

## COURT

# Trial begins today in fatal hit-and-run case

GWENDOLYN RICHARDS CALGARY HERALD

The parents of a young Calgary woman who died last year after she was struck by an SUV will be front and centre in court today as the trial begins for the man accused in the hit and run.

"My wife and I will be there every day," Gerald Giacomelli said on the eve of the case against Colin Jones, 48, charged in connection with the death of Giacomelli's daughter.

Lindsay Giacomelli, 20, was walking across Bonaventure Drive near Fairmont Drive S.E. on March 17, 2005, when she was hit by an SUV.

The next day in hospital, surrounded by family, the University of Calgary dance student died from severe injuries.

According to an agreed statement of facts, Jones stopped for a moment, but did not offer help to the injured woman. Instead, he drove to his Maple Ridge home, where he ordered pizza and a pay-per-view movie.

Calgary police issued a Canada-wide warrant for Jones, charging him with criminal hit and run.

He was arrested in Toronto on March 21, 2005, after purchasing a one-way ticket to Gatwick, England.

In December, defence lawyer Balfour Der said Jones doesn't deny he was driving the truck that hit Giacomelli after he left a pub. However, Jones "doesn't fall within the Criminal Code for required intent," Der said.

As the trial date has drawn nearer, it has been increasingly more stressful for the family, said Gerald Giacomelli.

"It actually feels like a physical weight," he said.

The trial is booked in the Court of Queen's Bench for two weeks.

GRICHARDS@THEHERALD.CANWEST.COM



Colin Jones



Lindsay Giacomelli