

Rock Singer's Manager Is Jailed For Stealing Body At Los Angeles Airport

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Philip Kaufman, 38, road manager for rock singer Gram Parsons, was arrested Wednesday on charges of stealing Parsons' body, which was later found burning in Joshua Tree National Monument.

Police do not know why the coffin containing Parsons' body was set afire, but speculated the motive may have been a funeral ritual, or an attempt to destroy evidence.

Kaufman was arrested at his home in Van Nuys on a charge of grand theft.

Another suspect, Michael D. Martin, 26, of Hollywood, was still being sought, police said.

Parsons, 27, died last week, apparently of a heart attack while vacationing in the town of Joshua Tree near the national monument in the desert east of Palm Springs.

His body was at the Los Angeles airport awaiting shipment home to New Orleans when two men drove up in a hearse and claimed it, saying Parson's family had arranged for the re-

mains to be flown east on a chartered plane leaving from the Van Nuys airport. Parsons' family said they had made no such arrangements. Campers in the national monument found the smoldering coffin the next morning.

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