

HAMTRAMCK: FIANCEE KILLED IN CARJACKING - TAYLOR MAN PROPOSED ONLY 2 DAYS BEFORE

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, September 27, 2007
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After nine months of dating, Linc Bullard knew Amanda Brown was the one.

So last Thursday, while the couple sat chatting in Brown's home in Taylor after a fun-filled evening at a concert, Bullard made the declaration.

"Let's do it," he recalled saying. "Let's get married."

Brown, however, wouldn't live to tell her parents the good news.

Around 2:30 p.m. the next day, as she sat in a truck waiting on a friend who was inside the Henry Ford Health System Clinic on Holbrook Road in Hamtramck, a man rode up on a bicycle and shot Brown in the forehead and shoulder. He left her body there and took the truck.

When Bullard got the call about the shooting, he left work and sped along I-75 to the scene. Brown's body was already gone.

When he got to the hospital, she was on life support.

"The doctor told me there was no hope," he said.

Brown, 23, was pronounced dead at 3:32 a.m. Sunday at Detroit Receiving Hospital. Bullard, 30, was by her side.

"I kept saying over and over again, 'I pray to God I made her half as happy as she made me,' " Bullard said Wednesday, choking back tears at his home. "I'll never forget her."

As Saturday's funeral approaches, Bullard and Brown's friends are hoping police are getting closer to catching the man who killed her. On Wednesday evening, Hamtramck police released the name of a suspect. He is **Jeremy Rice**, 24, of Detroit, a parole absconder with an extensive criminal history.

Officers found the abandoned GMC Sonoma in the Evergreen/Outer Drive area in Detroit about six hours after the shooting.

The apparent randomness of the killing shocked investigators.

"I can't say that we don't have problems with inner-city type crimes," Hamtramck Police Lt. Ronald Mathias said. "But it is rare that there are shots fired during a carjacking."

Bullard had a message for the killer: "If you have any humanity in you, be a man and face up to

what you have done."

Brown worked as a manager at a Wendy's restaurant in Wyandotte. There, she was regarded as an upbeat, witty young woman who had a love for music and video games.

"That kid never walked into the store without a smile on her face," said Debbie Jackson, the restaurant's general manager. "She had the most beautiful eyes you have ever seen. And she never had a bad day."

Bullard, who works at Container Port Group in Detroit, said a mutual friend introduced him to Brown in January and the pair instantly clicked.

Bullard plays bass in a band, Myth Not Man, and said Brown showed up at nearly every practice and gig.

She also loved video games, especially "Halo," and was eagerly awaiting Tuesday's release of "Halo 3."

As a tribute to Brown, Bullard, band members and other friends got tattoos of an image from "The Legend of Zelda" video games. The image, known as the Triforce, shows three triangles arranged to form a larger triangle.

Although they hadn't set a wedding date, Bullard and Brown had planned to gather their families last Saturday to share the news. They planned to tell their friends and pick out a ring this week.

"I don't know how you get over something like this," Bullard said.

Jackson, who worked with Brown for about a year, said she went outside after hearing about the shooting Friday evening and looked up at the sky.

"I said, 'I don't understand, God. I don't know what you want from us,' " she said.

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FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Visitation for Amanda Brown is 1-9 p.m. Friday at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, 30895 W. Huron River Drive in Flat Rock. The funeral is at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

INFORMATION

Anyone with information about the carjacking is asked to call Hamtramck police at 313-876-7800 or Detroit police at 313-596-2260.

ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: Linc Bullard, 30, of Taylor holds a photo Wednesday of Amanda Brown, 23, of Taylor. She died Sunday after being shot.

CAPTIONWRITER: BEN SCHMITT / Detroit Free Press

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Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS; NEWS

Page: 1B

Index Terms: Amanda Brown;homicide; Hamtramck; woman victim; shooting; carjacking

Record Number: dfp0000483921

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