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The View

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Nightmare at Columbia *Gunman fires 10 shots from rooftop of*

By Austen Smith
Editor

A Belleville man who fired 10 rounds from a gun off the rooftop of Columbia Court Senior Housing Building was arraigned Saturday and faces charges for felony weapon possession and careless use of a firearm.

James Jackson was living with his father in a fourth-story apartment at Columbia Court. Police say it was Jackson, who goes by the alias "Shamus Jackson," who was responsible for a series of random gunshots which were reported during the week prior to Thursday's incident.

Sgt. Bob Dawson from Belleville police, said the suspect confessed to the firing not long after he was taken into custody. When asked why Jackson, a former Marine, had climbed to the roof and fired on

Dawson said he had no idea why.

"I don't think he even knows why," Dawson said. "What I can say is that I am positive that he had no intention of harming anybody."

The incident sent the West Columbia area of the city into a frenzy after the first shots were reported around 6:20 a.m. last Thursday. Columbia Court stands less than two blocks away from the high school in a densely packed residential area near the Tuscan Manor apartment buildings and St. Anthony's Church. Belleville police were joined by Van Buren Township Special Weapons and Tactics, Canton, Wayne County Sheriff's Dept., and state police.

Paul Henning, communications director for Van Buren Public Schools, said the incident happened before high school students arrived on campus and at



A number of neighboring police forces responded to last Thursday's incident in which an armed man climbed to the rooftop of West Columbia Court.