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By **GARY GRAFF**
Of The Daily Oakland Press

DETROIT - Jack White of the Grammy-winning Detroit rock band the White Stripes pleaded guilty on Tuesday to a reduced charge of simple assault and battery against another Detroit musician.

In a case that has made international headlines, White was sentenced to probation and anger management therapy as well as to pay a \$500 fine and \$250 in court costs. The original charge of aggravated assault carried a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

White was also ordered to not approach the other musician - Jason Stollsteimer of the Von Bondies - until after he had completed the anger management therapy, which 36th District Court Judge Paula G. Humphries said White could undergo in private.

The charges stemmed from a Dec. 13 bar brawl between White and Stollsteimer. White had initially claimed self-defense while Stollsteimer and his witnesses said White's attack was unprovoked.

Stollsteimer - who is expected to file a civil suit now that the criminal case is settled - claims to have sustained permanent damage to his right eye, which has left him unable to drive.

After the proceedings, White - who sported a black pinstripe suit, black shirt and tie and a fedora he took off before entering the courtroom - told reporters "I regret allowing myself to be provoked to the point of getting into fistfights. But I was raised to believe that honor and integrity mean something and that these principles are worth fighting for. That's how I live my life."

Before 36th District Court Judge Paula G. Humphries on Tuesday, White gave his first public account of what happened three months ago at the Magic Stick in Detroit.

White told Humphries he approached Stollsteimer at the club to talk about some comments Stollsteimer had made about White in the press regarding The White Stripes as well as White's role in producing the Von Bondies first album.

"I went up to ask him to say it to me face to face," White said.

White then said Stollsteimer ignored him and, in response, White spit at him and they "tussled," eventually landing on the ground. White said Stollsteimer landed on the hand he had injured in a car accident the previous summer, and he punched Stollsteimer in response.

Stollsteimer was not in court during the proceedings, though the Von Bondies were playing a show Tuesday night, ironically at the Magic Stick. His wife, Andrea, attended the proceeding

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White's attorney, Bloomfield Hills-based Walter Piszczatowski said Tuesday, "Jack feels good. He can get back to what he does best, which is making music, and to his very busy schedule instead of worrying about the charges."

Piszczatowski added "had Jason talked to (White), we probably never would have been here."

White and the White Stripes won two trophies at the Grammy Awards in February. Stollsteimer and the Von Bondies released their first major label album, "Pawn Shoppe Heart," on Tuesday.

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