

Judge gives killer the maximum sentence

Labore gets 62 years in murder of Chilcote, homeless man

By **DARREL W. COLE**
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Kimberly Labore was sentenced to 62 years to life in prison Monday for her part in the brutal slayings of a still-identified homeless drifter and the popular owner of a Watsonville nursing home.

In imposing the maximum sentence he could give, Superior Court Judge Thomas Kelly sided with prosecutor Ariadne Symons, who said Labore got her break in November when she pleaded guilty to both crimes in exchange for not facing the death penalty.

Labore, 29, hung her head when the sentence was read. Her mother, who

suffers from multiple sclerosis and is in a wheelchair, cried.

Labore will not be eligible for parole until she serves at least 85 percent of the sentence. At that point, she'll be in her 80s.

Kelly heard testimony from the friends of nursing home owner Gaylord "Kelly" Chilcote, Labore's mother and aunt, and Labore herself. Shackled at the ankles and wrists, she looked at Chilcote's friends and apologized.

"I am sorry for the actions I took," Labore said. "I am remorseful whether you believe me or not. I've done some terrible and horrible things, but I was

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**GAYLORD
'KELLY'
CHILCOTE**

The Watsonville resident died after being beaten and then stabbed six times in an attack at his home in November 1998.

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Kimberly Labore glances at her mother in court, where she was sentenced Monday to 62 years for her role in the murder of Kelly Chilcote.



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'I've done some terrible and horrible things, but I was not in that house.'

KIMBERLY LABORE, SENTENCED TO 62 YEARS

Sentencing

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not in that house" when he was killed.

Kelly also watched a prosecution-produced videotape that showed graphic photos of Chilcote's bludgeoned body after the November 1998 slaying, while friends commented about his love and generosity. They argued for the maximum sentence, saying Labore should suffer because the pain they feel will never go away.

Labore's attorney, Steven Wright, said his client deserved a lighter sentence because she did not initiate the killings.

Labore maintains that the drifter, who she only knew as Huck, came on to her, and that she cut his throat only to stop his suffering after he was beaten with a bat by James Dotson, her lover.

Two weeks later, Chilcote was found dead in his ransacked Watsonville home. Dotson and Labore admitted to the killing.

Sean Petznick and Gabriel Banes, both of Santa Cruz, await trial for the Chilcote slaying, while Jeremy Townner still faces charges in the death of the drifter.

Dotson was sentenced in January to two life terms in prison with no chance of parole after agreeing to the same plea bargain as Labore.

Wright told the judge that Labore spent much of her childhood left alone while her mother worked, and indicated that a poor education, the need to fit in and an intense loyalty led her to Dotson and, ultimately, where she was sitting that day.

Symons said in court that "whatever went wrong with (Labore) may be an explanation, but it sure is never an excuse."

After two hours of testimony, Kelly said he couldn't



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Alice Gerrer, in wheelchair, waits outside the courtroom for the sentencing of her daughter, Kimberly Labore.

explain "what happened," only "what occurred."

"These are deeds she took part in on her own," Kelly said.

He pointed to two issues before sentencing her: The fact that Huck's skull was smashed into dozens of pieces

and that the photos of Chilcote's stabbed and bludgeoned body "only suggests the terror that he must have felt."

Contact Darrel W. Cole at
dcole@santa-cruz.com.