

Fork Union cadet dies after fight

PALMYRA, Va. (AP) — A Fork Union Military Academy cadet died after a scuffle with another student, and a preliminary autopsy indicated a blood clot lodged in the victim's lungs, authorities said.

Todd Gerald Vidal, 18, of Virginia Beach, died Sunday after falling over furniture while fighting with Raason Reginald Walker, an 18-year-old student from New Jersey, said Deputy Barry Taylor of the Fluvanna County Sheriff's office.

Walker was charged with voluntary manslaughter, Taylor said. However, a preliminary autopsy report completed after Walker

had been charged indicated Vidal died from the blood clot, a natural cause.

Taylor declined to speculate whether the blood clot and Vidal's subsequent death were related to the fight. He said Commonwealth's Attorney Colin Guy will decide whether to pursue the charge after the autopsy report has been completed.

The fight was described by Taylor as a shoving match. It started in Vidal's dormitory room but spilled into a hallway and another room, he said.

The nature of the dispute was unclear, Taylor said.

Fork Union cadet dies after scuffle with fellow student

Cadet, 18, charged with voluntary manslaughter

PALMYRA (AP) — A Fork Union Military Academy cadet died after a scuffle with another student, and a preliminary autopsy indicated a blood clot lodged in the victim's lungs, authorities said.

Todd Gerald Vidal, 18, of Virginia Beach, died Sunday after falling over furniture while fighting with Raason Reginald Walker, an 18-year-old student from New Jersey, said Deputy Barry Taylor of the Fluvanna County Sheriff's office.

Walker was charged with voluntary manslaughter, Taylor said. However, a preliminary autopsy report completed after Walker had

been charged indicated Vidal died from the blood clot, a natural cause.

Taylor declined to speculate whether the blood clot and Vidal's subsequent death were related to the fight. He said Commonwealth's Attorney Colin Guy will decide whether to pursue the charge after the autopsy report has been completed.

The fight was described by Taylor as a shoving match. It started in Vidal's dormitory room but spilled into a hallway and another room, he said.

The nature of the dispute was unclear, Taylor said.

Walker was released on \$5,000 bond. He is scheduled to appear in General District Court on April 6.

Fork Union officials are launching their own investigation into the death, according to a statement from the school.

Cadet's death may be unrelated to fight

PALMYRA (AP)—A Fork Union Military Academy cadet died after a scuffle with another student, and a preliminary autopsy indicated a blood clot lodged in the victim's lungs, authorities said.

Todd Gerald Vidal, 18, of Virginia Beach, died Sunday after falling over furniture while fighting with Raason Reginald Walker, an 18-year-old student from New Jersey, said Deputy Barry Taylor of the Fluvanna County Sheriff's office.

Walker was charged with voluntary manslaughter, Taylor said. However, a preliminary autopsy report completed after Walker had been charged indicated Vidal died from the blood clot, a natural cause.

Taylor declined to speculate whether the blood clot and Vidal's subsequent death were related to the fight. He said Commonwealth's Attorney Colin Guy will decide whether to pursue the charge after the autopsy report has been completed.

The fight was described by Taylor as a shoving match. It started in Vidal's dormitory room but spilled into a hallway and another room, he said.

The nature of the dispute was unclear, Taylor said.

Walker was released on \$5,000 bond. He is scheduled to appear in General District Court on April 6.

Fork Union officials are launching their own investigation into the death, according to a statement from the school.

Charge to be dropped in cadet death

The Associated Press

PALMYRA

Fluvanna County Commonwealth's Attorney Colin Guy said a manslaughter charge against a Fork Union Military Academy cadet in the death of another student will be dismissed.

Guy said Tuesday the charge against Raason Reginald Walker, 18, won't be prosecuted because medical reports indicate that cadet Todd Gerald Vidal died from a pre-exist-

ing blood clot that broke loose and wedged in Vidal's heart. "Since it is a natural cause of death, there can be no criminal charge," Guy said.

Walker was charged March 1 when Vidal, 19, of Virginia Beach, died following a scuffle with Walker.

The two men had been pushing each other during an argument that started in Vidal's dormitory room and went down a hallway into another room. After the two men fell over

some furniture, Vidal didn't get back up. He was later pronounced dead at the scene.

Randall Bashore, a state medical examiner, said he believes the blood clot was caused by a leg injury that Vidal suffered at home during Christmas break.

Walker's attorney, Ronald R. Tweel, said Walker plans to return to FUMA. He has been staying with his mother in New Jersey since Vidal's death, Tweel said.

Military school student not charged in death of classmate

PALMYRA (AP) — Fluvanna County Commonwealth's Attorney Colin Guy said a manslaughter charge against a Fork Union Military Academy cadet in the death of another student will be dismissed.

Guy said Tuesday the charge against Raason Reginald Walker, 18, won't be prosecuted because medical reports indicate that cadet Todd Gerald Vidal died from a pre-existing blood clot that broke loose and wedged in Vidal's heart.

"Since it is a natural cause of death, there can be no criminal charge," Guy said.

Walker was charged March 1 when Vidal, 19, of Virginia Beach, died following a scuffle with Walker.

The two men had been pushing each other during an argument that started in Vidal's dormitory room and went down a hallway into another room. After the two men fell over some furniture, Vidal didn't get back up. He was later pronounced dead at the scene.

Randall Bashore, a state medical examiner, said he believes the blood clot was caused by a leg injury.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA - CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS - RICHMOND									
REGISTRATION AREA NUMBER 132		CERTIFICATE NUMBER 34		MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE			STATE FILE NUMBER 98-022565		
1. FULL NAME OF DECEDENT (first) (middle) (last) TODD GERALD VIDAL						2. SEX male ☒ female ☐			
3. DATE OF DEATH (mo.) (day) (year) March 1, 1998		4. AGE 19 years		IF UNDER 1 YEAR months days		IF UNDER 1 DAY hours minutes		5. DATE OF BIRTH (mo.) (day) (year) 04/29/78	
6. WAS DECEDENT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? yes ☐ no ☒									
7. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION OF DEATH (if none, so state) Fork Union Military School				DOA ☐ Out Pat. Emer Rm ☐ Inpatient ☐		8. COUNTY OF DEATH (if independent city, leave blank) Fluvanna			
9. CITY OR TOWN OF DEATH Fork Union				inside city or town limits? yes ☐ no ☒		10. STREET ADDRESS OR RT. NO. OF PLACE OF DEATH Highway # 15			
11. STATE (OR FOREIGN COUNTRY) OF DECEDENT'S RESIDENCE Virginia						12. COUNTY OF DECEDENT'S RESIDENCE (if independent city, leave blank)			
13. CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE Virginia Beach				inside city or town limits? yes ☒ no ☐		14. STREET ADDRESS OR RT. NO. OF RESIDENCE 5101 Bellamy Manor Drive		ZIP CODE 23464	
15. NAME OF DECEDENT'S FATHER William G. Vidal						16. MAIDEN NAME OF DECEDENT'S MOTHER Sandra J. Cartwright			
17. RACE OF DECEDENT Caucasian		18. OF HISPANIC ORIGIN? If yes, specify Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc. ☒ no ☐ yes				19. EDUCATION (Specify only highest grade completed) Elementary/Secondary (0-12) _____ College (1-4 or 5+) 1			
20. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY USA		21. BIRTHPLACE (state or country) Virginia		22. NEVER MARRIED ☒ DIVORCED ☐ MARRIED ☐ WIDOWED ☐		23. IF MARRIED OR WIDOWED, NAME OF SPOUSE (if divorced leave blank)			
24. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED]		25. USUAL OR LAST OCCUPATION Student		26. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Fork Union Military School		27. INFORMANT - OR SOURCE OF INFORMATION Sandra J. Parker - Mother			
28. PART I. Enter the diseases, injuries, or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock, or heart failure. List only one cause on each line. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death) → (A) Bilateral pulmonary thrombo-emboli DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF): Sequentially list conditions, if any, leading to immediate cause. Enter UNDERLYING CAUSE (Disease or injury that initiated events resulting in death) LAST (B) deep vein thrombosis of right leg. DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF): (C) PART II. Other significant conditions contributing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in Part I. 28a. AUTOPSY? AUTHORIZED BY: ☒ yes ☐ no M.E.						INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH			
28b. IF FEMALE, WAS THERE A PREGNANCY IN PAST 3 MONTHS? yes ☐ no ☐ unknown ☐		28c. IF EXTERNAL CAUSE, IT WAS PRIMARY ☐ OR CONTRIBUTING ☐ TO CAUSE OF DEATH		28d. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY RELATING TO DEATH OCCURRED					
28e. TIME OF INJURY (mo.) (day) (year) A.M. _____ P.M. _____		28f. INJURY OCCURRED while at work ☐ not while at work ☐		28g. PLACE OF INJURY (home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)		28h. (city or town) (county) (state)			
28i. I CERTIFY that I took charge of the remains described above, viewed the body, made inquiry and in my opinion death resulted at or about (AM) (PM) from: NATURAL CAUSES ☒ ACCIDENT ☐ SUICIDE ☐ HOMICIDE ☐ UNDETERMINED ☐ PENDING ☐									
ACTUAL SIGNATURE ▶ Lisa J. Kohler, MD						DATE SIGNED: May 22, 1998			
NAME OF MEDICAL EXAMINER (Type or Print) Lisa J. Kohler, M.D.						ADDRESS OF MEDICAL EXAMINER 9 North 14th Street Richmond, VA 23219			
29. BURIAL ☒ REMOVAL ☐ CREMATION ☐		30. PLACE OF BURIAL, REMOVAL, ETC. (name of cemetery or crematory) (city or county) (state) Rosewood Memorial Park Virginia Beach, VA							
31. (Signature of funeral director or person legally filing this certificate) ▶ Michael L. [Signature]						NAME OF FUNERAL HOME AND ADDRESS: Woody Funeral Home 1771 Parham Road - Richmond, VA			
32. (signature of registrar) ▶ Diana C. Dore						DATE RECORD FILED: 6-4-98			
RESERVED FOR REGISTRAR'S USE									