

How many times did cop hit suspect?

Despite testimony that Donald Clark probably was beaten several times on the head with a pistol, Wayne County Medical Examiner Werner Spitz said "there was no indication that more than one blow was struck."

Gregory Tabaczynski, an undercover Dearborn police officer, is on trial in Recorder's Court for second-degree murder in the beating death of Clark, a suspected hubcap thief. On Feb. 12, 1981, Clark was chased from a Dearborn parking lot to the Plymouth Road exit of the Southfield freeway in Detroit. He was beaten during the arrest and died March 2, 1981.

The number of times Tabaczynski hit Clark can be used by the prosecution to prove the officer's actions went beyond the force necessary for an arrest.

Dorothy Watlington testified she saw Clark, with his hands up in surrender, thrown across a car trunk and beaten "a minimum of six times" on the head with a large pistol.

And Dr. Gerald Moore, the neurosurgeon who operated on Clark, testified that he thought Clark's "large gaping" head wound and skull fracture were caused by more than one blow.

But Spitz said autopsy and hospital reports showed a single blow caused the fatal skull fracture. He said there may have been other blows but they would have to have been light to leave no cuts or scars.

— Joe Swickard

JAMES EARL RAY, convicted assassin of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., says his stabbing last year by black inmates was part of a conspiracy to keep him from telling the full story of the King slaying. Ray, 54, who is white, said Monday in a telephone interview from the state penitentiary at Nashville that he had charged several Tennessee officials with conspiracy in a suit filed last week in federal court in Nashville. "What I'm trying to do is find out who financed the King assassination," Ray said.

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DR. SPITZ shows his knowledge
of GAPING HEAD WOUNDS AGAIN!
Jan