

TEEN FACES MURDER CHARGE IN SERIES DEATH

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, June 28, 1985

Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

William (Chick) Bryant celebrated the Tigers' 1984 World **Series** victory by cruising through downtown Detroit, kissing girls, getting free beer and killing a man who resisted having his car stolen, according to court testimony Thursday.

Detroit District Judge Nancy Blount ordered Bryant, 16, to stand trial **in** Recorder's Court on **charges** on first-degree **murder**, armed robbery and possession of a firearm for the Oct. 14, 1984, fatal shooting of Raymond Dobrzynski outside the Lafayette Coney Island **in** downtown Detroit.

Dobrzynski, 27, of Warren, had stopped at the restaurant to buy hot dogs while joining thousands of fans downtown celebrating the Tigers' **Series** victory over the San Diego Padres.

If convicted, Bryant, of Detroit, who is being held without bond, would **face** a mandatory sentence of life **in** prison without parole.

Last week, visiting juvenile court Judge Paul Mahinske ordered Bryant tried as an adult. If convicted as a juvenile, Bryant could not be held past his 19th birthday.

Defense attorney W. Otis Culpepper charged that normal juvenile court procedures were bent to try Bryant as an adult **in** a case that has become "political . . . a hot potato" **in** image-conscious Detroit.

BRYANT was with several friends who decided to join the celebration by going downtown, "riding around, bompig -- honking the horn -- at girls, having fun, that's all," Gabriel Timmons, 15, one of Bryant's companions, testified Thursday during a preliminary examination.

The friends stopped their car when they noticed girls "giving free kisses and beer," Timmons testified.

"We got back **in** the car and we saw some more girls giving free kisses and beer, so we got **in** that line, too," he said.

After that, Timmons said, he and Bryant, who was carrying a 9mm automatic pistol, got separated from their friends and began walking down Lafayette.

"Mr. Bryant said he was going to steal a car," Timmons testified. "I told him to go ahead because I wanted to go home and I was walking."

Timmons said he kept walking when Bryant stopped to confront a man **in** a gray car. After looking back, "I seen him shoot a guy inside of a car . . .," Timmons said.

Timmons said Bryant jogged up to him and they took the bus home.

CULPEPPER said he is appealing the decision to have Bryant tried as an adult, which he **charges** may be politically motivated by a court system that came under fire for its handling of the Vincent Chin **murder** case, **in** which two white suburban men were given probation **in** Wayne County Circuit Court for the beating **death** of Chin, a Chinese-American.

"Since the Chin case, a case like this is a hot potato," he said. " . . . Nobody wants to get raked over the coals again. Racism is alive and well **in** America and again rearing its ugly head **in** this case," he said.

Had Bryant been white, he would have been less likely to be waived into adult court, Culpepper said. He said he believes the killing reinforced negative perceptions of Detroit when the nation's attention was focused on the city during the World **Series** .

Caption: Photo

Memo: SEE ALSO METRO FINAL EDITION

Edition: STATE EDITION

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: MURDER; JUVENILE ; TRIAL ; ROBBERY ; ATTEMPT ; AUTOMOBILE ; ATTEMPT

Record Number: 8501260756

Copyright (c) 1985 Detroit Free Press