

# NATIONAL

## Mother of Civil Rights Movement Assaulted in Her Home

DETROIT (AP) — Revered civil rights figure Rosa Parks spent the night under protection by Detroit police after she was robbed of \$53 and assaulted in her home. Her assailant remained at large.

Parks, 81, was attacked about 8 p.m. Tuesday. She was treated for bruises to her face and chest at Detroit Receiving Hospital and was released about 11:40 p.m., hospital spokesman Dennis Archambault said.

Parks was not available for comment.

Police Chief Isaiah McKinnon said police would provide security for Parks for an indefinite period.

Parks is known as the "mother of the civil rights movement" for her defiance on a Montgomery, Ala., bus in 1955 when she refused to give up her seat to a white man. Her arrest triggered a 381-day boycott of city buses — led by a local minister, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — and sparked the modern civil rights movement.

The assailant probably did not know who Parks was, McKinnon said.

Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer telephoned Parks from Martha's Vineyard, Mass., where he played golf earlier Tuesday with President Clinton.

"I personally and deeply resent any of our citizens being assaulted and becoming victims of crime," Archer said in a statement released by his press secretary, Cliff Russell.

"It is more insulting when



Rosa Parks

Rosa Parks, who sat down to give us an equal opportunity to compete, becomes a victim of crime in her own home," Archer said.

"In 1994, she should feel safe in, of all places, the African-American community," Adisa Faluke, a neighbor, told WDIV-TV. "It's very unfortunate."

McKinnon said Parks maintained her dignity during the ordeal and gave police a good description of her attacker. She described him as a black male, about 30 years old, 5-foot-7 and weighing about 140 pounds. He wore dark clothing and a dark baseball cap.

Parks was upstairs in her home on Detroit's west side when she heard a noise and went downstairs to investigate, McKinnon said. She found the man standing there and her back door knocked out of its frame.

Parks said there was a strong odor of alcohol. The man initially said he hadn't broken down the door

and he was there to protect her, McKinnon said.

Parks told police the man demanded money, and she gave him \$3. He demanded more, then struck her in the face when she said that was all she had. Parks said she gave the man another \$50, and he fled after ransacking a few drawers.

Parks called her neighbor and personal secretary, who then called police.

Neighbors complained that it took police about 45 minutes to respond to the emergency call.

McKinnon said his initial investigation indicated police received four or five calls involving life-and-death situations about the same time, which caused a backlog.

Parks was 42 when she committed an act of defiance that was to change the course of American history. At that time, Jim Crow laws enacted after the post-Civil War Reconstruction required separation of the races in buses, restaurants and public accommodations throughout the South.

The Montgomery, Ala., seamstress, an active member of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was riding on a city bus Dec. 1, 1955, when a white man demanded her seat.

Parks refused, despite rules requiring blacks to yield their seats to whites, and was jailed.

Blacks responded with a 381-day boycott of the bus system, which resulted in the desegregation of the buses. Historians have cited the boycott as the birth of the modern civil rights movement.

ern civil rights movement.

After taking her public stand for civil rights, Parks found it difficult to find work in Alabama, and she moved to Detroit in 1957. She worked as an aide in the Detroit office of Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich., from 1965 until retiring in 1988. Her husband Raymond died in 1977.

Conyers was among those who visited Parks in the hospital Tuesday.

Parks became a revered figure in Detroit, where a street and middle school were named for her and a papier-mache likeness of her made its debut in the city's 1988 Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Parks said upon retiring from

her job with Conyers that she would devote more time to the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self Development. The institute, incorporated in 1987, is devoted to developing leadership among Detroit youth and initiating them into the struggle for civil rights.

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## Elders Son Sentenced to 10 Years

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A judge sentenced a son of U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders on Monday to 10 years in prison for selling one-eighth of an ounce of cocaine to an undercover policeman.

As Kevin Elders was led off to jail, the surgeon general fought back tears, while his father, Oliver, slammed his hands into a steel door in frustration.

Kevin Elders, 28, had claimed entrapment, saying the informant who set up the July 29, 1993, deal had threatened to expose his drug habit and embarrass his mother at her confirmation hearing.

The sale of the \$275 worth of cocaine was Elders' first offense, but Circuit Judge John Plegge said the law required him to impose the minimum 10-year sentence. He could have been sentenced to life.

Elders' attorney, P.A. "Les" Hollingsworth, said he would appeal.

The judge set bond at \$10,000. The prosecutor said it would be at least Tuesday before

Elders was released.

Kevin Elders has acknowledged having a decade-long drug problem, including a three-year cocaine addiction.

At his trial, Elders said his parents were aware of his drug problems, but that they never discussed it. "They really didn't know how bad it really is," he said.

In a recent letter to Plegge, Mrs. Elders asked for leniency for her son and to "give our son and our family a second chance," the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported Monday.

Mrs. Elders said when her son needed her most she was too busy with politics. "As I sat there watching my son, I thought of how much and how long he had suffered because at the time of his greatest need, we had not been able to communicate as a family," she wrote. "I was totally immersed in trying to get through a very difficult Senate confirmation hearing in Washington, D.C."

Mrs. Elders was nominated for surgeon general on July 1, 1993,

six months after President Clinton first announced his intention to pick her. She won Senate confirmation Sept. 7, 1993.

Elders was arrested Dec. 19, 1993, five months after the drug sale, on a warrant issued a week after his mother suggested at a National Press Club luncheon that the government study legalization of drugs as a possible means of reducing the nation's crime rate.

Mrs. Elders said her son has undergone drug rehabilitation and has successfully managed rental property that belongs to the family.

After the sentencing, Elders, his lawyer and his parents were taken to the lockup, where they talked for a few minutes. Elders hugged his mother and was taken away.

As the door closed, leaving the parents in the hallway, Mrs. Elders choked back tears and her husband luffed at the steel door.

"They never even gave him a shot!" Oliver Elders said repeatedly.

## Hearing Held in Murder

LUMBERTON, N.C. (AP) — A judge refused to bar the public and news organizations from attending hearings leading up to a trial for two Robeson County teenagers charged with killing Michael Jordan's father.

Superior Court Judge Gregory Weeks ruled today that attorneys for Larry Martin Demery, 19, of Rowland, and Daniel Andre Green, 19, of Lumberton, had not offered specific arguments for why pretrial hearings should be closed.

Defense attorney Hugh Rogers argued that information that might be disclosed at the pretrial hearings could prejudice potential jury members against his client, Larry Demery. But Rogers said he couldn't be specific. He also said Demery wanted a public trial.

Attorneys for the state newspaper and broadcasters associations argued that the state and federal constitutions required open hearings as well as trials.

Weeks was expected to hear statements today on a host of petitions to be determined before Demery and Green can be tried.

Demery and Green were charged Aug. 15, 1993, with first-degree murder, armed robbery and conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

The charges were brought after investigators linked the two to the July 23, 1993 death of James Jordan. The father of the former NBA superstar was found in a South Carolina swamp, but not identified until 10 days later.

Demery and Green have been held in the Robeson County Jail since their arrest. Today's hearing was the first time they've been in public since a hearing last Oct. 5. They haven't entered pleas, but have denied guilt during various interviews.

Among the scores of unheard motions filed by defense attorneys is one to close pretrial hearings to the public and news media.

Robeson County prosecutors also are expected to disclose evidence to show why the suspects should face the death penalty. And Judge Gregory Weeks is expected to consider whether to join the cases for trial.



James Jordan

Defense attorneys also have filed motions seeking independent firearms analysis, the elder Jordan's financial records and an expert to examine dental X-rays used to identify Jordan.

A motion filed in July by one team of defense lawyers said James Jordan, 57, may have faked his death to avoid financial obligations.

Law enforcement officials and attorneys were ordered in October to stop discussing evidence and statements of witnesses that have been collected in the case.

No trial date has been set in the case. Weeks has set aside three days for the hearings.

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