

Anchors away



Model builder **Glenn Greico** latches rigging to a 5-foot replica of La Salle's ship the La Belle at the ship lab in the nautical archeology department on Monday. The ship sank in 1686 in Matagorda

bay and was a gift to La Salle from the king of France. **Greico** has been working on this model for three years. It will be put on display at the Texas Maritime Museum in Corpus Christi.

Man sentenced to 10 years for burning cross in Katy

HOUSTON (AP) — Ignoring pleas for lenience from the convicted ringleader of a Juneteenth 2000 cross burning at the home of a black family, a federal judge Monday sentenced the man to 10 years in prison.

Matthew Curtis Marshall, 21, was the last of five men to be sent to prison for the June 19 crime in Katy, a west Houston suburb. All pleaded guilty to violating the civil rights of Dwayne and Maria Ross and their two children.

Prior to hearing his punishment, Marshall called his act "a foolish act of vandalism" and told the Rosses he did not specifically target them.

"It was not personal because I did not even know your name," Marshall said as he asked for probation, boot camp or another alternative to prison. "It was not about hate, because I am not a racist."

However, U.S. District Judge David Hittner said he was not moved by letters from friends and family saying Marshall's behavior was an aberration, or defense attorney Ken Minglehoff's assertion that drugs and alcohol were to blame.

Hittner said Marshall organized the crime and provided gasoline used to ignite the cross. The judge said Marshall also took a post-hole digger to place the cross in the center of the

yard, but hit a root and leaned the cross on a tree abutting the Rosses' home.

"The house could have gone up," Hittner said.

Hittner cited past incidents, such as when Marshall allegedly dragged

"This was not a thoughtless prank. It's a federal offense."

— Ruben Perez
assistant U.S. attorney

a dog to death and a videotape that shows Marshall forcing a high school classmate of Indian descent to eat a feces-laced sandwich in lieu of paying a debt.

The use of slurs to describe blacks, Hispanics and Chinese-Americans by Marshall's father, Jock Marshall, during an August detention hearing also played into the stiff punishment, Hittner said.

"It appears that the seeds of his racism were sown at home," Hittner said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ruben Perez dismissed assertions from Marshall's family that the incident

was a prank. Hittner said Marshall's mother, Cheryl Marshall, wrote a letter to the Rosses insisting the incident was an example of young men trying to impress each other rather than a hate crime.

"This was not a thoughtless prank," Perez said. "It's a federal offense."

The judge said Marshall's prison sentence would be followed by probation for three years, during which Marshall can have no contact with racist groups.

The Rosses said they were satisfied with the punishment, adding that their 3-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter remain confused about what has happened, "but they sense our tension."

Co-conspirators Wayne Mathews, Bobby Bergeron and Darin White previously were sentenced to just more than one year in prison. Corydon William Parsons was sentenced to more than three years in prison.

The Rosses discovered the charred 6-foot cross on their lawn on the morning of Juneteenth, the celebration of the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas on June 19, 1865, more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the order freeing U.S. slaves.

Capital case goes to jury trial

Man faces death penalty for planning ambush against police

KARNES CITY (AP) — Kenneth Vodochodsky is not accused of pulling the trigger, but the 20-year-old pipe-fitter is accused of helping his friend plan an ambush that left three lawmen dead.

This week, prosecutors will try to convince a jury to convict him of capital murder. They also intend to seek the death penalty.

Opening statements were set to begin Tuesday in Karnes City, about 55 miles southeast of San Antonio. The trial was moved from neighboring Atascosa County because of pretrial publicity.

The charges stem from the Oct. 12, 1999, shootings of five law officers outside the rural mobile home Vodochodsky was sharing with his friend, Jeremiah Engleton, and Engleton's wife.

Prosecutors contend Vodochodsky knew that Engleton wanted to kill officers and bailed him out of jail the day of the attack.

The 21-year-old Engleton, who had been arrested on a domestic violence charge, and Vodochodsky then

went to a gun shop and bought \$200 worth of ammunition before returning to their trailer, authorities say.

Vodochodsky took off minutes before the shootings began, investigators say, but after Engleton had placed a phony 911 call that lured the officers to their deaths.

One by one, Atascosa County sheriff's deputies Mark Stephenson and Thomas Monse, and Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper Terry Miller were shot and killed as they arrived.

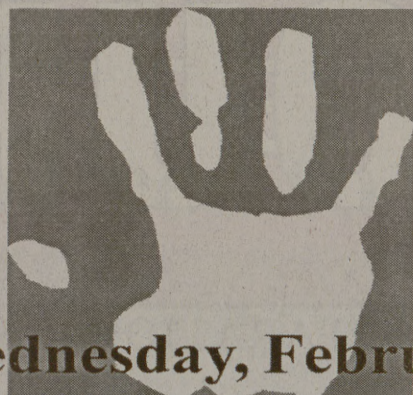
A deputy U.S. marshal and a Pleasanton police officer also were wounded.

Engleton then killed himself as officers closed in. District attorney Lynn Ellison hopes to hold Vodochodsky liable under the state's "law of parties."

"If someone encourages, solicits, directs, aids or attempts to aid someone in the commission of a crime, then under Texas law, the individual is guilty of the same crime that the other individual committed," Ellison said.

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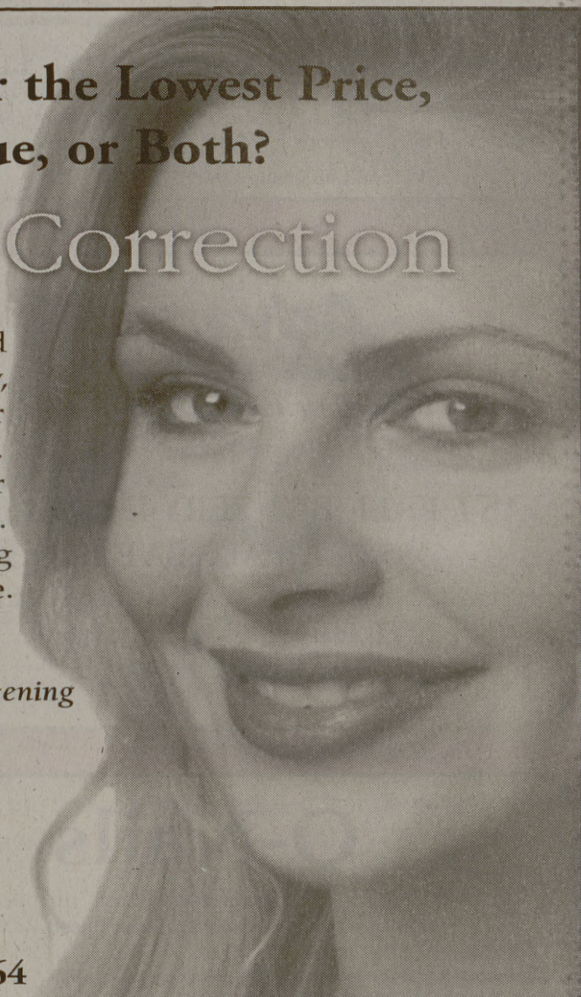
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