

Doctor tells of 225 wounds on body

By LOU ORTIZ

Register Staff Writer

A Des Moines woman was stabbed about 225 times last summer when she was attacked and murdered in her apartment, a Polk County jury was told Monday.

Dr. Regis Weland said a stab wound on the right side of Dianne Laurence's neck caused her death.

Weland, a pathologist, testified in the trial of Roy Finch, charged with first-degree murder in Laurence's death. Laurence's body was found by police last July 4 at her apartment at 3326 University Ave.

Finch had once lived at the same apartment complex.

Weland testified Monday that Laurence had bruises on her face and suffered stab wounds to her arms, hands, chest, a leg and other parts of her body. He said she probably died within a minute from the wound to her neck, which severed an artery and the jugular vein.

But the doctor said he could not determine when Laurence died.

Finch's lawyer, John Wellman, told jurors that Finch was in Colfax at the time of Laurence's death. Finch, 33, was arrested in Fruitland, near Muscatine, less than two weeks after Laurence died.

The day before Laurence's body was found, Wellman said, a security guard at Drake University saw a car leaving the area of her apartment early in the morning. He said the car did not have its lights on and was traveling at high speed.

Wellman said the guard noticed two men in the car and one had blood on his face. Wellman also said there were fingerprints on a cup in Laurence's apartment that did not belong to Laurence or to Finch.

But Assistant Polk County Attorney Nan Horvat told the jury that Roy Finch told his brother, Gary Finch, who lives in Aledo, Ill., that he had done something bad and "killed the

lady." She said Roy Finch also told his brother that he was high on drugs at the time of the stabbing.

Aledo Police Chief James Brokaw testified Monday that another brother, James Finch, suspected that Roy Finch was involved in the murder.

Robert Orr, a Muscatine County sheriff's deputy, testified that Roy Finch turned himself in and then was

treated at a hospital for a cut on his left arm. While at the hospital, Roy Finch said he had been using crack cocaine and had been drinking heavily, explained Orr.

Testimony will continue today.

Roy Finch, who is being held in the Polk County Jail, faces a mandatory life prison term if he is found guilty of the murder charge.

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2:15, 4:15, 7:15
& 9:30

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CENTURY 6
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GOVERNOR'S SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER
WESTWOOD 6
25th & University W.D.M.

WESTWOOD
AT:
7:15 & 9:30



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NO
PASSES
OR
DISCOUNTS
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ACROSS FROM VET'S AID.

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NORTH END OF VALLEY WEST WALK
I-235 at 35th W.D.M.

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Rob Lowe • James Spader

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PASSES

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TONIGHT:
7:15 & 9:30

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I-235 at 22ND ST., W.D.M.

S. E. Corner of Southridge Mall
SOUTHRIDGE 3
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SOUTHRIDGE:
2:15, 4:15, 7:15
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