

VICTIMS' KIN UPSET AS KILLER SKIPS SENTENCING

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Author: JIM SCHAEFER FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Michael Lee Anthony walked free from prison because of someone's mistake. Then he murdered two women.

But Monday, when it came time to face the grieving relatives and a judge ready to sentence him to two life prison terms, **Anthony** opted to stay under lock and key.

"I wanted to say a few words to Mr. **Anthony** ; I wanted to see his response," said Larry Wallace, brother of one of the dead women, Tina Wallace, 36, of Highland Park.

"He may not be able to see my face," said Wallace, but in the years to come, "he will see the face of my sister."

Wallace spoke before Wayne County Circuit Judge Prentis Edwards, who honored **Anthony** 's request that he remain inside the court's prisoner lockup in Detroit rather than be present for sentencing.

Edwards then gave **Anthony** the two life terms without the chance of parole, calling the murders of Tina Wallace and Toya Hill, 30, of Mt. Clemens, a "complete waste of life."

The sentences were mandatory for each first-degree murder conviction. A jury convicted **Anthony** , 54, on Sept. 9.

At times during the trial, he was combative and profane, berating witnesses, assistant prosecutor Kam Towns and the judge.

Rosalyn Tulip, a sister of Toya Hill, told the judge Monday the family was struggling to find closure in her death. "My sister was so disrespected in her death," she said.

Both women had been missing from their families, who said they both struggled with drug addiction. Their bodies were found in **Anthony** 's home on Grove Avenue in Highland Park in January. During the trial, an assistant medical examiner testified that the women probably were asphyxiated sometime last year. **Anthony** kept one body in a freezer at the foot of his bed, the other in an adjacent room under a pile of clothes on the floor.

The bedroom was described during the trial as a hangout for drug users and prostitutes. In court, **Anthony** was described as a macabre master of ceremonies, controlling access in and out of the room. The bodies were found after he was admitted to a hospital for an infected hand.

Anthony was supposed to have been serving a 15- to 30-year sentence for the rape and robbery of a Detroit woman in 1991. But because his sentence was never recorded by the Michigan Department of Corrections, he was free last winter. Authorities never have explained the error.

As the court hearing ended Monday and the judge pronounced **Anthony** 's sentence, Toya Hill's mother sat weeping in the courtroom.

"He should have been here," Mattie Hill said under her breath.

Contact JIM SCHAEFER at 313-223-4542 or schaefer@freepress.com.

Caption: Photo

Michael Lee **Anthony** of Highland Park was sentenced to two life terms without chance for parole.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 3B

Index Terms: SENTENCE ; MICHAEL LEE ANTHONY; HOMICIDE ; MULTIPLE ;
HIGHLAND PARK

Record Number: 0209240172

Copyright (c) 2002 Detroit Free Press