

Quiz lover in slay of Qns. mom

By RUTH BASHINSKY
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A 13-year-old Queens girl awoke yesterday to find her mother brutally stabbed to death, said police, who were questioning the woman's boyfriend last night.

Edwina Michele's teenage daughter made the grisly discovery around 1 p.m. after being awakened by cops who tapped on her third-story window from a fire escape, police said. Michele had been stabbed repeatedly in the chest and the back of the head.

The cops had been sent to the Victorian home on Neilson St. in Far Rockaway by the sister of Michele's boyfriend, Gary Lormil, a police source said.

The teen was "startled awake and goes running into her mother's room. She sees her mother dead and screams, then goes running back and lets [the cops] in," said the source.

It was not clear why the girl was home on a school day. A 15-year-old brother who lives in the home was at school.

Phone confession

Lormil had phoned his sister at 11:30 a.m. yesterday and confessed to repeatedly stabbing his 34-year-old lover, said a police source. The sister, who lives in Corona, Queens, flagged down a patrol car, sources said.

Cops tracked Lormil to an apartment in Jamaica, Queens, and were questioning him last night. Lormil is the father of Michele's 4-year-old son, who was sleeping near his slain mom.

Neighbors of Michele said she and Lormil had a volatile relationship, and often argued in Creole.

A neighbor, Elliot Guzman, 47, said he saw Lormil Monday night, sitting on the front porch, quietly drinking a beer.

"He seemed normal. He didn't seem upset," Guzman said.

PARIS WHEN IT SIZZLES



Model sports a decidedly different skimpy number in Spring/Summer 2004 show in Paris.

Mob trial hears of bomb plot

By JOHN MARZULLI
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A rotund reputed hit man who "learned how to be mechanical" by chopping up stolen cars testified yesterday that he was enlisted to make a remote-controlled bomb to whack mob turncoat Salvatore (Sammy Bull) Gravano.

Salvatore (Fat Sal) Mangiavillano told a Brooklyn jury that Gambino boss Peter Gotti gave the hit team carte blanche to violate mob rules against bombs — "because Sammy broke the rules first."

The device, which could be buried or placed in a parked car, comprised 20 shotgun shells that would deliver a deadly fusillade, he testified.

Mangiavillano was the government's first witness at the trial of Gambino soldier Thomas (Huck) Carbonaro, 55, his alleged accomplice in the plot to rub out Gravano.

The payoff, if they succeeded in wiping out the man who put John Gotti behind bars, Mangiavillano said, was a promotion to captain for Carbonaro and mob membership for him.

"I would get 'straightened out,' inducted into the crime family, if I helped [Carbonaro] kill Gravano," Mangiavillano, 39, said in Brooklyn Federal Court.

He described tracking Gravano in Arizona after the turncoat boasted in a 1999 interview that he would send would-be assassins back to New York in body bags.

Besides the bomb plot, another plan involved arming a sniper with a rifle.

"Why not simply walk up and

shoot him?" asked Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Dorsky.

Mangiavillano had a ready answer: "Sammy Gravano is a killer. There is no way to get near him like that."

But the plot derailed after Gravano, 57, was pinched on drug charges. Later, Peter Gotti complained that the hit men had spent too much money on high-tech surveillance equipment.

Earlier, during opening statements, Carbonaro's lawyer, John Jacobs, called Mangiavillano a liar who hoped to get out of the 75-year sentence he faces.

But Jacobs may have harmed his client worse than the wide-body mob associate, when he alluded to a passage in Gravano's best-selling book that implicated Carbonaro in a murder. The gaffe could lead to the jury hearing about seven murders Carbonaro committed as a member of Gravano's crew.

Mangiavillano, who weighed 400 pounds when he entered the federal witness protection program earlier this year, is down to about 300 pounds. The eighth-grade dropout told jurors he "learned how to be mechanical" by chopping up stolen cars for parts.

Gravano, who helped the feds put away Gotti and dozens of other gangsters, is set to testify in Carbonaro's defense.

Durst's neighbors shoot holes in defense



Prosecution witness Rosa Rabago testifies yesterday.

By RICHARD T. PIENCIAK
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GALVESTON, Tex. — Robert Durst's self-defense strategy took a beating yesterday when a next-door neighbor testified she heard a thud followed by two pops, suggesting that Morris Black was thrown to the floor before the Manhattan millionaire shot him — twice.

Another witness, Durst's upstairs neighbor, contradicted a defense claim that Durst had run upstairs and "beat up on the door," looking for help.

Maria De Henriquez said she was home all day caring for her

infant daughter and no one knocked on her door.

The first witness, Rosa Rabago, said she heard "a loud thump" about noon on Sept. 28, 2001, coming from 2213 Avenue K, where Durst lived.

"Right after I heard the thud, like someone fell, I heard two pops. It sounded like firecrackers coming from the direction of 2213."

At the time, Rabago said, she'd been doing housework near the window of her dining room at 2217 Avenue K, about 4 feet from the outside wall of Durst's first-floor apartment.

The testimony represented the first suggestion that the cross-dressing Durst had fired more than one bullet into Black, who lived across the hall.

Asked to demonstrate the "noticeable gap" between the pops, Rabago banged her hand on the witness stand, waited about 7 seconds and banged again.

Durst says he accidentally shot Black, 71, in the head in self-defense during a struggle. The real estate scion also dismembered Black's body, but the victim's head has not been recovered.

Rabago's testimony chal-

lenged the defense version on another key claim: that after the shooting, Durst had run out of the apartment to seek help in the neighborhood.

After she heard the noises, Rabago said she ran out to her porch, looked up and down the street, but saw no one.

On cross-examination, the defense suggested the shooting did not happen at noon.

Defense attorney Chip Lewis asked if "anything had been going on at 6 a.m." whether she would have still been asleep on the other side of her home.

"Yes, sir," she replied.