

FRIENDS SEEK LESSON IN TEEN'S DEATH

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Saturday, July 25, 1987

Author: MARGARET TRIMER Free Press Staff Writer

When he was alive, **TiJuan Kidd** brought laughter and friendship to many of his fellow University Liggett School students. His funeral Friday night brought the reality of violence and death home to many of them.

"It's so easy to just accept the killings in Detroit when you live in Grosse Pointe," said Michael Niccolini, 16, of Grosse Pointe. "Because **TiJuan** meant so much to us, his death really brings the issue of teen shootings close to us." Michael played basketball on the University Liggett team with **TiJuan** .

TiJuan , 15, of Detroit, was shot to death after helping chase away teenagers who were trying to crash a party in Detroit last Saturday.

About 700 friends, relatives and University Liggett faculty packed St. Cecelia's Catholic Church for his funeral mass. **TiJuan** , a gifted athlete, had gone to St. Cecelia's Elementary School and received a scholarship to the prestigious Grosse Pointe prep school.

The Rev. Thomas Finnigan of St. Cecelia's led the tearful gathering in a prayer for **TiJuan** and the City of Detroit.

"Teach us to take care of one another," Father Finnigan prayed. "Let us one day again be able to walk the streets of Detroit without fear."

Many in the gathering said **TiJuan** was not the first of their friends to be killed in Detroit.

Damon Watts, 14, of Detroit, said **TiJuan** is his fifth friend to have been killed in the city. "I'm just learning that you have to stay away from trouble no matter what you do," Watts said. "But I guess that's what **TiJuan** tried to do, too."

As the teenage pallbearers ushered the casket out of the church and friends and relatives embraced and consoled one another, neighbor Martele Harris, of Detroit, said to himself, "They just keep dropping off like flies for no good reason at all."

A scholarship fund for outstanding Detroiters has been established in **TiJuan Kidd** 's name. Donations may be made to Robert J. Lamont, Jr., Director of Development, University Liggett School, 1045 Cook Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich., 48236.

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Caption: Photo

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3A;

Index Terms: SHOOTING ; DEATH ; JUVENILE ; DETROIT

Record Number: 8702040836

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