

FIGHT OVER A CHAIR ENDS IN SHOOTINGS

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Author: DARRYL FEARS and JOCELYNE ZABLIT , e Press Staff Writers , ORAH KAPLAN
Free Press Staff Writer

A gang-related **fight** that apparently started **over a chair** last week erupted into gunfire Monday outside Cooley High School **in** Detroit, leaving three students injured, police and students said.

Students interviewed Monday traced the **shootings** to **a fight** at Cooley on Friday when **a** member of **a** gang called the "Untouchables" entered the cafeteria and tried to take **a chair** from **a** student who belongs to the "Young Mafia" gang.

Witnesses who spoke on condition of anonymity said the **fight** continued at **a** school basketball game Friday night.

On Monday, students said, about 30 people -- many belonging to the Untouchables -- gained entrance to the school's cafeteria about 10:05 **a** .m., leading to **a fight** about 25 minutes later.

Students said members of the Untouchables are not Cooley students, but some of the Young Mafia members are. Police would not characterize the structure or nature of the gangs.

They said the morning **fight** led to the **shootings** several hours later.

Aaron Banks, 17, was shot **in** the head about 2 p.m. at Hubbell and Fenkell after **a fight** broke out **over** the earlier brawl inside the lunchroom, police and witnesses said. About 40 minutes later, Gabriel Green, 17, **a** Cooley student, was shot **in** the leg after **a** second **fight** broke out at Hubbell and Fenkell.

Both were listed **in** temporary serious condition at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital. Banks' brother Lamont, 18, also **a** Cooley student, suffered cuts and bruises **in** the **fight** , and was listed **in** good condition at Mt. Carmel.

No charges have been filed.

WITNESSES told police that during the Monday morning brawl **in** the lunchroom, one of the participants had **a** gun, and another brandished **a** toy submachine gun **in a** hallway.

"One of the guys . . . ran out to his car **in** the student parking lot and got **a** gun," said Noah Jimerson, 16. "They caught him **in** the school and they caught the other boy trying to run out **a** side door."

Police broke up the **fight** and detained nine youths and nine adults. Police and school officials said two of those detained were carrying concealed weapons. Several were later released.

As of late Monday, no charges had been filed.

Police said they planned to send officers from the gang squad to patrol the school today. Some students said they believed security was lax.

Eugene Robertson, owner of E & B Produce near Hubbell and Fenkell, said at least seven youths ran across his lot about 9:30 a.m.

"I saw about three guns then. I told them they couldn't come **in** , I wouldn't let them **in** ," Robertson said.

"These ain't no school kids," Robertson said. "These are the hardheads who don't go to school. It was the Seven Mile Gang, the Eight Mile Gang and the Fenkell Gang. I've been here seven years and I know them. One boy the police took away today came here with \$700 last week wanting to buy a 15 cent lollipop. I told him to go ahead and take it."

Students said the morning brawl led to the **shootings** outside the school several hours later.

At the site of the second **shooting** , a woman who lives at Hubbell and Midland said she heard what sounded like several cars backfiring outside her side window.

"I heard, like, two gunshots go off," she said. "I looked out and saw a boy on the ground. I saw him **in** pain begging. . . . There was blood on the snow. He was screaming, 'Somebody please help me.' "

A 10-year-old student at Coleman Young Elementary School said he was **in** class when he heard two blasts.

"I came out of school and saw all these people and police," the boy said. "They was putting him **in** the ambulance. One lady walked by me and said, 'All these young people getting shot.' "

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