

SHOTS INJURE STUDENTS AT LUNCH IN MCDONALD'S

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A teenage gunman opened fire in a crowded McDonald's restaurant on Detroit's west side shortly before noon Friday, injuring eight students from nearby Cody High School, police said.

No one was killed or critically injured, although two students later underwent surgery at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital. Both were reported in stable condition late Friday afternoon.

Three suspects -- whom police would not identify except to say one was 18 and two were 17-- were taken into custody about two hours after the incident.

Police said the shooting stemmed from two arguments, one Thursday and the second Friday morning, between two groups of teenagers about damage done to a car belonging to one of the suspects.

Detroit police homicide Lt. Robert Deane said one group was in a car and the second group of about six teenagers was walking down the street when the argument resumed Friday morning. A teenager from the second group pointed a gun at the car, which sped off, Deane said.

The youths who were on foot went to the McDonald's at 18303 Joy. A short time later, Deane said, one of the youths in the car entered the restaurant and began punching one of the youths who had been on foot.

"Then another guy comes through the door firing," Dean said, adding that police did not know how many shots were fired.

Police said the two youths fled in a car.

FOLLOWING the incident, police executing a search warrant in the 11700 block of Whitcomb confiscated a weapon at the home of a juvenile believed to be the gunman.

Deputy Police Chief Richard Dungy said none of the youths involved had any record of involvement in street gangs. He characterized the incident as a dispute between students and non-students.

"We have eight very, very lucky individuals, probably more than that, because the restaurant was crowded," he said.

TWO OF the injured youths, Robert Brown, 14, and Ernest Antal, 15, interviewed at Oakwood Hospital where they were treated and released, said they had left school early because they did not want to attend the pre-homecoming pep rally. At Antal's suggestion, they stopped at the McDonald's to eat.

The two said they were eating at a booth when another youth came in and walked up to a youth at the counter.

"Why did you shoot at my car?" he demanded, and punched the youth in the shoulder, according to Brown and Antal.

They said a fight broke out among several people and then another youth whom they had seen at Cody came in with what appeared to be a sawed-off shotgun.

"He took about five or six shots, then ran," Brown said.

Brown hit the ground, but Antal did not.

"I thought it was firecrackers," Antal explained. "I didn't even hit the ground. Then I looked, and everybody was on the ground crying. I got up, ran down the street, then noticed I got shot, ran back and told the officer there I got shot."

Brown, who had never been to that McDonald's before, said emphatically that he is not returning to Cody.

Antal was of a different frame of mind.

"It ain't gonna scare me," he said. "I guess I'll go back."

POLICE SAID Cody has had problems in recent days with non- students causing trouble. Cody Principal Henry Baum conferred with police whom, he said, were seeking leads on one suspect, a student suspended earlier in the week for fighting. Baum said he did not believe the fight started in the high school.

He said students are not permitted to go to McDonald's or any other place during school hours. But he said many students go to the restaurant while waiting for a bus to vocational school or on lunch break, and "there is very little that we can do about it."

The students treated at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital are:

* Jesse Manns III, 18, was shot in the left rib but didn't need surgery.

- * Mark Holland, 17, was shot in the stomach, underwent exploratory surgery and was in stable condition late Friday afternoon.
- * Roderick Smith, 15, was shot in both arms and underwent surgery and was in stable condition late Friday afternoon.
- * Reggie Bledsoe, 18, was shot in the leg and abdomen but didn't need surgery and was reported in stable condition late Friday afternoon.
- * Clifton Bell, 18, was wounded in the left hand and walked out of the hospital before he could be treated.

Three other victims, who suffered minor injuries, were treated and released at Oakwood Hospital.

They are:

- * Phil Barnes, 16, suffered a sprained hand and a small puncture wound on his left leg.
- * Brown suffered abrasions on his right cheek and right leg.
- * Antal suffered six small puncture wounds on his left leg.

FRIDAY'S INCIDENT was not the first time a lone gunman terrorized a McDonald's restaurant.

On July 18, 1984, 21 people were killed at McDonald's in San Ysidro, Calif., in the worst one-day massacre by a single gunman in U.S. history. McDonald's Corp. ordered the restaurant bulldozed and deeded the land to the City of San Diego, which supervises the border town, stipulating that the company name not be associated with future use and that the site never again be used for a restaurant.

Bob Keyser, McDonald's Corp.spokesman in Hinsdale, Ill., said he had no information or comment about Friday's shootings in Detroit.

Caption: Photo GEORGE WALDMAN, CRAIG PORTER

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