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Man still in jail after mistrial

By MATHEW PAUST Staff Writer GLOUCESTER — A mistrial was declared Friday after a jury failed to reach a verdict in the trial of a 19-year-old Woods Cross Roads man charged with stealing a pickup truck.

Afterward, the defendant, Michael B. Horsley, was led back to the county jail, where he is being held without bond pending a trial on a rape charge. In Friday's trial, Horsley pleaded not guilty to a charge he stole a truck owned by Robert W. Hill of Glass on June 15. Hill's wife testified she had parked the truck at a convenience store in Ordinary that afternoon, a Sunday, and rode with her sister to Williamsburg. She said she left a set of keys to the truck inside the vehicle. Mrs. Hill said she worked at her job in Williamsburg until midnight. When she returned to pick up the truck early Monday,

it was gone. She said the truck was found several weeks later abandoned near Ark. Thomas Carter, 25, of Williamsburg, testified he was with Horsley when the defendant allegedly stole the truck. Carter said the two had been "hanging around" a convenience store at Williamsburg before hitting a ride to the Ordinary store. There, Horsley remained outside while Carter entered the store briefly. Carter testified. When I came out, Back (Horsley) was in the truck. I got in as we went up the road," he said. Carter said he knew the truck was stolen. He also claimed Sheriff's Department investigators had promised him a deal if he would help them "turn Back."

In a trial Thursday, Circuit Judge G. Duane Holloway found Carter not guilty of four charges of grand larceny, including the theft of Hill's truck and one charged of attempted grand larceny after Carter told of the "promised" deal, which Carter said was "never before he confessed." After the Carter trial Thursday, Commonwealth Attorney William H. Shaw III said Holloway first dismissed the confession as evidence because there was some indication Carter believed he'd made a deal with the investigators. "That statement (confession) was our case. It was the evidence we had," Shaw said. The other charges of which Holloway found Carter not guilty involved the theft of a pickup truck belonging to Dan's Glass in Gloucester on June 20, the theft of four tires and tires and attempted theft of a car from Gloucester Police car on June 20, and the theft on June 16 of a tent from Coastal Motors.

Church-state 'wall' discussed

By CRYSTAL CHARITY Staff Writer RICHMOND — The "wall of separation" Thomas Jefferson used to describe the ideal relationship between church and state has become a hot topic for discussion in court, according to a Virginia constitutional authority.

A. E. Dick Howard, a former law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, spoke this week before the National Conference for Religious Freedom in Richmond. Sponsored by the Citizens to Commemorate the Bicentennial of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, the conference was held to discuss the relevance of the statute today. Howard discussed the First Amendment with Rex E. Lee, former U.S. solicitor general. Lee described the Supreme Court's three-part test to decide on the constitutionality of aid to parochial schools. The test analyzes the intent of the legislation in question, its effect on any particular religious belief, and whether the legislation would entangle the state in religious affairs. He suggested using a different type of inquiry considering the thoughts of those who wrote the First Amendment and the purpose behind the law's creation. The three-part test ignores that, Lee said. Howard added that today's conflicts between church and state were not foreseen when the First Amendment was written.

Students, family, gather for service

Case of slain women remains unsolved; police seek leads

By RAY BETZNER Staff Writer WILLIAMSBURG — The family and friends of Rebecca Ann Dowski gathered Friday afternoon to remember the College of William and Mary senior, whose slaying two weeks ago remains unsolved.

About 60 members of the college community attended the 35-minute service in the historic Great Hall of the Sir Christopher Wren Building. Ms. Dowski's mother and family were joined by college President Paul Verkuil and Board of Visitors Director Anne Dorris Poole. Some of the students wept as they heard the woman's Kaddish, a traditional prayer used in the past by students when a beloved scholar died. The Jewish prayer was part of an interfaith service for the 21-year-old senior described by friends as an industrious woman anxious to succeed.

Emily Pease, a professor at the college and friend of Ms. Dowski, wrote of the business student's inner strength and love for children. "She used to appear at my office door, always with that quiet cheerfulness I read by the Rev. Brantly Alport. "I've thought of almost nothing else but Becky over the last several days." Unspoken in the prayers but hanging over the service were the many questions surrounding the violent death of Ms. Dowski and Carolyn Marian Thomas, a 27-year-old Virginia Beach school teacher. The bodies of the two were discovered Oct. 12 in Ms. Thomas' car. Their thoughts had been over the embankment of the Colonial Parkway.

The two were last seen on the college campus three days before the car was discovered. Investigators have repeatedly asked the public for help in the case. FBI Agent Jack Wagner was in Williamsburg on Friday and continued the official progress in the solving the crimes. No arrests have been made in the case and agents refuse to say if there are any suspects. Wagner did confirm that the agency will use the York River bridge as a source of evidence, but declined to comment on any other possible leads in the double slaying. For those at Friday's service, the main concern was not the death of Ms. Dowski, but her life. A friend of hers suggested the service include a work by Max Ehrmann that summed up the student's attitudes toward life. It says in part: "Be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world."

Tussle looms over landfill use request

KING AND QUEEN (AP) — The owner of a landfill closed by a circuit judge has asked the state Department of Environmental Management for a permit to reopen the dump. Louis Carreras also said Thursday he will either get county approval for the landfill or he will take the county to court.

The 120-acre landfill near Millers Tavern was open briefly in January before the county sought a court injunction to close the facility. Carreras' company, King Land Corp., has a contract with a Philadelphia contractor to dispose of 150,000 tons of ash. In January, the landfill accepted five large loads of the incinerated garbage from the contractor. Should the state grant the permit, the company would still need a variance from that King's zoning ordinance.

Anyone with information on this or any other crime in Essex or King and Queen should call Crime Solvers at 765-0907 or 443-5094. Callers may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000. Callers do not have to give their names or testify in court.

Land. He also revoked the company's permit saying the state regulations failed to require the company to post bond — as required by law. Since then, the state has amended its regulations to conform to the law, said King Land attorney John Hamilton. Carreras said the landfill poses no threat to the environment and uses state-of-the-art equipment. It will take the Solid Waste Department up to six months to determine if the site is suitable for a landfill and if one should be permitted, said Berry Wright, technical program director for the department.

Sheriff seeks help

The Essex County Sheriff's Department is seeking information on the theft of tires and wheels from vehicles parked on the back lot of B and S Chevrolet Co. Inc. in Tappahannock. A vehicle also was vandalized when the theft occurred between 7 p.m. Oct. 1 and early the following morning.

Callers may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000. Callers do not have to give their names or testify in court.

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