

He Gets Probation In Assault

By Dave Racher- Daily News Staff Writer

Gergory Taylor, 24, a mental patient who pumps iron for a hobby, was placed on four years' psychiatric probation yesterday after pleading no defense to charges of punching television anchorwoman Lisa Thomas-Laury in the face on Jan. 4, 1990. Taylor, of Kerper Street near Oxford Avenue, Northeast Philadelphia, was ordered to stay away from Thomas-Laury and Channel 6, where the incident occurred. He also was ordered to make restitution of \$175 for breaking Thomas-Laury's contact lens.

After negotiated plea before Common Pleas Judge Albert W. Sheppard Jr., the judge entered a verdict of guilty but mentally ill to a simple assault charge, and one count of recklessly endangering another person. Defense lawyer A. Charles Peruto Jr. said if the prosecution hadn't agreed to the deal, he would have asked for a jury trial and Taylor would have pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

"My client was suffering from a mental illness on the day of the incident," Peruto said. "He hadn't taken his medication, and that caused this. He is now being treated by the correct drugs and he realizes that what he did was wrong." Peruto said Taylor was having "a psychotic episode" when he went to the station to harm Thomas-Laury.

"he felt she was giving him instructions through the TV set and just basically annoying him," Peruto add. "He is very remorseful for what happened, and I will guarantee that he will never bother her again. He wants all this behind him," he said. Peruto quipped, "I don't think he even watches Channel 6 anymore. I think he's switched to Channel 10"

Assistant District Attorney Rayford Means said he discussed the plea with Thomas-Laury and the attorney for the station, and both agreed to the disposition. Thomas-Laury was not present in court. In a statement to Detective Paul Cassidy, Taylor, who drives a truck for his father's auto parts business and lifts weights, said he had planned to attack Thomas-Laury for about a month. He said he had been hearing Thomas-Laury's voice for "longer than six months." He said he also heard the voices of "friends and people I used to work with"