Tribble released after surrendering to P.G. police

ALL SMILES — Mayor Harold Washington thanks his supporters Tuesday after defeating former mayor Jane Byrne in the mayoral primary election in Chicago. At right is Rev. Jesse Jackson and at center is Gloria Chevere, candidate for city clerk.

Brian Tribble, charged in connection with the drug death of basketball star Len Bias, surrendered to police Tuesday to face other charges stemming from an alleged police chase.

Tribble, 24, accompanied by his attorney Thomas Morrow, arrived at the Hyattsville police station Tuesday morninggg.

He was released on personal recognizance after a brief hearing before a Prince George's County District Court commissioner, police Lt. Wayne McCully said.

Tribble also was given permission to retrieve his 1979 Mercedes 450SL, which police impounded Feb. 16 after it was found abandoned following a brief chase through part of the city, McCully said.

Tribble was identified as the owner of the car. Police officer Michael McKinney said at the time he had recognized its driver as Tribble.

McCully said police clocked Tribble's Mercedes at 71 mph in a 35 mph zone early Feb. 17. An officer began chasing the car, which turned off a side street with its lights off. The driver abandoned the car and fled on foot, McCully said.

Morrow contacted police several hours after the 3:30 a.m. incident and made arrangements for Tribble to surrender, police said.

Tribble was charged Tuesday with speeding, reckless driving, fleeing and eluding a police officer and turning out lights to avoid detection in connection with the traffic incident.

McCully said a court appearance on the traffic violations, all misdemeanors, will likely be scheduled within the next 60 days.

Tribble faces a trial next month on charges he supplied the cocaine that led to the June 19 death of Bias, the University of Maryland all-America chosen June 17 by the NBA champion Boston Celtics in the first round of the pro draft.

Alabama's affirmative action plan upheld by High Court

The Supreme Court ruled constitutional Wednesday an affirmative action plan that promoted one black Alabama state trooper for each white moved up in the force.

The court, on a 5-4 vote and led by Justice William Brennan, rejected Reagan administration attempts to have the plan found unconstitutional and continues a pattern of defeat set last term for the administration's view that affirmative action plans discriminate against whites.

"The United States maintains that the race-conscious relief ordered in this case violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States," Brennan wrote.

"It is now established that government bodies, including courts, may constitutionally employ racial classifications essential to remedy unlawful treatment of racial or ethnic groups subject to discrimination."

In reaching the decision, Brennan, joined by Justices Thurgood Marshall, Harry Blackmun, Lewis Powell and John Paul Stevens, said the plan was justified in order to "eliminate the effect of ... 'long term, open, and pervasive' discrimination, including the absolute exclusion of blacks from its upper ranks."

"The race-conscious relief imposed here was amply justified, and narrowly tailored to serve ... legitimate and laudable purposes," the court said.

However, in opposition, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said the affirmative action plan went too far.

"The one-for-one promotion quota used in this case far exceeded the percentage of blacks in the trooper force, and there is no evidence in the record that such an extreme quota was necessary to eradicate the effects of the department's delay" in integrating the force, she said.

O'Connor was joined by the Reagan administration's new appointee, Justice Antonin Scalia, and its new chief justice, William Rehnquist. Justice Byron White also dissented.

The case is one of a series of affirmative action disputes that have made their way to the high court since 1984, when the justices ruled in a case from Memphis, Tenn. — Firefighters Local Union No. 1784 vs. Stotts — that whites could not be laid off before blacks with less seniority.

The Reagan administration has interpreted the ruling to mean that minority hiring quotas are unconstitutional and such relief can be granted to only those who can prove they have been actual victims of discrimination.

However, its view has not generally prevailed.

The Alabama case began with a class action suit in 1972, by the NAACP against the Alabama Department of Public Safety, charging discrimination.

A federal judge ruled the department "engaged in a blatant and continuous pattern and practice" of discrimination against blacks in hiring state troopers.

Thirteen years later, in August 1985, the appeals court said the "unfortunate effects of that unconstitutional discrimination still persist." The court then upheld a ruling ordering the state to promote one black for each white trooper boosted in rank.

Appealing to the Supreme Court, the government said lower courts rejected their reading of the earlier Stotts decision.

"The case presents questions of substantial and recurring importance regarding the limitations upon the remedial authority of the federal courts. ... At issue here is the validity ... of a racial preference according to individuals who have not been identified as actual victims of racial discrimination at the expense of innocent third parties."

Those who originally brought the discrimination charges also requested review. They said their case involves an actual enforcement order in contrast to the other affirmative action cases before the court.

"This case involves the enforcement of a consent decree voluntarily entered into by the parties, in light of a history of profound and pervasive discrimination," they said.

Commission for women establish national office

Charter members, Virginia Allan, Dorothy I Height, Margaret Rawalt, Caroline Ware and Esther Peterson, of the 1961 President's Committee on the Status of Women hail with enthusiasm the announcement that the National Association of Commissions for Women has established a national office in Washington, D.C.

They will serve as honorary co-chairs at a reception hosted by the National Board on Thursday, February 26, 1987 from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office building.

Former national presidents, leaders of other women's organizations and legislators have been invited.

Responses have been received from representatives of American Association of University Women, Association of Junior Leagues, Wider Opportunities for Women, National Congress of American Indians, Chief of Staff to Maureen Reagan Commissions for Women.

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Federally Employed Women, to name a few.

Capitol Hill will be represented by Honorable Constance A. Morella, Senator Wendell Ford, Honorable Jan Meyers, and official representatives from the offices of Hon. Nancy Landon Kassebaum, Hon Nancy L. Johnson, Hon. Pat Trible, Hon. Walter E. Fauntcroy, Hon Nancy L. Johnson, Hon. Pat Schroeder, Hon. Claudine Schneider, and others.

Mary Wiberg, National President and Vocational Equity Consultant, Des Moines, Iowa, states that: "the goal for establishing a national office is to establish and maintain a 'presence' on Capitol Hill and to play a vital and urgent role in creating a national agenda for women's rights"

Ethel James Williams the former director of the D.C. Commission for Women is now serving as the Executive Director of the National Association of Commissions for Women.

Bottle bill supporters submit signatures

Supporters of the Bottle Bill will submit over 20,000 petition signatures to the Board of Elections and Ethics, Friday in order to qualify the legislation for the November, 1987 ballot.

The bottle bill places a five cent refund value on all bottles, cans and plastic containers for beer and soft drinks. The bottle bill is law in nine states (Oregon, Vermont, Maine, Michigan, Iowa, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, and New York), and has proven a success at reducing litter, creating new jobs and businesses, and recycling over 90 percent of all beverage containers.

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High Court narrows police search further

'Honest mistakes' acceptable

The Supreme Court carved out another exception to the exclusionary rule Tuesday, ruling drugs seized by police during a search of the wrong apartment are valid evidence.

The court, voting 6-3, reversed the Court of Appeals of Maryland, which ruled in June 1985 that the drugs were inadmissible because police failed to properly execute a search warrant.

The warrant at issue described the third floor apartment of a Baltimore man, Lawrence McWebb. Police, thinking there was only one apartment on the floor, searched the adjoining residence of Harold Garrison and found heroin.

Justice John Paul Stevens said the exclusionary rule, which tosses out ill-gotten evidence, should not apply in this case because the police action was understandable and reasonable.

"Prior to the officers' discovery of the factual mistake, they perceived McWebb's apartment and the third floor premises as one and the same," the court said. "Therefore, their execution of the warrant reasonably included the entire third floor."

Garrison was convicted of possessing heroin with intent to seel and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

The Court of Appeals of Maryland reversed Garrison's conviction, ruling the Fourth Amendment required suppression of the drugs seized from his home while police were executing a warrant for his neighbor's apartment during the 1982 search.

Both men lived on the third floor of an old house converted into apartments. The two residences shared a common doorway.

The case forced the court to return to the debate over the exclusionary rule, which provides evidence obtained through illegal police conduct may not be used in a criminal trial.

The rule was established to shore up the Fourth Amendment's guarantee against unreasonable searches and seizures.

In 1984, a "good faith exception" to the exclusionary rule was established when the Supreme Court held evidence is admissible if police officers, acting in good faith, rely on a search warrant later found to be defective.

The error in this case did not fall under the 1984 exception because it involved police conduct rather than a mistake by the magistrate who issued the warrant.

Garrison's attorney, Kenneth Man, said the ruling "goes directly against the wording of the Fourth Amendment."

"In quick succession with different cases, they are eroding the Fourth Amendment and different clauses within the Fourth Amendment," Man said.

Bill Summers, of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, disagreed.

"We are in favor of the court ruling today," he said. "No, it does not give law enforcement the right to tread over innocent individual's rights."

Justices Harry Blackmun, Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan dissented, concluding the heroin should not have been used as evidence because it was the fruit of a warrantless search.

"Even if one accepts the majority's view that there is no Fourth Amendment violation where the officers' mistake is reasonable, it is questionable whether that standard was met in this case," Blackman wrote.

(Photo by Dennis Mackowski)

Two special 'Tiny Tots' concerts featuring the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra were presented Friday, Feb. 20 at the Community College of Baltimore's Liberty Campus. More than 2,000 children from Baltimore City day care centers attended the concerts, which were underwritten by CCB, the Bancroft Homes, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Suitland slayings still baffle police

It has been more than a month since police linked the deaths of five young women whose bodies were found in a wooded area in Suitland and investigators are faced with few new clues that could lead them to the suspected serial killer.

"Things like this bring a lot of kooks saying they have information, but we can't afford to bypass any information we get," Prince George's County police spokesman Bob Law said Tuesday.

"We've probably questioned somewhere between six to 10 people that detectives thought might be a possible suspect."

The case of five women whose bodies were discovered between Dec. 13 and Jan. 13 in woods near Bradbury Recreation Center have left police baffled.

All the victims were black, in their early to mid 20s, with relatively short hair and weighing about 110 pounds.

Police say it appears some of the women had been sexually assaulted and up to four of the victims had been stabbed to death.

While investigators say there are enough common factors to believe the five deaths are related and that the same person or persons is responsible, there remains a lack of evidence that could lead them to solving the slayings.

"We've never had anything like this in the history of the department," Law said.

A possible break in the case appeared when District of Columbia police last month charged a Southeast Washington man in the stabbing death of a woman who was originally thought to be the sixth victim of the serial killer.

The nude body of Janice Elaine Morton, 20, was found strangled, sodomized and beaten in a Northeast Washington alley Jan. 15, less than mile from where the five other bodies were discovered.

Alton Alonso Best, 30, was arrested Jan. 30 and charged with first-degree murder.

Police, however, say they have found no evidence linking Morton's death with the Suitland slayings.

MTA worker is hit by Metro

A Mass Transit Administration employee was seriously injured when he was hit by a Metro Subway train.

MTA officials said Ellis Eisen, 32, was clearing snow from a switch near the Reisterstown Plaza station when the train hit him at about 5 a.m. Monday.

Eisen was in serious condition at Sinai Hospital after undergoing leg and knee surgery.

MTA officials said Eisen was working in the dark and there was poor visibility because snow was falling. He spotted the empty train at the last minute and tried to jump to safety when he was struck.

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