

14-YEAR-OLD RESISTS PRESSURE OF ARMED TEEN DRUG DEALER

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, September 24, 1993

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Daniel Peace knew what the youth with the gun wanted him to do. But Daniel wanted to go to school.

"He wanted me to sell **drugs** with him," Daniel said Thursday. "I want to get my education."

Daniel, 14, escaped injury Wednesday morning when Principal Calvin McKinney saw the confrontation outside Brooks Middle School, 1601 W. Chicago, and called police, who arrested another **14-year-old** on charges **of** assault and attempted kidnapping.

The youth in custody is a former Brooks student who was expelled for stabbing another student with a pencil and has a record **of** shoplifting, according to an aunt and Juvenile Court files.

Daniel said the same youth first tried to recruit him Tuesday afternoon outside a party store.

"I said, 'I don't know, I'll have to get back to you,' " Daniel said.

As he walked along Greenfield to school the next morning, the youth approached him with some friends and announced "today is the day," Daniel said.

"I told him I was going to school," Daniel said.

Just outside the school, the youth "knocked my books out **of** my hand, then he grabbed my arm and put a gun in my back," Daniel said.

"He told me to skip school with him. He had a gun and he was going to get some supplies," Daniel said. "I told him I was going to school. He said he was going to get me out **of** school . . . one way or another."

The youth then grabbed his books and started running around a car, Daniel said. By that time, McKinney had called for help.

As Detroit police arrived, the youth threw Daniel's books at him and ran across the street, where he passed his small- caliber handgun to another youth, who ran away with it.

The suspect was released from custody Thursday after his mother posted a \$200 cash bond.

Daniel said school is important to him because he was not promoted from eighth grade last year. He said he was promised that if he got A's and B's in the first semester this year, he would be promoted to high school for the second semester.

Daniel's mother, who asked that her name not be used, said she was relieved that her son was not hurt and "just totally devastated that somebody could try to force your child into doing wrong."

School officials would not comment on the incident, but Robert Giles, the parent **of** four Detroit Public Schools students and a member **of** two school-community organizations, called it "beyond outrageous."

"If parents have to worry about their children being in front **of** the school and somebody accosting them to make them skip school or sell **drugs** , you're going to have people taking whatever measures they can to remove their children from the district," he said.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

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Index Terms: CHILD ; DETROIT ; DRUG; DEALER; KIDNAP ; ATTEMPT ; DANIEL
PEACE

Record Number: 9302040754

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