

Akron Beacon Journal • Tuesday, November 21, 2000

www.Ohio.com

Appeal is denied in Alliance killing

Atwater man convicted
of paying for murder
of girlfriend loses again

Beacon Journal staff report

CANTON: A 27-year-old Atwater man who hired a killer to slit his ex-girlfriend's throat so he could avoid child-support payments lost an appeal of his Jan. 25 conviction.

The 5th District Court of Appeals yesterday affirmed the conviction that sent David G. Thorne to the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville.

Thorne had faced the death penalty for hiring a Ravenna

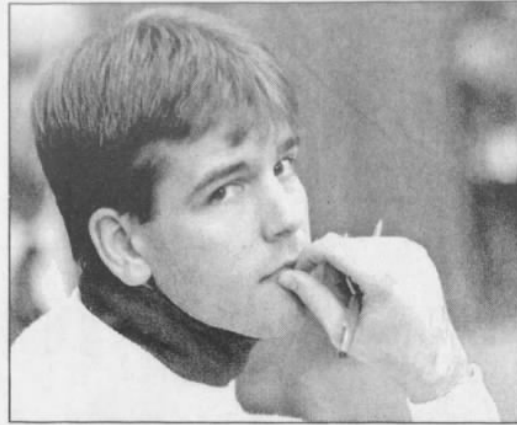
teen to kill Yvonne Layne, 26, an Alliance mother of five children, including a son by Thorne.

However, a Stark County Common Pleas Court jury could not agree on a sentence, so Judge Richard D. Reinbold Jr. gave Thorne life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Only juries can impose the death penalty.

Thorne's attorney Michael R. Puterbaugh argued that the state's only evidence was Joseph Wilkes' claim that Thorne paid him \$200 to kill Layne on March 31, 1999.

Wilkes, 20, avoided a death penalty trial and pleaded guilty



ROBIN TINAY SALLIE/Akron Beacon Journal file photo

David Thorne lost his appeal in the killing of his girlfriend in Alliance. He was convicted of paying \$200 to have her killed.

to aggravated murder.

He received a life sentence with parole eligibility after 30 years in exchange for

his testimony.

The appeal also argued that Thorne's lawyers were incompetent.