STATE/MEXICO

Jury gives 'Queens' each 7-year terms

BY C. BRYSON HULL Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — Two teen-age classmates who dubbed themselves the "Queens of Armed Robbery" were sentenced Friday to seven years in prison for a string of convenience store holdups.

Malissa "Lisa" Warzeka and Katie Marie Dunn, both 17, pleaded guilty earlier this month to two counts each of aggravated robbery, opting to let a jury decide their penalties. They each received two seven-year terms, to run concurrently.

As soon as Judge Mark Kent Ellis read the verdict, Ms. Dunn covered her face and burst into tears. Ms. Warzeka cried quietly. Ellis wasn't impressed.

"Spare me your tears," he told the two. "You have sown the wind, and you have reaped the whirlwind. See the bailiff."
Prosecutor Terrance Windham

was also unmoved.

"We can't forget that she wasn't sobbing when she stuck a gun in people's faces, threatened their lives and took their property," he said of Dunn.

Dunn and Warzeka were arrested in August, along with suburban Kingwood High School classmates Krystal Dawn Maddox, 16, and Michelle Morneau, 19, for five armed robberies at convenience stores.

They could have received between five and 99 years in prison, or probation. Maddox and Morneau are still awaiting trial.

Dunn's attorney, Patrick Hubbard, told jurors that prison time would harden the girls, not rehabilitate them. Their sixmonth stay in the Harris County Jail taught them their lesson, he said.



PRISON-BOUND: Malissa Warzeka, right, and Katie Dunn.

AP photo

MEXICO BRIEFS

Police confiscate porn from singer

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — Police have confiscated at least 120 pornographic videotapes from the beach home of Gloria Trevi, the pop singer who is jailed in Brazil for a sex scandal involving a Mexican teen-ager.

Authorities also took two paintings Thursday from the home in Barra de Potosi, 110 miles northwest of Acapulco. One was of a woman being raped and another apparently was of Trevi, nude and with tears in her eyes, according to local official Abad Orozco Rojas.

The search stemmed from a complaint filed by four domestic workers who said they are owed 18 months in back wages.

Trevi, her manager, Sergio Andrade, and another entertainer, Maria Raquenel Portillo, were arrested in Rio de Janeiro on Jan. 13 and have been jailed pending a decision on Mexico's request for extradition.

Prosecutors in the northern state of Chihuahua accuse them of corrupting Karina Yapor, 17, whose parents had turned her over to Andrade's care at age 12 for musical training — allegedly at Trevi's behest. Yapor abandoned a baby in Spain in 1998.

Trevi, Andrade and Portillo have denied the charges.

Woman found hung from cactus

OAXACA, Mexico (AP) — A German woman apparently committed suicide by hanging herself from a cactus in the southern Mexican town where she lived, authorities said Friday.

The body of Irmgard Mueller, 67, was found Thursday in Mitla, 42 kms (25 miles) east of Oaxaca city.

The woman's husband, Gerhart Mueller, 68, told authorities she had suffered from depression and had tried to kill herself five years earlier.

The Muellers had moved to Mitla, where they owned a restaurant, 13 years ago.

Dinosaur skin reportedly found

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Paleontologists digging at a site in northern Mexico reported Friday they had found a fossilized patch of skin from a dinosaur known as a Hadrosaur or duckbilled dinosaur, the first time such a discovery has been made at the site.

Dinosaur skin impressions are rare finds, and most are not very well preserved. It was unclear if the fossil discovery announced Friday involved an impression or an actual bit of skin.

Paleontologist Rosario Gomez said that pieces of skin from the Hadrosaur's abdomen and arm had apparently been preserved because the animal died in a very hot, dry climate which first mummified, then fossilized, its remains, the government news agency Notimex reported.

The skin might reveal more about climatic conditions at the time the dinosaur's death, about 65 to 70 million years ago, the scientists said.

The site at Rincon Colorado, in northern Coahuila state, located about 200 miles (320 kms) south of Eagle Pass, Texas, has yielded numerous other dinosaur fossils.