

Man sentenced for aiding escape

Vesley gets 6 months for handing sheets to escaping inmate

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A former Randolph College student who pleaded guilty Monday to aiding the escape of an inmate at the Lynchburg jail in March was sentenced to six months in jail.

Joseph Edward Vesley, 20, of Urbanna, also pleaded guilty in Lynchburg Circuit Court to a series of lesser drug possession and theft charges at the college that landed him in jail in the first place. The additional convictions added three months to his sentence.

The jail break of Larry Wayne

Dodson Jr. on March 10 led to a monthlong manhunt across the southeast. Dodson was arrested in Georgia on April 5.

Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Chuck Felmlee told the court Monday that inmates at the jail would have testified they saw Vesley take sheets with him to the bathroom area of the jail unit,

"then stuffing multiple bed sheets into his jumper."

Felmlee said inmates reported seeing Vesley throwing the sheets up to Dodson before Dodson used them to lower himself down a wall at the jail's recreation yard.

The prosecutor also read an excerpt from a letter Vesley

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Joseph Vesley (left) pleaded guilty to helping Larry Wayne Dodson escape in March.