

Principal, girl found in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) - A former Baptist school principal accused of running off with an 11-year-old Indiana girl was captured Tuesday in Las Vegas after the two were spotted by a police officer.

William A. Beith, 28, was arrested on federal charges of coercing and enticing a minor into sexual acts and transporting a minor across state lines for sexual purposes.

A Las Vegas officer stopped Beith and the girl in a vehicle with Indiana plates



GABRIEL MARSHALL

on a highway near the Las Vegas Strip.

The sixth-grader from

Gary, Ind., had been reported missing May 1 after an argument with her parents at a discount store. An employee told police she was crying and seen running in the parking lot. Her parents believe she might have telephoned Beith, former principal of her school, Liberty Baptist Academy in Lake Station, Ind.

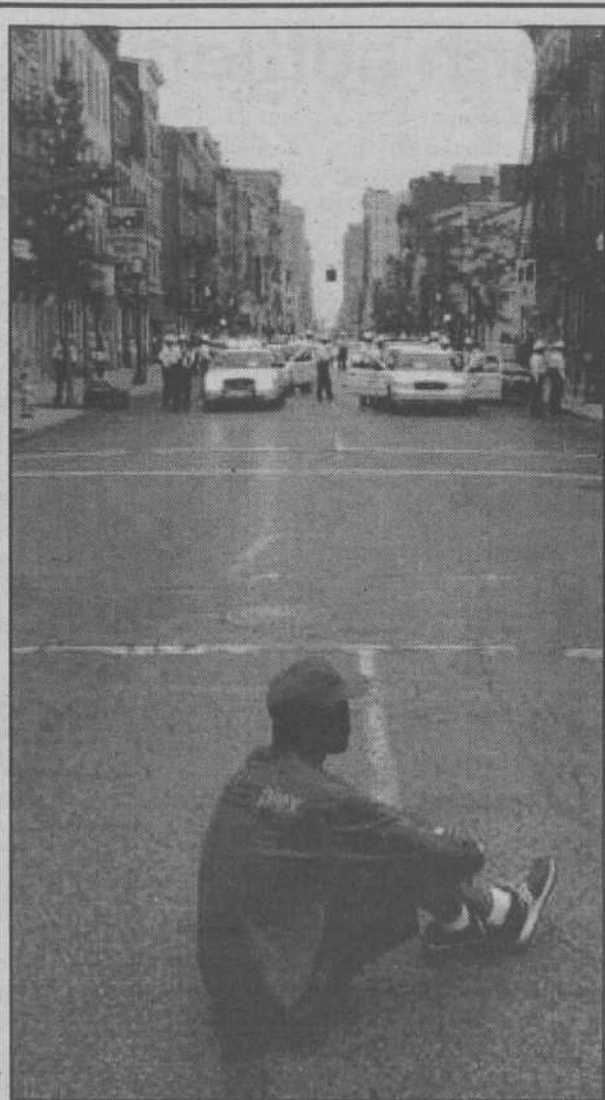
"Yesterday we received information that they might be headed this way," said Grant Ashley, FBI agent in charge of the Las Vegas office.

Ashley said the officer recognized the pair from descriptions that had been circulated, adding that Beith cooperated when he was stopped.

The FBI and police did not say what the two were doing in Las Vegas.

Beith was held for arraignment Tuesday or Wednesday, and the girl was taken to a hospital.

"She is currently undergoing physical testing," Sheriff Jerry Keller said. He said (See *Principal*, Page 8)



A demonstrator sits in the middle of Main St. while police organize in the Over-the-Rhine district of Cincinnati, Monday, after a grand jury returned a two count indictment against a police officer in the shooting death of an unarmed black teenager. If convicted of both charges, Officer Stephen Roach would face no more than nine months in jail. Prosecutors pleaded for calm in the tense city. (AP Photo/Tom Uhlman)

Indictment

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the police, job prospects for blacks, and the city allowing litter to accumulate in their neighborhoods.

The black activists, accompanied by several black clergymen, said they want the city to impose tighter controls on officers. Several called for harsher penalties for Officer Stephen Roach, who was indicted on two misdemeanor charges in the April 7 fatal shooting of Timothy Thomas, an unarmed black man.

The shooting prompted three nights of rioting before a curfew helped restore order. It was the worst racial violence since the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

Earlier Tuesday, the group had gathered on Fountain Square in the heart of the city's business district. They then went across the street to a restaurant and chanted "No justice, no peace" while startled workers ate lunch.

"Stephen Roach, you can't hide, we charge you with genocide," marchers chanted as they walked through city streets, with watchful police holding back traffic to let the protesters pass.

Police had been prepared to work 12-hour shifts after announcement of the indictments. But many officers were sent home early Tuesday evening after protesters dispersed, and the city remained peaceful.

Roach, 27, surrendered to authorities Tuesday on the charges of negligent homicide and obstructing official business. He was released after posting \$2,000 bond.

His lawyer plans to enter written pleas of innocent Wednesday in Hamilton County Municipal Court during an arraignment at which Roach is not required to appear.

Police officials said after Monday's indictment that Roach will return to desk duty. He has an appointment to be evaluated Friday by a police counselor before he returns to work, his lawyer Merlyn Shiverdecker said.

Roach did not respond to requests for an interview. His lawyer declined to respond to the protesters' criticisms of Roach.

Mumia Abu-Jamal launches new appeal

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - New lawyers for former journalist and Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal have released the first detailed accounts from the death-row inmate of the events surrounding the 1981 killing of a police officer.

The attorneys disclosed Abu-Jamal's description of the shooting Friday as they launched their defense in his appeal.

While Abu-Jamal's jailhouse writings about the justice system have brought his cause widespread attention, he has said little about the death of Officer Daniel Faulkner.

"I did not shoot Police Officer Daniel Faulkner. I had nothing to do with the killing of Officer Faulkner. I am innocent," Abu-Jamal said in a statement taken Thursday at a state prison in Greene County.

"I did not shoot police officer Daniel Faulkner. I had nothing to do with the killing of officer Faulkner. I am innocent."

— Mumia Abu-Jamal

Abu-Jamal said he did not testify at his 1982 trial because his rights were denied throughout the proceeding. Abu-Jamal said his former attorney had told him not to testify during the appeals process.

"Now for the first time, I have been given an opportunity to tell what happened to me in the early morning hours of December 9, 1981," Abu-Jamal said.

His statement was released by Abu-Jamal's new legal team, which took over the case last month. A judge has stayed Abu-Jamal's ex-

ecution as his appeal continues.

Faulkner, 25, was found shot at close range in the face, and Abu-Jamal was lying nearby, wounded by a bullet from Faulkner's gun.

Abu-Jamal's gun, with five spent shells, was also found.

Abu-Jamal's attorneys also released a 1999 affidavit Friday from a man who said that he and another person shot Faulkner after they were hired to kill him.

"The affidavit ... is so clearly ridiculous that it should be obvious to any fair-

minded person that it is a complete fabrication," said Cathie Abookire, spokeswoman for Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne M. Abraham.

A former radio reporter, Abu-Jamal has maintained that he was framed by police and that his defense was undermined by an incompetent trial attorney.

U.S. District Judge William H. Yohn Jr. granted Abu-Jamal's request in March for new counsel.

Yohn has stayed Abu-Jamal's execution while he decides whether to conduct new evidentiary hearings or decide the appeal based on the voluminous records of Abu-Jamal's trial and appeals in the state courts.

At issue is whether Abu-Jamal's constitutional rights were violated during his 1982 trial and at a 1995 state post-conviction appeal.

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