

Justice system tackles Plax

Unlike some troubled celebs, Burress will serve hard time

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There was no "celebrity justice" for Plaxico Burress.

Nine months after accidentally shooting himself at a Manhattan nightclub, the former Giants football star faces two years in prison with a guilty plea to a gun charge Thursday in Manhattan.

Critics have bemoaned the seemingly soft treatment of celebrities in legal trouble, from Russell Crowe avoiding jail time on an assault charge and Lindsay Lohan serving just one day for multiple DUI run-ins to the infamous O.J. Simpson case, in which the football Hall of Famer was acquitted of double murder. But Burress' sentence was as long as most had expected.

"The Manhattan district attorney's office certainly did not treat Plaxico Burress as the hometown hero," said Jeremy Saland, a former prosecutor. "He wasn't treated more severely than any other denizen of the city under the same set of circumstances."

Burress, 32, was in the Latin Quarter nightclub last November when a gun in his waistband went off and shot him in the thigh. He did not have a permit for the gun in New York, and the one he had from Florida had expired.

He pleaded guilty to attempted criminal possession of a weapon and will be sentenced Sept. 22. He likely will

STAR TREATMENT?

How other celebrities fared who have been caught with a gun:

■ Former "Law & Order" actor **Dennis Farina** was arrested in May for having a pistol in his briefcase at Los Angeles International Airport. Farina got two years' probation.

Farina

■ In March, Buffalo Bills running back **Marshawn Lynch** was sentenced to 80 hours of community service and three years' probation after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor gun charge. Lynch was arrested in California for having a gun in the trunk of his car.

■ Former Jets safety **Damian Robinson** was arrested in October 2001 after security personnel found a semiautomatic rifle in the trunk of his car as he drove into Giants Stadium. Robinson received six months' probation.

■ Actor **Christian Slater** was arrested in 1994 for having a licensed gun in his carry-on luggage at Kennedy Airport. In a plea agreement, Slater was ordered to spend three days working with homeless children.

(COMPILED BY MARLENE NAANES)

doesn't mean you're above the law," he said.

Burress, who was released by the Giants in April, also was suspended by the NFL on Thursday for the duration of his sentence.

His attorney, Benjamin Brafman, slammed the sentence, saying his client's celebrity — and the publicity generated by the case, which included a condemnation from Mayor Michael Bloomberg — actually worked against him.

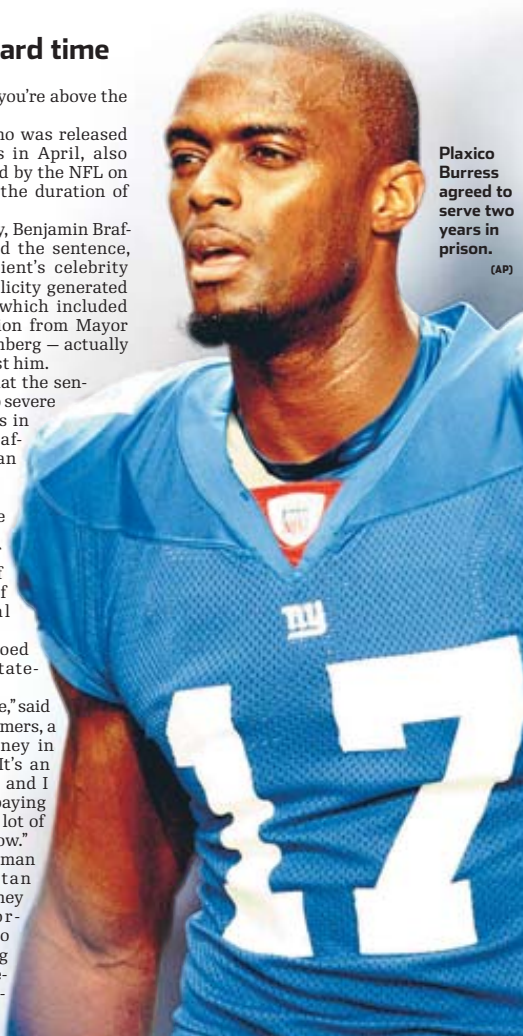
"I believe that the sentence is far too severe for the actions in question," Brafman said in an e-mail.

Burress would have faced a minimum of 3½ years if convicted of the original charges.

Others echoed Brafman's statements.

"It's excessive," said Kimberly Summers, a defense attorney in Manhattan. "It's an election year, and I think they're paying attention to a lot of things right now."

A spokeswoman for Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, who is not seeking re-election, declined to comment. (WITH AP)



Plaxico Burress agreed to serve two years in prison. (AP)

Teacher: My students harassed me

A New York City public school teacher has sued the city, saying she was repeatedly sexually harassed by students only to be blamed for it by a school official.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday in federal court in Manhattan by Theresa Reel, a teacher at the High School for Legal Studies in Brooklyn.

The lawsuit seeks monetary damages.

It also asks the court to force the Department of Education to create a written policy for the school system to handle sexual harassment of teachers by students.

The city law office said it has not seen the lawsuit and could not comment. (AP)

Judge upholds law that allows overseas wiretaps

A Manhattan judge rejected a challenge to a law letting the United States eavesdrop on overseas conversations Thursday, saying fears by Americans that their rights will be violated were "purely subjective."

U.S. District Judge John Koeltl ruled that the latest version of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act could not be challenged by attorneys, journalists and human rights organizations unless they could show their own communications had been affected. (AP)

ON track

SOME WEEKEND CHANGES

- 1** No trains between 168th and Dyckman sts. The M3 bus, and free shuttle buses provide alternate service, all times, until further notice.
- 6** Pelham Bay Park-bound trains run express from Parkchester to Pelham Bay Park, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- C** No trains running, 12:01 a.m. Sat. to 5 a.m. Mon.
- E** Manhattan and Queens-bound trains are affected by track work, 12:01 a.m. Sat. to 5 a.m. Mon.
- F** 179th St.-bound trains run on the A line from Jay St. to W. Fourth St., 12:01 a.m. Sat. to 5 a.m. Mon.

THE CENTRAL PARK FILM FESTIVAL

AUGUST 18 THROUGH AUGUST 22, 2009
The Central Park Film Festival presents: CHARACTERS WHO EPITOMIZE COOL

AUGUST 18 <i>SEX AND THE CITY</i> (2008)	AUGUST 20 <i>OCEAN'S 11</i> (2001)	AUGUST 22 — Viewer's choice: <i>GOLDFINGER</i> (1965) <i>DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN</i> (1985) <i>MEN IN BLACK</i> (1997) You decide! Starting July 21, vote by logging on to www.7online.com .	All screenings begin at 8:00 p.m. Gates open at 6:00 p.m. Rumsey Playfield is located mid-park. Enter the Park at East 69th Street and 5th Avenue. Rain or shine. Guest DJs will play from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bring a picnic. For more information visit www.centralparknyc.org .
AUGUST 19 <i>SHAFT</i> (1971)	AUGUST 21 <i>TWILIGHT</i> (2008)	PRESENTED BY Bloomberg	

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