

Judge gives Bonelli life with no parole

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ended May 11 when a jury convicted Bonelli of first-degree murder.

"I think this whole episode (Thursday) really brings into focus the fact that this case will never really be over for the family of the victim," said assistant prosecutor Fred Miller. "Nothing is more out of sync with nature than to have a child die before her parent does. I just wish the family the best and hope they will be able to deal with this and go on with life."

Judge Gilbert, in sentencing Bonelli, called his behavior toward Fracchia "outrageous." Her body was found floating face down March 17, 1989, in shallow waters of Orchard Lake. Both teenagers lived in Farmington Hills.

"The victim was a person who liked you," Gilbert told Bonelli. "She was a person who trusted and believed in you. In fact, she loved you. And you, in turn, took her life from her and all of her hopes and expectations. The only thing the court can do is take part of your life from you."

"This court has taken from you the freedom of life, and every day

you will remember that," Gilbert added. "Remember what you did. We will."

GILBERT HAD no discretion to reduce the mandatory life term for first-degree murder, but she did accept a request from Andary, the defense attorney, that Bonelli receive medical therapy as part of his imprisonment.

In brief remarks in court Thursday, Andary said Bonelli "should have been institutionalized" six months before Fracchia's death and treated for severe mental illness. Andary had tried to prove during the trial that Bonelli was insane when he murdered Fracchia.

Witnesses at Bonelli's trial said he planned to murder Fracchia, his former girlfriend, because she had been harassing him about another girl, Venise Asmar, whom he had been dating.

Andary said an appeal of Bonelli's sentence is expected in about two weeks.

"It is my opinion and feeling that Anthony belongs in another category than the crime he was found guilty of committing," Andary said.



Sandy Fracchia, who fainted in court after her daughter's murderer was sentenced to life in prison, regains consciousness and is comforted by family and friends.

Photos by GUY WARREN/staff photographer



GUY WARREN/staff photographer

Memories of murder victim Kristina Marie Fracchia live on as her friend, Jordan Solomon, and cousins, Jenny and Heather Scott, mourn nearly 15 months after her death.

Grads miss Fracchia

By Darrell Clem
staff writer

Someone was missing June 1 when 196 graduates at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills received their diplomas.

It was Kristina Marie Fracchia. "She would have been sitting in my row," said Eileen Goode, 17. "Tina's presence was there, though."

Friends of Fracchia, who was drowned in Orchard Lake on March 17, 1989, by her former boyfriend, Anthony Bonelli, carried white roses during graduation ceremonies in honor of the former glee club member.

"It was really hard with her not there," said Jessica Klemczak, 18. "It was really emotional."

Fracchia's friends — some of them weeping — talked about their graduation as they sat Thursday in Oakland County Circuit Court, where Bonelli was sentenced to life in prison with no parole.

"You could tell something was missing during the graduation," said Andrea Sorge, 18.

Friends described Fracchia, 17, as a popular student who had many friends and tried to live life to the fullest.

"She was outgoing and fun to be with," said Natalie Surowy, 17, an-

other Mercy High student. "She was full of life. You never caught her in a bad mood."

Those who knew Fracchia said Bonelli's life-term sentence could never compensate for their friend's death. They appeared sad Thursday as they prepared to leave the courtroom and close a chapter of their life that they said would never be forgotten.

"It helps," Fracchia's cousin, Jenny Scott, 18, said of Bonelli's life sentence. "I'm relieved."

Another cousin, Heather Scott, 15, summed up her feelings in four words: "I can sleep now."

Farmington high schools to graduate nearly 1,000

Nearly 1,000 seniors at Farmington's three public high schools will bid adieu this week to school life, and make their way into the adult world.

Also graduating from this area are Walled Lake Western High School students who live in far northwest Farmington Hills and Clarenceville High School students who live in southeast Farmington Hills.

Graduations for Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington high schools in the Farmington Public Schools will be at Ford Auditorium in Detroit with all-night parties following at individual schools. The parties are organized and sponsored by parent groups.

Farmington High will graduate a class of 250 seniors Tuesday, June 12, with a party immediately after the 8 p.m. ceremony. Parents are planning a "Fiesta de Sol" theme for

Graduations for Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington high schools in the Farmington Public Schools will be at Ford Auditorium in Detroit.

this year's event, which is the sixth all-night party organized at the school.

Harrison's graduation day is Wednesday, June 13, when 200 seniors are expected to receive their diplomas at 8 p.m., then celebrate at the annual "Beach Bash" all-night party. This is also the sixth year of the parent-organized party.

Veteran all-night party organizers

at North Farmington are having their 16th annual bash, with a theme of Around the World in Six Hours, said organizers. Their party will be Thursday, June 14, after an 8 p.m. graduation ceremony.

At Walled Lake Western, graduation will be 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 12. At Clarenceville, graduation was Friday. All-night parties for graduating seniors follow the ceremonies at each school.

Organized as a way for graduates to get together and have fun without drinking and driving between private parties, the all-night parties have developed into community events.

Local businesses and restaurants donate food and prizes for all the parties, which now include casino tables with fun money, recording studios, caricature artists, moonwalks, disc jockeys and balloon send-offs at dawn.

North parents to honor grads

The 14th annual North Farmington High School Senior All-Night Party will be held on June 13 immediately following the graduation ceremonies.

This party is a tradition at North Farmington as an alternative to numerous individual parties. The party is held at North Farmington and is sponsored by the parents of the senior class. Attendance is limited to students in senior status. Typically, 80 percent of the members of the class attend this party. This year's class consists of 310 students.

Chairpeople for this year's party are Linda and John Webb. All of the preparations are handled by committees headed by Jan Rolin, treasurer;

Jack and Linda Whiteman, gifts and donations; Sue and Robert Zeno, auction and casino; Carol and Howard Siegrist, entertainment; Betsey Stevens and Pam Correll, decorations; Sue Allison, food; Sharon Dolak, tickets and publicity; Susan Kehl and Nancy Gressler, security and chaperones; Pat Raer, goody bags; and Chris Gull, telephone.

The theme for this year is "Around the World in Six Hours." Each student will receive a passport upon entering the party. Credit will be given for visiting the different countries which will be represented by the various games.

These credits will be used periodically during the course of the night to participate in bidding for various gifts which will be auctioned.

The gifts have been donated by local merchants and parents of the senior class. They range from TV sets and small refrigerators to Walkman radios and gift certificates.

In addition to the auction, activities will consist of a casino, photo booth, golf, hockey, recording studio, dunk tank, caricatures and more. Food will be served throughout the evening along with music by a local disc jockey.

The party will end with breakfast, a special closing ceremony, and sealing of a time capsule, which will be opened at the 10th annual reunion.

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Harrison Beach Bash June 14

It's a Beach Bash for the Harrison High senior class of 1990 hosted by their parents on June 14 following commencement ceremonies.

The all-night party is to be held in the lower level of the high school beginning at 11 p.m. and ending at 5 a.m. the next morning. This year's co-chairs are Barb and Lou Herremans, Tanya and Dick Aldrich and Jennie and Mike Ellison.

When the doors open the seniors-only party will include a moonwalk, dunk tank, disc jockey, millionaires party and picture pins. Food is being donated by area merchants and parents. The swimming pool will be open for the evening. Every senior will leave with a commemorative souvenir.

The evening will be capped off with an auction followed by the tradi-

tional balloon send-off at 5 a.m. As has been the case over the past several years, there is no admittance after midnight and any student wishing to leave will not be readmitted.

Donations of money and gifts from area merchants and friends of Harrison High School make this party possible. To donate contact Donna and Tony Sarsfield 477-7757.