

# Girl says she lied about bank robbery

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — A 15-year-old girl has told a federal jury she lied to police and implicated her mother in two bank robberies because she hates her.

Virgena Barrett, 34, is charged with robbing a Yakima bank in March, and with helping her daughter, Regina Mercer, and two other teens rob the same bank in April.

But Mercer testified Wednesday that she and two male friends planned and carried out the April robbery on their own.

Barrett wiped her eyes and frequently turned away during her daughter's testimony.

Mercer initially told police that her mother told her and her friends to rob the bank in April, and provided a handgun. She also said her mother

had confessed to committing the March robbery.

But Mercer told U.S. District Court jurors she had lied to police.

Her mother did not plan the April robbery or provide the weapon, she said. Mercer, who was convicted of the robbery in juvenile court, said she stole the handgun from home.

Mercer said she had decided to tell the truth in court because she did not want to be prosecuted for perjury.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Ellis asked Mercer why she had initially implicated her mother in the robberies.

"I feel hatred for her," Mercer said.

A Season for New Age

MUSIC WEST



cassette \$7.99 compact disc \$12.99



cassette \$7.99 compact disc \$12.99



3-compact disc set \$35.99

Visa MasterCard American Express & Discover

**DISC JOCKEY**  
Gateway Mall  
746-6373

Whether they've been naughty or nice, they'll love what you get them from the UO Bookstore!

Gifts to get @ the Bookstore:

- Sweatshirt for Tom
  - Santa book for Courtney
  - Cookbook for Grandma
  - Candy for Shawn's teacher
  - Paint set for Renee
  - WHAT? for Don - maybe a gift certificate!
  - Clock radio for Kevin
- \* Don't forget stocking stuffers!
- film
  - tapes
  - videos
  - candy

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
**BOOK STORE**

13th & Kincaid Mon-Fri 7:30-6:00 Sat 10:00-6:00 346-4331