

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2001 ■ THE CLARION-LEDGER ■ 5B

Judge refuses to suppress slaying suspect's statement

The Associated Press

PASCAGOULA — A judge has refused to suppress statements allegedly made by Jonathon May to police in a Jackson County murder case.

May, 19, and Christopher Roy, 20, are charged with killing Dong Phong "Tommy" Nguyen, whose body was found last year in a shallow grave in the Vancleave area.

Nguyen was reported missing by his parents last September. Fishermen found his car in the Pascagoula River on Sept. 26. His body was discovered in early January.

Police have said the killing may have been drug-related and that Roy, May and Nguyen knew each other.

May, who authorities said led them to Nguyen's grave, and Roy are scheduled to be tried on a capital murder charge May 21.

Earlier this month, Circuit Judge Dale Harkey denied a motion by May's attorneys to stop authorities from introducing at trial any statement made by the defendant.

May's attorneys had argued he was coerced into making statements during interviews with police.

At a hearing on the motion in March, May took the stand but refused to answer some questions. May claimed officials intimidated him and that the taped statements he made were coached by the officers.

"The court finds the testimony of the defendant incredible, substantially impeached and wholly insufficient to persuade the court that his statements and cooperation with the officers were the product of threats, coercion promises, or otherwise involuntary," Harkey wrote.

Harkey said the officers approached May at his residence when he was with his girlfriend, who accompanied him to the police station.

"The girlfriend testified that May voluntarily went to talk with officers, and when she talked with May during a smoke break, she saw no indication that he was being mistreated or intimidated," Harkey said.

CLARIONLEDGER.COM

French Camp to host area stargazers

By John Whitehead

FRENCH CAMP — French Camp Astronomy's 14th annual Observatory Open House is the 2001 Mid-South Star Gaze, a conference for amateur astronomers, today through Saturday.

Sponsored jointly by the Radio Astronomical Association, Jackson Astronomical Society, the Memphis Astronomical Society and the Society of Light Earth Observers of Memphis, the star party offers viewing, lectures and the chance to borrow the latest telescope accessories from Aldo Spill, and James Hill, director of Rainwater Observatory.

With a small start in the late 1980s, the conference now draws crowds to 170. It is the conference this year is a teacher workshop for continuing education credit conducted by John Truesdale of the University of Memphis.

Also, two public lectures will be given by Gene Byrd of the University of Alabama at 8 p.m. and 6 p.m. Friday and by Joan Schmitt and Gerald Vecchione of Memphis at 8 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday at the French Camp Astronomy and other conference events is \$15.

Three talks geared for experienced and novice astronomers alike include radio astronomy and the SETI project from Newberry, astrophysics and discovery by the Wide Camera of the Hubble Space Telescope, star formation by Schmitt, and sky maps by Gary Laack, assistant manager of The Planetarium, and an update on NASA activities by Hill, the NASA Jet Propulsion Lab Solar System education officer for Mississippi.

Topics feature on astrophysics astronomy features on the life and career of Frederick Augustus Porter Barnard, former chancellor at the University of Mississippi. Barnard purchased the first large telescope in the United States and the first observatory at the University of Mississippi, Byrd said.

Laack, the most other Rainwater volunteer, enjoys the "dark sky" views available at the facility and under 100 in the Nashville area.

The sky is so dark and the telescope views are so fascinating, I use the opportunity to remind myself that I get involved in astronomy in the first place, Laack said.

Details are available at www.rainwaterastronomy.org or by calling (662) 547-4862.



King of the monster

Jim Lock, 5, of Jackson enjoys a group and clear spring day atop the "Monstrous Monster" at Earl Street Park Tuesday afternoon. A cold front swept over the state, dropping high-tops per storm into the 60s. Weather Bureau, AA.

5 counties hit by storm declared disaster areas

Parish, La. declared disaster areas in five Mississippi counties Tuesday, making them eligible for federal aid.

Federal aid will support state and local recovery efforts in Adams, Holmes, Leflore, Lee and Neshoba counties, which were struck by flooding caused by heavy rain during the first week of April.

American Red Cross disaster recovery grants, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the storm.

Federal funding is available to eligible local governments on a cost-sharing basis for the repair or replacement of public facilities damaged by the severe storm and flooding.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance today by calling 1-800-462-9028, 1-800-462-7488 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Application to be named as search continues

From IB discovered in the budgeting process. More than two dozen employees and other job tightening steps were ordered to balance MC's books.

The budget is in place and on target. There are no financial problems here about, Vickery said. Added Todd: "The fiscal problems have been dealt with."

Todd said he plans to get more involved in church work, building

Habitat for Humanity homes and spending more time with his family. During his tenure there was a building renovation at the private college. Todd "has done an outstanding job. He's carried us to new levels," Vickery said.

Vickery said trustees will consider naming an interim president, and seek suggestions from the faculty. Vickery said he doesn't know the exact date of Todd's departure. Dozens of potential presidential candidates have been internally

suggested to board members, Vickery said. He would not reveal names of possible candidates. More prospects are expected about an advertisement appears in The Chronicle of Higher Education a few weeks, Vickery said.

Like any presidential search at a college campus, "we're hearing lots of rumors," Todd said. Vickery said the board will hire consultants and name students, staff and faculty leaders to assist in the search. He would not reveal the

Judge refuses to suppress slaying suspect's statement

PROVING — A judge has refused to suppress statements allegedly made by Jackson May murder case.

May, 19, and Christopher Roy, 20, are charged with killing three people in the Vanhook area.

Nigro was reported missing by his parents last September. Fishermen found his car in the Pascagoula River on Sept. 26. His body was discovered in early January.

Police have said the killing may have been drug-related and that Roy, May and Nigro knew each other.

Man gets 37 years for bank holdup

LEWIS — A 37-year-old man has been sentenced to 37 years in prison for robbery and other charges related to the 1998 holdup of First State Bank branch in

William D. Salter, 37, received the 37-year sentence in George County Circuit Court for armed robbery, kidnapping and burglary.

May 5 tribute concert benefits Make-A-Wish

NEW ORLEANS — A tribute concert to the late Jimmie Lee White, the King of Mississippi Music, will be held at the Forest County Multi Purpose Arena.

In memory of his wife, Kim Myrick, and his son, James Lee White, the concert will be held at 7 p.m. on May 5 at the Forest County Multi Purpose Arena.

White was a prominent blues and rock musician who died in a car accident in 1998. The concert will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Mississippi is a nonprofit organization that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses. Last year, Make-A-Wish

made wishes come true for 71 children in Mississippi.

For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, call 601-939-8518, 800-839-4072 or send email to makeawish@makeawish.org.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

For more information on the festival, visit the festival website at www.may5festival.com.

Downtown Jackson
(601) 354-5200
1-800-462-8785

Pearl/Brandon
(601) 360-0200
1-800-367-4559

<p>2001 Buick Century Power Windows, Locks, Cruise, Moonroof, Cassette, SelectShift</p> <p>0% APR up to 60 months or \$1250 Cash Back</p>	<p>2001 Regal Power Windows, Locks, Cassette, Cruise, & CD, Moonroof</p> <p>0% APR up to 60 months or \$1250 Cash Back</p>	<p>2001 LeSabre Huge Selection!</p> <p>\$1500 Cash Back or 2.9% APR</p>	<p>2001 Park Avenue Ultra Leather, All Power, CD & Cassette, Moonroof</p> <p>\$3000 Cash Back or 2.9% APR</p>
<p>GMC 2001 YUKON'S</p> <p>10 in Stock</p>	<p>2001 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab, 4x4, 6.0L Diesel, Moonroof</p> <p>\$1000 Cash Back!</p>	<p>2001 GMC Sonoma</p> <p>\$1750 Cash Back! 5.9% APR</p>	<p>2001 GMC Jimmy</p> <p>\$3500 Cash Back!</p>

GMC We Are Professional Grade
100% Financing up to 60 months, with approved credit.