

## 14-YEAR-OLD'S ROMANCE HAD TURNED STORMY

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When Mindee Kalka met **Lorenzo Shelton III** last fall at a Wyandotte teen dance club, she was excited.

Kalka had been eyeing several guys at school, but 18-year-old **Shelton** was cute, tough and so much more fun than the others, numerous friends said Monday outside Lincoln Park High School. Kalka, 14, loved to party and always preferred an older crowd, often people she met through her two older sisters.

Kalka and **Shelton** quickly became a couple and were together practically every night. Sometimes they went out for dinner or roller-skating. Mostly, they hung out at her parents' home in Lincoln Park or his mother's southwest Detroit house.

That house in Detroit is where Kalka and **Shelton**'s romance came to a violent end early Sunday. But even before the deaths of Kalka and her high school classmates -- Aleisha Belcher and Rachelle Goodwin -- the 14-year-old's relationship with **Shelton** had turned stormy.

Belcher and Goodwin apparently were caught in the middle of the couple's deadly dispute.

"It's still hard to realize that my baby's gone," Robert Belcher said as he stood in his driveway Monday. "What was taken from me can't ever, ever be replaced."

Belcher said his daughter was getting ready for bed Saturday night when Goodwin, who lived a block away, invited her to sleep over. Shane Goodwin, Rachelle's 24-year-old brother, said his mother later asked him to drive the pair to Kalka's home to spend the night.

Goodwin said Kalka's parents, who were out bowling, came home early Sunday and the three girls were gone. He said the Kalkas drove to the Goodwins' house looking for the girls, "and my mom said, 'I thought they were at your house.' We were all in a panic until we found out."

Goodwin's mother couldn't be reached for comment and the Kalkas declined to talk to reporters.

Classmates of Kalka said Monday that **Shelton** didn't like her friends, her clothes or her hair. Kalka told friends **Shelton** had hit her a couple of times but she could "handle it."

"Every time she would talk about him, she would bust out" in tears, said Jill Dietrich, 15.

Kalka's friends said they never had liked **Shelton** . They said he was domineering, violent and in a gang. One friend who asked that her name not be used said **Shelton** once had held a gun to her boyfriend's head and demanded that he give him his coat.

This month, things got even worse for the couple.

About a dozen of Kalka's friends said Monday that she had missed her menstrual period -- and **Shelton** got angry when she told him she thought she was pregnant. Friends said Kalka visited a clinic last week and got a pregnancy test.

She was planning to go back to a doctor this weekend for the results -- and get information on an abortion if she was indeed pregnant. An autopsy performed Monday showed that Kalka was not pregnant.

At Lincoln Park High School on Monday, two psychologists and eight counselors helped students deal with the deaths.

Goodwin, 17, lived in a modest duplex with her mother. Her father died of cancer several years ago.

The sophomore preferred to stay at home with friends rather than go out, said Eva Rose, a next-door neighbor. She worked part-time at a fast-food restaurant.

"I feel like I've lost my sister" Rose said.

Robert Belcher lost his only daughter, Aleisha, his "pride and joy."

The family had planned to leave Thursday for a Florida vacation. Instead, they will gather that day to bury the 15- year-old. Part of the funeral costs were paid with money put aside for Aleisha's college tuition.

Aleisha earned B's and C's in school and recently started working part-time at a fast-food restaurant. She had signed up for driver's ed, her father said.

Belcher, his eyes red from crying, fondly recalled his daughter. She was her daddy's little girl, he said. He remembered his daughter's adolescence of ballet lessons, Girl Scout outings, track-and-field meets and softball games.

He said he kept all the Father's Day cards Aleisha gave him and the notes she wrote him; he said he remembers all their father-daughter talks. He mourned the fact that he will never see his daughter go to the prom, graduate, get married and have children. He plans to keep Aleisha's bedroom unchanged.

"I will never be able to get over it," Belcher said. "All I have is the memories."

Even after learning of Aleisha's death and identifying her body at the morgue, he waited Sunday night for her to walk up the driveway and say she was home. At the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office, Belcher kissed his daughter and "said a few words to God."

"I said, 'She's in your hands now. She may be a little wild, but you can handle her.' "

Visitation for Rachele Goodwin will be 1-9 p.m. Wednesday at Voran Funeral Home, 5900 Allen Road in Allen Park. Services will be held there at 11 a.m. Thursday. Burial will be in Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

Visitation for Mindee Kalka will be held 2-9 p.m. today at the John R. Solosy Funeral Home, 3206 Fort in Lincoln Park. Services will be held there at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

No information was available on Aleisha Belcher.

#### A TROUBLED LIFE

In April 1993, **Lorenzo Shelton II** wrote a letter to Wayne County Juvenile Court detailing his son **Lorenzo Shelton III** 's emotionally troubled life.

The father said his son at age 10 had tried to jump from the third-floor window of his school in a suicide attempt.

**Shelton** also listed a variety of other behavioral problems:

- \* "He has no self-esteem. He is ashamed to be seen with his mother -- she is white."
- \* "He glorifies street hustlers, crooks and hoodlums. He has become irreligious."
- \* "He is fearful of the 'streets.' He says Detroit streets are filled with hoodlums with guns and knives. He wants to move from Detroit if he can't protect himself."

Young **Lorenzo** , then just 14, had been arrested on a charge of threatening a teacher with a knife at Detroit's Communication and Media Arts High School, near Grand River and Greenfield. He gave police the name " **Lorenzo** Corleone" -- the last name of the crime family in the film "The Godfather" -- and said he was a "mail runner" for two Detroit gangs.

"No one has ever called him by his a.k.a. 'Corleone,' " his father wrote. "This is a figment of his overtaxed fantasies."

By Jack Kresnak

**Lorenzo Shelton III** ; Mindee Kalka; Aleisha Belcher; Rachele Goodwin; juvenile; death; shooting

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