

KILLER, 15, QUIET AT SENTENCING, BUT HIS PAST SCREAMED FOR HELP

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Damien Dorris doesn't know how to say he's sorry.

Damien, 15, said nothing Wednesday as he was sentenced to the W.J. Maxey Boys Training School for the Aug. 24 murder of a woman at an automatic teller machine in southwest Detroit.

He "feels a great deal of remorse for what he's done, but he does not express himself well," said **Damien**'s attorney, Clarence Bradfield.

According to a probation report, **Damien** "stated that he is sorry for what has happened and he takes full responsibility for his actions. He did not seem interested in blaming others, and even downplayed the involvement of the two younger companions."

Wayne County Juvenile Judge James Lacey ordered **Damien** and his 11-year-old accomplice, Jacob Gonzales, held in separate facilities for their part in the shooting death of 33-year-old Elizabeth Alvarez just after she withdrew cash for her daughter's birthday celebration.

Both boys can be kept in custody until they are rehabilitated, or until their 21st birthdays.

According to Lacey and court reports, **Damien** had never had trouble with the police but had been a problem student. At Post Middle School, he was accused of "attacking other students, insubordination, walking out of school when he felt like it, and repeated truancy . . . a very hostile youth."

He was made a temporary court ward for some months in 1988 due to allegations that his mother had physically abused one of his brothers.

On March 20, 1992, **Damien** left school after refusing an order to remove his hat. He walked to the Livernois overpass of the Lodge Freeway and climbed to the top of the protective fencing. When police arrived, **Damien** told them he had been kicked out of class for no reason and wasn't coming down. Detective Tom Smoot of the 12th (Palmer Park) Precinct climbed up to talk to the youth and grabbed him.

Damien and his mother were referred to the Children's Center for help with his emotional problems.

Damien told officials that he ran away from his mother's home last summer because she was beating him. He said he lived with his brother, Zikomo, in various houses and helped Zikomo sell drugs.

Damien told court officials that he was bored by drug dealing and wanted to get out, but had to

come up with \$430 to pay off his debt to two adult drug dealers. He said that was the reason he enlisted the aid of then 10-year-old Jacob and two other boys to rob someone at the ATM on W. Fort Street near Junction. One boy left the scene before the slaying occurred.

Since he has been in the Wayne County Youth Home, **Damien** has been cited five times for fighting, escape attempts and disruptive behavior.

"His behavior is self-defeating and feeds into his already poor self-concept," a psychologist's report said.

Lacey said that the community needed to be protected from **Damien** , and he hoped **Damien** would come "to realize that you are worth something, and everyone around you is worth something."

Damien 's parents, Saul Gainey and Jacqueline **Dorris** , had never married and Gainey told court officials in recent years he had "disappeared in order to deal with personal concerns of his own." Gainey said he saw a television report about the Alvarez murder and wondered, "Where are the parents of those children?" before he learned, to his shock, that his son was involved.

The mother, Jacqueline **Dorris** , was in court Wednesday but had refused to be interviewed by court personnel or even supply them with her new address and phone number.

Alvarez's sister, Stephanie Gadwell, and brother, Pete Parizon, attended the hearing but declined to address the court. Afterward, they cried and likened the court's action to a "slap on the wrist" for the boys.

"I just feel people should start waking up," Gadwell said. "Dope and guns, it's just sad."

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