

Car in shooting not linked to WL

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

The red Fiero involved in a school bus shooting Jan. 13 along 14 Mile, on the Farmington Hills-West Bloomfield border, has not been linked to anyone at Walled Lake Western High School, where the students aboard the bus attended.

"Three students sitting in the back of the bus who saw the gunman said he didn't look like a high school student. You'd think if he was from Walled Lake Western, one of the students aboard the bus would have seen him," said Farmington Hills detective Darnel Krause.

At 2:45 p.m. Jan. 13, 10-12 Walled Lake Western High School students were aboard a school bus turning left from 14 Mile onto Timbers Edge Boulevard in West Bloomfield when the driver of an eastbound car passing on the right fired two pellets or BBs into the emergency door windows. The shots broke the safety glass but didn't penetrate it. No one was hurt.

Despite denials from Walled Lake Consolidated Schools' administrators, police haven't ruled out the possibility that a cafeteria fight between non-Chaldeans and Chaldeans over a gold bracelet the day before provoked the shooting, Krause said.

Eight students representing different cultural groups were suspended after due process, said Carl Pacacha, Walled Lake schools assistant superintendent of secondary instruction.

PACACHA SAID the fight and

the shooting were not related. But Krause said, "We're not ruling out anything, including the fight. There are a lot of other possibilities, however."

One Walled Lake Western student told a television reporter it was "rumor" around the school that the fight and the shooting were related.

Police do not believe anyone aboard the school bus was involved in the fight, Farmington Hills Sgt. Charles Nebus said.

Police at first suspected one of the students involved in the fight and later suspended may have been involved in the shooting. "But he doesn't drive, he doesn't have a red Fiero and no one in his circle of friends has a red Fiero," Krause said.

One person suggested the shooting might have been a fraternity prank since school buses in Rochester Hills and Plymouth Township were also at the scene. "But I can't imagine a fraternity doing something destructive," Krause said.

THE THREE students sitting in the back of the bus first noticed the trailing Fiero near Haggerty, 214 administrators, police haven't ruled out the possibility that a cafeteria fight between non-Chaldeans and Chaldeans over a gold bracelet the day before provoked the shooting, Krause said.

The gunman, driving a 1988-88 red Fiero, was described as white, 18-23 with brown hair and a mustache. A female passenger was described as 17-19 with neck-length blond hair.

Call tips to the Farmington Hills police: 474-8181.

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington Hills police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● COCAINE SEIZED

A 21-year-old Redford Township man faces three felony charges after a baggie of crack cocaine and two handguns were found in his car in Farmington Hills Saturday.

Arraigned Saturday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, Monte Maurice LaClear stood mute to one count of delivery/manufacture of cocaine less than 50 grams and two counts of carrying a concealed weapon. Innocent pleas were entered in his behalf. Schaeffer set cash/surety bond at \$50,000 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court.

LaClear faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine if convicted of the drug charge. He faces up to five years in prison and a \$2,500 fine if convicted of either weapons charge.

Police arrested LaClear at 1:40 a.m. Saturday on East Mendonhill, in southwest Farmington Hills.

Police said they found a baggie of crack cocaine on his car seat. They found two handguns in the trunk: 380 automatic in the spare tire panel and a .357 Magnum in a suitcase, detective Patrick Monti said.

● MONEY STOLEN

A cashier at the Honeyard, 31008 Orchard Lake, was duped out of \$40 when she tried to accommodate a request from a patron.

As she was about to exchange two \$20 bills for eight rolls of wrapped coins supposedly containing dimes, the man dropped the rolls on the counter, grabbed the paper money from the cashier's hand and left with a companion.

The rolls actually contained pennies with dimes on each end. The

thief first approached the cashier by saying he wanted to place a carryout order. The two men were thought to be in their 20s, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● SELLING WITHOUT LICENSE

Two men — a 29-year-old from Southgate and a 19-year-old from Traverse City — were ticketed Monday for carrying on a trade without obtaining a license from the city.

According to a Farmington Hills police report: At 5:45 p.m., an officer saw three men standing next to a van in the parking lot at White Castle, 28000 Eight Mile. The van contained several cartons. "Acoustic Monitor" was printed in bold letters on the sides of the van, registered to a leasing company in Illinois.

The van's occupants were approaching motorists and offering to sell their stereo speakers at a negotiated price. In many instances, the men portrayed the speakers as stolen to give the impression that quality equipment could be bought cheaply.

The van was impounded and 12 speakers were confiscated.

● KNIFE SEIZED

A 22-year-old Oak Park man faces two felony counts after a steak knife was found in his possession Sunday, police said.

Arraigned Monday before visiting District Judge Carl Ingraham of Farmington, the man pleaded not guilty to carrying a dangerous weapon with unlawful intent and carrying a concealed weapon. Ingraham set cash/surety bond at \$20,000 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court.

The man was outside a house on Middlebelt near Liberty when arrested at 1:40 a.m. He faces up to

five years in prison and a \$3,500 fine if convicted of either count, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● GUNS SEIZED

A 27-year-old Detroit man faces two felony counts after two guns were found in his possession Sunday, police said.

Arraigned Monday before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington, the man pleaded not guilty to two felony counts of carrying a concealed weapon and to two misdemeanor counts (possessing marijuanas and driving with a suspended operator's license).

Schaeffer set cash/surety bond at \$10,000 pending a preliminary exam in 47th District Court.

The man was arrested during a traffic stop on Northwestern Highway at Middlebelt. A revolver was found in the trunk and a .44 Magnum was found in the glovebox. He faces up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine if convicted of CCW, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

● PURSE SNATCHED

A man thought to be in his 20s snatched a purse from the shoulder of a 35-year-old woman entering her building at Gateway Apartments at 6:40 p.m. Sunday.

The leather purse, valued at \$25, LaSalle Body Shop, 28829 Orchard

Farmington Hills police report.

● TICKETS ISSUED

Two 23-year-old men — one from Detroit, the other from Southfield — were ticketed for transporting open intoxicants in a motor vehicle after beer was found in their car during a traffic stop on Eight Mile and Grand River Jan. 22.

● THEFTS REPORTED

Computer equipment valued at \$4,100 was reported stolen from a suite at Tandem Computers, 21800 Haggerty, between Dec. 23 and Jan. 3.

Jewelry valued at \$3,675 was reported stolen from a house on Glenmoor Heights July 15-17.

Jewelry valued at \$1,970 was reported stolen from Hunters Ridge Apartments Jan. 15-21.

Sports and stereo equipment valued at \$1,300 were reported stolen from a storage area at Independence Green Apartments Jan. 15-21.

A 1986 Pontiac Grand Prix valued at \$8,000 was reported stolen from the parking lot at Botsford General Hospital, 28050 Grand River, Jan. 19-20.

Jewelry and cash valued at \$3,135 were reported stolen from a house on Colgate Jan. 19-20.

A 1985 Pontiac Trans Am valued at \$15,000 was reported stolen from LaSalle Body Shop, 28829 Orchard Lake, Jan. 20.

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