

Jury/Jury deadlocks along racial lines on murder charge

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minutes later Thursday night. "People are losing it."

About 90 minutes before deliberations were terminated Friday morning, the 10 white jurors sent out a note complaining about the tactics of the two black jurors, saying, "This has come down to a personal vendetta that is beyond most of us ... We currently have two people isolating themselves in the bathroom."

"They were racist," a black woman told a reporter of the white members of the jury. "We were ostracized from the start."

"They never introduced themselves. They didn't want to hear from us. I didn't have a right to my opinion."

The foreman disagreed.

"It wasn't racism," he said after hearing the woman's charges. "She was obstinate and really didn't want to discuss or deliberate."

"She interpreted deliberations as personal attacks, and since they were coming from a white person, she felt it was racist."

After McMahon declared a mistrial on the murder charge and dismissed the jurors, the 10 white jurors paid a visit to the prosecutor's office in the homicide unit of the district attorney's office.

"He did a good job and we wanted him to know that, even if we weren't able to reach a verdict on the murder charge," the foreman explained later to a reporter.

Hollins, of the 5100 block of N. Lovers Lane Road, was

charged with the robbery counts and the murder charge for being the getaway driver for a band of three robbers in five holdups.

Four of the holdups occurred between 9 and 10:30 p.m. on Nov. 26. They included the robberies of:

- Open Pantry, 3332 W. Lincoln Ave.

- Kwik Pantry Food Mart, 7919 N. 60th St.

Black woman juror:

"They were racist. We were

ostracized from the start."

White male jury foreman:

"She interpreted deliberations as

personal attacks and since they

were coming from a white person,

she felt it was racist."

- George Webb restaurant, 9207 W. Capitol Drive.

- Open Pantry, 2719 N. Blaine Place, near Center and 63rd streets.

Hollins was charged with two counts of being a party to armed robbery and one count of attempted armed robbery for all of the holdups except the robbery on 60th St. He was charged with felony murder for that holdup because a store clerk on his first night of work, Rajinder Singh, was fatally wounded in the incident.

Hollins was charged with

armed robbery for being the getaway driver in the Jan. 11 robbery of a Wauwatosa credit union. He and the other suspects were arrested after that holdup.

The man who allegedly fired the shots that killed Singh was Hollins' brother, Darkos Hollins, 18, who lived with his brother.

Darkos Hollins, Sandronnia M. Gillespie, 18, of the 4900 block of N. 50th St., and Jumar K. Jones, 17, of the 6700 block of N. 55th St., are awaiting trial on several felony counts each.

In his closing argument Thursday, Assistant District Attorney William Molitor likened the robbers to a wolf pack that split up its plunder, and he called Wayne Hollins Jr., an equal member of the pack even though he did not wield a gun.

"Under the law, he's equally responsible for the acts of others," Molitor told the jury.

Defense attorney Ann Bowe disagreed.

"Is driving the car the crime?" Bowe remarked during her closing argument. "No, that's not the crime."

"The crime is the commission of the robberies."

When the jury began its deliberations, it reached guilty verdicts on the three robbery and one attempted robbery counts fairly quickly. It was also determined fairly quickly that the black and white jurors were severely split concerning the murder count, even though the black jurors conceded that Hollins was the getaway driver for the fatal holdup — just as he had been in the others.

"We knew 45 minutes into deliberations that it was going to be hung," a white male juror from Milwaukee told a reporter Friday. "The one woman said she wasn't going to convict a 21-year-old black man of murder when he didn't pull the trigger."

A white River Hills woman on the jury said that the other black woman opposed a guilty verdict on the homicide count because "she said the law was written for white men."

"Due to personal experiences in their lives they could not find him guilty," said the foreman, a Wauwatosa resident. "They were not truthful (during the jury selection process) when they were asked if they could put their personal feelings aside."

"They said they could, but they didn't."

The Milwaukee man agreed.

"We asked the one woman about that and she said, 'I didn't hear that. I must have been

sleeping,'" he said.

When asked about the remark, the woman said it was untrue.

"I couldn't find him guilty because he didn't have a gun," she said. "They didn't want to listen to me."

"That's why I sent out a note asking the judge to be left off the jury."

Shortly before deliberations were ended, the other black woman apologized in a note to McMahon.

"Based on my personal feelings I'm not able to be totally objective," she wrote. "I apologize for any inconvenience that I may have caused the court as well as the deliberation process."

Hollins is to be sentenced May 22 on the robbery and attempted robbery counts. A decision will be made May 17 whether he will be retried on the felony murder count.

9 slain as they prepare for wedding

Associated Press

Vernon, British Columbia — An estranged husband opened fire as his wife's family prepared for a wedding Friday, killing her and eight others before fleeing to a hotel and killing himself, police said.

The victims included the bride, who was to have been married today. Police say the gunman left a suicide note apologizing for the rampage, the second-deadliest in Canada's history.

The groom learned of the massacre en route to the wedding.

The gunman was the husband of the bride's sister, police said. He shot most of the victims inside the home with a handgun, although one man was killed as he washed a car on the front driveway.

"I heard shots, a lady screaming, and then pop! pop!" neighbor Jeremy Pelletier said.

Two more people were wounded, an older woman and a 6-year-old girl. Both were in stable condition after surgery.