



PRESS RELEASE

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Date: October 7, 2002
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Three Visitors at Mississippi State Penitentiary Arrested Sunday and charged with Introduction of Contraband and with Conspiracy to Introduce Contraband (marijuana) onto Prison Grounds

Jackson—The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) today announced the arrest of Twylia Aultman and Derrell Harris of Hattiesburg and Michael Price of Sumrall, Miss. The three, were arrested at 10:20 Sunday morning at the Mississippi State Penitentiary's (MSP) visitation center parking lot after prison K-9 officers recovered a plastic bag containing marijuana hidden in the passenger door of the vehicle in which the three visitors were riding. The three, who had traveled to the prison to visit state inmate Roderic Theodore #R5946, were charged with introduction of contraband and conspiracy to introduce contraband onto prison grounds.

According to prison officials, if convicted on the introduction of contraband onto prison grounds charge, the visitors could face a penalty of not less than three years nor more than 15-years sentence, a fine of not more than \$25,000 or both. The other charge of conspiracy to introduce contraband according to officials carries the same penalty.

MSP Internal Audit Division investigators transported the arrested visitors to the Sunflower County jail at Indianola. The trio was booked and placed in county jail. They are expected to make bond today except for Price who authorities report has an outstanding warrant against him for the sale of cocaine out of Hancock County. Offender Theodore #R5946, friend to the visitors, was placed in lock down in conjunction with visitors arrest. Theodore was sentenced in August of 1998 from Harrison County and is serving a life sentence for homicide.

“The arrests on Sunday are part of our agency’s continuing effort to stop the introduction of illegal contraband & drugs onto prison grounds,” said Mississippi Department of Corrections Commissioner Christopher Epps. “The arrest of the three visitors at MSP strongly establishes our resolve to stop this practice and it serves as a forewarning to all visitors not to attempt to smuggle contraband onto prison grounds. Rest assured our dedicated staff stands poised and ready to arrest anyone that attempts to compromise the security of our prisons.”