

Roy gets life in prison for 1999 drug murder

By TRACY DASH
THE SUN HERALD

PASCAGOULA — A Jackson County Circuit judge sentenced Christopher Roy to life in prison late Wednesday after a jury found him guilty of murder.

Jurors deliberated for nearly five hours before convicting Roy in the Jan. 6, 1999, slaying of Dong "Tommy" Nguyen of Ocean Springs.

The jury had the options of finding Roy guilty of capital murder, murder or manslaughter, or not guilty.

Jonathan May, a co-defendant in the case, testified against Roy and told jurors chilling details about Nguyen's death. May is expected to plead guilty to manslaughter, a charge less severe than the capital murder charge for which he was indicted. He will be sentenced to the maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

Roy, 20, testified Wednesday that he killed Nguyen in self-defense. Roy said he and Nguyen were fighting outside May's house when he grabbed Nguyen by the neck and began to strangle him.

"I didn't intend to kill him,"

Roy said.

Roy told jurors that Nguyen had threatened his life on several occasions. Roy said he was afraid Nguyen was going to hurt him when he drove up to May's house the night of the murder.

Roy said he didn't tell police about the murder because he believed Nguyen was in an "Asian gang" and that the gang members would seek revenge for Nguyen's death.

May, though, told the jury a different version of the crime.

May said he and Roy planned to kill Nguyen so they could steal six ounces of cocaine from him. According to May, he and Roy dug a grave near a wooded area in Vancleave a day before May lured Nguyen to his house under the pretense that May would buy drugs from Nguyen.

Nguyen supplied drugs to Roy and May, according to testimony.

May said he and Roy drove Nguyen to the grave site and shoveled mud over his small body.

Autopsy results showed Nguyen, who weighed 115 pounds, was severely beaten and died from strangulation.

er husband, Lawrence Williams; a son, Archie Williams; her parents, Joseph and Emily Pierre; two brothers, Joseph Pierre Jr. and Edward Pierre; and two sisters, Lorenza Pierre and Everlena Young.

Survivors include two sons, Larry Williams of New Orleans and Clifton Evans Jr. of Gulfport; a daughter, Patricia Jones of Gulfport; a stepdaughter, Mary Evans of New Orleans; two sisters, Leola Gedeaux of Edgar, La., and Theresa Pierce of New Orleans; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be at noon Saturday at New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Edgar where friends may call two hours before service time. Burial will be in Jerusalem Cemetery in Edgar, La., directed by J.T. Hall Funeral Home in Gulfport.

Mark Young

Funeral: 6 p.m. Wednesday at Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Gulfport.



■ GULFPORT —

Mark Samuel Young, 65, died Tuesday, Oct. 16,

2001, in Gulfport.

Mr. Young was born Feb. 27, 1936, in Hazelhurst and had lived on the Coast 27 years. He attended Clinton schools, received a degree from Mississippi College and was a Navy veteran. He was a past member of Elks Lodge No. 978 in Gulfport, was an accountant and owned and operated Fairchild's Motel in Gulfport for 13 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leon and Vertna "Dollie" Young.

Survivors include his wife, Lois Young of Gulfport; three sons, Steven Mark of Queretaro, Mexico, Allen Mitchell of Gulfport and Charles Samuel "Chuck" Young of Huntsville, Ala.; three sisters, Joy Sandifer of Water Valley, Edna Grogan of Cedar Hill, Texas, and Opal Farrell of LaPlace, La.; two brothers, Dwight Young of Dallas, Ga., and David Young of Jefferson City, Tenn.; and eight grandchildren.

Services were Wednesday at Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral

AROUND THE COAST

■ BAY ST. LOUIS

Mobile home ban sent back to planning panel

Hancock County supervisors sent a proposed ordinance that would ban mobile homes in residential and commercial areas of the county back to the planning commission.

Supervisors ordered the commission to hold another public hearing on the law and to put its recommendation in writing, along with reasons the ordinance should be adopted.

The vote canceled an appeal hearing requested by the Man-

■ PENSACOLA

Jessie Arbogast released from hospital again

Shark attack victim Jessie Arbogast of Ocean Springs again has been released from a Pensacola hospital. Jessie, 8, whose right arm was reattached after being bitten off July 6, returned to Sacred Heart Children's Hospital two weeks ago because of a vomiting problem that has been resolved, said spokesman Mike Burke.

It was Jessie's third stay at Sacred Heart's