

Students arrested at school

MAY 27 1989
2 at Hall charged
with having pistol

By Rob Moritz
GAZETTE STAFF

Arrests made in two separate incidents Friday morning at Hall High School were the first in Little Rock under two new state laws aimed at stemming violence and drugs in schools.

A man carrying a pocket voice pager was arrested after a car he was a passenger in was stopped on the campus about 9:15 a.m., the police said.

Two students were arrested after they were seen exchanging a pistol about 11:15 a.m.

Act 649 of 1989 requires that minors who take guns onto school grounds be arrested. Act 146 of 1989 outlaws unauthorized possession on school campuses of paging devices, which is aimed at curtailing drug dealing.

The person arrested with the pocket pager, Russell Edward Clay, 19, of 1860 Ringo St., was a student. He was given a citation for possession of a beeper on school grounds, a misdemeanor. He is to appear in municipal court Monday morning.

Officers were called after a silver 1985 Nissan Maxima with three people in it was seen driving around the campus.

An officer stopped the car in a campus parking lot and asked the occupants to get out. The driver, Michael Gilbert, 18, of 8223 W. 39th St. was cited for driving without a license plate, driving without car registration and not having liability insurance.

The two students arrested in the gun incident, Maurice Clemmons of

2808 S. Welch St. and Curtis Thompson of 2700 S. Van Buren St., both 17, were charged with carrying a weapon on school grounds, a felony. Both were in jail in lieu of \$1,500 bond Friday. They are to appear in municipal court at 8:30 a.m. Monday.

Clemmons told officers he brought a .25-caliber pistol to school because he had "been chased and beaten by 'dopers,'" and if they got after him again he "had something for them," Lt. R. L. "Bert" Jenkins, police public information officer, said.

Police reports said that assistant principal Lovell Moore asked Clemmons, a junior, if he had a pistol after Moore had received information about it. Clemmons apparently walked out of Moore's office, handed the weapon to Thompson, also a junior, and returned. Moore saw the exchange and demanded the weapon.

The students were suspended and will be recommended for for expulsion, Dr. Victor Anderson III, an assistant superintendent, said.

More news

More state and local news can be found on Page 9A in today's *Arkansas Gazette*.

2 students arrested in incident with gun

MAY 27 1989

Two 17-year-old students were arrested about 11:15 a.m. Friday at Hall High School, 6700 H St., for carrying a .25-caliber pistol, Little Rock police said.

Curtis Thompson of 2700 S. Van Buren St. and Maurice Clemmons of 2808 S. Welch St. were both charged with carrying a weapon on school grounds.

Police were called to the school by Lovell Moore, assistant principal, who said he confronted Clemmons after someone told him Clemmons had a gun. Moore said Clemmons told him to "hold on a minute," then went outside the principal's office. Moore said he saw

Clemmons hand the gun to Thompson outside the office, at which point he went into the hallway and took the gun from Thompson.

Clemmons told police he carried the gun because "he has been chased and beaten in the past by 'dopers,' and if they got after him again, he 'had something' for them," said Lt. R.L. "Bert" Jenkins, police spokesman.

Robberies, arrests occur within 1 hour

JUN 8 1989

Little Rock residents Maurice Clemmons, 17, and David Antonio Hawthorne, 18, were arrested shortly before 2 a.m. Wednesday in connection with two robberies that occurred during the previous hour, Little Rock police said.

Clemmons, of 2808 S. Welch St., was charged with aggravated robbery, robbery and two counts of theft of property. Hawthorne, of 904 Folsom St., was charged with aggravated robbery and robbery.

They were arrested when officer Bruce Maxwell spotted them at 28th and Welch streets in a car matching a description of the one used in one of the robberies. Inside the car was a necklace like one snatched from one of the victims, police said.

Police said Adrian Ray, 18, of Jacksonville was hit in the head and robbed of his \$500 gold necklace at 1:45 a.m. as he stood near the gas pumps at the Circle K Store at 14th and Main streets.

Karen Hodge, 48, of Little Rock was robbed earlier, at 1:10 a.m., as she was getting into her vehicle parked at 3201 Bankhead Drive.

Hodge said the robber kept his hand in his pocket as though he had a weapon, and when she refused to give him her purse, he hit her in the face and grabbed it. It contained \$15 cash and a credit card.

LR teen-ager jailed on robbery charges

By Rob Moritz
GAZETTE STAFF

JUN 8 1989

A Little Rock teen-ager who was expelled last month for allegedly having a gun at Hall High School was jailed Wednesday on robbery charges.

Maurice Clemmons, 17, of 2808 S. Welch St. and another teen-ager were charged in two robberies reported early Wednesday. They

Expelled from Hall in May in gun incident

also were being questioned by the police about two other robberies and one attempted robbery since Monday night.

May 26, Clemmons and another high school student were arrested after they allegedly were seen exchanging a .25-caliber pistol at Hall High. Clemmons and Curtis Thompson, 17, of 2700 S. Van Bu-

ren St., were charged with carrying a weapon on school grounds, a felony under a new state law aimed at stemming violence and drugs in schools. Each posted \$1,500 bonds and a preliminary hearing was scheduled for July 31 in Little Rock Municipal Court.

Officers arrested Clemmons again at 1:57 a.m. Wednesday in a

car at 26th and Welch streets in east Little Rock. He is charged with aggravated robbery, robbery and theft of property and was being held Wednesday on \$50,000 bond. Clemmons pleaded innocent Wednesday morning in municipal court and a preliminary hearing was scheduled June 25.

Arrested Wednesday with Clemmons was David Hawthorne, 18, of 904 Folsom St., who was charged with robbery and aggravated robbery. He was being held on \$25,000 bond. His arraignment was scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Friday in municipal court.

The two were accused of robbing a woman at 1:10 a.m. in a parking lot at 3201 Annie Mae Bankhead Drive and a man at 1:45 a.m. at 14th and Main streets. Karen D. Hodge, 48, of Little Rock said she was hit in the face and her purse was taken by two men.

The police said Clemmons, Hawthorne and an unidentified third man also were being questioned about these reported crimes:

★ The robbery of L.E. Fisher, 81, at 9:50 p.m. Monday in the 700 block of East Ninth Street by two men who took \$200 in cash.

★ The attempted robbery of Ron Garrett, 40, at 1:10 a.m. Tuesday in the 900 block of East Fourth Street by three men.

Teen gets 5 years in school robbery

NOV 4 1989
Maurice Clemmons, 17, was sentenced to five years in prison Thursday for the strong-armed robbery of a student Nov. 7, 1988, at Forest Heights Junior High School.

Pulaski County Circuit Judge Floyd J. Lofton handed down the term after convicting Clemmons in a non-jury trial.

Clemmons grabbed a necklace from the neck of Greg Dietz, a seventh-grader, and punched him in the face while Dietz was standing in the courtyard of the school at 5901 Evergreen Road. Clemmons said the necklace fell when he and Dietz got into a fight after Dietz pushed him.

Clemmons, of 2808 Welch St., later was arraigned on four other charges, including aggravated robbery and burglary.

35-year sentence given in robbery case

NOV 16 1989
A Pulaski County jury sentenced Maurice Clemmons to 35 years in

prison Wednesday for the June 7 aggravated robbery of a woman in the parking lot of a Little Rock nightclub.

The time will be served consecutive to earlier sentences Clemmons received for robbery, burglary and theft. The sentences total 48 years.

Karen D. Hodge identified Clemmons, 17, of 2808 S. Welch St., as the teen who had accosted her outside the back door of the Bobbi-sox club in the Airport Holiday Inn and threatened to shoot her if she didn't give him her purse. When she told him to "go ahead and shoot," he punched her in the face and grabbed her purse, which contained cash and a credit card, she said.

LR man sentenced in robbery, theft

NOV 17 1989
Maurice Clemmons, 17, of 2808 S. Welch St., was sentenced Wednesday to 35 years in prison for the June 6 robbery of a woman leaving the Holiday Inn at 3201 Bankhead Drive.

A Pulaski County Circuit Court jury deliberated about an hour and 15 minutes before finding Clemmons guilty and sentencing him to 25 years in prison for aggravated robbery and giving him a consecutive 10-year term for theft of property. The prison sentence will be consecutive, at a 13-year term Clemmons already is serving.

Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Frasier said a Little Rock woman was leaving a nightclub at the hotel about midnight when she was confronted by Clemmons, who had his hand under his shirt.

Clemmons demanded the woman give him her purse or he would shoot. When she refused he hit her in the face, knocked her against a car and took her purse.

9 nate awaiting court date ad metal bar in his sock

JAN 31 1990 23

Maurice Clemmons, serving 48 years in prison, was found to have a piece of metal in his left sock Tuesday just before he was to appear at pretrial hearings on charges against him in three other cases.

Bailiff Clark Thorne was alerted to the potential weapon by a sheriff's officer who discovered that a metal bar was missing from a holding cell in the courthouse basement and took it away from Clemmons.

The prosecutor's office has not decided whether to file additional charges over the incident, said deputy prosecutor Mark Fraiser.

Clemmons, 17, of 2808 S. Welch St., was sentenced to 35 years in prison June 7 for the aggravated robbery of a woman in the parking lot of a Little Rock night club. That is to be served consecutive to 13 years for robbery, burglary and theft.

He still faces trial for burglary, robbery, theft and carrying a gun on school property. The latter charge stems from his May 26 arrest after he and another student allegedly were seen exchanging a pistol at Hall High School.

Clemmons was in the basement holding cell most of Tuesday morning and apparently removed part of an automatic door closer when he was allowed to use a toilet in the secure area where he was not directly observed. Fraiser said the

County Courts

metal part was about 10 inches long and weighed about the same as a wrench.

County courts

18-year-old sentenced for thefts ^{2B}

SM FEB 24 1990
"You have broken your mother's heart," said Circuit Court Judge Floyd Lofton Friday after he sentenced an 18-year-old habitual criminal to 60 years in prison for burglary and theft of property.

"I have broken my own heart," responded former Hall High School student Maurice Clemmons, whose hands and feet were shackled throughout his trial because of an incident earlier Friday.

While waiting for his trial to begin, Clemmons, of 2808 Welch St., grabbed a padlock off his holding cell and hurled it at a court bailiff, Clark Thorne. His aim misfired and the lock struck his mother, who had come to bring him street clothes.

Clemmons already was serving 48 years on five felony convictions and is facing up to 95 more on charges of robbery, theft of property and possessing a handgun on school property.

The jury took just 16 minutes to find him guilty of burglarizing the Little Rock home of an state Trooper Keith Eremea of merchandise valued at \$6,771, including his gun.

Clemmons broke into the home on April 4 by forcing open the garage.

Police tracked Clemmons down after Eremea noticed a call to Des Moines, Wash., on his telephone bill that he did not make and also several local calls made on the date of the break-in, according to trial testimony.

When questioned by police, Ester said he noticed that Clemmons had a cellular telephone in his room. When police searched the room, they identified it as one belonging to Eremea.

At a January pretrial hearing, Clemmons hid a piece of metal in his sock just before he was to appear before Lofton.

Thorne discovered the potential weapon after a sheriff's officer told him that a metal bar was missing from a holding cell in the courthouse basement.

After pronouncing the sentence of two terms of 30 years to be served consecutively, Lofton took Clemmons and his parents into chambers to discuss pleading guilty to the other three charges.

Clemmons refused.

LR man, 18, faces 108 years in prison after latest conviction

SKT FEB 24 1990

BY TANUJA KANWAR
Democrat Staff Writer

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An 18-year-old Little Rock man faces more than a century behind bars after a jury added 60 years for burglary and theft of property to his current 48-year state prison sentence Friday.

It took the jury 16 minutes to find Maurice Clemmons, of 2802 Welch St., guilty of breaking into the home of an Arkansas State Police officer and stealing weapons sporting the ASP emblem and portable telephones.

It took them 20 minutes to decide to sentence him to the maximum of 30 years each on burglary and theft of property charges.

Clemmons sat through the trial with his feet and hands

cuffed, mumbling loudly throughout the proceedings, said deputy prosecuting attorney Mark Fraiser. When Keith Eremea, the trooper whose home Clemmons broke into, took the stand, Clemmons greeted him with an obscene gesture, Fraiser said.

The trial began 20 minutes late after Clemmons threw a padlock at bailiff Clark Thorne. The lock sailed by him and brushed the arm of Clemmons' mother, Thorne said.

Circuit Judge Floyd J. Lofton denied requests by defense attorneys to remove the cuffs from Clemmons' hands and feet and instructed a sheriff's deputy to remain seated behind Clemmons throughout the trial. There were two deputies in the courtroom when the

jury returned with its verdict.

Clemmons has a history of acting violent during trial while being transported to and from the courtroom. He is currently in prison for aggravated robbery, burglary and robbery.

At his last appearance before Lofton in January, Clemmons was caught attempting to smuggle a piece of metal about 10 inches long into the courtroom. He has also threatened the judge.

Lofton said he took the precautions Friday because of Clemmons' history.

Clemmons was charged with the burglary after police officers traced telephone calls made on a stolen portable phone to his home, and his brother's home in Washington.

Finger-in-jacket trick nets same penalty as r

Supreme Court upholds conviction for aggravated robbery

By Scott Morris
Gazette Staff

OCT 16 1990

Maurice Clemmons' pretense that he was armed during a 1989 holdup justified his aggravated robbery conviction in Pulaski County Circuit Court, the Arkansas Supreme Court ruled Monday.

Clemmons, 18, of 2808 S. Welch St., is serving 108 years for a variety of offenses and still faces additional charges of robbery, theft of property and possession of a handgun. Conviction on those charges could add 95 years to his sentence.

In the appeal decided Monday, Clemmons argued that there wasn't enough evidence to convict him of aggravated robbery because he only pretended to have a gun

when he and two other men held up a woman in the parking lot of a Little Rock nightclub on June 7, 1989. He was sentenced to 35 years for that crime. The court said, however, that the pretense was sufficient for a conviction.

An aggravated robbery charge is justified when the perpetrator is armed "with a deadly weapon or represents by word or conduct that he is so armed," the court said.

Clemmons, while awaiting trial earlier this year on burglary and theft of property charges in Pulaski County Circuit Court, threw a padlock from his holding cell at a court bailiff. He missed, however, and the lock struck his mother. His hands and feet were then shackled

throughout that trial, which ended with a 60-year prison term.

The court cited the trial testimony of the victim, who said Clemmons told her he had a gun and threatened to shoot. She said she "assumed it was his finger in his jacket" and initially refused to turn over her purse.

Clemmons then struck her and ripped her purse from her arm, she said.

Clemmons is serving another 13 years for robbery, burglary and theft. He is scheduled to appear in court Nov. 11 on the remaining charges of robbery, theft of property and possession of a handgun on school property.

In other decisions, the court up-

held the capital murder convictions of Frank Pilcher of North Little Rock and Benny Hughes of Lockesburg. Both are serving life sentences.

Pilcher was convicted of capital murder in the April 3, 1989 shooting death of Jeff Rhoades, 21, of Benton. Marissa Bragg, Pilcher's girlfriend, testified at the trial that Pilcher shot Rhoades so he wouldn't have to pay for cocaine he got from Rhodes.

The court dismissed Pilcher's contention that Bragg, who was granted immunity from prosecution in exchange for her testimony, should have been named an accomplice by the judge. Had the judge

found her to be an accomplice, Bragg's testimony would have required corroboration.

The trial judge correctly left that decision to the jury, the high court said.

Hughes was convicted in the December 1988 shooting deaths of his wife, Leree Hughes, and Dave Potter, also of Lockesburg. Hughes came home early from a trip to California and found the two together in his house.

After he was arrested, Hughes told officers he shot Potter, who threatened him with a knife, in self-defense and shot his wife by accident. Police officers never found the knife Potter allegedly used.

Hughes said the statements he made to the officers shouldn't have been admitted into evidence, but