

# Victims' families call driver's sentence just

By Steve Kellman  
staff writer

The family members of Albert Abdelnour of Livonia and Yusuf Hanania of Novi said they obtained a measure of justice when the man convicted of killing the brothers-in-law was sentenced to 15 to 24 months in jail. The sentence of Kenneth Loveday, 20, formerly of Novi, was one month less than the maximum allowable by law.

Loveday, charged with negligent homicide in the two men's deaths June 5, was sentenced Feb. 11 by Oakland Circuit Judge Francis X. O'Brien.

LOVEDAY was convicted Jan. 9 of negligent homicide in the deaths of Abdelnour and Hanania while they were jogging on Eight Mile just east of Beck Road.

His westbound Jeep Wrangler struck the two joggers after Loveday swerved off the road into their path.

He claimed that he swerved to avoid a gray pickup truck but the claim was not supported by other witnesses to the incident. Passenger Michael Gibson testified that he and Loveday had smoked marijuana minutes before Loveday's Jeep struck the joggers.

Loveday had faced the more severe charge of involuntary manslaughter with a motor vehicle, a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

The Feb. 11 sentencing was punctuated by emotional statements from Hanania's wife Angela and 12-year-old daughter Andrea and from Abdelnour's brother Basim.

Angela asked the judge to "let me be able to go home to my children, look them in the face, and tell them that justice has been done."

Basim Abdelnour held photos of his brother and brother-in-law for the courtroom to see, describing them as beloved husbands and fathers as other family members stifled their sobs.

His brother, Albert Abdelnour, was the owner of a pharmacy in Farmington Hills.

Abdelnour, who described the incident as "several seconds of drug-induced insanity," said "Kenneth Loveday is not the victim. He has shown no remorse. Instead he smirks and sneers and smiles at our pain."

*Angela Hanania asked the judge to 'let me be able to go home to my children, look them in the face, and tell them that justice has been done.'*

DEFENSE ATTORNEY Jerry D'Avanzo tried to shift the focus of the incident to the condition of Eight Mile by noting the narrowness of the two-lane road at the site of the incident, the road's 50-mph limit, and the constricted gravel shoulder.

"Now combined with these factual circumstances, we had the unfortunate situation of two men who took it upon themselves on this particular morning to go jogging on the highway toward oncoming westbound traffic," said D'Avanzo.

Loveday himself took the stand and said, "The victims' families do not know how I feel inside. They do not know what I'm going through day to day. I wish this was a day that I could just put behind."

Before passing sentence, O'Brien noted the many letters submitted to the court regarding the case "from ministers, teachers, friends, family and those whose opinions are based upon what they've read in the paper."

The judge said many of the letters were "critical of the jury's verdict and critical of the court's ruling on the admissibility of evidence, and that's understandable to this court. . . . I recognize that some feel that the court erred in admitting evidence relating to the drugs, and others feel the court erred in excluding evidence about the defendant's prior driving."

"The court is bound to follow the rules governing the admissibility of evidence, and they are very difficult decisions."

# Teacher sentenced in exposure case

By Mike Tyree  
staff writer

A local high school teacher convicted of exposing himself to a woman in Hines Park was sentenced last week to six months deferred probation and \$250 in court costs.

Charles Donald Scheer, 54, of Farmington, a shop teacher at North Farmington High School, also must successfully complete personal counseling sessions and is barred from Hines Park during the length of his probation, said Sue Secorski, 35th District Court probation officer.

Scheer pleaded guilty last month to disorderly conduct/indecent exposure charges stemming from an Aug. 14, 1991, incident in Hines Park north of Five Mile.

NORTHVILLE Township police arrested Scheer after a 24-year-old Plymouth woman reported that a man had exposed himself to her while she painted a watercolor in Hines Park.

Scheer originally denied the charge and told police he was urinating and mistakenly came upon the

woman. But Scheer later agreed to the guilty plea before Judge James Garber on the disorderly conduct/indecent exposure charges.

North Farmington High School suspended Scheer with pay after hearing of the charges. School officials were awaiting the outcome of the sentencing and an Internal Investigation before rendering a decision on Scheer's employment status, school officials said.

Mike Tyree is a staff writer for the Northville Record.



SHARON LEMUEUX/staff photographer

Judge Margaret Schaeffer is all smiles as she marries Debbie Dwyer and Jeffery Mullins.

# One of judges' favorite jobs is tying the knot

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ment. Gary is a cop in Detroit's Eighth Precinct.

Asked why they chose a Valentine's Day wedding, Gary said, "We didn't want to buy each other anything."

After the wedding, which took 4 minutes and 23 seconds, Gary was

full of jokes, referring to his marriage as "a life sentence" much to the chagrin of his new bride.

AND SO IT went, as eight couples spoke their vows in the courthouse. Courthouse weddings appeal to these going into second marriages and to people of different religions, including foreigners, said Judge Schaeffer. "To them, a religious ceremony wouldn't mean much," she said.

"We're getting more and more weddings here," said Marilyn Hotele, administrative secretary for

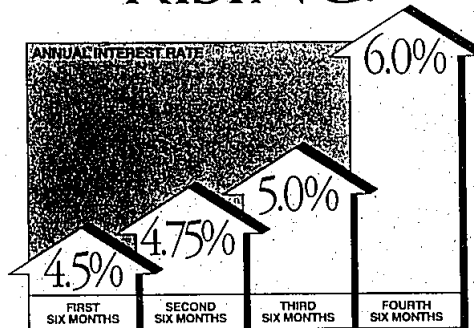
the judges. "People see it as an inexpensive alternative."

Weddings cost \$10 — and the judge can't accept gratuities. Courthouse weddings appeal to these going into second marriages and to people of different religions, including foreigners, said Judge Schaeffer. "To them, a religious ceremony wouldn't mean much," she said.



George Manning and Ann Nerareth exchange rings before Judge Margaret Schaeffer.

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