was the result of severe child abuse.

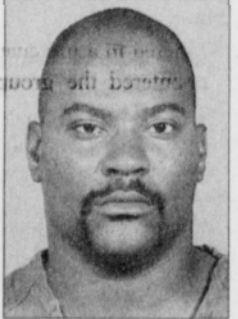
Bynum says his son was hurt in a fall.

Authorities say Bynum had custody of his son. The boy's mother lives out of state.

Bynum's two other children have been taken into custody.

Evidence Gathered in Girlfriend's Murder

Michael McGavock



Portland detectives are asking for the public's help for information in the murder of a mother of four children.

Michael McGavock, 32, is accused of killing his girlfriend, Latonia McPherson, 28, in a knife attack on July 26 in a home they shared at 10255 S.E. Mitchell St.

Police say he confronted police with a knife when they arrived at the

home to investigate the stabbing. Officers said they needed to use a tazer gun to subdue him.

A total of five children lived in the home and have been taken into protective custody.

Anyone with information in this investigation is asked to call Detective Steve Ober at 503-823-4033 or Detective Chuck Shipley at 503-823-0400.

Cops Show To Follow Portland Police

(AP) — The police reality show COPS is returning to Portland.

Three film crews from Langley Productions, based in Santa Monica, Calif., will spend eight weeks riding along with patrol and senior neighborhood officers in the bureau's five precincts, and with the Gang Enforcement Team, Auto Theft Task Force and TriMet officers.

The show last came to Portland in 1989.

The crews are expected to film hours of arrests, drug raids, prostitution missions and other police work before whittling the best footage down to two or three six-minute, 40-second segments for its 2003-04 season.

They could air on FOX's Saturday night half-hour shows as early as September.

"We're looking for interesting situations, all kinds of poignant moments, tragic moments, action moments," Langley said. "You see human behavior in extreme, sometimes good and sometimes bad, and you see law enforcement officers doing their jobs."

"COPS" has profiled law enforcement agencies in more than 140 cities in the United States and has filmed in Hong Kong, Central and South America and Russia. Its independent producer said Thursday he is considering taking his film crews to Baghdad.

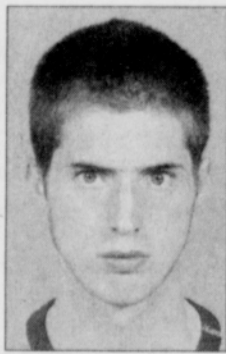
Another Guilty Plea in Street Family Murder

An 18-year-old man became the latest member of a Portland "street family" to plead guilty in the death of Jessica Williams, telling a judge he didn't know the lighter fluid he was ordered to purchase would be used to burn the body.

Joshua Brown-Lenon, pleaded guilty to kidnap, assault and robbery, making him the sixth person to admit to participating in the beating of Williams, before others led her away to her death May 22.

Brown-Lenon will serve a two-year sentence, said Charles French, a senior deputy district attorney.

His testimony will allow prosecutors to build cases against those allegedly most responsible for the killing, including several facing aggravated murder charges. In total, 13 have been indicted.



Joshua Brown-Lenon

Brown-Lenon said he was sent to buy lighter fluid after the beating. But he said he was told it was to burn bloody clothing from the beating, not knowing it would be used to burn Williams.

Authorities say the street family turned on Williams when she violated one of the family's codes of conduct. Suspects in the case told police Williams was punished because they thought she had spread a lie that one of the family members offered her money for sex.

Bank Robbery Suspect Shoots Self

A serial bank robbery suspect shot himself in the head Tuesday when surrounded by police officers at the McDonalds parking lot on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Columbia Boulevard, police said.

The suspect's car was surrounded by police cars, triggering what appeared to be an armed standoff.

There were reports of gunfire and a

short time later police advanced on the car and discovered the man's body inside.

The incident during the evening rush hour led to the closure of both major streets for more than an hour and clogged side streets.

The FBI confirmed the man was a serial bank robbery suspect.

No other details were immediately available.



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