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Jesse Jackson arrested

Reverend opposes students' expulsion, but meetings fail to resolve

DECATUR, Ill. (AP) — Leading a made-for-TV demonstration that evoked the style of the civil rights movement, the Rev. Jesse Jackson was arrested yesterday as he stepped onto the grounds of a high school to protest the expulsion of six students for a brawl at a football game.



JACKSON

Jackson was taken away in handcuffs after leading a throng of ministers and other protesters to Eisenhower High School.

He had promised to force his own arrest to dramatize the students' cause.

Four other demonstrators were arrested, Jackson's aides said. Police would not say who they were and what charges Jackson or the others faced, and it was unclear whether he would post bail or remain in jail.

The arrests came nine days after Jackson in Decatur brought national attention to the Sept. 17 fight.

Jackson had indicated earlier he would bring the students back to school, but they did not approach the police line.

"We want the youth to stand still know their parents and their ministers would care for them," Jackson said.

"The parents will fight for their children. It is a good and noble thing."

Jackson inched toward the school through a line of reporters, photographers and TV crewing boom microphones high overhead.

At one point, he asked the media through out of the way so he could approach the police and get arrested.

13-year-old found guilty of 1997 shooting

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — One of the youngest murder defendants in U.S. history was convicted of second-degree murder yesterday for shooting a stranger outside a convenience store with a rifle when he was 11.

In a case that stirred fierce debate over how to treat young offenders, Nathaniel Abraham, 13, sat expressionless and looked straight ahead as the jury announced its verdict after 18 hours of deliberation over four days.

He was acquitted of first-degree murder, which could have sent him to prison for life with no chance of parole.

At his sentencing Dec. 14, Nathaniel could get a maximum of life in prison with a chance of parole or he could be sentenced as a juvenile to time already served, or held until his 21st birthday.

Prosecutors said they would recommend a blended sentence, keeping him imprisoned until at least age 21 and then reviewing his case to determine whether he has been rehabilitated.

"This case was about intervening on behalf of a troubled and dangerous youth who needed help

and didn't get it a long time ago," prosecutor David Gorcyca said. "My whole intent was to not throw away the key on an 11-year-old boy, now 13. My intent was to give him the help that he needed."

Defense attorney Geoffrey Fieger said the verdict was "born out of anger."

"I think the rest of the world will scorn us and hold us in contempt," he said.

"My intent was to give him the help that he needed."

— David Gorcyca
Prosecutor

Nathaniel was already suspected in nearly two dozen crimes, including theft, beating two teens with metal pipes and snatching a woman's purse at gunpoint, when he shot Ronnie Greene, 18, in Pontiac in 1997.

Police said Nathaniel fired a stolen .22-caliber rifle from about

100 yards away, although tests placed the distance at 150 yards.

Two days after the shooting, Nathaniel was arrested at school, painted for Halloween.

He became the first charged under a 1997 Michigan law allowing adult prosecution of children of any age for serious crimes.

Jury foreman Daniel S. reporters that the 13-year-old Nathaniel was 11 at the time of the shooting.

But, "he knew the fire was dangerous and that it could harm," Stolz said.

"Ronnie Greene was shot there, and the gun just did itself automatically."

Some law enforcement officials said Nathaniel's case presented a need to get tough with kids as a menace to society.

But Amnesty International said his frightened face for the 1998 report condemning the justice system as being too harsh on juveniles.

Nathaniel's lawyers argued that the victim was hit by a bullet that ricocheted off a tree.

How to ruin the moment #41

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