

# Assault trial ends; decision expected tomorrow

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ny, if convicted, he faces possible life in prison.

Thornburn said he would make his decision at 9:30 tomorrow morning.

**MOTIONS BY defense attorney Robert Harrison to strike the testimony of a key prosecution witness and several exhibits were denied by Thornburn.**

Harrison had objected earlier in the trial to admitting the .33-caliber Winchester rifle, owned by the defendant's brother and allegedly used in the shooting, as evidence.

Allowed into evidence Thursday were the rifle, four discharged bul-

lets including one taken from the abdomen of the victim, and a statement from the defendant's father granting Hills police permission to take the rifle from the Dober house for ballistics tests by the Michigan State Police.

Harrison objected to testimony from Michigan State Police Sgt. John Stanton, who did the tests and matched the rifle to the bullet removed from security guard Terrence Metzler following the Sept. 3, 1985, shooting.

MEYER, of Detroit, was assigned to the miniature golf course on Grand River. He was hospitalized

after a bullet traveled through his hand and forearm and lodged in his abdomen. Metzler was shot following an altercation the defendant had with a different security guard two days earlier.

Prosecutors contend Dober returned and shot at Metzler, thinking he was the previous guard.

Both guards were black, and testimony showed the white defendant made racial slurs against the guard who fought with him. Prosecutors believe the incident was racially motivated.

"Testimony from several prosecution witnesses, including Dober's friends, those involved in the assault, and police investigators, was not conclusive, according to defense counsel.

"This kind of testimony is absolutely insufficient for a possible conviction of life in prison," Harrison told the court. "No objective tests of any kind were conducted. His (Stanton) concludes his (ballistics) method is not scientific, but an art."

"That simply is not enough. The stakes are too high," he added during closing arguments.

STANTON testified he fired three rounds from the Winchester rifle, using three different, and unknown, brands of ammunition. He was able to positively match the bullet taken from the victim to at least one of the other rounds fired, he said.

John Skrynski, Oakland County assistant prosecutor, said Dober had motive and opportunity to commit the crime with which he is charged.

The motives were racial in nature, he said, and involved revenge due to humiliation the defendant felt because of the prior altercation at the Putt 'N' Games.

"I think there can be no doubt that shot was intended to kill Terrence Metzler," Skrynski said. "The de-

fendant went back to the Putt 'N' Games to... stake that place out. The entire incident was premeditated."

Defense attorneys raised two "alternate theories" based on information presented in testimony. Metzler had problems with other youths the day of the shooting at Putt 'N' Games. Metzler also had recently identified someone in a lineup where he was the victim. Harrison contended these others may have had as much motive as his client.

The other theory involved the defendant's younger brother, Phil Dober, who was reportedly with Paul Dober at the time the security guard was shot, according to testimony. He could have just as easily been tried for the crime, Harrison said.

Both Dober brothers were arrested by Farmington Hills police at their high school in September 1985, following questioning. Michigan State Police ballistics results were reportedly called to the detectives at the school.

Dober remains free on bail. Charges against his younger brother are pending through the county juvenile court.

## on the agenda

Agenda details for government meetings scheduled this week follow. All meetings are open to the public:

**Farmington Hills City Council**  
Farmington Community Library  
Farmington City Council  
Auditorium, Hills ranch library  
53737 15 Mile  
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 5

Library Director Beverly Papal and board of trustees will present the library's five-year plan of action at a joint meeting of the Farmington and Farmington Hills city councils.

The five-year plan extends through fiscal 1991-92. Library trustees have approved a new mission statement, with both long-term and five-year goals. Services, staffing, collection growth and capital improvements will be discussed. Trustees will recommend expanding the Hills branch library after 1992, based on projected demographic growth and the facility's heavy use.

**Farmington City Council**  
Council Chambers  
23600 Liberty  
8:30 p.m. Monday, March 2

A new application for the city's only open Class C Liquor License will be considered tonight by the city council. Applying is John D. Rainey, a Farmington Hills resident who plans to open a seafood restaurant at the Village Commons center.

Also to be considered is renewal of the city's currently operating Class C licenses for liquor by the glass.

Other items on the agenda include a letter from the Oakland County Road Commission, asking for support for legislation for improving road funding.

A proposed engineering contract for the city's road construction project, the proposed purchase of a city dump truck, and discussion of a Sequencial proposal planned by the Farmington Historical Society are also slated for discussion.

Financial reports will be given for the city's General Fund and 47th District Court for seven months ended Jan. 31, 1987.

**Downtown Development Authority**  
Farmington City Hall  
23600 Liberty  
8 a.m. Tuesday, March 3

The DDA board will consider approving a position of executive director for the DDA during this first annual DDA meeting.

Also on the agenda are election of officers, approval of the body's annual report and budget information for the 1987-88 fiscal year.

The board will also review a report on appearance criteria for the downtown area.

## Birmingham Observer

(USPS 187-840)

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**Farmington Board of Education**  
Lewis School Administration  
Shilohwase at Raphael, Farmington  
Tuesday, March 3  
8 p.m. — special meeting  
7:30 p.m. — regular meeting

Trustees will meet at 6 p.m. to discuss an employee grievance. A grievance decision will be discussed at the later meeting.

Also on the agenda during the regular meeting is discussion of a Partnership for Education program, installation of fitness courts on game fields, renovations for Power Middle School, purchase of tile and carpet for five school buildings, purchase of an aerial lift, purchase of bus chassis and bodies, and a public announcement system for North Farmington High School.

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Both Bacon came to our attention in 1978. He is a graduate of Wayne State University. He has received business experience in sales, gift and individual income tax. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and has a degree in business administration. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and has a degree in business administration. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and has a degree in business administration.

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## He re-enacts history

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for one summer's vacation with his wife and son.

Along the way Jones collected pictures, posters and maps that fill the walls of the schoolroom for seventh and eighth graders. He has stocked the school library with about 1,500 slides to use in class. And he has collected about three dozen items he uses in his Living History talks.

"Some are the real thing. Most are authentic reproductions," he said. "My costume is an authentic reproduction in color and design, 100 percent wool. I got it through the parks service."

"I think the most authentic collection I've ever seen is in the general store in Fort Laramie. The inventory there is exactly what it was in 1878, even canned vegetables with the original labels and prices. Those are not for sale, of course. But I bring back whatever I can to bring alive this period of history for my students."

"Nobody takes notes in this class. It's not necessary. I talk only in the first person. The students get

into the spirit of it. They remember."

JONES HAD some heavy reading to do preparing for a job with the parks service, answering any and all questions from the tourists who visit the historic sites.

Those who are hired commit themselves to being on the job seven days a week for a 12-week stretch. Jones works as a volunteer, seven days a week, but only for a three- or four-week stretch to allow time for family vacations.

"I do it because I love it," he said. "I am with other people who enjoy history as much as I do. We talk shop morning, noon and night. We live history together and I want to share this with students, not only my students here but students everywhere."

"The lucky I can do that," he added. "I have a principal here that will allow me to go to other schools to do that."

Jones developed his Living History talks for seventh and eighth graders but says he has had far more requests for appearances from adult groups than from teachers. He says he thinks he must have

talked to "every Rotary Club in the area, most of the historical societies, and a few chambers of commerce but not too many classrooms."

Jones calls his Living History talks "as close as you can get going back in a time machine."

"The best way I know how to teach history is to relive it," he said.

Jones has taught American History in the Farmington Hills Catholic junior high school for 13 years. It is a required two-year course. Every spring he travels with 70-80 students to Washington, D.C., Gettysburg and Harper's Ferry, W. Va., as part of the curriculum. And every spring students are billeted in an 1890s hotel, "also part of the curriculum," he says.

Jones is a native of Michigan and lives in Plymouth with his wife, Valene, and his 7-year-old son, Andrew.

After his re-enactments in Wyoming and Nebraska this summer, the family will vacation along the Lewis and Clark trail, which follows the Missouri River from St. Louis to the Rocky Mountains.

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