

Judge drops protesters' charges

NEW YORK — A judge today dismissed charges against the 1,166 people who were arrested during daily civil disobedience demonstrations over the police killing of an unarmed immigrant.

Amadou Diallo, a street vendor from Guinea, was killed Feb. 4 outside his Bronx apartment when four police officers looking for a rapist fired 41 shots and struck him 19 times.

Among those arrested during the demonstrations outside police headquarters were the Rev. Jesse Jackson, former Mayor David Dinkins, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume and actors Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee and Susan Sarandon.

Manhattan Criminal Court Judge A. Kirke Bartley Jr. dismissed the various charges to-

day at the request of Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau. None of the defendants appeared before the court.

The four officers involved in the shooting have been indicted on charges of second-degree murder.

The parents of Diallo, a Muslim, met with Roman Catholic Cardinal John O'Connor on Tuesday to discuss ways to mend the rifts that have split the city since their son's death.

"He's very good, and he gave us a blessing," said Diallo's mother, Kadiadou Diallo, visiting from Guinea for the second time since her son's killing. "I feel that he's someone spiritual who's bringing people together."

— The Associated Press

Taxes

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"Don't try to do it yourself the first time."

The forms really aren't that clear, he said. And the questions of whether a student's parents are claiming the student as a dependent and actually are getting the return can be confusing.

For the most part, students don't get much of a tax break just for being students, he said. But some can benefit from their hard work.

"If you are paying for your own education, that counts as a tax credit," he said. That counts as an out-of-pocket expense for tuition and books.

But unless you are aware of these exceptions, you should seek the help of someone who is aware of all the new tax laws, Nelson said.

"Those people know what you need to do and look for and will help you get the basic format down, so in future years you can do it yourself," he said. "Filing taxes is fairly simple, but without knowing the format, it can be intimidating."

Some students who receive scholarships may be required to include information about their financial aid when they file. Some scholarships can be taxable, Nelson said.

Any scholarship money left after paying tuition and school expenses has to be claimed as income, he said. Grants, however, do not have to be claimed. Again, everything depends on the situation and the type of scholarship, he said.

Out-of-state students working in Oregon have to file taxes in here and in their home states,

Nelson said.

"That happens quite regularly," he said. "And state returns are much more difficult than the federal return."

All states have different tax laws, which makes it difficult to file in two states at the same time, he said.

As taxes tend to be so confusing, many students may not be able to get their returns in by the April 15 deadline. For those people, the IRS will grant extensions — for a fee.

"Any extension will give you additional time to file your return, not additional time to pay your taxes," Nelson said. At the end of the extension, people must file and pay what they owe, he said.

Of course, people are expected to pay taxes when they file on April 15, but if people cannot afford the fee, they can set up a payment plan with the IRS. In this instance, taxpayers will not be charged a late penalty but will be charged interest on payments.

If taxpayers cannot afford to pay their taxes all at once when they file, Nelson suggested getting a loan from a bank because the loan will probably have a lower interest rate than the IRS.

The late fee is a set fee and is currently about \$100, he said.

Overall, Nelson urged students not to panic about paying taxes.

"The IRS is much nicer than most people think as long as you are willing to work with them," he said. "They're more than willing to try and make things work for you."

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Today's Events

Thursday, April 8

John Reynolds will be giving a lecture at the Solar Information Center, 219 Pacific Hall, from 6 to 10 p.m.

The Multicultural Center will be hosting an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. in Suite 33 in the basement of the EMU to celebrate the MCC and provide an opportunity for students to learn how to get involved.

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