

THE TRIALS OF DARRYL HUNT

Teacher's Guide

**Break Thru Films
In association with
HBO/THINKFILMS
www.breakthrufilms.org**

The Trials of Darryl Hunt
PART ONE
Teacher's guide

Before viewing part one

1. Give the following handouts to students:

Part One- Before you watch guide

KWL chart

Article: "*Man already in jail is charged in Sykes murder*"

2. Vocabulary: Students will use a dictionary or the internet to find the definitions of the following words and phrases that will appear in part one of the film (words are included in the student guide).

Defense Attorney
District Attorney
presumption of Innocence
guilty
scapegoat

3. Read Article: Students will read “*Man already in jail is charged in Sykes murder*”

4. KWL Chart: Based on what the students learned in the article, they will fill in the KWL chart with what they know and would like to know about the case.

5. Discuss: Students will write their answer to the following question and then discuss as a class.

From this article, do you think DH is guilty of the charge? Why or why not?

Watch part one of *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*

Part one is about 35 minutes long. It begins at the start of the film and ends when Darryl receives the guilty verdict and is sentenced to life in prison.

After viewing part one

1. Give the following handout to students:

PART ONE – After you watch

2. KWL Chart: Students will fill in what they learned about the case and what they still would like to know.

3. Discuss: As a class, discuss the chart and what information students included.

4. Questions: Students will write their answers to the following questions and then discuss.

1. Did you learn anything from the film that conflicts with what you learned or assumed from the article? If so, what?
2. Did you presume that DH was guilty at the beginning of the film? Why or why not?
3. Has your opinion changed since watching the first part of the film? Why or why not?

Read this statement from Mark Rabil, Darryl's attorney:

"One of the great things about our criminal justice system is that a person charged with a crime is presumed to be innocent. This means that the state or government must prove that the person is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. This high degree of proof is required in order to protect people from being locked up solely on the basis of an accusation. A person charged with a crime does not have to prove his or her innocence. Rather, the government must present extremely convincing evidence to support a criminal conviction – evidence that convinces the jury beyond a reasonable doubt."

4. Was there a presumption of innocence in the case of DH? Why or why not?
5. From what you saw in the film, do you feel as though enough evidence was presented to convince the jury "beyond a reasonable doubt" that DH was guilty?
6. If so, share your thoughts.
7. If not, why do you think the jury is convinced of his guilt?
8. Do you think DH is guilty?

Name: _____

The Trials of Darryl Hunt

PART ONE

Before you watch

BEFORE VIEWING PART ONE

1. Vocabulary: Using a dictionary or the internet, find the definitions for the following words and phrases that will appear in *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*:

Defense Attorney: _____

District attorney: _____

presumption of innocence: _____

guilty: _____

scapegoat: _____

2. Read the article: “*Man already in jail is charged in Sykes murder*”

3. KWL Chart: Based on what you’ve learned in the article, fill in the KWL chart with what you know and would like to know about the case.

4. Discuss: Write your answer to the following question and then discuss as a class:

From this article, do you think DH is guilty of the charge? Why or why not?

Name: _____

The Trials of Darryl Hunt

PART ONE

After you watch

AFTER VIEWING PART ONE

1. KWL chart: Fill in what you learned about the case and what you still would like to know.

2. Discuss: Discuss observations as a class.

3. Questions: On another piece of paper, write your answers to the following questions:

1. Did you learn anything from the film that conflicts with what you learned or assumed from the article? If so, what?

2. Did you presume that DH was guilty at the beginning of the film? Why or why not?

3. Has your opinion changed since watching the first part of the film? Why or why not?

Read this statement from Mark Rabil, Darryl's attorney:

"One of the great things about our criminal justice system is that a person charged with a crime is presumed to be innocent. This means that the state or government must prove that the person is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. This high degree of proof is required in order to protect people from being locked up solely on the basis of an accusation. A person charged with a crime does not have to prove his or her innocence. Rather, the government must present extremely convincing evidence to support a criminal conviction – evidence that convinces the jury beyond a reasonable doubt."

4. Was there a presumption of innocence in the case of DH? Why or why not?

5. From what you saw in the film, do you feel as though enough evidence was presented to convince the jury "beyond a reasonable doubt" that DH was guilty?

6. If so, share your thoughts

7. If not, why do you think the jury is convinced of his guilt?

8. Do you think DH is guilty? Why or why not?

Man already in jail is charged in Sykes murder

This story ran September 15, 1984

By Jon Healey | JOURNAL REPORTER

Police charged a 21-year-old man yesterday with the stabbing murder Aug. 10 of Deborah Brotherton Sykes, a copy editor for *The Sentinel*.

Darryl Eugene Hunt of 760 N. Patterson Ave., was charged with first-degree murder and is being held without bond in the Forsyth County Jail. His first court appearance is scheduled for Monday.

Eight days before Mrs. Sykes was killed, Hunt was sentenced to six months in jail for trespassing and damaging person property. He had appealed the sentence, however, and was free on \$300 bond.

Hunt had been in the Forsyth County Jail since Tuesday, awaiting trial on one count of taking indecent liberties with a minor. His bond had been set at \$25,000.

The murder warrant accuses Hunt of killing Mrs. Sykes "with premeditation and deliberation and malice aforethought."

Mrs. Sykes, 25, was killed around dawn on Aug. 10, shortly after she had parked her car a block and a half from *The Sentinel's* offices.

Although some witnesses had told police that two men were involved in the crime, Hunt was the only suspect charged yesterday.

Maj. Joseph E. Masten, acting chief of the Winston-Salem Police Department, said, "So far we have evidence to charge just the one." He added that police are not excluding the possibility that another man was involved, "but thus far our investigation doesn't support that."

The investigation is continuing, Masten said.

Mrs. Sykes' body was found about 2 p.m. Aug. 10 on a grassy slope above the Buxton Street power station, across the street from Crystal Towers. She had been raped and stabbed numerous times in the upper body, police have said.

According to a search warrant, a witness saw a man "holding Mrs. Sykes around the head and neck in an assaultive manner" on West End Boulevard at 6:25 or 6:30 that morning. The witness, "a longtime member of the community with no criminal history," identified that man as Hunt from a photographic lineup this week, another court record states.

The witness spoke to police on the day of the murder but could provide only a description of the killer, not a name. The turning point in the case came last week, Masten said, but he declined to elaborate.

One key appears to be the arrest of Hunt and a female juvenile earlier this week on charges not related to the killing.

On Tuesday, Detective J.I. Daulton, who was working full time on the Sykes case, charged Hunt with taking indecent liberties with a girl younger than 16 years old on Aug. 10, the same day as the Sykes killing. The girl, meanwhile, was charged with a form of juvenile delinquency.

After these arrests, at least three times as many detectives were assigned to the Sykes case and the pace of the investigation accelerated feverishly. Detectives interviewed sources into the night Wednesday, and on Thursday they drew a warrant to take hair, blood and saliva samples from Hunt in jail.

According to the warrant, investigators found evidence of the same kind on Mrs. Sykes' body.

At 1:25 p.m. yesterday, police drew a search warrant for the apartment of Matte Mitchell at 760 N. Patterson Ave., which Mrs. Mitchell shared with Hunt and her son, Sammy Lee Mitchell. The warrant states that police were looking for a black T-shirt with a particular design on it, dark or black pants and a knife with a blade 5 inches long or shorter.

Witnesses told police that the men they saw with Mrs. Sykes were wearing dark clothing. The autopsy indicated that the stab wounds were inflicted by a knife with a short blade.

At the apartment, police seized a black T-shirt fitting the description on the warrant and a pocketknife with a broken tip, court records state. They also took three other knives, 10 pieces of clothing, three pairs of shoes and an envelope with the name Sammy Lee Mitchell on it, according to the records.

Daulton drew the murder warrant about 2:30 p.m. yesterday, and served it on Hunt, who had been brought handcuffed to the warrants office. Hunt's face betrayed no emotion as the charge was read to him.

Hunt is tall and thin, with his hair in short, tight braids. At the warrants office yesterday he wore a black wool hat, a light-colored vest over a patterned white T-shirt, jeans with the legs rolled up to the knees, white tennis shoes and athletic socks stretched over his calves.

Hunt has been charged with 11 crimes in Winston-Salem, according to court records.

The first time came one year ago, when he was charged with committing malicious injury to property on Sept. 9, 1983. Hunt received a suspended six-month jail sentence and was ordered to repay the victim, Johnny Reece Paige, \$975 at a rate of \$45 per month.

Hunt also was charged with assaulting Paige with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury on Nov. 3, and committing extortion against him Nov. 15. These charges were dropped when police were unable to find Paige to testify against Hunt, court records indicate.

When Hunt failed to make any of the court-ordered payments for two months, his probation was revoked and he was sent to the Forsyth County Jail. He served from Dec. 2 to June 5, a spokesman for the jail said.

On July 2, Hunt was charged with two counts of trespassing at Service Distributors on North Liberty Street. He also was charged with malicious injury to property; the warrant accused him of damaging six cans of drinks.

Hunt pleaded guilty to the charges in District Court on Aug. 2, and Judge Abner Alexander sentenced him to six months in jail. He appealed to Superior Court and was released on \$300 bond.

On Sept. 8, Hunt was charged with disorderly conduct. In connection with the same incident, he was charged with resisting an officer and assault with a deadly weapon.

The assault warrant accuses Hunt of shooting Dennis Speaks in his side at Speaks' house at 1901 Dunleith Ave. This case is scheduled for trial Sept. 24, while the other two are scheduled for trial Sept. 28.

The indecent liberties charge is scheduled for trial Sept. 21 in Domestic Court.

Masten said there was no evidence to suggest that Mrs. Sykes had been stalked or that the killing had been plotting days in advance. "All of our evidence indicates it's just the converse of that," he said.

He noted that the crime was committed in an open area about dawn, within sight and sound of numerous potential witnesses.

"The timing was terrible. The location was about as bad," he said. "I don't recall a rape-murder ever occurring at that time of morning."

A reward of \$12,000 had been offered by various groups for information in the Sykes case. Masten said there was a "real possibility" that a reward would be paid.

John Douglas Sykes of Mooresville, the victim's husband, said word of the arrest brought out conflicting emotions.

His voice quavering, Sykes said that the news upset him but that he felt it was "a big relief." He added, "We knew they had some suspects they were working on, (but) they didn't have anything real definite."

The Trials of Darryl Hunt

PART TWO

Teacher's guide

Before watching part two

1. Give the following handouts to students:

Part two- Before you watch
New KWL chart

2. Vocabulary: Students will use a dictionary or the internet to find the definitions of the following words and phrases that will appear in part two of the film.

appeal
justice
Prosecutor
conviction
Attorney General
plea bargain
DNA testing
bias
State Bureau of Investigation

3. Quote: Students will read the following quote by Mark Rabil, Darryl's defense attorney and answer the question below:

“As soon as I was appointed to represent Darryl Hunt in this case, I knew that race and racism would be a huge factor. There have been thousands of lynchings in the United States, particularly in the South just for this type of crime - the rape of a white woman by a black man. Many of those lynchings occurred in North Carolina. I knew that we were dealing with volatile issues, ones not controlled by reason. My feeling was reinforced every time a white person would ask me, ‘How can you represent that man?’”.

4. Discuss: What are all the ways in which racism can affect a trial like Darryl's?

Watch part two of *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*

Part two is nearly 40 minutes long. It begins with the jail cell closing after Darryl is given a life sentence. Part two ends after Mark Rabil reads the letter he wrote to Darryl following the judges order that their request for a new trial is denied.

After viewing part two

1. KWL chart: Students will fill in the KWL chart with what they learned and what they still want to know about the case.

2. Discuss: Students will discuss the chart as a class

3. Questions: Students will write their answers to the following questions and then discuss as a class.

1. Why do you think the black community in Winston-Salem became so active in this case?

2. In the film, Larry Little is quoted as saying: "Racism is more powerful than facts because racism is illogical and it is emotional and therefore, facts don't matter." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

3. The female reporter who was interviewed in the film said that after the prosecutor spoke at the second trial that "I was convinced that day that Darryl Hunt was just as guilty as he was at the end of the first trial." Why do you think she was so convinced of his guilt?

Name: _____

The Trials of Darryl Hunt

PART TWO

Before you watch

BEFORE VIEWING PART TWO

1. Vocabulary: Using a dictionary or the internet, find the definitions for the following words and phrases that will appear in *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*:

appeal: _____

justice: _____

Prosecutor: _____

conviction: _____

Attorney General: _____

plea bargain: _____

DNA testing: _____

bias: _____

State Bureau of Investigation: _____

2. Read: Read the following quote by Mark Rabil, Darryl Hunt's attorney and then answer the question below:

"As soon as I was appointed to represent Darryl Hunt in this case, I knew that race and racism would be a huge factor. There have been thousands of lynchings in the United States, particularly in the South just for this type of crime - the rape of a white woman by a black man. Many of those lynchings occurred in North Carolina. I knew that we were dealing with volatile issues, ones not controlled by reason. My feeling was reinforced every time a white person would ask me, 'How can you represent that man?'"

What are all the ways in which racism can affect a trial like Darryl's?

Name: _____

The Trials of Darryl Hunt

PART TWO

After you watch

AFTER VIEWING PART TWO

1. KWL chart: Fill in what you learned about the case and what you still would like to know.

2. Discuss: Discuss observations as a class.

3. Questions: Write your answer to the following questions and discuss as a class

1. Why do you think the black community in Winston-Salem became so active in this case?

2. In the film, Larry Little is quoted as saying: "Racism is more powerful than facts because racism is illogical and it is emotional and therefore, facts don't matter." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

3. The female reporter who was interviewed in the film said that after the prosecutor spoke at the second trial that "I was convinced that day that Darryl Hunt was just as guilty as he was at the end of the first trial." Why do you think she was so convinced of his guilt?

The Trials of Darryl Hunt

PART THREE

Teacher's guide

Before viewing part three

1. Give the following handouts to students:

Part Three- Before and after you watch
KWL chart – A blank chart

2. Vocabulary: Students will use a dictionary or the internet to find the definitions of the following words and phrases that will appear in part one of the film (words are included in the student guide).

negligent
exonerate
Supreme Court

2. KWL Chart: Students will make a new chart using information from the part one and part two charts. They will fill in what they know and what they still want to learn.

Watch part three of *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*

Part three is around 40 minutes long. It begins with December 30, 1994 and runs until the end of the film.

After viewing part three

1. Write: Students will write their immediate reactions and thoughts about the film, Darryl Hunt and the case.

2. Discuss: Students will discuss their thoughts as a class

2. KWL Chart: Students will fill in what they learned in part three of the film.

3. Discuss: As a class, discuss the chart and what information students included.

4. Questions: Students will write their answers to the following questions and then discuss.

1. How do you suppose Darryl was able to survive 20 years of struggling for freedom?
2. The mother of Deborah Sykes spoke in court at the exoneration hearing and said: “I do not believe in Mr. Hunt’s innocence and I believe that what you are about to do here today is set free a guilty man who is guilty of my daughter’s death.” What do you think about this statement?
3. Do you believe that race and and/or racism was a factor in Darryl Hunt’s case? Why or why not.

Activities

You can choose what to do with the activities. Here are some options:

1. Students can choose which activity to do of the three.
2. Students can be responsible for completing all activities.
3. Split the class into three groups and assign one activity to each group. Each group can then choose a representative to share his or her work with the rest of the class.
4. Students can work in small groups.
5. Your choice.

Name: _____

The Trials of Darryl Hunt

PART THREE

Before and after you watch

BEFORE VIEWING PART ONE

1. Vocabulary: Using a dictionary or the internet, find the definitions for the following words and phrases that will appear in *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*:

negligent: _____

exonerate: _____

Supreme Court: _____

2. KWL Chart: Make a new chart using information from the part one and part two charts. Fill in what you know and what you still want to learn.

WATCH FILM

AFTER VIEWING FILM

1. Write: On another piece of paper, write your immediate reactions and thoughts about the film, Darryl Hunt and the case.

2. KWL chart: Fill in your KWL chart with what you learned in part three of the film

3. Discuss: Share what you learned with the class.

4. Questions: Write your answers to the following questions and then discuss as a class

How do you suppose Darryl was able to survive 20 years of struggling for freedom?

The mother of Deborah Sykes spoke in court at the exoneration hearing and said: "I do not believe in Mr. Hunt's innocence and I believe that what you are about to do here

today is set free a guilty man who is guilty of my daughter's death." What do you think about this statement?

Do you believe that race and/or racism was a factor in Darryl Hunt's case? Why or why not?

Name: _____

The Trials of Darryl Hunt

ACTIVITY 1

The Criminal Justice System

Discuss: Write your response to the question below and discuss as a class

Many people believe that the “legal system” worked properly in Darryl’s case, given that an innocent man was ultimately set free by the courts. Do you agree or disagree?

Internet: Visit www.innocenceproject.org to learn more about other cases where individuals, like Darryl Hunt, were wrongfully convicted.

Major causes of wrongful convictions

The Innocence Project is an organization that has represented many people who were wrongfully convicted. They have concluded that the major causes of wrongful convictions are:

1. Mistaken eyewitness identification
2. Prosecutorial Misconduct, which includes cases where evidence is not disclosed to the defense, such as evidence of innocence.
3. Bad scientific evidence
4. False confessions
5. False informant testimony

Questions: Write your responses to the questions below and then share with the class.

1. Using your KWL charts as a resource, did any of these things occur in the case of Darryl Hunt? Explain.
2. What can be done to insure that wrongful convictions do not occur in the future?

There are many organizations that are dedicated to exonerating wrongfully convicted people. The following statement is from The Innocence Project.

We rely on a strong and active community of supporters to continue our work. One way you can help us is to tell your friends, family and community about the issues involving wrongful convictions. By doing this you are helping us to educate the American public about problems with our criminal justice and the urgent need for reform.

Activity 1: Write a letter

Tell someone about “the issues involving wrongful convictions” by using the case of Darryl Hunt as an example. Write a letter explaining the case. Include information about the case and how it is an example of the kinds of problems that exist with criminal justice. Tell people what they can do to help. See websites listed under “references” below for resources.

References:

KWL charts

“Major causes of wrongful conviction” (see above)

www.innocenceproject.org

www.thejusticeproject.org

Name: _____

The Trials of Darryl Hunt
ACTIVITY 2
The Role of the Media in the Justice System

As shown in *The Trials of Darryl Hunt*, the print and television media played an extremely important role in this case.

Discuss: Discuss the following question with your class.

You were asked to read an article about Darryl Hunt's case before watching the film. Did you think Darryl was innocent or guilty after reading the article? Why?

Read: Read the article "*Hunt is found guilty: Jury takes less than two hours for verdict*"

Discuss: Discuss the following questions as a class

1. Do you detect any bias in this article? If so, what words, phrases or statement support your opinion?
2. What can you say about the use of quotes in this article?
3. What do you think the role of the media should be before and during a trial?
4. What should the media's role be after someone has been convicted?
5. Do you believe the media's coverage of a case like Darryl's can have an affect on the outcome of the trial? Why or why not?

Phoebe Zerwick, the reporter who wrote the 8-part series said:

"Even then I was skeptical about the assignment, because it was hard for me to believe that one reporter could turn up evidence that all those investigators, appellate judges and jurors had overlooked. Even as I was putting the story together I didn't think had uncovered anything truly new. What was new was the way we presented the case, taking readers from the crime scene, through the investigation, two trials and all those appeals. And once it was all laid out for people to read it was clear to most readers that there was something terribly wrong about the case and about a system that refused to take a fresh look at the facts."

Internet: Visit www.journalnow.com and read some of the articles from the 2003 special report: *Murder, Race, Justice: The State vs. Darryl Hunt*.

1. From the film, how did this series impact the outcome of this case?
2. What are all the other ways in which a series like this could impact the outcome of a case?

Activity 2: Find an article

Accusations of media bias occur daily in the United States.

1. Read articles in a magazine or newspaper and find an article that you think is biased.
2. Write a letter of warning to your classmates about bias in the media. Using the article you chose as an example, teach them how to be responsible readers by telling them how to detect signs of bias in magazines and newspapers.

EXAMPLES OF BIAS

Ethnic or racial bias, including racism, nationalism.

Corporate bias, including advertising, coverage of political campaigns in such a way as to favor or vilify corporate interests, and the reporting of issues to favor the interests of the owners of the news media or its advertisers.

Class bias, including bias favoring one social class and bias ignoring (or exaggerating) social or class divisions.

Political bias, including bias in favor of or against a particular political party, candidate, or policy.

Religious bias, including bias in which one religious viewpoint is given preference over others.

Sensationalism, which is bias in favor of the exceptional over the ordinary. This includes the practice whereby exceptional news may be overemphasized, distorted or fabricated to boost commercial ratings; entertainment news is often subjected to sensationalism.

Exaggerated influence of minority views: Like sensationalism, this is a tendency to emphasize the new and the different over the status quo or existing consensus. This may be done in an attempt to be "fair", or to find something worth reporting.

Bias toward ease or expediency: This can be a tendency to present information which is already widely reported in other news media, i.e. "jumping on the bandwagon" or "following the leader", presentation of "fluff pieces" which are of questionable journalistic merit (such as coverage in news media of the personal lives of celebrities, or "news you can use"-style reporting which offers consumer advice which is widely viewed as common sense), and overrepresentation of crime reporting, particularly street crime. This type of bias is largely attributed to the relatively low cost of presenting these stories (compared to investigative journalism which tends to require more time and research, and thus more money, to produce), competition between commercial news media for consumers, ratings and ad revenue, and a 24-hour news cycle which demands constant output.

Name: _____

The Trials of Darryl Hunt

ACTIVITY 3

Non-violent resistance

Discuss: Read the following quote by Mark Rabil and discuss the questions below:

“Audiences are uniformly amazed that Darryl is not and has never been angry over this injustice against him. He told me this early on in our first interview. “Are you angry?” I asked. “No,” he replied, “anybody can make a mistake.” Even after his repeated wrongful convictions and losses in the appellate system, Darryl remained prayerful, and never angry. I cannot say as much for myself. I was angry at the beginning and am still angry that all this happened, and I am angry that we still have a capital punishment system that cannot be fair. I know that I need to channel my anger, and I try. But Darryl is always an example and model for me. He will affect more change and reform by his peacefulness than I will by angry outbursts.”

1. Have you ever been falsely accused of anything? How did you react?
2. Was your reaction productive? Did it bring about change? Make you feel better? Reverse the situation? If not, what could you have done that could have been more productive?

Larry Little was the Alderman in the film who organized the Darryl Hunt Defense Committee and was a key factor in the eventual release of Darryl. Read the following quote by Larry and discuss the questions below:

“It’s like a little old man trying to move a mountain with a shovel...but you try because if you don’t you die. If you give in a let them do this then essentially you have killed your own spirit, you’ve killed your own soul - to allow these people to keep a man in jail and you know better. I guess that’s one of the differences with me, I can not do that – I do have a conscience. I am a flawed individual, yes, but I have a conscience. How do you know that these people are wrong and you just go on about your life? I could go on with my life, but I would still come back in my conscious soul and say ‘but that boy’s innocent– still locked up there’. You’ve got to keep trying – you can’t give up...you can’t give up - you gotta’ fight – even if you go to your grave - you have got to fight.”

3. From what you saw in the film, how did Larry Little “fight” for justice in the case of Darryl Hunt?
4. Was it productive? Did it bring about change? Do you think he can be proud of his role in this case?

Activity 3: Case studies of non-violent resistance

Internet: Visit <http://www.nonviolence.org.au/studies.html> for examples of non-violent resistance in history.

Research: Choose one case study to research.

Read: Read the following excerpt from “Letter from Birmingham jail” by Martin Luther King“.

“In any nonviolent campaign there are four basic steps: collection of the facts to determine whether injustices exist; negotiation; self-purification; and direct action.”

Letter from Birmingham jail – april 16, 1963

Write: Write your answers to the following questions.

1. Using the case study you chose as an example, write about the injustice and the “direct action” that was taken.
2. Why do you think the non-violent approach was successful in this situation?
3. Do you agree with the approach they took? Why or why not?
4. Do you agree that in the long run, non-violent resistance is the most powerful approach in producing change or correcting a wrong? Why or why not?
5. What do you think is the best way to create change for someone who is powerless economically and socially? Why?

Hunt is found guilty

Jury takes less than two hours for verdict

This story ran October 12, 1990

By John Downey | JOURNAL REPORTER

Jurors in Catawba Superior Court took just one vote yesterday to convict Darryl Eugene Hunt of first-degree murder in the rape, robbery, kidnapping and stabbing of Deborah B. Sykes in Winston-Salem six years ago.

Stephen M. Butler of Newton said that he and his fellow jurors reviewed the evidence about an hour and 45 minutes and then voted.

"There weren't any who ever said he was not guilty," Butler said.

For Butler, the most convincing evidence was the testimony of Rodger Weaver, who said that he found bloody towels in the restroom of the Hyatt Winston-Salem after Hunt left there about 7 a.m. on the morning of the slaying.

"The key, in my opinion, was when he washed his hands," Butler said, "That pinned it on him."

Hunt, dressed in a charcoal-gray tweed jacket and wearing a collar chain across his tie, spoke briefly before he was sentenced.

"I'd like to state in open court that I am innocent of the charges even though I have been found guilty," he said " And there's nothing...."

Then, his voice cracked. He rolled his eyes to the ceiling, and they reddened. Judge Forrest A. Ferrell asked, "Is there anything else you'd like to say sir?"

Hunt shook his head, looked at the ceiling again, and whispered, "No, sir."

Hunt was not eligible for the death penalty because the jury that first convicted him in 1985 rejected the death penalty.

James E. Ferguson II and Adam Stein, gave notice of appeal.

Hunt, 25, of Winston-Salem, was charged with the stabbing of Mrs. Sykes on Aug. 10, 1984. According to the evidence at the trial, she was raped, sodomized and robbed of about \$200.

Hunt was charged under the state's felony murder rule, which says that a person who commits a felony can be held responsible for first-degree murder of he or any of his co-defendants kills someone while committing the crime.

Ferrell told the jurors that if they believed that Hunt was involved in the rape, robbery or kidnapping of Mrs. Sykes or participated in the commission of the sexual offense against her, he could be convicted of first-degree murder. The jury found that he participated in all of those felonies.

Mrs. Sykes, 26, was a copy editor at *The Sentinel*, a daily afternoon newspaper owned by the same company that owns *The Winston-Salem Journal*. The offices for *The Sentinel*, which closed in 1985, were two blocks from the field on West End Boulevard where Mrs. Sykes' body was found.

The jury reached its verdict about 2:20 p.m. yesterday. It took nearly 10 minutes to get Hunt and all the attorneys into the courtroom and bring in the jury.

None looked at Hunt.

As Ferrell read the verdict, Hunt closed his eyes and hung his head.

Evelyn Jefferson of Greensboro, Mrs. Sykes mother, clutched her sister Jewel Shaw and cried. She leaned over from her seat in the second row and thanked the police investigators who handled the case.

Nelson L. Malloy Jr., a Winston-Salem alderman who was among the half-dozen Hunt supporters in the courtroom, sat glumly with his head in his right hand. He said later that the jury based its decision on race rather than evidence.

There were 11 whites and one Hispanic on the jury.

Mattie Mitchell, the mother of Hunt's co-defendant, Sammy Lee Mitchell, cried into a large white handkerchief and rocked back and forth on a bench in the fourth row.

Mitchell, who was charged in January in Mrs. Sykes death, is to be tried later. District Attorney Warren Sparrow, who did not prosecute Hunt but is to prosecute Mitchell, said yesterday that no date has been set for that trial.

H. Dean Bowman, the district attorney for Stokes and Surry counties, prosecuted Hunt, along with his assistant James C. Yeatts III.

Bowman finished his closing arguments about 10:20 a.m. yesterday.

Bowman summarized some of the evidence that he had not mentioned Wednesday, but most of his argument attacked Hunt and appealed to the emotions of the jurors.

Bowman described how Mrs. Sykes might have started her day. Then, he took out the clothes that she was killed in and laid them, piece by piece, in front of the jury.

"She put on this sweater. It probably felt good to wear it at 5:30 in the morning. She put on these blue Wrangler pants."

Jurors began crying as he spoke of the testimony of Mrs. Sykes plans to buy a house with her husband.

"Maybe she was thinking of having a baby. We'll never know," he said. "And you know why we'll never know? ... Because of that man right over there."

Then he asked the jurors to imagine what Mrs. Sykes was thinking as she was taken from her car to the field and then stabbed and assaulted. He asked them what she thought when no one helped, and as she died.

"What was Deborah Sykes thinking when she knelt on all fours, no doubt gasping for breath, and watched that man right there run across the field?" he said, repeating much of the testimony of Johnny Gray.

"Did she hear the morning traffic passing by?" he asked, then added quietly, "Did she hear me passing by? Did she hear you?"

At least seven of the jurors, one of them a young man, cried. So did most of Mrs. Sykes family.

Sgt. Teresa H. Hicks, one of the investigators sitting behind the prosecution table, wiped her eyes on the checkered jacket of her suit. Detective Randy Weavil brushed his eyes with his hand. In the back of the courtroom, Vickie Reddy, a member of Ferguson's staff, also cried.

Hunt watched Bowman but did not react.

Ferrell instructed the jurors on the law and sent them out to begin deliberating at 11:06 a.m. They returned with a question at 11:45 a.m., asking Ferrell if they could see a copy of the testimony of Margaret Marie Crawford. Ms. Crawford, 20, was Hunt's girlfriend in 1984.

She testified that she and Hunt were at the Motel 6 on Patterson Avenue the morning of the slaying, and that Hunt left before it was light. She said that he returned about 8:30 a.m. with grass stains on his pants and blood on his hands. She also said that Hunt told her several days later that Mitchell stabbed and raped Mrs. Sykes when he and Mitchell tried to rob her.

Ferrell told them that they would have to remember her testimony as she gave it. He declined to provide copies.

Several of the jurors were reluctant to discuss the verdict last night.

One juror, Robert Richard of Hickory, said: "We made the decision. That's all we had to do."

Butler denied that race played any part in the jury's deliberations.

"The first we heard about this case being racial was after the trial, he said. "It didn't have nothing to do with it."