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Jury hands down guilty verdict in toy pistol case



Photo by Andy Cripe

Two males are suspected of damaging Victor Adonri's car and of shouting racial slurs.

GALA head asks for resignation

By Jeff Morgan
Emerald Reporter

The ASUO coordinator for minority affairs has been asked to resign by the co-director of a University minority group due to statements attributed in yesterday's Emerald.

Tim Hughes, co-director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, delivered his letter to ASUO President Kasey Brooks requesting the resignation of the ASUO's minority affairs coordinator, Harry Hintsala. Hughes' letter complained of "outrageously homophobic comments" published in a story about an ASUO delegation's attendance at an Idaho conference against malicious harassment.

However, according to Brooks, Hughes has agreed to reconsider the request for Hintsala's resignation overnight, and will meet with Brooks today after discussing the matter with other GALA board members.

In Monday's Emerald, Hintsala said that being gay or lesbian is a matter of choice, as opposed to being a member of a racial or religious minority.

"For a race or religious group, you're visibly of the race that you're going to be discriminated against. Unless you're a highly visible gay or lesbian, you're not that noticeable," Hintsala said in the Emerald story.

In his letter to Brooks, Hughes stated that "the im-

plication that lesbian and gay issues are somehow less important than any other minority struggle is insulting and demeaning to every gay student on this campus."

When asked about Hughes' letter, Hintsala had no comment, saying, "I think that after talking to Kasey (Brooks), I should just drop the whole thing and see what happens from here."

Brooks said that she was "very distressed, very concerned" by Hintsala's comments, adding that it did "not at all" reflect her administration's attitude towards minority and homosexual concerns. "I've worked with Tim this year ex-

Turn to GALA, Page 3A

Victim encounters racial slurs, car damage before trial opens.

By Stephen Maher
Emerald Associate Editor

A Springfield store owner was found guilty in Springfield Municipal Court Tuesday evening of disorderly conduct charges stemming from allegations he pointed an antique toy pistol at a University student last June.

Donald Ray Tackett, owner of Liquidation Outlet, 660 Main St., was alleged to have aimed a cap gun at University student Victor Adonri on June 22 after Adonri walked into Tackett's store and inquired about the address of the store.

Adonri, who was working for the City of Springfield's Office of Economic Development at the time of the incident, testified in court he believed the toy pistol was a real gun.

"He kept pointing it, whipping it around and talking to me," Adonri said.

Detective Gary Stewart of the Springfield Police Department testified the toy pistol was realistic in appearance. "It would be an automatic if it was real," said Stewart, who filled out the police report on the incident.

Adonri, who is originally from Nigeria, testified that Tackett asked him "what are you doing in Springfield?" and told him "you have hitched your horse in the wrong watering hole" while he was in the store.

However, Tackett and other defense witnesses told the court that the gun was never pointed at Adonri and that statements

allegedly made by the defendant were either never said or misconstrued by Adonri.

The jury's verdict followed an apparently racially motivated incident earlier in the day that involved Adonri and two unidentified white males.

According to Eugene Police Sgt. Dick Hansen, Adonri was approached by one of the suspects after he parked his car on Kincaid Street near 14th Avenue at approximately 7:45 a.m. The suspect yelled "go home nigger" as Adonri walked toward the corner of Kincaid Street and 13th Avenue, Hansen said.

When Adonri returned to his 1987 Ford Escort at 9:30 a.m., he found the rear license plate mangled and bent upwards, and a fir branch laying across the top of the car, Hansen said.

"I was just getting out of my car when the person started that stuff. And then everything went haywire," Adonri said in an interview before the trial began.

"We're talking about people I've never seen before," he said.

Adonri described the suspects as in their early 20s and roughly 5 feet 9 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall and the vehicle they were driving as an older-model, silver Ranchero with blue trim. He also gave Eugene police a license plate number, but Hansen said police were having a difficult time tracing it.

When asked if he believed the racial slurs and the trial were connected, Adonri replied, "It is a really tough coincidence. They picked the same day."

Turn to Verdict, Page 5A

Topless taverns stimulate community interest, concern

By Andrew LaMar
Emerald Reporter

Nestled among the hundreds of businesses on West 11th Avenue in West Eugene is a sign that reads "Harmless Visual Stimuli." Beside it is the popular Jiggles Tavern, a topless bar that opened in June.

Jiggles is "a nice place where a nice girl can entertain people," according to Melody Duncan, who manages the tavern. On Friday and Saturday nights the large bar is often packed with gawking men.

Tavern owner Jim Hansen said Jiggles averages about 200 customers on weeknights and about 400 on Friday or Saturday nights.

"People like to be entertained, people like to see beautiful people and people like a nice comfortable atmosphere," Hansen said.

But some people don't see it that way. "To be up on stage (naked), I see as very close to pornographic in nature since it objectifies women," said Bonnie

Plant, the co-director of the University Women's Referral and Resource Service. It focuses men's attention "not on the human being itself but on parts of the human being," she said.

Also, because topless bars objectify women, it could lead men to committing violent acts against women, such as rape, Plant said.

Duncan disagreed.

"Rape is a violent crime," Duncan said. "It has nothing to do with a woman entertaining topless."

Jiggles is one of a growing number of area taverns that offer topless dancing. Office 290 was the first tavern to offer topless dancing in Lane County when it turned topless February 1986.

But in the past year three more topless bars have opened: Brandi's Beer Garden, the Mustang Ranch Saloon and Jiggles.

A market for topless dancing has always existed in Eugene, said Darla Forcum, co-owner of the Mustang. And now it is ready to be accepted, she said.

"This town is growing and loosening up. It's not the puritanical town it used to be," Forcum said.

Only the Mustang and Office 290 feature women who expose their genitals, although at Jiggles women occasionally dance bottomless for private parties.

The Mustang and Jiggles are the only two topless bars in the city limits. Jiggles, which is not connected with the Portland-area tavern with the same name that shut down last year after losing a court battle, and the other topless bars appear to be completely legal.

According to the city law, exposing genitals with intent to arouse sexual desire in a public place is illegal. But taverns are considered private places, according to Debra Evans, a public service officer for the city manager's office.

"I'm assuming that the topless bars that are in Eugene now are legal," Evans said. "At this point, all they have to do is get a business license and a liquor license and it's a private business."

But Bob Gorham, an assistant district attorney for Lane County, said taverns are public places. He said the issue is

Turn to Topless, Page 3A



Photo by Bobbie Lo

Some area residents have complained about the supposed immorality of Jiggles Tavern.