



PERFECT!
White Sox righty
throws gem

Elaine Thompson/AP



CAREY MARRIES!

John Shearer/Getty Images



**WATERGATE
HATCHET MAN DIES**

Wally Fong/AP



THE DAILY

FOR SHAME

Judge gives killer drunk driver public humiliation

Michael Giacona holds a court-ordered sign detailing his deadly crime on a street corner in Houston yesterday.

Aisha Niang for The Daily



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Some of Pennywell's friends gather at the spot where the 20-year-old was killed.
Aisha Niang for The Daily

One drunken driver in Texas is wearing his crime around his neck.

On orders from a judge, Michael Giacona stood at a busy intersection in northwest Houston yesterday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., wearing a placard that read "I KILLED AARON COY PENNYWELL WHILE DRIVING DRUNK."

Giacona, 39, was behind the wheel of a white, full-sized van on June 25, 2011, when he slammed into the black Mustang that Pennywell was driving. The impact sent the 20-year-old flying from the sports car; he died at the scene.

Wearing sunglasses and a beige baseball cap, a taciturn Giacona displayed his sign in front of a small shopping center at the intersection where the accident occurred. On the opposite corner, a gathering of a dozen or so of Pennywell's friends and family members held their own sign: "The man across the street killed Aaron Pennywell while drunk driving."

Some drivers honked as they passed. Others leaned from their car windows and shouted "Killer!"

Giacona must wear the sign for the next three Saturdays, too.

In January, Giacona pleaded guilty to one count of drunken driving, paid a \$500 fine and served three months of a 1-year jail sentence.

Still, Judge Michael Fields was worried Giacona wasn't remorseful enough and decided to put a few unusual conditions on the newly released prisoner.

"Quite frankly, I am concerned about you and this decision," Fields told Giacona, according to a court transcript. "You make me nervous, and the reason you make me nervous is I believe what the witnesses said about your behavior that evening: That you were, even after killing someone, still looking to get more alcohol."

So, Fields pulled no punches, directing Gia-

cona to wear the sign, put on an alcohol-monitoring ankle bracelet and to prominently display a framed picture of Pennywell's wrecked Mustang in his living room.

Fields even went so far as to OK "random, unscheduled home visits" by Giacona's community supervision officer to make sure the photo was where it could be seen.

In Texas, judges have "tremendous discretion" to set probation conditions, Houston defense lawyer Mark Bennett told The Daily. While unusual, he said, the conditions that Fields put on Giacona aren't unheard of.

"We have seen judges order people to wear signs," he said. "It makes the news when it happens here. It's not an everyday thing."

Giacona's lawyer didn't object to the sign-wearing requirement, Bennett added.

"The guy who is avoiding prison is probably not willing to fight a particular condition of the probation," he said.

Giacona's lawyer, Neal Davis, did not respond

to a message seeking comment.

Pennywell's mother, Kae Pennywell, told local TV station KHOU that she thought the public shaming fit Giacona's crime.

"I loved it," Pennywell said. "Because that way he has to show more accountability for what he does and has to let other people know what drunk driving does."

Pennywell's neighbor, Pam Lewandowski, agreed.

"I felt like that at least, this way, he had some accountability," Lewandowski told KHOU. "Otherwise, it felt like he was just getting slapped on the wrist."

- With Aisha Niang
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POLL: Public humiliation: It's definitely unusual, but is it cruel?

- Get real. A little shame never killed anybody.**
- Compassion, please. The judge is being a publicity hound.**
- I don't care if it stops somebody else from doing the same thing.**

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