

Firebombing trial begins next week



SALEM (AP) — After a prolonged jury selection process, the trial is expected to begin next week for three reputed skinheads accused in the firebombing deaths of a black lesbian and a gay white man.

Phillip Wilson Jr., 21, Leon Tucker, 22, and Yolanda R. Cotton, 20, are charged with aggravated murder, arson and assault in the killings last September of Hattie Mae Cohens, 29, and Brian Mock, 45.

The two died when someone threw a Molotov cocktail-type device through Cohens' bedroom window in the basement apartment they shared.

Jury selection has been under way for more than three weeks in Marion County Circuit Court and is expected to be completed by the first of next week.

An unusually large pool of more than 1,200 poten-

tial jurors was established because the case has attracted extensive news coverage and public outcry.

"Hattie Cohens was murdered because she was black, she was murdered because she was a lesbian," a Portland spokeswoman for the Lesbian Community Project said at a vigil for the victims last fall. "Brian Mock was a gay man, and he paid for it."

Salem police say privately that they don't believe Cohens and Mock were the intended victims. Rather, they believe the attackers were after four young men who were staying in the apartment. One of them, Cohens' nephew Eddie Keel, claimed to be a Crips "gang banger."

Deputy District Attorney David Kramer, declined to discuss details of the case before the trial begins.

"We have not publicly laid out the theory of our case, and we're reluctant to do that, Kramer said.

State panel will investigate harassment

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Senate set up a special committee Tuesday to investigate complaints about sexual harassment on the part of senators, Senate employees or lobbyists.

The 23-7 vote came after the majority Democrats defeated a Republican-backed alternative. That plan would have formed a committee but laid different ground rules for handling complaints.

"Sexual harassment is not fun. It's mean, it's destructive and it's

not unnecessary," said Sen. Tricia Smith, D-Salem, a leading sponsor of the rule changes that created the Standing Committee on Sexual Harassment.

The new panel will be made up of three Republicans and three Democrats. If the committee determined a senator had sexually harassed someone, it could recommend that the Senate reprimand, censure or expel the member.

Offenses by Senate employees would be dealt with under legislative personnel rules. Lobbyists

could be reprimanded or restricted from appearing before Senate committees.

The House is considering what steps might be taken to deal with the issue in that chamber, said Dan Jarman, press aide to House Speaker Larry Campbell, R-Eugene.

Jarman said Campbell had appointed a task force headed by Rep. Beverly Clarno, R-Bend, to look into whether special procedures are needed.

Residents settle on name for roadway

ASHLAND (AP) — People who objected to the name of Dead Indian Road have reached a compromise with residents who liked it the way it was, settling on Dead Indian Memorial Road.

"The understanding of this name is altered when modified to include 'Memorial,'" George Fence of the American Indian Cultural Center in Talent said Tuesday. "We seek to go forward from this point in a greater partnership with our community."

The new name preserves the history that gave rise to the name while recognizing the sensitivities of Indians who felt demeaned by it, Fence said.

"A fairly significant bit of healing has occurred around this,"

said Pete Cotton, who lives on the road.

The proposed change stands a good chance of being approved, said Jackson County Commissioner Ric Holt.

Holt said he has gotten pledges from local companies to erect markers explaining the history of the name. Fence said the cultural center will raise money for markers, as well.

Dead Indian Road connects Ashland with Highway 140 near Lake of the Woods. The prevailing story is that local settlers in 1854 found the bodies of two Rogue Indians, apparently killed in a fight with a neighboring tribe.

'We seek to go forward from this point in a greater partnership with our community.'

— George Fence, American Indian Cultural Center

CANDIDATES

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"One person cannot do it all," she said.

ASUO members and student leaders have discussed forming a multicultural center since spring term, 1992, Bowen said. The center would serve as a place where students of color could meet to discuss race issues and to educate each other.

"The idea is to have a central location to pool all of your resources, instead of how it is now where you can get a bit here and a bit there," Bowen said.

Creating a solid community requires that all students feel safe on campus, Bowen said. He and Collins Puente, both 21, plan to improve lighting on campus and fix faulty wiring in the University Office of Public Safety's call boxes.

If elected, Bowen said he and Collins Puente will form a Sexual Assault Exam Fund to provide students who have been sexually assaulted with free medical exams at the Student

Health Center following the sexual assault.

"It's not too easy for students to decide to have an exam, and then they're slapped with a \$145 price tag on it," he said.

Bowen, a Phi Kappa Psi fraternity member, said he wants the greek system to initiate more rape awareness and safety workshops.

The Oregon Legislature must promote tax reform to ensure students have continued access to higher education, Bowen said. He and Collins Puente will lobby in Salem and recommend a state sales tax earmarked for higher education.

Bowen and Collins Puente said they believe their personalities and leadership styles complement each other.

Bowen, a political science major, is chairman of the Student Health Center Committee and interns in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Collins Puente, a sociology major, is a member of MEChA, the Affirmative Action Advisory Board and Students of Color Building Bridges.

CAMPAIGN

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ed.

The potential donors said they thought highly of the University's programs and faculty, and they regarded University President Myles Brand as a strong leader.

However, the survey found the University has lacked the leadership for such a large campaign. The Board of Trustees, a volunteer fund-raising group of about 50 alumni and community leaders, are reluctant to commit time and effort for a major campaign, the survey found.

In order to raise \$150 million, the University also would have to find several donors who are willing to make large lead gifts, according to the survey.

The University will spend the next 12 to 18 months recruiting volunteers to solicit donations and talking to potential donors who could give important lead gifts, Remington said.

The University will ask the Board of Trustees for advice during the campaign's planning stages to encourage their involvement, Remington said.

"I'm confident that as they get more involved," Remington said, "they will see the kind of leadership roles they can play, and they will more enthusiastically take on those roles."

For a campaign as large as this, the University will have to establish strong relationships with

'This campaign will emphasize people-support.'

— Brodie Remington, University vice president for public affairs and development

potential donors, Remington said.

Brand plays a large role in that, Remington said. The study suggested Brand devote 30 to 40 percent of his time soliciting large gifts.

Brand said he has spent the past several months traveling on weekends to solicit large donations, and he will continue to do so.

"Because of Measure 5, this University, perhaps more than any other, needs to find alternative sources of revenue," Brand said.

But 1990's Measure 5 tax initiative makes some donors reluctant to give, said Ken Ashworth, the University's foundation development director.

"People give to the strong programs," Ashworth said. "They don't give to programs that they think might not last."

Remington said the University won't cut any more major programs, but some donors still fear the uncertainty of the University's future.

"Things would be a whole lot easier if there were a solution to the budget crisis and we could get on with life," Remington said.



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