

# Nation

## Teen pleads guilty in school shootings

PADUCAH, Ky. (AP) — A timid-looking teen-ager who opened fire on a high-school prayer circle, killing three fellow students, pleaded guilty but mentally ill Monday and will have to spend at least 25 years in prison.

With his arms folded, Michael Adam Carneal, a slightly built youngster with glasses whose fair complexion and rosy cheeks made him look younger than his 15 years, acknowledged carrying out the attack last Dec. 11 at Heath High School in West Paducah.

Five other people were wounded in the rampage, one of a series of school shootings that rocked the nation during the last school year.

Defense attorney Chuck Granner said that Carneal believed that his classmates ridiculed him and that the shootings would bring him acceptance.

"Michael understands that his feelings, attitudes and beliefs at the time of the shootings were, in fact, wrong," the lawyer said. "He deeply regrets the overwhelming pain, the injuries and the loss of life that his acts have caused."

Judge Jeff Hines accepted the plea on condition that Carneal get the maximum penalty — life in prison without possibility of parole for 25 years — at sen-

tencing Dec. 16. The victims' families had originally opposed the plea because Carneal could have been eligible for parole in as little as 12 years.

"He's definitely going to serve 25 years," prosecutor Tim Kaltenbach said. "While today's events will not undo the horrible tragedy that affected and will continue to affect so many lives, we hope that in some measure it will begin to ease the pain."

Carneal will be held in a juvenile detention center until his 18th birthday, when he will be transferred to an adult prison. His mental health will be evaluated, and he could receive treatment.

His attorney characterized Carneal as paranoid, with a schizophrenia-like personality disorder, and said that with treatment, "we might have a chance of salvaging a young man."

A verdict of guilty to murder without the finding of mental illness carries a term of life with parole possible after 25 years. In Kentucky, a defendant must be at least 16 when the crime is committed to get the death penalty. Carneal was 14 at the time of the attack.

Granner read a statement on behalf of the boy's parents, John and Ann Carneal, that said the family was "determined to do the right thing" for everyone.

## Committee debates further investigation

Possibility of more impeachable offenses fuels Republican demand for open-ended inquiry

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee clashed in historic debate Monday over a Republican demand for an open-ended impeachment inquiry of President Clinton. The top GOP lawyer cited what he called "substantial and credible evidence" of 15 possible grounds for impeachment.

"Do we have a duty to look further, or to look away?" Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., asked shortly after gaveling the committee to order in the same cavernous room where Richard Nixon's fate was debated a quarter-century ago.

"This is not about Watergate," Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, the panel's senior Democrat, retorted. "It is an extramarital affair."

Confident of prevailing, majori-

ty Republicans pressed for a committee vote by day's end on their proposal for an investigation based on Watergate rules and unlimited in time or scope. A vote in the full House would follow by Friday.

The Republicans' lead investigator, David Schippers, broadened the counts set out by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr to raise the possibility that Clinton took part in a broad conspiracy to cover up his actions.

Democrats countered the Republicans' proposed resolution with a plan to show their support

for an inquiry limited to matters arising from the president's affair with Monica Lewinsky, and for rendering a verdict by Nov. 25.

Clinton himself did not mention the proceedings unfolding 16 blocks away when he appeared briefly before reporters on the White House grounds.

Clinton spokesperson Joe Lockhart said, "We don't believe there's anything here that reaches the level of an impeachable offense."

Inside the committee room, Schippers, the lifelong Democrat hired by Hyde to oversee the case for Republicans, methodically reviewed evidence submitted three weeks ago by Starr.

Dropping some of Starr's counts, adding others, and recast-

ing still others, he came up with counts, four more than Starr had.

He said, for example, that there was evidence that Clinton had been part of a conspiracy to obstruct justice and due administration of justice. Starr did not mention the specter of a conspiracy involving multiple players. Lewinsky received immunity from Starr in exchange for her testimony.

Schippers also said the president may have committed an offense by taking steps to conceal Lewinsky's false affidavit about the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit and by allowing Clinton's own Jones deposition to deny a sexual relationship



STARR

## Court action may spur further high-school drug testing

WASHINGTON (AP) — Public schools nationwide may be encouraged to require more students to take drug tests after the Supreme Court allowed an Indiana district to continue such tests.

Rejecting an appeal by teen-agers and their parents on Monday, the court let a rural school district conduct random drug tests for all students in extracurricular activities — from sports teams to the library club — even if they are not individually suspected of using drugs.

The justices left intact a federal appeals court ruling that said such testing does not violate students' pri-

vacy rights.

Outside the stately courthouse, more than 1,000 members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People noisily demonstrated Monday to protest the court's lack of minority law clerks. NAACP President Kweisi Mfume and 18 other people were arrested for trying to demonstrate on court property rather than on the public sidewalk.

The court's action in the drug-testing case is not a decision and therefore sets no national precedent. But it left in place a ruling that remains binding law in three states —

**"I would not expect a wave of new drug-testing programs in the public schools."**

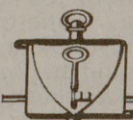
— Julie Hunter Wood  
General counsel,  
National School Board  
Association

Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. And it may entice educators in other

states to expand drug testing

But Julie Hunter Wood, general counsel of the National School Boards Association, discouraged such development. "I would not expect a wave of new drug-testing programs in the public schools," she said. "Most schools approach this as one of prevention, not detection, and I expect they will continue diligent efforts."

In 1995, the justices voted to uphold random drug testing of student athletes, citing both the problem of "detering" drug use by our nation's schools and the

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