

Bail denied for 4 teens charged in connection with shootings

BY GREG HAMBRICK
THE GAMECOCK

The four teens charged in the shooting death of an assistant U.S. attorney near Five Points are being held without bail following hearings Monday morning where police clarified how the robbery occurred.

Abram Braveboy, 18; Cichey Mayo, 17; Bryan Murray, 17; and Willie Murphy Jr., 16, were expected to appear at the bail hearings, but waived their appearances.

Fifth Circuit Solicitor Barney Giese said, "They were involved in this crime wave in our city. They caused the death of a visitor to our city and the injury of another."

Giese used statements the teens made to police to illustrate to Judge Casey Manning what happened the night of the shooting.

Braveboy picked up the three others in his mother's gray Volvo about 9 p.m. Aug. 20, Giese said. The group planned to rob people in Five Points.

"Braveboy told Cichey, 'Let's go down and get paid,'" Giese said, reading from Braveboy's statement to police.

On that night, Giese said, Braveboy waited in the Volvo as Murphy and Mayo attempted to rob Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael C. Messer and his co-worker Rob S. Ferguson at the 800 block of Laurens Street. Both men were visiting the National Advocacy Center on the USC campus.

Instead of following directions to lie on the ground, Messer and Ferguson ran from the two men.

Mayo fired seven to eight rounds from a .25-caliber handgun, shooting Ferguson in the arm and Messer in the leg, Giese said.

Murphy fired the fatal shot from a .380-caliber handgun, Giese said.

The bullet went through one of Messer's lungs and his heart before lodging in the other lung. Ferguson ran several blocks to the National Advocacy Center, where he contacted police.

Messer fell just a few feet up the street from the incident and was pronounced dead at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital around 10:20 p.m.

Murphy, Mayo and Murray, who was acting as a lookout, ran back to the car. Witnesses reported seeing the vehicle heading up Gervais Street toward the campus with no lights on.

The four then went to Northeast Richland and committed three robberies there, police said.

Arrest and conviction records revealed in court show that Mayo received probation after he was

convicted of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature in 1999.

Murphy was sentenced to serve time at the state Department of Juvenile Justice in January 2000 after he was convicted of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, Assistant Solicitor Johnny Gasser said.

According to a Richland County sheriff's report, Bryan Murray was charged with breaking into a car in St. Andrews on Feb. 13, 2000.

He later pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of tampering with a vehicle and was placed on probation.

Braveboy has no previous convictions, Gasser said.

If convicted of murder in the state court, the four could face the death penalty, but Giese said it was too early in the case to make the decision.

West Quad

New residence hall in the works

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and is accredited by the U.S. Green Building Council through their newest program, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.

In order to be LEED certified, the strategy of USC's new building will have to be documented and approved. The building then will be rated on a points scale.

"To certain groups or owners, it's important to be environmentally friendly," said Gleeson. "This [system] gives them the credibility to say that, and it is verified. It's a better building; it uses less energy. It just takes more time and effort to do it."

Housing is also working with the Sustainable University Initiative, a \$5 million grant funded by a private foundation shared with Clemson and the Medical University of South Carolina.

USC has \$1.5 million to spend over a five-year period to "work together to become a 'greener' campus and to educate all of our students on their impact on earth," said Bruce Coull, dean of the School of Environment.

One of the things set up by this initiative is the Environmental Advisement Committee (EAC), made up of faculty and staff with the power to make recommenda-

tions to the president and board of trustees.

"Not all of our residence halls have been very energy efficient," said Coull, chairman of the EAC. "They haven't been environmentally friendly, so we are looking at building the next dorm with 'green' features."

Possible "green" features in the new residence hall include increased insulation, motion-sensored hall lights, low-flow toilets, energy-efficient washing machines and roof gardens to absorb more carbon dioxide gases.

The university's energy bill was about \$10 million last year, Coull said.

While the new "green" features would be more expensive, Coull is convinced that they would pay for themselves in the long run.

"The money is important to the people who pay the bill," said Coull. "But it's taking some responsibility for global issues. This is not just Columbia, S.C., but we're a part of this whole global earth."



Possible Quad locations

- 1 Between Blatt P.E. Center and South Quad
- 2 In front of Blossom Street Garage
- 3 Near parking lots at Bates House
- 4 By Greek village, behind rail road tracks
- 5 On Pickens Street, near old Benson Elementary School

Timeline for West Quad

NOVEMBER 2000: Financial modeling began, conceptual design presented to and approved by board of trustees building and grounds committee, \$500,000 budget granted to hire architects

MARCH 2001: Seven firms interviewed for project, committee selects Boudreaux company, which hires Little End Associates to help with building design

JUNE 2001: Southern Management Group hired as project management team

WEEK OF SEPT. 11: Student and faculty to meet with architects to discuss building design

DECEMBER 2001: Finished budget to be submitted to board of trustees for approval

SEPTEMBER 2002: Complete design work to be finished, contract documents (blueprints) available

OCTOBER 2002: Begin taking bids from contractors

NOVEMBER 2002: Hire a contractor

DECEMBER 2002: Break ground for new facility, 65 weeks of construction begin

JUNE 2004: Construction to be completed

AUGUST 2004: "West Quad" to open to students

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