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## Four men charged in Crosby Str. Assault

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# The Maine Campus

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## Four men charged in Crosby St. assault

By Michael Reagan  
Staff Writer

The District Attorney's office has charged four men with assault and criminal mischief because of their alleged involvement in a fight last weekend which left two black men injured.

Steve G. Poulin, 21, and Christopher D. London, 21, of East Hartford, Connecticut, Michael R. Smith, 21, of Houlton, and Robert Y. Aldrich, 22, of Veazie were charged with the assault of Quester Hannah and Aaron Phillips, both 21, and the criminal mischief which caused extensive damages to Hannah's car.

Aldrich was the only University

of Maine student charged in the incident. He was also charged with an additional count of criminal mischief for allegedly tearing a branch from a tree in a yard close to where the incident occurred.

The other five men present during the incident were witnesses to what happened, according to District Attorney Chris Almy.

"There was nothing to indicate they were involved in it," Almy said.

Hannah expressed his indignation that four of the nine men present were brought up on charges.

"I'm in total outrage that four out of the nine people there had charges pressed against them," he said.

"I don't understand how four people could beat me and Aaron up and destroy my car at the same time," he added.

Along with the statements of those involved in the fight, there were statements given by a woman who lives on Crosby St. and other students who saw the fight.

"I'm glad she stepped forward," Hannah said, "and I'm hoping others may want to."

Despite his feelings about the number of individuals charged, Hannah said he is hoping that the case will be dealt with properly by the DA.

But the UMaine students who were not charged with assault or criminal mischief "should be dealt

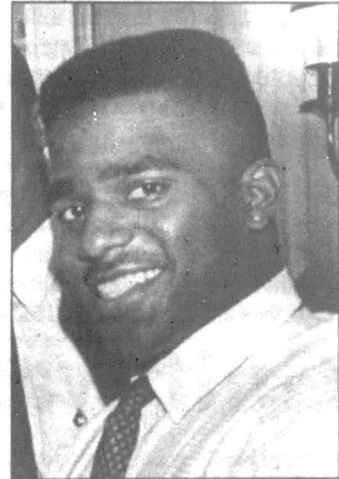
with," he said.

Bill Kennedy, head of Judicial Affairs, could not comment on the case because it is currently under investigation.

But he did say if a student is found guilty of seriously assaulting another student or students under the conduct code, that student may be suspended from UMaine for a year or be dismissed.

Aldrich disagreed with Orono police chief Dan Lowe's assertion that racism did not play a role in the incident. Lowe has said the cause of the fight was alcohol-related, not race related.

"I think race did play a part in it," he said. "It's very serious. It will get its day in court."



Four men were charged in the Feb. 17 assault of Quester Hannah (shown) and Aaron Phillips.