

WOMAN SAYS RAPE LED HER TO STAB REPEATEDLY

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A weeping **Karen Norman** told a Detroit Recorder's Court jury Tuesday that she kept stabbing Lamont Powell until he no longer resisted.

Norman, 20, charged with first-degree murder for Powell's death on May 6, testified she stabbed Powell out of fear during a brutal rape. The rape took place, she said, when he returned to her home unexpectedly after an uneventful date on Belle Isle.

During his return visit, **Norman** said, "he was like a different person. He said he'd kill me if I didn't do what he wanted. . . . He changed attitudes constantly."

NORMAN'S CASE has attracted widespread feminist interest because of her claim that she had to kill Powell to protect herself during a sexual attack.

But defense attorney Marjory Cohen's attempt Tuesday to develop that theory before the jury was thwarted when Judge Beverley Anne Jasper refused to allow Althea Grant, director of the Detroit Rape Counseling Center, to testify about the "rape trauma syndrome."

Cohen, in her unsuccessful effort to have Grant take the stand, argued that **Norman's** behavior after the alleged rape was consistent with the shock, disorientation and fear of being disbelieved that many rape victims suffer.

But Jasper ruled that the alleged rape has not been proved, so that Grant's testimony about reactions of sexual assault victims was not admissible.

The afternoon session was interrupted when Powell's mother collapsed and had to be carried from the courtroom. **NORMAN WEPT** loudly as she testified that she feared Powell was "trying to hurt me inside. . . . I didn't know what he was going to do next because he kept changing. I was scared."

An autopsy showed Powell's blood-alcohol level was 0.18 percent, nearly twice that of legal intoxication.

Norman said she took a folding hunting knife from a nightstand and stabbed him. Powell then hit her in the face and rolled away from her, **Norman** said, while she continued stabbing as he grabbed her arm.

Norman said she broke free and hid in her children's bedroom. But fearing Powell would follow her, she said she ran from the room and encountered Powell by the bathroom.

"I panicked, and I stabbed him until he stopped trying to grab me," she testified. ". . . I remember standing there and saying, 'Oh my, God!' over and over. And I remember wiping my hands."

NORMAN SAID she thought she stabbed Powell only "a few times." It was not until later, she said, that she learned Powell suffered 47 stab wounds.

She said she initially told relatives and police that Powell attacked her after breaking into her house because "I thought they wouldn't believe me because I had gone out with him and there wasn't nobody there to see it."

Earlier Tuesday, Dr. Carl Sacks, a Detroit Receiving Hospital emergency room physician, testified he "failed to find any signs of physical injury" in his examination of **Norman** within hours of her arrest. Sacks said it is "just less likely," but not impossible to see early bruising on a darker complexioned black person, such as **Norman**, than on someone with lighter skin.

Sacks said **Norman** had sexual intercourse four to 48 hours earlier but said he could not determine if she had been raped. He said she showed no genital injuries or bruising.

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