

1992

THIS WEEKEND Don't miss it!

LANCASTER NEW ERA

115th Year — No. 35,962 METROPOLITAN ★ LANCASTER, PA., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1992 Home Delivered \$2.10 a week Price 35c



Surrounded by friends, Hazel L. Show (white coat), mother of murder victim Laurie Show, leaves county courthouse.

Tearful mother tells how dying Laurie Show identified her killer

'Michelle did it' teen gasped; trial is ordered

by John M. Hooper III
New Era Staff Writer

The mother of slain teen-ager Laurie M. Show tearfully told a packed courtroom on Wednesday how she found her daughter, moaning and gasping for breath on her bedroom floor, after a gruesome knife attack five days before last Christmas.

In testimony against 17-year-old Tabatha Buck, of the 2600 block of Columbia Avenue, sat silently throughout the testimony, her hands clasped and face showing little emotion.

Mrs. Show, a nurse's aide at Community Hospital of Lancaster, was initially composed as she told District Justice Arden Kopp how she went to Conestoga Valley Junior High School on the morning of Dec. 20, in response to a person who claimed to be a school guidance counselor.

No counselor was at the school, she said, and she returned home to her 17-year-old daughter, arriving at 7:20 a.m. "A neighbor told me that he had heard a commotion up-



Murder suspect Tabatha Buck, 17, arrives at court in a Sheriff's Department cruiser.

stairs, yelling and stomping." Mrs. Show said, her voice breaking with emotion.

"The neighbor said it sounded terrible, and then all of a sudden it stopped. The neighbor said there were two people who left the home," she said.

"I entered Laurie's room and saw blood on the floor. Laurie was grasping her neck. There was a rope around it.

"I ran out when I realized there was something terribly wrong. I screamed for someone to call 911.

"I went back inside and cut the rope. She was able to talk to me. She told me three times 'Michelle did it.'

"Honey, I am so sorry," Mrs. Show told her daughter.

"It was a set-up," Laurie gasped.

"Who did this?"

"Michelle did it."

"You were so good. You never did anything wrong."

"Michelle did it. Michelle did it," Laurie told her mother.

Police have said they believe 'Michelle' is Lisa Michelle Lambert, 19, a Martic Forge woman who had been harassing the victim for several months.

Police investigators previously have said Miss Lambert was upset at Laurie Show for having dated her boyfriend,

Lawrence Yunkin, last summer. Both Miss Lambert and her friend, Miss Buck, had harassed Miss Show, police have been told.

"Laurie was afraid of Lawrence and Michelle. She didn't want anything to do with any of them," Mrs. Show testified.

When police and medical attendants arrived, they were unable to revive Miss Show, her mother and other witnesses testified.

An autopsy listed the cause of death as slashing of the throat, multiple stab wounds and cuts, East Lampeter police Sgt.

More MOTHER on A-6

Boyfriend testifies against 2 teens after promise of leniency

by John M. Hooper III
New Era Staff Writer

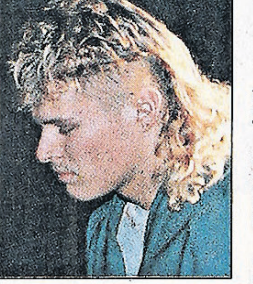
The man who admits he drove two women to the East Lampeter Township condominium where Laurie M. Show was murdered on Dec. 20 has turned state's evidence in return for lenient treatment.

Lawrence Yunkin, 20, Martic Forge, who lived with Lisa Michelle Lambert and knew Tabatha Buck, testified for the prosecution at Miss Buck's murder hearing on Wednesday afternoon.

Yunkin, a tall man with blond, shaggy hair, took the witness stand just four hours after he signed a guilty plea to a charge of hindering apprehension.

The maximum sentence he faces is 3½-to-7 years imprisonment. In exchange for his testimony, Yunkin will not be charged with murder, prosecutors told him.

Yunkin, who worked making roof trusses at Denlinger Inc., near Paradise, said he first met Miss Buck on Lancaster's "loop" and knew her for about



four or five months.

On Dec. 19, the day before the murder, Yunkin testified that he drove Miss Lambert to Miss

More GUILTY on A-6

Will DA seek death penalty in Show slaying?

by Ernest Schreiber
New Era Staff Writer

District Attorney Joseph C. Madenspacher will seek first-degree murder convictions against teen-agers Tabatha Buck and Lisa Michelle Lambert.

But he has not decided whether his office will seek the death penalty, if the two young women are found guilty of the Christmas week killing of 16-year-old Laurie M. Show.

While not ruling out the possibility of seeking the death penalty—an extremely rare action

The committee, chaired by

IN TODAY'S NEW ERA

BUSINESS

PRODUCTIVITY has been slumping the last few years in the U.S. Is it because of laziness among workers? Page B-10

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HEY LISTEN

Manheim Twp. students have written and are staging a thought-provoking play

TREND Weekend

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STUPID PET TRICKS
A Millersville University student and his dog will be on David Letterman's TV special tonight

LOCAL NEWS B-1

WEATHER

CLEAR. Tonight, mostly clear with lows 20 to 25 and light winds Friday, partly sunny with highs around 40. A chance of snow flurries Saturday. Fair but cold Sunday and Monday. Morning lows in the teens and low 20s Saturday.

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CHUCKLE

Doctors say we should walk for our health. After paying the doctor bill, who can afford to drive?

HOW GUYS DO LAUNDRY

Wash only what you need, even if it's just one sock

DAVE BARRY A-15

COVER 45 OF 52

Laurie Show Murder

"You couldn't find one person you could walk up to who'd ever say, 'I hate Laurie Show.'"

In late December of 1991, family and friends such as the person quoted above, Jason Chastain, were trying to make sense of a senseless act. On the morning of Friday, Dec. 20, 16-year-old Laurie Show was brutally murdered in her East Lampeter Township home. The tale of this killing would fill the pages of local newspapers throughout 1992 and 1993.

In the summer of 1991, Show met Lawrence Yunkin, who she would later confide had raped her at some point during their short association. Shortly thereafter, 18-year-old Lisa Michelle Lambert became obsessed with the idea that Show was attempting to woo Yunkin away from her. Over a

series of months, Lambert would show up at The Deb Shop clothing store where Show worked to harass her over the perceived relationship.

Show's mother, Hazel, eventually filed a restraining order against Lambert, but it would be too late — local investigators opened the case four days before Show's murder.

On the morning of Dec. 20, Lambert, joined by Tabitha Buck, placed a call to Show's mother under the guise of a school counselor requesting a meeting about her daughter's conduct at school. With the elder Show out of the house, Lambert — who was six months pregnant at the time with Yunkin's child — and Buck proceeded to stab and strangle Laurie to death. Just 36 hours later, Lambert, Buck and Yunkin were arrested at the

Garden Spot Bowling Alley in Strasburg.

Though Lambert and Buck were initially each charged with single counts of criminal homicide and criminal conspiracy, a judge would later void Lambert's conviction in 1997. Judge Stewart Dalzell insisted that Lambert had been wrongly convicted as a result of withheld and fabricated evidence.

After a series of appeals, Judge Anita Brody of the Federal District Court of Philadelphia found Lambert guilty of first-degree murder.

Today, Tabitha Buck is in prison with eligibility for parole in 2020, while Lambert is serving life without parole. After pleading guilty to third-degree murder, and receiving a lesser sentence due to his peripheral connection to the crime, Yunkin left prison on parole in 2003.