

3 GET LIFE TERMS FOR KILLING COP PAIN, ANGER, APATHY MARK SENTENCING

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Wednesday, August 25, 1999

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Minutes from facing a lifetime behind prison bars with no chance of parole, three men convicted of murdering Detroit Police Officer Shawn Bandy reacted differently.

One sucked on a piece of candy and laughed. Another cursed and denied his involvement. The third, **Montez Moore**, appeared remorseful.

Though **Moore**, 26, never apologized for his actions, he said he felt for Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, Police Chief Benny Napoleon, the Detroit Police Department and Bandy's family.

Police say **Moore** pulled the trigger of an assault rifle 19 times last Dec. 5, striking Bandy, 23, in the face.

Another officer, Lloyd Todd, was critically injured. He lost his right eye and had surgery to reconstruct part of his skull.

"My heart goes out to you," **Moore** said, addressing Todd and the Bandy family. "I know you don't want to hear this, because I'm supposed to be the perpetrator who did this to your family and messed up your lives, but I pray every night that God blesses you all with strength, wisdom and knowledge to deal with what has been put upon you all.

"I'm embarrassed and ashamed."

D'Andre Coffee, 25, adamantly denied he was in the van police were chasing the night Bandy was killed. He cursed and threw up his hands in disgust. Prosecutors contend, however, that Coffee encouraged **Moore** to "Bang at 'em!" as police chased the van the men were in.

"I feel bad for what happened to them and what happened to their son, but I didn't have anything to do with it," Coffee said. "I'm about to get life, but I didn't have anything to do with it."

Thomas Culbreth, 20, swaggered into the courtroom, waving and smiling at his family. He sucked on a piece of candy, grinned and shrugged with indifference while Bandy's father addressed him.

"I can tell by the way you're smiling that you have no interest in this proceeding," Max Bandy said to Culbreth, who shook his head.

"So whatever I'm going to say to you will go in one ear and out the other?" Bandy asked. Culbreth nodded.

A fourth man, James Langford, a 24-year-old who police say was the leader of the group, will be tried separately in January.

Susan Bandy wept and chastised the men for killing her son. Her disgust was evident as she told Coffee and Culbreth they were not men enough to accept responsibility for their actions.

"We will never have our son back, and our family has been destroyed over this," she said. "These young men do not deserve to see the light of day ever again."

Police said the four concocted a scheme to kidnap a woman and her 12-year-old son to get \$5,000 from the woman's boyfriend. Bandy, the son of a retired Detroit police sergeant, Todd, and other officers were following a van they believed to be involved in the kidnapping when bullets came from its back window.

A 12-member Wayne County Circuit Court jury convicted Coffee, Culbreth and **Moore** last month on charges of murder, assault with intent to murder, robbery, extortion and kidnapping.

All three plan to appeal.

Circuit Judge Vonda Evans, who imposed the life sentences Tuesday in the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit, told the three defendants that they had cheated themselves and their families.

"In life, you have to choose your path, and you have chosen yours. You gave up your whole life for a thrill, and now you're going to have to pay for that."

Todd refused to look at the defendants.

"When I chose to become a police officer, I was aware of the dangers of the job, but I chose to do it anyway," said Todd, who needed help to stand. "Whatever these gentlemen get here today, they deserve it, as far as I'm concerned."

Added Max Bandy: "You've wasted your life, and you've wasted my life with my son. But you've got a cell, ...and you're going to think about these things for the rest of your life."
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{KEYWORDS} SENTENCE; POLICE; HOMICIDE; SHAWN BANDY; THOMAS CULBRETH; **MONTEZ MOORE** ; D'ANDRE COFFEE

Caption: Photo DAVID P. GILKEY/Detroit Free Press

Left: Susan Bandy, with her husband, Max, talks to the court and the defendants about her slain son during the sentencing. Above: Convicted murderer Thomas Culbreth talks to his family in court Tuesday in Detroit.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 1B

Record Number: 9908250040

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