

Not a dream, a nightmare

by **Dave Racher**

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Lewis Henderson "thought he was a woman's dream, but he was her worst nightmare," said the prosecutor.

Assistant District Attorney Charles Ehrlich said Henderson couldn't accept rejection, so he began terrorizing the 33-year-old Allegheny Avenue woman in 1996.

She insisted on ending a short relationship with him. Ehrlich and Assistant DA Theresa Brunson said Henderson, 33, of Folsom Street near 39th, "trashed the woman's" apartment, pouring flour on her floor and walls,

Man is convicted of rape, burglary

and smashed her TV and stereo sets and other items.

He then made repeated calls to her, but she kept hanging up on him. Then, on Nov. 7, 1996, Ehrlich said Henderson broke in while she was asleep and raped her at knifepoint.

This week, a jury convicted Henderson of rape, burglary and weapons charges. Common Pleas Judge David N. Savitt committed him to prison to await sentencing.

The woman said after the attack, Henderson began to cry

and said, "I don't know why I did this. My life is over. I think I should kill you and me, both of us."

She said she grabbed the knife and threw it behind a radiator.

"I felt there was nothing I could do," she said. "I was just crying."

Henderson then took another knife from the kitchen and chased her to the bathroom. When he left, she called the police.

Henderson, who has prior convictions for burglary, theft and drugs, claimed he had had consensual sex with the woman. ■

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