

For Immediate Release
September 26, 2002

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA -- September 26, 2002 -- Stanislaus County District Attorney Jim Brazelton announced today that MATHEW RODRIGUES, age 23, formerly of Modesto, was convicted by a jury today of home invasion robbery, burglary, assault with a firearm, evading a peace officer, and receiving stolen property. The jury also found that RODRIGUES personally used a firearm during the commission of the home invasion robbery and the burglary.

On May 20, 2002, RODRIGUES forced his way into the victim's Oakdale Road apartment. RODRIGUES put a gun to the victim's head while marching the victim into the bedroom. As the victim entered the bedroom RODRIGUES struck the victim in the head with the gun, causing the victim to fall to the floor. The victim "played dead" while RODRIGUES ransacked the apartment.

Eight days later, a Modesto Police Officer noticed a Ford Bronco being driven by RODRIGUES. RODRIGUES was not wearing his seat belt. As the Officer attempted a routine traffic stop RODRIGUES fled the scene at a high rate of speed. RODRIGUES led Modesto Police on a high speed chase during which time RODRIGUES struck two residential fences and a parked vehicle. RODRIGUES fled the accident scene on foot and forced his way into another Modesto

apartment to avoid capture. RODRIGUES left the apartment after approximately 15 minutes at which time he was apprehended by Modesto Police Officers. RODRIGUES had some of the May 20th home invasion robbery property in his wallet which resulted in his arrest and prosecution for the May 20th home invasion robbery and the May 28th evasion of police.

Deputy District Attorney Tom Brennan stated that RODRIGUES could receive a maximum sentence of 19 years, 8 months in prison. Rodrigues will be sentenced on Tuesday, October 22nd, 2002.

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