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Pork ribs used to simulate human chest to determine force needed for fatal sword attack

Story by Kevin Martin • Monday

Testing on pork ribs used to simulate the human chest showed that the force needed to stab a man in the heart could have been as little as what it takes to ring a doorbell.



Calgary police investigate a fatal stabbing at a home in the 200 block of Panatella Court N.W. on Dec. 16, 2020. © Provided by Calgary Herald

Geoffrey Desmoulin, an expert in injury biomechanics, testified he conducted testing using the sword murder suspect Michael Elendu used to stab his roommate, Kyreese Wright, in the heart.

Desmoulin told defence lawyer Derek Jugnauth he used a material-testing machine to conduct 20 different stabs of pork ribs to determine the force needed to puncture Wright's chest and strike his heart.

"Pork ribs is a solid analogue for a human rib cage," the expert told the Court of King's Bench jury deciding Elendu's fate.

Desmoulin said the average pressure to puncture the meat was 12.1 Newtons, or 2.7 pounds.

He said that was equal to the force it would take to lift a one-litre can of tomato juice, or one-litre jug of milk.

He said the lowest measurement recorded during the testing found a penetration of 4.7 Newtons.

"That's very, very low and we equated it to lifting a 500-ml bottle of water ... but I think a better example is the threshold of ringing a doorbell," Desmoulin said.

Force exerted by average male human punch is 180 pounds, expert says

Elendu, 21, is charged with second-degree murder in the Dec. 16, 2020 stabbing death of Wright, 20, at the northwest Calgary home they were both staying in at the time.

The two got into an argument when Wright complained about the volume of the music Elendu was playing while cleaning with another roommate and culminated in the victim's fatal stabbing.

Elendu has admitted a charge of manslaughter, but Crown lawyers Samina Dhalla and Shane Parker are prosecuting the murder case.

Desmoulin said the maximum force he measured during his testing was 34 Newtons, or 7.6 pounds of pressure.

"Instead of picking up a one-litre jug of milk, it's equivalent to picking up a four-litre jug of milk, or sliding a 10 pound bag of sugar across a table," he said.

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Desmoulin compared those figures to the force exerted by an average male punch, which he said was 800 Newtons, or 180 pounds.

"Comparing that to the force we recorded to puncture the chest wall, we're looking at more than 20 times the largest recorded penetration force and more than 60 times the mean penetration force, so a large difference."

Jurors will hear final Crown and defence arguments on Wednesday before Justice Karen Horner gives them her final instructions on the law.

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Miller High Life beer cans destroyed after slogan disapproval: 'Misleads the public and harms winemakers'

Story by Cortney Moore • Monday

Social media users and representatives of Champagne producers are speaking out after more than 2,000 Miller High Life beer cans were destroyed in Belgium per a request from a French champagne committee, which represents champagne producers who don't approve of the beer brand's slogan – "Champagne of Beers."



Comité Champagne, a professional organization that represents champagne growers, producers, merchants, traders and cooperatives in Champagne, the historic wine region of France, reached out to Belgian customs officials to destroy the confiscated beer shipment.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, April 18, the champagne committee announced the destroyed 2,352 cans of Miller High Life, which were bound for Germany.

FRANCE'S GUARDIANS OF CHAMPAGNE DESTROY 2,300 CANS OF MILLER HIGH LIFE: 'THE CHAMPAGNE OF BEERS'

The committee argued that Miller High Life's slogan infringes on Champagne's protected designation of origin.

Westlandia VZW reportedly emptied Miller High Life beer cans and recycled the crushed metal. Comité Champagne

"This destruction is the result of a successful collaboration between Belgian customs authorities and the Comité Champagne," Charles Goemaere, managing director of the Comité Champagne, said in a statement.

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