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UPDATE|UMass student charged for allegedly stabbing Amherst student

Matt Rocheleau, Collegian Staff

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Updated: Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Courtesy Amherst Police Department

UMass sociology major Marcus Smith, 21, has been charged in the alleged stabbing of an Amherst College Student.

A University of Massachusetts student pleaded innocent to a charge of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (a knife) after being accused of stabbing an Amherst College student at an Amherst College dormitory Sunday morning.

Marcus Smith, 21, of 5 Codman Park, Apt. 3, Roxbury, Mass., a sociology major at UMass, was arraigned in Eastern Hampshire District Court in Belchertown on Monday and will be held without bail until his pre-trial hearing on March 12.

According to a probable cause statement by Amherst police Sgt. Brian Johnson, the victim, 20-year-old Issac Cameron "received six to seven stab wounds to his abdomen, back and neck areas."

Police initially responded to a report of a double stabbing at Crossett Dormitory on Sunday at around 1:10 a.m. and found Smith, also injured, in the building's basement bathroom.

"Smith stated that he had been involved in a fight with an unknown male and as a result of this fight had been stabbed in the hand," said Johnson's report. "Smith then showed me a wound to the back of his left thumb, which was a deep, clean laceration approximately three-fourth inches in length."

The report said Smith was wearing a purple T-shirt and a white undershirt which were "heavily stained with blood in several places," though police observed no additional wounds than the one on Smith's hand.

"I asked Smith if he knew who had stabbed him, and he stated he did not," wrote Johnson. "I asked him for a description of his assailant, and Smith stated he could not provide one, and that he never saw a knife."

According to Johnson, when searched by police, no weapons were found on Smith's person.

"Smith stated that he became involved in an argument with an unknown individual over a girl he was dancing with," the report said. "Smith stated he was punched in the nose by this person."

One witness, 18-year-old Cory Atkins, a freshman at Amherst College, was interviewed at the scene.

"Atkins stated that he witnessed a dark-skinned male wearing a purple and black shirt with a purple or black baseball hat involved in a physical altercation with his friend, Cameron," said Johnson's report. "Atkins did not see a knife used…[he] positively identified Smith as the individual he had witnessed fighting with Cameron."

Cameron was transported by the Amherst Fire Department to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass., where he was in fair condition, said police.

Smith was brought to Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton where he was treated for his hand injury and released into police custody afterwards, officials said.

Prior to his arraignment, Smith was held at the Hampshire County House of Correction in lieu of $25,000 cash bail.

Johnson's report said the bail was $50,000.

Court documents provided a statement on why Smith is now being held without bail.

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“Given the serious nature of the offense and the injuries sustained during this knife attack, no condition of bail would assure the safety of the victim or the community,” said the document.

The maximum penalty for Smith’s charge is 10 years in prison.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at mrochele@dailycollegian.com.

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gang task force — Tue Feb 10 2009 21:06
757...nice... Great to know we have looser gang bangers on campus. To have the nerve when peoplecall ou and Marcus out for the criminals you are....loosers!

alex — Tue Feb 10 2009 20:57
Mon and Wed : March for Marcus
Tues and Thur : Justice for Jason

aaa — Tue Feb 10 2009 20:40
To preface my comments, I was at the party at the time of the stabbing though I did not directly witness the stabbing. From what witnesses have told me, the Amherst student was stabbed while attempting to break up a fight between Smith and another student. From what I know of the case, self-defense is going to be extremely difficult for Smith. Frankly, the fact that he snuck a weapon (he hid the knife from security that was frisking students at the door) into a party at a school with a decidedly non-violent

An Alum — Tue Feb 10 2009 18:27
As a former UMass student I am not sure what bothers me more the two very publicized violent crimes recently or the posts on this article. First, Amherst is one of the safest towns in Mass. It has a crime index of 38 opposed to 76 for the state and 100 for the avearge place in the country. That being said there is NO reason to be carrying a knife. And you cannot claim self defense with a deadly weapon (which a knife that could cause death is) if the person you are defending yourself against did not use deadly force. I will not even discuss how absurd the racial comments or how a person looks is, you are suppose to eduacated not ignorant. Now, I know what 757 stands for and it just further illustrates ignorance. And to say a person who was stabbed several times in the chest and back is not seriously hurt is just plain stupid. I agree that people should wait to pass judgment on this as in any case, but that goes to all sides. A person could have been killed, lives could be, and probably will be, destroyed. It is about time people on campus start to grow up and act like adults.

Billy — Tue Feb 10 2009 15:30
Pu cuz in jail for 25!

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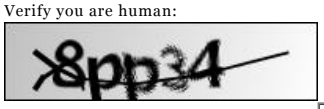

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