

## DEFENDANT IN SLAYING TRIAL CALLS CONFESSION COERCED

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A truck driver charged in a murderous crime spree on Detroit's west side told a jury Monday that his confession in a triple killing was coerced.

"It's not Disney World being up there getting interrogated by a bunch of detectives," said **Jason Armour**, 23.

**Armour** is accused of shooting the manager of the Red Wing Party store on West 7 Mile Road in the face last April 3, then stepping over his body to steal \$600, ordering a friend to kill a second man, and watching as the friend shot a third man.

**Armour** also will stand trial this week in a March 8 robbery and murder at a Chinese restaurant, and is a suspect in a string of other robberies and shootings from January through April, authorities said.

Under questioning by his attorney Paul Hughes, **Armour** told a jury sitting before Recorder's Court Judge Thomas Jackson that he was good friends with store manager Norm Shoatee. **Armour** said he could not have shot Shoatee, 25, or the other two men, Tawfaq Mussad, 19, and Faiz Almaweri, 19.

He admitted he was in the store while the killings occurred, and that he and three friends had discussed robbing the store three days earlier, but said it was Tony Dupree who pulled out the gun and began firing. He said he took the money because "I was in shock, I was scared for my life."

For the same reason, he said, he couldn't sleep, and drove with Dupree and the other alleged shooter, Lloyd Hicks, to a nightclub. The next day, he admitted, they went shopping and bought new bullets for the gun.

But **Armour** said other portions of his statement to Detroit police Sgt. Ronald Sanders were beaten from him, that he was arrested as he showered after working, that he was not allowed to sleep, was not fed, and was denied access to an attorney and a bathroom.

Sanders denied any mistreatment of **Armour**.

**Armour**'s mother, Betty, said her son was a hardworking, churchgoing father of two who had been framed by so-called friends like Dupree, whom he let stay at his house because they were out of work.

**Armour** is charged with six counts of murder and one count each of robbery and felonious possession of a firearm in the party store shootings.

Dupree, 20, is being tried before a separate jury on the same charges. Hicks has not been charged.

Both juries are expected to begin deliberations today.

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