



TheState.com | News | Business | Sports | Entertainment | Living | Classifieds | Jobs | Cars | Homes |

State, The (Columbia, SC)

1991-12-06

Section: METRO/REGION

Edition: FINAL

Page: 1B

KILLING RULED SELF-DEFENSE

JOHN ALLARD, Staff Writer

The main thing Arnold Gartman and Marsha Furtick shared was a fatal attraction.

The attraction cost Gartman his life.

Furtick shot Gartman, her ex-husband, in the back of the head and shoulder April 15 after an argument in her trailer at 309 Burton Gunter Road outside Swansea in Lexington County. She fired a total of six shots. On Thursday night, a Lexington County jury decided Furtick, 21, acted in self-defense when she killed Gartman, 23, of North. Jurors cleared Furtick of a murder charge after deliberating about two hours.

One of Furtick's attorneys, **Jack Swerling**, said Furtick shot Gartman because she was afraid he was going to kill her for cooperating with an investigation of Gartman and his family for alleged insurance fraud.

Swerling said Gartman also abused Furtick, sexually, physically and verbally, during their one-year marriage that ended in divorce in July 1989.

"Marsha broke down and cried in my arms after hearing the verdict," **Swerling** said. "There had been a long history of abuse, and because of the fatal attraction and love, Marsha kept going back."

Gartman, who repeatedly threatened Furtick after their divorce, drove in front of Furtick's trailer for nine hours before the fatal argument, **Swerling** said.

"On April 15, it was like confronting 'Jaws.' Gartman came at Marsha, and she just started shooting," **Swerling** said. "Mr. Gartman signed his own death warrant when he crossed the line and came at Marsha."

Eleventh Circuit Solicitor Donnie Myers and Deputy Solicitor Knox McMahon were unavailable for comment Thursday night.



News | Business | Sports | Entertainment | Living | Shop Local | Classifieds | Jobs | Cars | Real Estate

About TheState.com | About the Real Cities Network | About the McClatchy Company
Terms of Use | Privacy Policy | Copyright