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2nd suspect arrested in UNC slaying

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. (AP) — The second suspect charged with murdering the University of North Carolina student body president surrendered peacefully to police early Thursday, authorities said.

The teen was arrested by Durham patrol and SWAT officers several hours after they surrounded a home where he was hiding, said Durham police Lt. Robert McLaughlin Jr. Authorities had received an anonymous tip that he was in the house, McLaughlin said.

The 17-year-old and Demario James Atwater, 21, of Durham, are both charged with first-degree murder in Eve Carson's death. The 22-year-old from Athens, Ga., was found lying on a street about a mile from the Chapel Hill campus on March 5. She had been shot several times, including once in the right temple.

Atwater was arrested early Wednesday as he left another home in Durham that police had placed under surveillance after receiving a tip. He later made an initial court appearance in Hillsborough.

Shackled at the ankles and waist, and with a public defender at his side, Atwater only whispered "yes" when asked if he understood the charges against him. He appeared to have a wound and a bruise on his right cheek at his court appearance. Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran said officers had taken him to a hospital as part of the evidence collection process.

Atwater was ordered held without bond on a charge of first-degree murder. His next court date was set for March 24.

"I hope the arrest can ease the minds of some in the community," Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall said.

Curran would not say Wednesday which suspect detectives believe shot and killed Carson.

State records indicate both suspects are currently on parole. The teen suspect was given a suspended sentence in January for misdemeanor larceny and breaking and entering. Atwater was convicted of felony breaking and entering in 2005 and illegal possession of a firearm in 2007. He also received a suspended sentence.

Messages left with the Orange County public defender's office Wednesday were not returned.

In the days after Carson's death, police focused their investigation on several ATM and convenience store surveillance photos.

Police believe the teen was pictured in two photos taken at an ATM machine, driving Carson's Toyota Highlander with Atwater in the back seat. Police also believe Atwater was the suspect shown trying to use Carson's ATM card inside a convenience store.

Curran has previously declined to say when the surveillance photos were taken or the exact location of the ATM machine and convenience store, or if any money was successfully withdrawn from Carson's account.
Carson was a Morehead-Cain scholar at North Carolina. The university said Wednesday a third memorial service will be held next week at the Smith Center, the school's basketball arena.

"Our interests are in seeing justice served and helping our community during this difficult time," university Chancellor James Moeser said in a statement. "We are thankful for all of the expressions of support pouring in for the Carolina family and our local community in these past few days. Those kind thoughts and prayers for Eve Carson's family and our community have made a difference."

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2nd Carson suspect charged in Duke killing

JESSE JAMES DECONTO, STANLEY B. CHAMBERS JR. AND SAMUEL SPIES, Staff Writers

Durham police early today arrested Lawrence Alvin Lovett Jr., the second suspect in the slaying of UNC-Chapel Hill student Eve Carson, and charged him also with the death in January of a Duke graduate student.

Lovett, 17, surrendered peacefully about 4:16 a.m. after negotiating with police from a home in the Hope Valley Farms subdivision of South Durham. Police said they have charged him with murder in the Jan. 18 slaying of Abhijit Mahto.

Lovett is the second person charged with killing Mahato, 29, who was found shot to death in his apartment at 1600 Anderson Street. Police previously charged Stephen Oates, 19, of Anthony Drive with Mahato's slaying.

In a news release, the police department said an anonymous tipster had told the Durham Sheriff's Office about Lovett's location. Police tried for more than an hour and a half this morning to establish communication with Lovett, before reportedly tossing a telephone into the house at 1914 Cook Road.

An earlier tip led police to the first suspect, Demario James Atwater, 21, of Durham on Wednesday. Police arrested him outside a home at 1007 Rosedale Ave. about 5 a.m. Wednesday; he later was charged with first-degree murder in the shooting of Carson, UNC-Chapel Hill's student body president.

Police did not say who they think fired the shots that killed Carson. But investigators think Lovett is the driver pictured in a pair of security photos of attempts to use Carson's bank card at an ATM.

The correct spelling of Lovett's name was not immediately clear; Chapel Hill police referred to him as Lawrence Alvin Lovett Jr.; Durham police referred to him as Lawrence Alvin Lovette.

The manhunt that resulted in the arrests started March 5 when Chapel Hill police answered a report of gunshots and a woman's screams in a wooded neighborhood northeast of the university campus. Carson's body lay in the street. Police have said she was shot several times, including once in the right temple.

On Wednesday, Atwater had his first court appearance. He had an abrasion on his right cheek and wore a black shirt, green pants, and black and green athletic shoes. Atwater spoke briefly in court, answering "Yes" when District Court Judge Alonzo Coleman Jr. asked whether he understood the charge against him.

Coleman Jr. sent Atwater, represented by a public defender, to the county jail without bail.
Before Wednesday, Atwater's most serious encounters with the law were convictions of felony breaking and entering, and possession of a firearm by a felon. Lovett's criminal record, if any, was not immediately clear.

According to court records, Atwater received three years' probation in 2005 for breaking into a home in Southeast Raleigh. He also was ordered to pay $1,900 in restitution. Atwater stole a cooler and two guns from the home, Raleigh Police Department spokesman Jim Sughrue said.

In 2007, Atwater was convicted in Granville County of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

N.C. Department of Correction spokesman Keith Acree said Wake County officials had started the process of revoking Atwater’s probation. A hearing had been scheduled for March 31.

**A siege in Durham**

On Wednesday afternoon, a Durham neighborhood was tense as Durham police appeared to have cornered Lovett -- incorrectly, as it turned out.

Heavily armed officers surrounded the Shepherd Street house of Melissa Lovette, who runs a home daycare center, neighbors said. A family friend of the suspect identified her as his mother.

About 10 members of the Durham Police Department’s Selective Enforcement Team stood behind an armored vehicle, using a loudspeaker and ordering Lovett to come out. About 4:50 p.m., the officers threw a flash-bang grenade into the house and moved in. Durham officers and agents with the State Bureau of Investigation searched the home but left without making an arrest.

Shepherd Street between Lakewood and Morehead avenues was blocked as police surrounded the home. The residence at 1213 Shepherd is across the street from Morehead Montessori Magnet School.

About 35 students scheduled to stay after school were taken into the school library with their teachers, said Michael Yarbrough, a spokesman for Durham Public Schools. The school was locked down, and parents were called and told to wait to pick up their children.

Neighbor Christina Fish, 34, stood at Shepherd Street and Lakewood Avenue with at least 20 other neighbors and onlookers. "The woman who owns this house is a very sweet lady, and I can't believe she would be harboring a dangerous suspect," she said.

**Same person?**

State criminal records list several convictions for a Lawrence Lyle Lovette of 1213 Shepherd St., with the same birth date that the police gave for the suspect.

Lawrence Lyle Lovette was convicted in Durham in January on misdemeanor charges of breaking and entering, larceny and trying to break in to a vehicle, according to state records. A Lawrence Lovette, also with the same birth date, was convicted in April in Granville County of misdemeanor marijuana possession.

Virginia Barbee, a friend of Lovett's family from the Pine Knolls neighborhood in Chapel Hill, where Melissa Lovette grew up, said Lovette and her late husband adopted Lawrence.

"The boy just had problems after [his father] died. He was very close to him," Barbee said. "I cannot say that that was a boy that was just bad. He just really fell apart after his adopted father died. [Melissa Lovette] was doing everything she could to just help make a difference, but he just fell apart. His adopted father had just done so much with him and for him that he just couldn't handle it.

"He was a good boy."

(Staff writers Anne Blythe, Samiha Khanna, Mandy Locke and Marlon A. Walker, and news researchers Brooke Cain and Lamara Williams contributed to this report.)

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One suspect is at large in the shooting of UNC student body president Eve Carson

By Erin Gartner
and Mike Baker
The Associated Press

HILLSBOROUGH — Detectives hunted Wednesday for a 17-year-old charged with murder in the slaying of University of North Carolina student body president Eve Carson. A second suspect was arrested and ordered held without bond.

Police consider Lawrence Alvin Lovette Jr. armed and dangerous, and called in a SWAT team during an apparently unsuccessful search for him Wednesday afternoon in nearby Durham.

As that search was underway, second suspect Demario James Atwater, 21, of Durham, was making an initial court appearance on charges of first-degree murder. Shackled at the ankles and waist, and with a public defender at his side, Atwater only whispered “yes” when asked if he understood the charges against him.

His next court date was set for March 24, and he was ordered held without bond.

“I hope the arrest can ease the minds of some in the community,” said Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall.

See SUSPECT, A7

SUSPECT
Continued from B1

Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran would not say which suspect detectives believe shot and killed Carson. The 22-year-old from Athens, Ga., was found last Wednesday lying on a street about a mile from campus.

The biology and political science major had been shot several times, including once in the right temple.

“We are still a community in grief, but we also still offer comfort to a family in mourning — Eve’s family,” said Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy.

State records indicate both suspects are currently on parole.

Lovette was given a suspended sentence in January for misdemeanor larceny and breaking and entering.

Atwater was convicted of felony breaking and entering in 2005 and illegal possession of a firearm in 2007.

He also received a suspended sentence.

Messages left with the Orange County public defender’s office on Wednesday were not returned.

Atwater was arrested around 5 a.m. Wednesday as he left a home in Durham that police had placed under surveillance after getting a tip he was inside.

He appeared to have a wound and a bruise on his right cheek at his court appearance.

Curran said officers had taken him to a hospital as “part of the evidence collection” process.

Curran declined to say whether Lovette was the subject of an intense police standoff Wednesday afternoon in nearby Durham, which City Councilman Eugene Brown said appeared to end without an arrest.

Police in Durham refused to comment, referring all questions about the Carson case to police in Chapel Hill.

In the days after Carson’s death, police focused their investigation on a several ATM and convenience store surveillance photos.

The Associated Press

POLICE say 17-year-old Lawrence Alvin Lovett Jr., above, is the other suspect in the killing of Eve Carson.

Cont...
Police believe Lovette was pictured in two photos taken at an ATM machine, driving Carson's Toyota Highlander while Atwater is in the back seat.

Police also believe Atwater was the suspect shown trying to use Carson's ATM card inside a convenience store.

Curran has previously declined to say when the surveillance photos were taken or the exact location of the ATM machine and convenience store, or if any money was successfully withdrawn from Carson's account.

Carson's death led to a massive outpouring of grief at North Carolina.

The school's Board of Trustees offered a $25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in her killing, and police had received hundreds of tips after the first two photos were released over the weekend.

Carson was a prestigious Morehead-Cain scholar at North Carolina, where she was remembered by thousands who gathered last Thursday at two campus memorial services.

Hundreds of mourners filled the First United Methodist Church in Athens on Sunday at a memorial service in her hometown.

The university said Wednesday that a third memorial service will be held next week at the Smith Center, the school's basketball arena.

"Our interests are in seeing justice served and helping our community during this difficult time," university Chancellor James Moeser said in a statement.

"We are thankful for all of the expressions of support pouring in for the Carolina family and our local community in these past few days. Those kind thoughts and prayers for Eve Carson's family and our community have made a difference."

Associated Press writer Erin Gartner reported from Chapel Hill.
Nichol will return to UNC to teach

The former law dean leaves behind a stormy tenure as president of William & Mary.

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — Gene Nichol, the former UNC-Chapel Hill law dean who stepped down abruptly last month as president of The College of William & Mary, has accepted an offer to rejoin the law faculty at UNC-CH.

Nichol and his wife, Glenn George, were both tenured faculty members while Nichol ran the law school from 1999 to 2005. Pending the same review process other prospective faculty members undergo, the duo would receive tenured faculty posts again starting July 1, said Jack Boger, the law school’s current dean.

An unabashed liberal college president in a conservative state, Nichol resigned from William & Mary after a string of campus controversies, including his moving of a cross in a historic chapel used for secular campus events.

After learning that his contract would not be renewed, Nichol said in a letter to the community that he had refused an offer of “substantial economic incentives” by William & Mary leaders to remain quiet about what he described as ideological disputes behind his departure.

None of this matters at UNC-CH, Boger said Wednesday.

“We’re bringing him in as a distinguished professor, not as a chancellor or a dean,” Boger said. “In that role, his credentials are outstanding.”

Nichol was a finalist in 2000 for the UNC-CH chancellorship for which James Moeser was chosen. At the law school, Nichol will teach constitutional law, federal jurisdiction and election law, while George will teach civil procedure and employment and labor law, Boger said. The posts were not created for the couple, the dean said. The law school is expanding its faculty ranks, and both Nichol and George bring needed expertise, he said.

The couple visited the school last week and made presentations to the faculty, which subsequently signed off on the hirings. Their credentials must still be approved by outside peer reviewers and the provost’s office, Boger said. Their salaries have not been determined but will be in line with those of other tenured professors, he said.

George, a Charlotte native, served as UNC-CH’s interim general counsel for a time while Nichol was the university’s law dean. She taught law at William & Mary during Nichol’s tenure there.

The couple could not be reached Wednesday.

In his letter in February to the William & Mary community, Nichol said he would return to the college’s law school faculty. But soon after his departure, friends at UNC-CH called to gauge his interest in returning to Chapel Hill, Boger said.

Though his political leanings bothered some in Virginia, Nichol was popular on campus, where students and faculty alike protested his departure.

In Chapel Hill, word of Nichol’s return is just trickling out, but some students have heard about Nichol’s struggles in Virginia. The incident with the cross at the chapel was particularly alarming, said Jared Hammett, president of the Law School Republicans, a student organization.

“To walk into a school and try to destroy the tradition of the school, that’s the sort of thing you worry about,” Hammett said. “But I don’t think that’s a worry in Chapel Hill because he’s not being hired as dean.”
One man held, another at large in Carson case

A Durham man is in custody. Police received a tip two days after releasing convenience store surveillance photos.

By Jesse James DeConto, Stanley B. Chambers Jr. and Samuel Spies, Staff Writers

CHAPEL HILL — The faces of the men who police say killed Eve Carson now have names: Demario James Atwater and Lawrence Alvin Lovett Jr.

Two days after police released security photos showing a suspect in a convenience store, a tip led them to Atwater, 21, of Durham.

Police arrested him outside a home at 1007 Rosedale Ave. about 5 a.m. Wednesday. In the afternoon, he was charged with first-degree murder in the shooting of Carson, UNC-Chapel Hill's student body president.

Police were still seeking Lovett, 17, whom they said they also planned to charge with first-degree murder. They did not say who they think fired the shots.

Police think Lovett is the driver pictured in a pair of security photos of attempts to use Carson's bank card at an ATM. Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran said Lovett may be armed and dangerous, and that citizens should not approach him.

On Wednesday, Atwater had his first court appearance. He had an abrasion on his right cheek and wore a black shirt, green pants, and black and green athletic shoes. Atwater spoke briefly in court, answering "Yes" when the judge asked whether he understood the charge against him.

Police had taken Atwater to UNC Hospitals earlier in the day for evidence collection, according to Curran, who would not elaborate.

Orange County District Court Judge Alonzo Coleman Jr. sent Atwater to the county jail without bail. Atwater was represented by the public defender's office.

Chief Public Defender James Williams

SEE ARREST, PAGE 12A

FIND MORE ONLINE

See video and a photo gallery, and listen to audio from the latest developments in the Eve Marie Carson case at newsobserver.com/news.

TWO SUSPECTS, 21 AND 17

Police have charged one suspect and plan to charge another with first-degree murder in the death of Eve Carson. Demario James Atwater was arrested Wednesday. Lawrence Alvin Lovett Jr. is at large.

Demario James Atwater

Age: 21
Arrested: 5 a.m. Wednesday
Charge: First-degree murder
Criminal record: Convictions dating from 2004 in Wake and Durham counties for simple assault, common law robbery, misdemeanor larceny, breaking and entering, possession of stolen goods, and possession of marijuana. Additional cases apparently pending, including resisting a public officer, possession of a firearm by a felon, second-degree trespass, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Lawrence Alvin Lovett Jr.

Age: 17
At large
Charge: First-degree murder
Criminal record: Could not be ascertained.
declined to comment on Atwater’s case.

The weeklong manhunt that resulted in Atwater’s arrest started March 5 when police answered a report of gunshots and a woman’s screams in a wooded neighborhood northeast of the university campus. Carson’s body lay in the street. Police have said she was shot several times, including once in the right temple.

Before Wednesday’s murder charge, Atwater’s most serious encounters with the law were convictions for felony breaking and entering, and possession of a firearm by a felon.

According to court records, he received three years of probation in 2005 for breaking into a home in Southeast Raleigh. He also was ordered to pay $1,900 in restitution. Atwater stole a cooler and two guns from the home, Raleigh Police Department spokesman Jim Sughrue said.

In 2007, Atwater was also convicted in Granville County of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

N.C. Department of Correction spokesman Keith Acree said Wake County officials had started the process of revoking Atwater’s probation. A hearing had been scheduled for March 31.

A siege in Durham

For several tense hours Wednesday afternoon, it looked as though Durham police had caught Lovett, too.

Heavily armed officers surrounded the Shepherd Street house of Melissa Lovette, who runs a home day-care center, neighbors said. A family friend of the suspect identified her as his mother, though police news releases spelled his name differently.

About 10 members of the Durham Police Department’s Selective Enforcement Team stood behind an armored vehicle, using a loudspeaker and ordering Lovett to come out. About 4:50 p.m., the officers threw a flash-bang grenade into the house and moved in. Durham officers and agents with the State Bureau of Investigation searched the home but left without making an arrest.

Shepherd Street between Lakewood and Morehead avenues was blocked as police surrounded the home. The residence at 1213 Shepherd is across the street from Morehead Montessori Magnet School.

About 35 students scheduled to stay after school were taken into the school library with their teachers, said Michael Yarbrough, a spokesman for Durham Public Schools. The school was locked down, and parents were called and told to wait to pick up their children.

Neighbor Christina Fish, 34, stood at Shepherd Street and Lakewood Avenue with at least 20 other neighbors and onlookers. “The woman who owns this house is a very sweet lady, and I can’t believe she would be harboring a dangerous suspect,” she said.

Efforts to ascertain Lovett’s criminal record were unsuccessful. Virginia Barbee, a friend of Lovett’s family from the Pine Knolls neighborhood in Chapel Hill, where Melissa Lovette grew up, said Lovette and her late husband adopted Lawrence.

“The boy just had problems after his father died. He was very close to him,” Barbee said. “I cannot say that that was a boy that was just bad. He just really fell apart after his adopted father died.

[Melissa Lovette] was doing everything she could to just help make a difference, but he just fell apart. His adoptive father had just done so much with him and for him that he just couldn’t handle it.

“He was a good boy.”

Staff writers Anne Blythe, Samita Khanna, Mandy Locke and Marlon A. Walker, and news researchers Brooke Cain and Lamara Williams contributed to this report.

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UNC
to hold
memorial
service

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CHAPEL HILL – UNC-Chapel Hill will hold a memorial service for Eve Carson at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Dean E. Smith Center. Doors will open at 3 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to wear school colors.

Students, faculty and staff should walk to the Smith Center or use the campus RU and U bus routes, which will have extra buses added to their routes before and after the service. To see the schedules, go to townhall.townofchapelhill.org/transit/routes/u_weekday.html and townhall.townofchapelhill.org/transit/routes/ru_weekday.html.

The public should use park-and-ride shuttles from the Friday Center off N.C. 54, across from Meadowmont. Shuttles will begin at 2 p.m., and will continue until attendees leave the Smith Center about 6 p.m.

Automobile access to the Smith Center will be restricted, with a traffic pattern similar to that used for men’s home basketball games.

UNC-Chapel Hill has created a special Web page about Carson. To see it, go to www.unc.edu and click on the link below her photo.

HOW TO HELP

The UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees has offered a $25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest in Eve Carson’s death. Anyone with information concerning the whereabouts of Lawrence Lovett can call CrimeStoppers at 942-7515.
Man
detained in
Carson
slaying

BY JESSE
JAMES
DECONTO, Staff
writer

CHAPEL HILL - Chapel Hill police plan a news
conference late this afternoon following the
detention of a man in connection with the killing of UNC-Chapel Hill student Eve Carson.

Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran has declined to discuss today’s developments. A news
release issued by his office announced the news conference but did not say when it would be
held or provide other details.

Earlier today, Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall confirmed that a man had been
taken into custody in the case.

"Somebody has been detained," Woodall said this morning. But he said at the time that he
was not familiar with the circumstances. It also was not clear whether charges had been
filed.

Also this morning, an assistant public defender and an investigator with the public defender’s
office entered the Chapel Hill police station, where the person detained reportedly was being
questioned. The lawyer, Susan Seahorn, and investigator, Beth Winston, declined to say why
they were there.

A few hours later, Orange Superior Court Judge Carl Fox arrived at the police department.
Authorities did not offer an explanation for Fox’s presence.

Radio station WCHL this morning cited unnamed sources as saying that an arrest was made
overnight in Durham and the arrestee was turned over to the Chapel Hill police. Durham
television station WTVD showed video of heavily armed police officers arresting a man at a
home on Rosedale Avenue in Durham.

Carson, 22, of Athens, Ga., was found shot to death at week ago today on a neighborhood
street north of the campus. She was the student body president and a Morehead-Cain
scholar.
UNC med student seeks limits
He advocates limiting drug companies' access to campus programs

BY JEAN FISHER, STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL -- As a medical student, Anthony Fleg is at the center of the latest wave of rebellion against the pharmaceutical industry's cozy ties to doctors, hospitals and medical schools.

Fleg, in his fourth year of training at UNC, is national coordinator of the American Medical Student Association's effort to wean medical schools from their pervasive relationships with drug companies. And he's had quite a year.

Fleg helped AMSA's PharmFree campaign, established in 2002, produce the first scorecard to grade medical schools based on whether they have policies curbing the pharmaceutical Industry's influence. The effort generated national press coverage. He also expanded PharmFree's annual awareness day to an awareness week this fall, giving the issue its biggest splash to date.

In October, Fleg testified before the U.S. Senate, explaining why he believes physicians who accept lunches and even small gifts such as notepads and mugs from drug companies open the door to influence. In the end, he contends, the sacred doctor-patient relationship is compromised.

Fleg's zeal for the cause is boundless.

Fleg's wife, Shannon Fleg, who is expecting the couple's first child this summer, jokes that her husband will probably be at her side in the delivery room with a tiny PharmFree sign for the baby to hold.
It would be easy for such a strident advocate to become a figure of controversy and strife. But colleagues and mentors say Fleg, who stands 6-foot-4 and towers over most people, tempers his principles with a genuine respect for others' opinions, even when they are at odds with his own.

He frequently uses humor to challenge the status quo and invite conversation. Fleg signs his e-mail messages with offbeat taglines such as, "Card-carrying member (with overdue fines), Chapel Hill Public Library," or "Intramural Debate Team Alternative (occasionally), Atholton High School." It's Fleg's way of getting a smile while poking fun at the self-important practice of following one's name with credentials and associations -- common among physicians.

Fleg's main purpose at UNC this year has been to persuade the medical school to adopt a policy limiting pharmaceutical company involvement in hospital and academic programs. UNC has no formal rules limiting or banning drug company activities on campus.

PharmFree isn't Fleg's only cause.

He and his wife, Shannon, a Navajo Indian from Arizona, established the Native Health Initiative, which partners with American Indian tribes in North Carolina to improve health and well-being. Fleg, who taught third- and fourth-graders in inner-city Baltimore before enrolling in medical school, is in the Chapel Hill public schools on a regular basis as a speaker and mentor.

Fleg is determined that a career in medicine, and the financial rewards that often accompany it, won't change his principles. After completing his residency training, Fleg will practice in a federally designated health-care shortage area as a member of the National Health Service Corps.

In exchange for Fleg's commitment, the U.S. government is footing the bill for his medical education. The deal will allow Fleg to graduate from UNC debt-free. But Fleg says serving in an area where doctors are most needed won't be much of a sacrifice.

"It's something I'd be doing anyway," he says. "It's ultimately what is going to make me happiest."

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