

VICTOR OGRODNIK, 18, of 24634 Ridgcroft, East Detroit
(3 mi. North of Balduck Park)

Charged he was in the park passing out copies of the "Fifth Estate" when he was accosted by police officers, verbally abused, and released. Complaint filed July 31, 1970.

No corroboration, no identification; not sustained.

RICHARD GOULD, 18, of 4531 Avery (near Forest and Twelfth St.,
8 or 9 mi. across town from Balduck Park)

Claims he was sitting on swing in wooded area when charged by 70 or 80 police. Says he was stabbed in the arm by an officer with a bayonet tied to his nightstick, and later beaten at the precinct, and held for 8 hours without treatment. Police say he was arrested for throwing a chunk of concrete. A warrant was issued for felonious assault, and the case is still pending. He was taken to Detroit General Hospital and treated for a laceration. He was arrested some time after 8:35 p.m., and according to hospital records, was admitted for treatment at 11:27 p.m.

Complaint was filed August 24, at Ad Hoc Committee headquarters, under the auspices of the "People's Defense Committee."

RICHARD WALKER, 17, of 10640 Gratiot (neighborhood of City
Airport about 3 mi. W of Balduck Park)

During police clearance of wooded area north of Chandler Park Drive, complainant says he was clubbed, beaten, and kicked by three or four police officers, then taken to the precinct where he was grabbed by the hair and pushed around by another officer. He was treated for a laceration on the back of the head, at Detroit General Hospital. A warrant was requested for felonious assault, but denied.

Certain questions have not been resolved because of conflicting testimony. Complaint is still under investigation.

BILL NORRIS, 17, of 10985 Longview (about 2 mi. W. of Balduck
Park)

Says he fell trying to climb fence to escape police clearing park and was struck, pushed and jabbed by three officers, unidentified. He was taken to the precinct and ticketed for loitering, where he says he was punched by another officer. No record of injuries or treatment.

His statement was taken August 25, in the course of investigating another complaint. Case still open.

DALE HONECKER, 20, of 4544 University (family address 1/2 mile from Balduck Park) and 666 Newport (personal residence 3 mi. SW of Balduck Park, where he shares upper flat with John Nash)

JOHN NASH, 21, of 666 Newport.

Nash and Honecker were at Honecker's parked car on Canyon, across the street from the wooded area of the park, preparing to leave, when Nash says he was struck on the head by an officer. Honecker says an officer broke the windshield of his car with a nightstick. When he tried to get away by running back into the wooded park area, he says he was stopped by two other police officers who struck him repeatedly. The two were accompanied by a teen-age girl passenger.

After Nash and Honecker were taken to the precinct, Honecker says he was punched by another police officer and knocked against a radiator. Both were charged by police with felonious assault, but the warrants were denied. Both were taken to Detroit General Hospital for treatment. Nash was treated for a lacerated scalp. Hospital records identified Honecker's injuries as fractures of the right forearm, one finger of the right hand and three fingers of the left hand, a finger laceration, and tenderness in both shoulders.

Honecker's picture was carried on local television and in the newspapers, showing large casts on both arms. He publicly claimed to have suffered two broken shoulders in addition to other injuries.

Identification has been made of three officers involved at the scene of the arrest of Nash and Honecker, and of the officer accused of striking Honecker in the precinct. The principal facts of the arrest scene are not in dispute, but mainly whether there was justification for police use of force. Whether a blow was struck in the precinct has not been so clearly established.

However there is sufficient evidence of police misconduct in the multiple Nash-Honecker complaint to require disciplinary action against at least some of the officers known to have been involved.

The police officers' justification for striking the windshield of Honecker's car is his claim that Honecker tried to drive the car at him. There is conflicting evidence on this point from neighborhood witnesses.

MILLARD BERRY, 21, of 4531 Avery
JOANN SPIRO, 22, of 4531 Avery. (altogether, four persons gave this same crosstown address: Gould, Berry, Miss Spiro, and another young lady who was a witness but not a complainant)

Both complaints were presented under the auspices of the "People's Defense Committee" and statements received by investigating officers at Ad Hoc Committee headquarters, August 24.

Berry and Miss Spiro said they ran away from the park when it was being cleared. Subsequently, several blocks away, they say they were pursued by a man in a red pickup truck, later identified as an off-duty Detroit fireman. There was an altercation between Berry and the off-duty fireman, police arrived, and according to Berry, beat and kicked him. Miss Spiro says she was slapped by the man in the red pickup truck, arrested with Berry, and taken to the precinct, where she says she was insulted and pushed around.

Berry was taken to Detroit General Hospital and treated for a small laceration over the left eye. He was charged with felonious assault, and went to trial on the lesser charge of assault and battery, for allegedly throwing missiles at police officers and the red truck, which Miss Spiro allegedly handed to him.

Berry's trial ended in a hung jury. A Warrant against Miss Spiro was denied. There is insufficient disinterested testimony to support Berry's complaint, but there is some corroboration and a tentative identification in connection with Miss Spiro's complaint of physical abuse at the precinct.

The evidence is still being weighed: There is a possibility of disciplinary action.

MARK LA ROSE, 17, of 6336 University (4 blocks west of Balduck Park)

A written complaint was submitted for LaRose by the "People's Defense Committee." He declined all attempts at a face-to-face

interview by the Citizens Complaint Section, but finally made a statement by telephone to an investigator. He said he was several blocks away from the park, after the crowd had been dispersed, when passing police stopped, shone their lights on him, and arrested him, striking and kicking him. He was subsequently ticketed for loitering and released. His statement includes references to the Honecker and Spiro complaints.

He says he received private medical treatment the following day.

There is corroboration of police use of force at the point of arrest, but some question about identification. The case remains open.

Wednesday, July 29, 1970

(Thirteen Complainants)

HASKELL CANTER III, 17, of 1137 Newport (2½ mi. SW of Balduck Park).

Arrested for allegedly hitting a police officer with a thrown bottle, Canter went to trial for assault and battery and was acquitted. He complained that he was struck repeatedly by police officers during and after his arrest. He was seized in the main park area south of Chandler Park Drive shortly after the nightly curfew was announced. He was treated at Saratoga General Hospital for tenderness and contusions of the shoulder and chest.

The case remains open pending clarification of identification.

GEORGE VERRAS, 17, of 4706 Three Mile Drive (Both addresses about 1 mi. W of park)
RONALD BROWN, 18, of 5767 Berkshire

Verras and Brown were in the same car with a third youth, on Frankfort, a side street leading east from Canyon, across the street from the park, about curfew time. They claim they were first ticketed for loitering by officers in a scout car, then arrested by officers in a black wagon who struck them with fists and blackjacks. They were taken separately to the precinct, and Verras was taken to Cottage Hospital for treatment of a one-inch laceration of the scalp. Brown said he had a bloody nose but received no medical treatment.

There is evidence of unjustified use of force, but some question of identification. The case remains open. Both complaints were filed together the next day, July 30.

The following complainants all reported similar claims of damage by police to their automobiles, while tied up in slow-moving traffic on Canyon Road, just east of the park, following the crowd dispersal:

TIMOTHY BREWSTER, 16, of 21701 Statler (4 mi. NE of park)
CHRISTINE BURCZYK, 19, of 1784 Littlestone (3/4 mi. NE of park)
LAWRENCE D'ANGELO, 20, of 19221 Woodcrest (1 mi. N of park)
MARK DE CAUSSIN, 18, of 948 Nottingham (2 mi. SW of park)
DENNIS DERMIDOFF, 21, of 16109 Rossini (2 mi. NW of park)
GARY MACUDZINSKI, 19, of 18567 Woodcrest (1 mi. N of park)
PATRICK MALAC, 18, of 21601 Chalon (2 mi. N. of park)
JOHN R. MURRAY of 470 Madison (1/4 mi. from park)
WILLIAM SUMRHEINRICH, 16, of 12574 Wade (3 mi. W of park)

Most of these complaints were filed promptly the same night. Mr. Murray's was received in a letter to Mayor Gribbs dated August 19. A single officer appears to have been involved in many if not all of the car-damage complaints, and some of the other complaints raised on this date.

Misconduct is evident and disciplinary action is planned.

Finally--

GERALD ROSS, 23, of 5021 Anatole (a side street leading east out of Canyon St., a few houses away from Balduck Park)

Charged he was taking photographs of police striking people and cars in the street, when a police officer approached him on his own front porch, struck him, broke a flash attachment on his camera and removed his film. There is some corroboration and identification.

Misconduct is evident and disciplinary action is planned.