

Two sentenced for role in man's murder

Witnesses disagree on who shot Christopher Deloche

By Jeff Haldiman

jhaldiman@newstribune.com

Two men involved in the July 2005 murder of 24-year-old Christopher Deloche were sentenced Friday for their part in the crime.

Judge Tom Brown sentenced Mychal Sangster, 21, to life in prison for second-degree murder and 25 years for robbery. The two sentences will run concurrently.

Gregory Hite Jr., 17, got ten years for robbery, five years for felonious restraint and three years for armed criminal action, and his sentences also will run concurrently.

The sentencing process normally doesn't take long, but for Sangster and Hite, it took 90 minutes.

Despite signed testimony agreements with prosecutors,

the witnesses disagreed as to who actually shot and killed Deloche at his home on Buena Vista Avenue in the early morning hours of July 10.

Eddie Gordon, 22, who will be sentenced in May after pleading guilty to felony murder, robbery and armed criminal action, testified that Sangster had the gun and pulled the trigger.

Sangster admitted to actually having the gun, but on the stand Friday said he did not kill Deloche.

The conflicting testimony's had an affect on Brown, who told prosecutors, "I can't judge the credibility of these witnesses. There's no evidence to tell which is right."

Assistant Prosecutor Kurt Valentine told the judge, "We've had to deal with a bunch of rats. We had to make deals because the only witnesses to testify in this case were criminals."

Deloche's mother, Karen Comer, was among the family

Please see Sentenced, p. 3

Sat. Apr. 15, 2006

Sentenced: Disagreements

Continued from p. 1

members who spoke before the sentencing.

"While you're sitting in jail, I hope the thought of your final destination will come to your mind often," she told Sangster and Hite. "If you don't repent, you're going to go straight to Hell."

Sangster's attorney, Jay Anielak, asked Comer who she thought fired the shots.

"I'm not sure which one of them did it," she said, "but as far as I'm concerned, they're all guilty."

Gordon and Sangster said it

was not their intention to kill or hurt anyone, only to rob the residence.

Hite admitted to being in on the robbery plan and to taking an Xbox system from the home. He left the residence before the shooting.

Three other people have pled guilty for their involvement in this case. Tarance McDonald, 17, and his younger brother, Jermaine, 16, as well as Adam Turner, are all scheduled to be sentenced for robbery at the end of the month.

They reportedly were outside of the home at the time the shooting occurred.