



Dwayne Doby



James Gilbert



Mark Smith



Ricky Knight

# D.A. says race, homosexuality not primary motives in Stoner murder

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

District Attorney Tom Keith said race was not a primary motive in the murder of Carlos Colon Stoner, but did not rule it out of the investigation.

The May 27 execution-style murder of Stoner, the black man who was found dead with his penis cut off and put in his mouth, led to the speculation that race was the primary motive.

District Attorney Tom Keith says the arraignment of the white suspects, Mark Anthony Smith, Dwayne Gregory Doby, Ricky Eugene Knight and James Andrew Gilbert, will happen within the next two weeks.

Keith confirmed police reports that homosexuality has been ruled out. He said, however, that while race is not being ruled out it was not a primary motive. "There's a thin line. I can't say that race wasn't a motive, but the (suspects) didn't just go out and say 'let's go kill a black person.' These guys were drinking together. They knew each other," he said.

But community members who held press conferences three weeks ago after the details of the murder was made public, say they still believe race was a primary motive in the murder.

Jacqueline Teal, a Morningside resident who spearheaded one of the press conference said, "I really

believe race was a motive in this crime even if they are saying it's not." Teal said statements that rule race out of the mutilation, are only attempts to pacify the community.

According to neighbors, the four suspects and Stoner knew each other and had drank wine together

before. The Rev. John Mendez, convener for Citizens United for Justice said, "It's impossible to rule out race just by looking at the very nature of the crime. The castration of a black man's penis, historically has always been a racial crime." "Just because they knew each

other doesn't suggest that race was not a motive," said Mendez.

The trial date will follow the arraignment. Keith said he doesn't expect the Stoner case to get a trial date until next year. "Murder cases take longer to come to trial. The average murder case takes 230 days," he said.

## Anti-hate group

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to talk with both sides and "walk through this situation together to establish harmony and peace."

"We still don't know if this was an organized effort of some white supremacist group," said one resident, even after Chief George Sweat made a public statement two weeks ago that there was not indications an organized hate group was behind Stoner's murder.

The visit follows continued concerns from community groups that the hate-crimes may be resurging in the city, she said.

"Winston-Salem has had a history of racial tension, especially in the surrounding areas such as Clemmons," she said. McCoy cited the 1979 Communist Workers Party rally in Greensboro where two white supremacists groups gunned down five people and were acquitted following the 21-week

trial. Two of the six defendants, Roland W. Wood and Jack W. Fowler, both of the Nazi supremacist group, were residents of Winston-Salem.

"Many people know the history of Forsyth County as being an advocate of white supremacist movements," she continued. "If these groups are resurging in this area we need to know."

"This crime has visual implications of past imagery that it was a hate crime," she said.

McCoy said North Carolina only recently lost its position as the state with highest hate-crime activity in the late 1980s.

"We were number in the nation until 1988 when the Neo-Nazi Skinhead group kicked off in the midwestern states. For most of the 1980s, this state was the epic center organized hate-groups."

McCoy said law enforce-

ment and human relations commissions are in the position to address the issue and deal with it head on. "The social reality is that hate-crimes exist. We have to talk about whether bigotry and law enforcement agencies and human relations commissions are in the position to do that," she said.

McCoy said the recent ruling by the Supreme Court that cross-burnings — an activity practiced by the Klu Klux Klan — were freedom of speech and expression, transcends the climate for continued racial hatred. "People have to start speaking out, even against the ruling of the highest court. What is a real democracy if we don't? It's not a spectators sport," she said.

Following the meeting, McCoy said the group will continue monitoring hate-crime activities in the area.

## School board vote

"There is an effort by this present board to quantum leap into a redistricting mess," said Brown to the small crowd that gathered.

Brown said if the board does make a decision on redistricting before she and Marshall take their seats, and it does not benefit children, they'll do all we can do undo legally undo it."

Marshall said in December, when Republican board members, Garlene Grogan and Gerald Hewitt leave, and he and Brown come on board, there will be five Democratic seats on the board. "Come December the majority will swing from Republicans to Democrats," said Marshall.

The unanimous vote to have Marshall and Brown sit on the board as non-voting members was

turned down by both of them.

"They've invited us to dinner and let us sit at the table, but didn't give us a plate," said Marshall. "It's an insult to the entire black community," he continued.

But while many, including board members, say it will be almost impossible to come up with a final redistricting plan by December, blacks said the decision was reflective of the board's insensitivity to the black community.

"It shows the insensitivity they have to a large population of people," said parent and school volunteer, Al Harvey.

"I'm concerned with the direction of this school system. We can't operate under the assumption that they will wait until December. They're playing partisan politics

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with this issue by pleasing certain groups, like Clemmons and Kernersville," Harvey continued.

The Rev. William S. Fails said if the board stops perpetrating that they are concerned with the needs of the black community then the people will stop accusing them of being racist.

"It was pure blatant racism. We've waited 300 years. If they wait six more months, it won't make a difference," he said.

Marshall said while protests and civil disobedience have been discussed it won't happen yet.

"Blacks are tired of being played cheap," said Marshall. "A lot of people want something done. Many are willing to take certain steps to get what they want also, but I don't believe we are at that

point yet," he said. He said he will address concerns at the upcoming meetings.

Concerned Citizens, Citizens United for Justice and the East Ward P.A.C. groups are in the process of scheduling meetings in different areas of the black community to discuss educational issues, including redistricting.

And before any plans of protest begin, the Rev. Carlton Eversley, said organization will come first. "The people have to be organized so we can begin holding any elected official, black or white, and certainly the all-white school board accountable," he said.

"They have proven that they can not be responsible, respectful or legitimate to the needs of our community," he said.

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**RECYCLE BIN & GARBAGE COLLECTION ONE DAY EARLIER NEXT WEEK**

City residents need to set out recycle bins and garbage one day earlier next week because Friday, July 3rd is a holiday for city employees. There will be no collection on Friday. Regular collection will resume Monday, July 6th.

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

If Your Regular Collection Day Is:	Set Out Next Week On:
Tuesday	Monday
Wednesday	Tuesday
Thursday	Wednesday
Friday	Thursday

Note to households annexed in 1991: Your garbage collection day will be the SAME day as usual. Your recycle bin pick-up, however, will be ONE DAY EARLIER as shown above.