

NIGHTMARE LINGERS FOR MOTHER OF SLAIN BOY

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Jeanne Cizio buried her son but not the **nightmare of** his murder.

"Inside, what happened has never gone away. And now it's coming back **for** real," Cizio said .
"The **nightmares** are always with me. I never saw inside the attic where they found my little **boy** , but always I am dreaming about that attic."

In October 1979, Curt Cizio, a 14-year-old Free Press carrier, was found murdered in a customer's attic, about two blocks from his near west side Detroit home -- a day after he had disappeared while delivering papers.

The customer, John Mazzie, pleaded guilty but mentally ill to a reduced charge **of** second-degree murder, but the plea has been overturned because he was not formally advised **of** the minimum and maximum penalties.

Last week, a new trial was set **for** Mazzie, whose lawyer is now considering an insanity defense.

"This is a shock," Cizio said. "I just didn't expect it . . . I'm going to pray **for** Mr. (Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Timothy) Kenny to have all the ability to win our case. It was not healed; it will never heal. The people left behind now have to suffer again. Insane? Baloney! I hope the jury will not believe that .

Cizio said friends had warned her that Mazzie would somehow escape punishment.

"They told me, but I wouldn't believe them. Now, if he gets out free, I just don't know what. It seems like everybody's trying to be insane and get off **for** their crimes," she said.

MAZZIE WAS first charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping. After extensive plea bargaining, he pleaded guilty but mentally ill in May 1980 before Recorder's Court Judge Robert Evans to second-degree murder in exchange **for** a 25-50 year prison sentence.

But last fall Mazzie's plea was overturned on the grounds he was not told that second -degree murder carried a potential life sentence and that he could not get probation.

Court hearings leading to the new trial were delayed because Mazzie was confined to state psychiatric homes.

Last week, defense attorney O. Lee Molette was granted court approval **for** a psychiatric examination **of** Mazzie.

Mazzie, 30, underwent three psychiatric tests soon after his arrest. In 1979 and 1980 , the state-operated Center **for** Forensic Psychiatry at Ypsilanti and a private psychiatrist both said Mazzie

was sane when the killing occurred. But another psychiatrist said Mazzie was insane and therefore not responsible **for** the murder.

"I think we need a new evaluation **of** Mr. Mazzie," Molette said.

YOUNG CIZIO , a straight-A 10th-grader at St. Andrew School, disappeared while on his newspaper route the morning **of** Oct. 4, 1979.

Police were led to Mazzie by the victim's older brothers, Clement and Christopher, who traced the paper route, questioning customers and neighbors.

Mazzie reportedly told the brothers Curt had come into his house because he was being chased. Mazzie claimed the youth left after a few minutes, the brothers said.

Christopher, who drowned this spring in an accident , told Mazzie "that he had information and should come with us to the (6th police) precinct." The brothers flagged down a passing scout car, and police took Mazzie in **for** questioning as the last person to have seen the youth alive.

MAZZIE GAVE police conflicting versions **of** the incident before admitting he choked the **boy** with an electrical cord when he rebuffed sexual advances, according to court testimony.

Police found Curt's bound body hidden in Mazzie's attic the next day. Curt's bicycle was found disassembled elsewhere in the house.

Kenny said Mazzie will be tried **for** second -degree murder and that, if convicted, he cannot get more than the 25-50 years to which he was sentenced under the now-discarded plea bargain.

Kenny said the prosecution in the upcoming trial will be "handicapped, somewhat" by the death **of** Christopher Cizio, an important prosecution witness.

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