

## PARENTS BLAME GANG CALLED FENKELL BOYS \ FOR ATTACKS ON STUDENTS AT REDFORD HIGH

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A small band of teenagers who call themselves the **Fenkell Boys** has been terrorizing students at Detroit's Redford High School and in the neighborhood around it, say the parents of three youths who were attacked and one who was shot in the school in January.

"I'm afraid to have my son walk to school," said Gerald Childress, whose son, Marcus, 15, was shot in the school gym Jan. 23. Childress brought his son home from Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital last week.

A 15-year-old charged in the shooting is a member of the **Fenkell Boys**, the parents said. Childress said he has applied to have his son transferred to another public school.

THREE OTHER students were beaten with pipes last week in the school hallway by six or seven youths, one of them the youth charged in the gym shooting, the parents said.

"They came up behind him, said, 'Fenkell down,' and pulled out the pipes," said Jacqueline Swain, whose son, Miles, 15, was one of those accosted. "I guess it means attack."

Swain, like the other parents, said their sons did not provoke the beatings.

The attacks come amid an effort by school, police and court officials to crack down on students who carry guns to schools.

Asked about the pipe beatings, Detroit Board of Education member George Vaughn, whose district includes Redford High School, said: "The school board and the staff cannot do like the ostrich and bury our heads and say these things are not happening."

A POLICE OFFICIAL, who spoke on condition that he not be identified by name, said that at least one group of "young thugs" that may occasionally use the name **Fenkell Boys** runs the streets just north of Fenkell and is believed to be involved in small-scale drug dealing and a variety of street-corner scuffles.

Swain, who, with other parents, has met with school officials about the violence, said she was told suspension notices have been written up for four youths allegedly involved in the pipe beatings.

Delores Penn, whose son Christopher, 14, was one of those beaten, said she also is trying to get her son transferred.

"A child can't learn if he has to look over his shoulder," she said.

Ernest Carter, 17, another youth who was beaten, was fired upon in December as he drove home from school, according to his mother. The assailant was the 15-year-old charged in the gym shooting, she said.

"They just want . . . a name for themselves," said Mrs. Carter, who would not give her first name. "But nobody is afraid of them, and I want them to know that. I'm not worried about sending Ernest back to school."

#### CUTLINE

Gerald Childress with his son, Marcus, 15, who was shot in the gym at Detroit's Redford High School on Jan. 23.

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