

BRUTALITY CHARGED

Police, Witnesses Tell Two Versions

The Northern Student Movement and its affiliate, the Afro-American Youth Movement, have demanded an immediate investigation into an incident of alleged police brutality 3 p.m. Saturday.

According to Alvin Harrison, of NSM, the police version of the incident is that an off-duty policeman Robert Swando, on his way to the station, saw a robbery attempt by Willie Hick, 16, 3023 Chene, a Negro, upon a white youth, at Mt. Elliott and Gratiot.

He stopped and foiled the robbery, and a squad car came to his assistance as Hicks resisted. The other two officers were William McCann and Michael Bokart.

However, Harrison said that witnesses told another story. They questioned whether there was a robbery attempt, and said that

when the two officers arrived to help Swando, two policemen held Hicks while the other beat him about the face, then threw him on the ground and kicked him.

Witnesses include Huey Taylor, who operates a Shell station at 3766 Gratiot. He said he was told by policemen not to get involved when he came over to help the boy. Several children also saw the incident.

Hicks was hospitalized at Detroit General for his injuries.

Harrison said complaints will be filed with the Michigan Civil Rights Commission and the Commission on Community Relations, by the boy's mother.

Teen Youths Captured After Auto Chase

Two 16-year-old West side boys were held for unlawful driving away an automobile Wednesday. The youths were arrested in a hotel on Garfield after two officers had seen them enter a parked car on Canfield, which had been reported stolen.

Police said the two boys ran toward them and were ordered to halt. They continued running, and police fired a shot in the ground. The youths turned and ran into a hotel where they were arrested.

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