

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

Contact: Laurie Cramer
(330) 643-2800

Man found guilty of multiple robberies and assaults of University of Akron students; also found guilty of raping a student

(January 20, 2010 Akron) ... Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today Davarius Allen, 20, of Akron, was found guilty today by a jury for a series of violent crimes involving University of Akron students.

Allen will be sentenced on January 25, by Judge Patricia Cosgrove, at 9:00 a.m. Specifically, Allen was found guilty on eight counts of **Aggravated Robbery** (F1) with gun specifications, three counts of **Aggravated Burglary** (F1) with gun specifications, two counts of **Rape** (F1) with gun specifications, **Felonious Assault** (F1) with a gun specification, and **Receiving Stolen Property** (F5). Allen faces a sentence that could keep him in prison for the rest of his life.

On May 13, 2009, on Sherman Street in Akron, four chemical engineering students were celebrating their grades at the end of the school year. Around 12:20 a.m. an armed black male held them at gun point and took their wallets. He also took one of the student's car keys and stole his new VW car. The car was later discovered one block away from where the crime occurred. Allen used the credit cards at a BP Station, Taco Bell and Rally's.

May 28, 2009, on Allyn Street in Akron, at approximately 5:30 a.m., Allen armed with a gun entered an upstairs apartment and raped a female college student. He also stole her flat screen TV, PS2 player, Xbox with three Xbox games, and her IPOD. After Allen left, she woke her friend but they were unable to call the police because Allen took their cell phones. Within 10 minutes of the crime, the defendant returned to the apartment and knocked on the door. The victim and her friend ran into her bedroom and placed a mattress against the bedroom door in case Allen decided to shoot his gun. The victim got on line and used Facebook to tell a friend to call the police, which she did. The Akron Police responded to the call, but Allen was not caught.

On June 3, 2009, Akron police executed a search warrant for Allen's Sumner Street home. They obtained the search warrant after watching the tape of the Circle K robbery video and noticing the same car observed at the Allyn Street Rape, a silver Chevrolet Cavalier with a damaged right front fender. Police ran the plates and the car belonged to Allen's mother.

As officers were observing Allen's house, Allen and a co-defendant, Thomas Knight, entered the silver Cavalier and headed toward Annadale Street. The police followed. The two parked at an Annadale parking lot and exited the car. The police lost them for a few moments when they saw Allen and Knight running back to the car

carrying various items. Allen and Knight took off in the car and the police chased them. The two eventually pulled the car over, still on Annadale, and the two got out of the car. Knight was tased about 100 feet from the car. Allen jumped a barbed wire fence in the Akron Auto and Truck Tires and continued to run; in the process, he dropped bloody money and black gloves. Allen then jumped a 17 foot razor wired fence and was eventually arrested under a porch at a house on Nash Street.

It was determined that the two had just robbed three college students at an apartment on Buchtel Street at gun point. They stole their lap top computers, PSP, 40 inch flat screen TV and various other items.

Stolen items from the various robberies were eventually recovered at the Sumner Street home, and from the Chevy Cavalier. In addition, the rape victim's DNA was found on the barrel of the gun.

Knight, 22, of Akron, is scheduled for trial on March 23, 2010, in Judge Cosgrove's court, on charges of Aggravated Robbery, Aggravated Burglary, and Felonious Assault.