

## West End slaying case ends in mistrial

BY KRISTEN DELGUZZI

The Cincinnati Enquirer

After two days of deliberations, a jury announced Wednesday it was unable to decide what crime — if any — Michael Jones committed last spring when he shot a man in a field at Taft High School.

Judge Thomas Crush of Hamilton County Common Pleas Court declared a mistrial and ordered parties back to court next week to determine how to proceed.

Mr. Jones, 19, of the West End, was charged with aggravated murder in the May 4 slaying. It occurred in front of hundreds of children attending a peace rally at the West End school.

In a taped statement, played for jurors, Mr. Jones admitted to shooting Earl Jordan, 32. They had argued about a theft in Laurel Homes public housing project before the shooting.

Jurors were instructed to decide whether Mr. Jones committed aggravated murder (a premeditated killing), murder (a purposeful killing) or voluntary manslaughter (a killing in a fit of rage).