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Sex Operation Urged For Killer's Partner

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REDWOOD CITY — A probation officer and a psychiatrist have recommended that a 26-year-old Santa Clara man sentenced Thursday as an accessory to the murder of a transvestite here undergo a sex-change operation at Stanford University Hospital.

The recommendations were made in a probation report released Friday.

Leander [redacted] who prefers to be called "Carmen," was given a suspended state prison sentence, five years probation and one year in county jail Thursday for his part in the murder of Joseph Moran.

The prosecution had contended that [redacted] acted as "bait" in the robbery-murder of Moran. Another man, Alfred Newton, was acquitted of murder charges in the case in June.

Richard Mroczko, who lived with Newton in Mountain View and is accused of the brutal stabbing, faces trial later this month.

[redacted] is characterized in the probation report as "a male transsexual who prefers to lead his life as a woman."

"This is a situation which has confronted him for several years but only became an overt problem since his honorable discharge from active military duty," says probation officer J.P. Jones.

Jones concurred with a psychiatrist and a psychologist consulted on the case that [redacted] was not "the type of individual who would knowingly become involved in a crime of violence."

[redacted] himself, is quoted in the report as saying his "biggest mistake" was failing to report the crime — which he says resulted from his fear of Mroczko.

"The defendant reports he has always considered himself a homosexual," wrote Jones. "He states that he chose not to let others know about this situation until after his discharge from the military."

"He then commenced dressing and living as a woman."

Jones said he believes most of [redacted] problems stem from his "sexual role identification problems."

"Because of this same situation he found himself living in a milieu that is less than ideal," Jones said.

Jones concluded the report with a recommendation that "under the circumstances (a sex change operation) does not appear to be an ill-advised course of action."

[redacted] would like nothing better than to become a woman, said the report.

"The defendant," wrote Jones, "has indicated an interest in entering this program which also requires attendant psychological counseling."

Dr. Seymour Kolko, a San Mateo psychiatrist who examined [redacted] classified him

as "a classical case of a transsexual person."

"He prefers the name 'Carmen' and spends the major portion of his life now as a woman," Kolko pointed out.

"His dress, occupation, role in male companionship and self-view are all based on this identity."

[redacted] has worked as a female impersonator, owns no male clothing and once worked as a waitress where, the report notes, he was accepted as a woman by both his boss and customers.

"Going along with this identity as 'Carmen,'" Kolko wrote, "it is most doubtful she (he) would have ever been in the position to act as a 'lure' for 'rolling' — certainly not where the object of such action was an homosexual man playing the feminine role."

Gary M. Olson, a Palo Alto psychologist, also interviewed [redacted] and administered several psychological tests.

The defendant's account of the events, he said, "impressed me as being credible, internally consistent and psychologically fitting."

Both Kolko and Olson described [redacted] as "passive and apprehensive."

In many ways, Olson said, [redacted] was the "prototypical 'helpless female' — not mere play-acting, but rather, an integral feature of the defendant's personality."

In fact, Olson wrote, "it seemed quite natural to regard the defendant as a female named Carmen."

"In fact," he noted, "it required some effort to use masculine pronouns and 'mister' in this letter, which I did to be consistent with the defendant's present legal designation."

Interestingly, Presiding Superior Court Judge Robert Miller, who sentenced [redacted] hesitated before addressing the defendant as "Mr. [redacted]"