



JIM WALKER/METROWEST/POOL

Three men charged in a deadly shooting Thursday covered their faces in court yesterday: Shaquan Jacobs (above, left), Daniel Louis, and at right, Wallace Duarte.

Anguish, shock follow Waltham attack

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car during the incident. He was charged yesterday with being an accessory after the fact to murder.

Details of the incident sent shock waves through the student population at Newton North High School. Yesterday, some of those students expressed disbelief that Peirce and Jacobs, a 2010 graduate of the school, are connected with a homicide.

"I knew Ben, but Shaquan was like a brother to me," said Dylon King, a senior. "I was so shocked. [Jacobs] didn't seem like a person who would have done this. . . . This is the kind of thing you think of maybe in Boston, but not Newton."

Sophomore Stephen Pereira said: "I was a friend of Ben's, and I was shocked when I heard about it. I couldn't believe it. Everyone was talking about this over the weekend. People don't believe he could have done something like this. There's a lot of drug use in the school, but this is the first time I've heard of anything like this."

The details of the alleged botched robbery and homicide also caused an emotional outburst outside the courtroom after the arraignment. Upon hearing that Louis and Jacobs would be held without bail, one woman stormed out of the courtroom, slamming the doors and then screamed in the hallway. Several women who had been sitting next to her began sobbing as they left the courtroom moments later. One of those women returned to the courtroom, stopped in front of a contingent of the victim's friends and family members, and tearfully repeated: "I apologize to you. I am so sorry."

A woman who said she is Duarte's girlfriend — Barbara Miranda, 20, of Waltham — also shed tears during the arraignment. Prior to it, she spoke outside the courtroom, saying her boyfriend simply drove the three men to Lexington Street thinking that they would simply buy drugs and leave. The car they drove in, a Volkswagen Passat, is her car, Miranda said.

"Wallace was only doing a

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STEPHEN PEREIRA
Newton North student

favor for a friend," she said. "He gives Ben a ride all the time. He didn't know what happened until the next morning, when police came to our apartment and asked us to come in with them so they could ask us questions."

According to a police report, the four men went to Lexington Street with a plan to rob Coveney of Percocet tablets. Part of that plan involved the gun, the report said, but the understanding among the suspects was that the weapon would only be shown to Coveney to scare him.

The report stated that Jacobs received a text message from Peirce to meet on Sept. 30 to

work out the plan. "He [Jacobs] stated that all five of them knew that 'D' [identified as Daniel Louis] would bring a gun and they agreed to have Peirce meet the victim for the deal while he and 'D' waited [behind some trees] until a code word was said," the report said.

Louis allegedly held the gun by his side and upon hearing the agreed-upon word uttered by Peirce, he and Jacobs rushed toward Coveney, who began to resist. The three men hit him repeatedly.

Coveney told his attackers that the pills fell out of his pocket and for them to pick them up and take them. The suspects began searching for the pills, but were unable to find them. Moments later, Jacobs began to run from the scene. As he ran, according to the police report, Jacobs heard a gunshot.

The three men got into the car, once again joining Duarte, the driver, and an unidentified woman who had also remained in the car. As they drove off, the men allegedly discussed what had just happened. Louis,

according to the report, said he believed he had shot Coveney in the buttocks.

The report states, "They all talked about what had happened and about what would happen if the victim died."

Stanley Norkunas, a lawyer who represents Louis, said his client attended English High School but did not graduate and is working on his GED. Louis is one of nine siblings. As a student at English High, he was a drug-free advocate and spoke out against violence. Norkunas said that Louis "may not be the individual that inflicted injury on that person" and that "this may end up being an involuntary manslaughter case."

The lawyer for Jacobs, Daniel Beck, said, "Mr. Jacobs by far is the least culpable of defendants charged with murder." He said that based upon the police report that stated that Jacobs left Coveney prior to the shooting, "there is a clear issue of withdrawal on his part," Beck said.

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