

# At 17, she had 'lived a lifetime,' was looking for help

"When I look in the mirror,  
I wonder sometimes it's  
not me.  
My mind hurts so — Why all  
this misery?  
Finding the answer isn't  
easy at all.  
Just when I reach the top, I  
fall."

A Doreen Levesque poem

By Susan Pawlak-Seaman  
STANDARD-TIMES STAFF WRITER

Doreen Ann Levesque, found brutally slain in Fall River eight days ago, was "only 17, but she lived a lifetime", according to her former foster parent. That lifetime, her friends and family say, included drugs, shoplifting, running away from home, dropping out of school, and becoming a social outcast among many of her peers. Yet it also included letters to Jesus, a constant searching for self-awareness, and a cry for help in poignant poems.

Doreen's mother, Rita Levesque of 235 Maple St., New Bedford, said, "My daughter went the whole route. Drugs, alcohol, whatever went on in the streets she was aware of, because she was a part of it."

"But I don't think she was on that route when she died," Mrs. Levesque said. "All the indications seemed to my husband and me to be that she was making an all-out effort to help herself. She was really trying."

## Sought counseling

She said Doreen had sought counseling at a New Bedford mental health center. "She told us that she knew what we were trying to say to her, but she couldn't accept it from us. But she was looking for help, I know."

Mrs. Levesque said she and her husband are attempting to understand why their daughter met such a violent death. "When she was young, she was such a happy baby, such a happy child. But then, as she grew up, she had so much misery. Why did she die like this? Our priest has told us that God has his reasons, that there is a purpose to her death. . . . But that is beyond our under-

standing as human beings."

Doreen Levesque's life was a study in contrasts. School friends described her as "so insecure inside. But she tried to be tough and hard on the outside. She said she could take care of herself, but she really couldn't. She had a heart full of love and she'd do anything to receive love and affection."

The problems in the girl's life surfaced when she was about 12. "At 12 years old, Doreen had above-average intelligence," her mother said. "She was aware of things going on that other children her age might have had no idea of."

"We had some big hassles over things . . . if she said she was going to do something and it didn't sound right to me, I'd check it out. I was at home, while some of the parents of her friends were working . . . Sometimes I'd get the other kids in trouble when their parents found out what they were really planning to do."

## Wings too early

Mrs. Levesque said her daughter "was trying her wings and trying to get

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OCT-21-79

# More arrests expected in Levesque murder

By Margaret A. Charig  
STANDARD-TIMES STAFF WRITER

District Attorney Ronald A. Pina said last night he expects additional arrests in connection with the murder of Doreen Levesque.

William E. Smith, 39, of Newport, R.I., was charged Friday with the murder, and Pina says he will seek a grand jury indictment Tuesday.

"I anticipate there will be more (arrests)," he said last night. But the Bristol County prosecutor would not commit himself to how many or when.

Linking together the deaths of three area women, Pina said, "With the nature of the cases we've had, it's possible it would be better not to proceed with further indictments until those cases are resolved."

He was referring to the murders of 20-year-old Karen A. Marsden and 19-year-old Barbara Raposa, both of Fall River, and 17-year-old Miss Levesque, a New Bedford woman who frequented "the same areas of Fall River."

## Other victims

Following the discovery of the three women's bodies and the disclosure of some sort of cult operating in the Westport-Freetown-Fall River area, there were rumors that bodies of other murder victims might be buried in various places.

"That aspect of the investigation has not stopped yet," Pina said. But he indicated his staff and state and Fall River police have "put all the pieces together" on the three known murder victims.

"I think I know what happened now in the deaths of all three girls," he said. However, "It's a decision I've made that we'll just try to take one situation at a time," he added.

Pina noted that one common link among the three cases is Robin

Marie Murphy, an 18-year-old Fall River woman who knew all three women. Miss Murphy pleaded guilty last month to second-degree murder in the death of Miss Marsden in exchange for her testimony against two co-defendants.

She also testified against Andre O. Maltais, who was tried and convicted of first-degree murder in the death of Miss Raposa. During that trial, Miss Murphy also indicated that she was present the night Miss Levesque died.

## All 3 beaten

All three murder victims allegedly died after being beaten with rocks. The hands of Miss Raposa and Miss Levesque were tied in front of their bodies when they were found.

Pina ventured that the trials of Carl Drew and Carl Davis, the two Fall River co-defendants charged with murdering Miss Marsden will "put the pieces together." He said his problem with the allied cases at this time is a matter of legal logistics and getting the evidence out at the right time in the right order.

Drew's trial is slated to begin March 3 in Fitchburg, where it was scheduled to ensure a jury free from prejudice by evidence in the Maltais case.

Pina said evidence from one trial that might affect the other is a "major concern" to his assistant prosecutors. He said, "You may find interlocking circumstances . . . in the evidence."

Pina still is reluctant to talk about details of the cases or to pinpoint other similarities. "To discuss the Levesque case may put out information that would affect the Karen Marsden case," he said. "There is evidence that has got to come in in the Marsden case that . . . may be involved in the Levesque case."

Standard Times NB Feb 15-1981

# Credibility of witness is an issue

Has Robin Murphy, 19, recanted grand jury testimony that led to indictment of William E. Smith, 38, of Newport, for the murder of a 17-



Robin Murphy

year-old Doreen Levesque, of New Bedford?

Trial is scheduled to start Monday in New Bedford.

Atty. William F. Long Jr., who is Smith's counsel, says Murphy has changed her story. Dist. Atty. Ronald Pina says she hasn't.

Judge Chris Byron will try to resolve the credibility issue today at a Superior Court hearing in New Bedford.

Smith is accused in the beating death of Levesque. Her body was found on Oct. 13, 1979, under the bleachers at Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Long said late Tuesday he'd been advised by the district attorney's office to be at New Bedford Superior Court by 2 p.m. today.

Murphy is to take the witness stand under a court order. She is serving a life sentence at the Women's Reformatory, Framingham. She pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the February, 1980 death of Miss Karen Marsden, of Fall River.

Murphy reportedly will be ordered by the court today to undergo a polygraph test to clear up her status in the case.

Long confirmed that he was made aware "through a member of the D.A.'s staff" that Murphy had recanted statements she made before a grand jury, linking Smith to the Levesque murder. Murphy had been granted immunity by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

Pina said he has no personal knowledge that Murphy has changed her story. He characterized the recantation story as a "rumor that had been floating around the courthouse for weeks."

Pina said he had not talked to Murphy but will do so today. He conceded that she could have had some contact with people who once served on his staff.

Pina also disclosed that as part of the preparation for the trial next week, State Trooper Daniel Lowney has gone to the West Coast to pick up a witness now residing in Livingston, Calif. Pina identified her

as "Cookie" Powers. Long is still trying to get Smith released from the county jail, where

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William Smith

**MURPHY**  
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he has been held since his Superior Court arraignment in mid-March.

Long said, "My client has some rights. Certainly releasing him on personal bail doesn't cure incarceration. That's not cured by release."

Murphy was the state's star witness against two separate defendants in other murder cases. She testified against Andre O. Maltais, 44, of Fall River, who was convicted for first-degree murder in the beating death of his girl friend, Miss Barbara Ann Raposa, 19, also of Fall River. Raposa's body was found in a wooded area off Jefferson Street, in January, 1980.



# High Court to rule on Miss Murphy's immunity status in Smith murder case

William E. Smith, 39, of Newport, accused in the 1979 slaying of New Bedford prostitute, Doreen Levesque, 17, won't go to trial until the state Supreme Judicial Court rules whether the prosecution's key witness, Robin Murphy, was improperly granted immunity.

The full bench of the SJC will conduct a hearing Feb. 2 on a defense motion to revoke the immunity granted earlier by a single justice of that same court, to Miss Murphy.

Smith's defense lawyer, William F. Long Jr., of Fall River, describes his bid to have the SJC revoke Miss Murphy's immunity as, "an attempt to free up the witness from an iron mask."

Next month's SJC hearing means that Smith's trial originally scheduled to start March 1 in New Bedford Superior Court, will be put off until sometime after March 15.

Assistant district attorney Ralph (Chip) Mulford said today that a meeting was held Monday

with trial Judge William K. Mone and defense lawyer Long to bring the judge up to date on the Smith case.

During that discussion, Mulford said, he apprised Judge Mone that last Thursday the SJC notified the district attorney's office that it will hear arguments on Miss Murphy's immunity next month.

Up until that notification, the state had planned to file its own brief in the case, arguing that the status of Miss Murphy's immunity would be "moot" in that Smith would already have gone to trial before the SJC could answer the question of propriety.

The prosecution now has 10 days in which to file its own answer to the defense motion to revoke Miss Murphy's immunity, to be heard by the SJC next month.

In a related matter, a hearing scheduled for today in New Bedford Superior Court on a defense motion to suppress Miss Murphy's identification of Smith from 15 police

photographs shown her in Suffolk Superior Court, was cancelled.

The Feb. 2 SJC hearing marks the third time that the question of Miss Murphy's immunity status will have been argued.

Twice before the prosecution, arguing before single justices of that court, won their battle to keep the witness's immunity intact.

And, in New Bedford Superior Court Judge Chris Byron denied a defense motion to hold up Smith's trial pending an SJC decision on Miss Murphy's immunity, triggering another appearance before a single justice of the SJC who upheld Byron's decision.

The latest struggle over Miss Murphy's immunity status, is viewed by prosecutor Mulford as a signal that the SJC "may want to make some new law in the area of witness immunity."

"It has been coming for some time," Mulford said. "And, this case, of course, may be the

perfect opportunity for it. The law is clear, at this point, a defendant such as Smith had no standing to argue that there had been some technical defect, in the granting of immunity to a witness. This case could prove to be the perfect vehicle to test that concept."

Mulford said that should the SJC rule that Miss Murphy was improperly granted immunity, "could put us (D.A.s office) back to square one. We'd have to take her back before the grand jury, have her invoke her rights, then go before the SJC, etc. Anything could happen, now."

Defense counsel Long contends that Miss Murphy's immunity was improper in that the witness was never asked questions about Doreen Levesque's slaying when she appeared before the grand jury, after a single justice of the SJC had granted transactional immunity in any and all future prosecution.

Following that grand

jury appearance, Miss Murphy testified against Carl Drew at his Fitchburg Superior Court murder trial last March in the murder of Miss Marsden and testified about Miss Levesque with what was purported to be a valid grant of immunity. Drew was convicted of first-degree murder in the Marsden case and is serving a life sentence at Walpole State Prison.

During that Drew trial, Miss Murphy appeared before a Bristol County grand jury and gave information which led to murder indictments against Smith and Drew in connection with the Levesque women's death.

The court had already granted Drew a separate trial from Smith in that case. He reportedly has refused an offer by the state to close the books on the murder indictment against him because of the expense of bringing him to trial again with virtually the same witnesses and evidence and wants to stand trial.

# Roofer cleared of Satan cult killing

By JAMES O. WELCH

A lie which linked a 40-year-old roofer to a New Bedford murder and a satan-worshipping cult has cost him nearly two years behind bars.

And now he may want the Massachusetts Legislature to reimburse him for his trouble, his lawyer told The Herald yesterday.

"He just wants to be disassociated with the whole thing. But we may file a bill in the Legislature" for reim-



**Doreen Levesque**

bursement for the time spent behind bars, lawyer William F. Long Jr. said of William E. Smith, of Newport, R.I.

Smith was released from New Bedford Superior Court Monday



**William Smith**

after a key prosecution witness admitted that she "lied" to a grand jury and that she didn't even know Smith.

That witness, Robin Marie Murphy, 19, who is serving 15

years-to-life for murder, had identified Smith as the Oct. 13, 1979 killer of Doreen Levesque, a 16-year-old New Bedford hooker. Levesque was bound and brutally beaten to death by a blunt instrument. Her body was found under the bleachers at a New Bedford vocational school stadium.

Murphy, a lesbian and former prostitute in the same group as Levesque, is in prison for the sadistic 1980 killing of hooker Karen Marsden, who wit-

nessed the Levesque murder.

Carl Drew, 27, of Fall River, a pimp and leader of the cult, also is serving a life sentence for Marsden's murder, based on Murphy's testimony.

However, Murphy apparently feared being labeled a "rat" by her fellow Framingham State Prison inmates, and recanted her testimony against Smith, who had spent almost two years in jail awaiting trial.

For Smith, Murphy's change in testi-



**Robin Marie Murphy**

*Admitted that she "lied" to grand jury.*

mony was only reaffirmation of what he had said all along: "I knew Doreen Levesque and Carl Drew — we used to drink together. But I didn't know Robin Murphy. I was wrongly accused."

Smith, who is toothless emerged from court Monday smiling.

"They asked me three times if I did it, and I told them each time 'not guilty,'" he said.

Bristol County District Attorney Ronald Pina said although he didn't believe Murphy's newest story, "it is totally impossible to go ahead with the case because of her conflicting testimony."