

# ILLAWARRA MERCURY

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De Gruchy jailed 28 years for murders that were 'brutality beyond description', but ...

## Father stands by killer son

By PAUL ZALUNARDO  
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Wayne De Gruchy last night stood by his oldest son, Matthew, just hours after he had been sentenced to 28 years in prison for three murders described by a judge as "brutality beyond description".

Mr De Gruchy spent the night in the Albion Park Rail home where Matthew, now 20, bludgeoned to death his mother, Jennifer, 41, brother Adrian, 15, and sister Sarah, 13.

After a harrowing day in the NSW Supreme Court, Mr De Gruchy stood by his son and declared that an appeal would be lodged.

"There will be an appeal coming and I don't think it is right to say anything about the matter now," was Mr De Gruchy's only comment.

Earlier in the day he had fled the Sydney courthouse where his son was sentenced to a minimum of 21 years in prison.

Mr De Gruchy did not deviate from his firm belief that his son was innocent of the murders.

In sentencing De Gruchy to a maximum 28 years in prison, Justice Michael Grove said the murders were accompanied by a "brutality which beggars description".

"A medical witness referred to the victims of air crash

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Wayne De Gruchy who last night said his son would appeal his conviction for the horrific murders of three family members. Picture: HANK van STUIVENBERG

### US President attacks Iraq and dodges impeachment

## BOMBS AWAY!

WASHINGTON.- President Bill Clinton launched "strong, sustained" air strikes against Iraqi targets early yesterday morning and Republican critics accused him of attacking Iraq to divert attention from the threat of impeachment.

A day before the House of Representatives had been scheduled to debate impeachment charges against him, Mr

Clinton ordered US planes and cruise missiles into action.

"Their mission is to attack Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs and its military capacity to threaten its neighbours," Mr Clinton said in a hastily arranged televised address from the Oval Office.

Live US television pictures from

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ABOVE: Air strikes illuminate the skies over Baghdad.  
RIGHT: Grieving relatives at the bedside of a man badly burnt during a missile attack.