

OFFICE OF THE
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* * * MEDIA RELEASE * * *

December 16, 2008

The Isabella County Prosecutor's Office announced today that an 18 year old Central Michigan University student has been charged with aggravated assault, relative to the fight which occurred at the Delta Chi fraternity house in the 1000 block of Main Street, north of campus, on October 12, 2008. Marcell Dubose was arrested on the charge on Saturday, December 13, and was released on bond, pending formal arraignment. The charge relates to the assault upon the most seriously injured person that night. The penalty for aggravated assault is incarceration up to one year, and a fine of up to \$1,000.

Police were called to the fraternity house last October, where they observed a large group of individuals on the porch fighting. Some individuals required medical attention after police were able to disperse the crowd. Police interviewed more than four dozen witnesses, and re-interviewed several, in an attempt to determine what happened, and the identities of any assailants. As is often the case with incidents of this nature, there were many conflicting statements. The 110 page investigation attempted to resolve the discrepancies.

The investigation indicates that a member of the Central Michigan University football team, attempted to enter the Delta Chi fraternity house. The player indicates that he was called by his girlfriend to pick her up there as she wanted to leave. Statements from fraternity members indicate that the football player was obnoxious, forcibly attempting to enter the house, and assaultive. The investigation further indicates that several fraternity members physically escorted the player from the premises. The player reports that he was assaulted at that time, a claim disputed by members of the fraternity.

After the football player left, information was conveyed to other team members about what had happened, including an allegation that a “bat” was used against the player. Approximately a dozen CMU football players then gathered south of the fraternity house, and proceeded to approach the house, entering the porch area. At that point, the fighting began, and police arrived shortly thereafter.

Upon review of the investigation, Prosecuting Attorney Larry Burdick stated:

“We have repeatedly seen this type of conduct get so out of control that individuals have been seriously hurt or even killed. Alcohol, bravado and stupidity are a dangerous combination. In this case, several individuals failed to act appropriately, and we are fortunate that the injuries sustained were not more severe. Although the incident will continue to be examined for purposes of prosecution, at this time, the single individual charged, is the only person we have sufficient evidence on to prosecute for committing an assault.

While I believe that some members of the fraternity house did not act appropriately relative to the initial conflict with the football player, I am also disappointed in the response of several members of the football team, particularly in light of the tragedy of the Demarcus Graham death several years ago.”

Larry J. Burdick

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'LJB' followed by a stylized flourish.