

SUSPECTED SERIAL KILLER CONVICTED OF MURDER

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Victor Malone, characterized by the prosecution as the personification of a "snuff film" disguised in a three-piece suit, was convicted Tuesday of murdering a Detroit prostitute.

A Recorder's Court jury deliberated two hours before convicting Malone, 38, of second-degree murder for the July 23, 1984, strangulation of Anita Willis, a nude dancer and prostitute he met at an after-hours club. He originally was charged with first-degree murder.

Malone, a suspected **serial killer** with a University of **Michigan** master's degree in social work, is to be sentenced Sept. 18 by Judge Edward Thomas. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Malone, who is believed by authorities to be involved in 10 other Detroit area murders over the last 12 years, is scheduled to go on trial today before Thomas for the Dec. 5 fatal shooting of Leshia Brooks, another exotic dancer and prostitute. Malone also faces a murder trial in Oakland County.

ROBERT AGACINSKI, an assistant Wayne County prosecutor, told jurors the natty, well-tailored courtroom appearance of Malone disguised perverse sexual appetites that led to murder.

To understand Malone, Agacinski told the jurors, they must strip away the image of the "clean-cut, well-dressed young man we see in court" to find a man "who has become victim to his passions" and overwhelming sexual urges.

Agacinski said Malone killed Willis after offering to drive her from an after-hours club to a dope house between shows. Her nude body was found a block from the dope house several hours later.

Defense attorney Glen Warn said the case against Malone was built on testimony from unreliable dancers and prostitutes who embellished their testimony with guesswork.

Comparing Malone's alleged actions to "snuff films" -- movies purported to show an actual murder as the culmination of sexual activities -- Agacinski said women in both instances are "not only debased, demeaned but then destroyed

"I'm talking about taking that impulse and losing control," Agacinski said.

WITNESSES TESTIFIED that Malone engaged in numerous sexual acts with dancers at the club, sometimes joining them on stage. Witnesses said Malone agreed to take Willis to the dope house during her break.

Willis never arrived at the dope house, witnesses said. But Malone returned to the club alone several hours later to play cards, Agacinski said.

Warn, in his final argument, told jurors they were called to consider a murder charge and not "to talk about morality or sexual behavior beyond the norm."

Malone, described in testimony by club employees as "helpful" and "a perfect gentleman," had no motive to kill Willis. The testimony of his numerous sexual encounters in a single evening "boggles the mind," Warn said.

It was unlikely that Malone would have had time to kill Willis and still return to the club, Warn said.

Willis -- working at a club where "people go with anybody, do anything if there's money in it" -- could have gone off with someone else after being seen with Malone, said Warn.

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