

SPARTANBURG TEENS RECEIVE LIFE PRISON SENTENCES FOR MURDER CONVICTIONS

Two Spartanburg teens received life prison sentences this afternoon for shooting a Spartanburg Methodist student to death during a botched armed robbery.

Lance Lyles, 17, and Josh Jeter, 18, were found guilty of murder, attempted first-degree burglary, attempted armed robbery and illegal possession of a pistol at the conclusion of a five-day jury trial. The murder occurred Dec. 8, 2004 at the Rose Hill Apartments on Powell Mill Road. The men shot Tavaris Howze, 21, of Chester, when they tried to force their way into Apartment K-306. Howze was sitting on a couch in the apartment when the tenant, Clarence Spicer, tried to close the door. A shot was fired during the struggle and Howze was struck while he sat on the couch.

Lyles and Jeter will serve every day of the prison sentence. They are not eligible for parole.