

## JUDGE FINDS TEEN GUILTY IN SLAYING AFTER SERIES

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Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

William (Chick) Bryant was convicted Tuesday of first-degree murder for the robbery- **slaying** of a 27-year-old microbiologist during the 1984 World **Series** victory celebration **in** downtown Detroit.

Detroit Recorder's Court **Judge** Vera Massey Jones, who heard the case without a jury, said Bryant, 17, was "a destructive troublemaker" who used "the celebration as an excuse to embark on a criminal enterprise."

Bryant, a Detroit juvenile standing trial as an adult, was charged with shooting Raymond Dobrzynski, of Ypsilanti, outside the Lafayette Coney Island restaurant on Oct. 14, 1984, as thousands of people filled downtown streets wildly rejoicing **in** the Tiger's triumph.

According to trial testimony, Bryant planned to steal a car that night and later told friends he shot Dobrzynski because he resisted the theft.

Sentencing was set for Feb. 11.

First-degree murder carries a mandatory life sentence without possibility of parole. Bryant can be freed only by a governor's commutation of his sentence.

CARL AND MIRA Dobrzynski, the victim's parents, wept and held each other during Jones' decision. "I think justice was served," Mira Dobrzynski said.

On Monday, they angrily opposed a proposed plea bargain plan under which Bryant would have pleaded **guilty** to a reduced charge of second-degree murder with a life sentence and a charge of using a firearm **in** the commission of a felony.

The bargain would have made Bryant eligible for parole **in** 12 years. Life sentences for second-degree murder can be reviewed for parole **after** 10 years, Michigan courts have ruled. The firearm violation carries a mandatory two-year sentence that must be completed before other sentences begin.

Although the Prosecutor's Office retains the final decision **in** plea bargains, assistant Wayne County prosecutor Joseph Koch said his office chose not to override the family's wishes.

Defense lawyer W. Otis Culpepper said the case was an effort by authorities to erase "the one blight on Detroit's World **Series** victory. Any other time this would have been just another shooting **in** the city of Detroit."

Culpepper predicted the case would be overturned on the question of whether Bryant was properly waived from the juvenile court system.

"Society can't tolerate strangers just walking up and shooting people, but it can't tolerate prosecuting children either," he said.

But Koch said Bryant is not a scapegoat atoning for the celebration's widely reported excesses, including the overturning and burning a police scout car **in** front of Tiger Stadium.

"This type of case belongs **in** adult court. Mr. Bryant stole the ultimate gift -- life -- from a stranger," Koch said. "He's a bad kid. While I am not denying the problems of society that work on a young man, he is still a very dangerous person."

CUTLINE:

Raymond Dobrzynski

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Caption: Photo

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