

YOUTH CALLS SHOT A MISTAKE BOY, 13, ADMITS KILLING SCIENTIST

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A **13-year-old** Detroit youth told police and his family Tuesday that he didn't mean **to** kill a 33-year-old Wayne State researcher he shot and left dead on a freeway service drive Sunday night.

The boy, whose name is being withheld because of his age, confessed **to** his grandfather and **to** police that he shot Young- Hee Kim during an attempted robbery at the urging of members of a gang of youths he met around the Jeffries Homes.

"He said he didn't shoot **to** kill her; he shot **to** scare her," said Sam Manning, the boy's 59-year-old grandfather. "He didn't mean **to** hurt her at all, so he told me."

If teachers had not struck public schools in the city, "he would've been at my house in bed and this wouldn't have happened," Manning said.

The **13-year-old** was charged with felony murder, first- degree murder, assault with intent **to** murder and possession of a firearm during a felony. Because of his age, he cannot be tried as an adult. The most time he could be held in a residential facility would be until his 21st birthday.

Detroit police said they were searching for a **14-year-old** boy who allegedly **gave** the handgun **to** the **13-year-old** and talked the younger boy into the robbery attempt. The **14-year- old** , reportedly a member of a Jeffries Homes youth gang, escaped by leaping from a second-story window as police entered a Jeffries building **to** arrest him at about 3 a.m. Tuesday, officials said.

Police **gave** this version of events:

The **14-year-old** and other members of his gang saw Kim walking home at about 9:45 p.m. Sunday along the Lodge Freeway service drive near Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Kim worked at Wayne State University's Institute for Chemical Toxicology on Second near Masonic Temple.

The **14-year-old** boy recruited Manning's grandson **to** go rob Kim, giving the younger boy a handgun.

The **13-year-old** "touched her on the shoulder and the girl hollered and ran toward a cab," Manning said.

A police report filed in Juvenile Court said the boy "said he was aiming for her leg but the **gun** jerked up as he pulled the trigger."

The youths apparently obtained nothing from Kim, police said.

The **13-year-old** boy's father, who asked that his name not be used, said his son had been moody and depressed for the last week, partly because he wasn't in school and partly because his mother was in prison, sentenced in June **to** two-10 years for being an accomplice in an armed robbery.

"He'd watch television, sleep all day. I never seen him smile or laugh, none of that," the boy's father said after a brief court hearing.

"I asked him what he was mad about and he said, 'nothing,' " the father said.

But the father said he knew the mother's imprisonment bothered his son, and he urged him **to** write a letter **to** her.

"I told him he was lucky he had a mom," he said.

The father said he had told his son **to** stay away from some young toughs he'd met around the projects. But "he just had too much idle time."

Manning said his grandson would have been at home in the McGraw-West Grand Blvd. area -- several miles from the slaying scene -- had school been in session. The boy had never been arrested and was doing "pretty fair" at Webber Middle School, where he would be in the 7th grade, his grandfather said.

The **13-year-old** has lived most of his life with his maternal grandparents. His 7-year-old brother and 1-year-old sister have been living with them since their mother was sentenced **to** prison, Manning said.

Meanwhile, members of Kim's family reportedly were on their way **to** Detroit from South Korea.

Kim joined the institute staff in July 1991, said director Raymond Novak.

She came **to** the United States about two years ago, and learned of the Wayne State program through professional society meetings in Dallas, Novak said. Single and with no kids, Kim had no known relatives in the United States.

"She worked in the lab . . . **to** monitor the effect of chemicals on genes and gene expression," Novak said. ". . . She had aspirations of going **to** graduate school."

Kim spent many hours at the institute. She apparently left the building after 8 p.m. Sunday and began the two-mile walk home **to** the Helen DeRoy Apartments.

She'd been warned about walks at night.

"I admonished her," Novak said. "I told her, 'If you stay late in the evening, take a taxi. I'll pick up the taxi fare.' "

Funeral arrangements are pending.

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