

TRIAL

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"Whatever happened in that room happened with consent," said Daniel Koenig, an attorney for defendant Jason Paul Shelley. "With consent you don't have a crime."

David Phillips, who is representing Charles Douglas Barnes, said one of the roommates lied about being sexually touched to either the grand jury or the Circuit Court. The woman told the grand jury in November that she hadn't been touched by any of the men, but on Monday she testified that Shelley touched her breasts.

"One of those is a lie and it is perjury," Phillips said.

Barnes, Shelley and Prentis Lavell Perkins, former Washington football and basketball players, were charged with first-degree burglary and first-degree sexual assault following an incident at the University Inn Oct. 31. The men are accused of exposing themselves, touching the breasts of the two 18-year-old residents and making unwelcome sexual remarks.

Barnes testified Wednesday that he and his friends entered the room because they were looking for marijuana, and he admitted to stealing a gold necklace from a resident. However, he denied any sexual misconduct toward residents and said they

were just socializing with the two women. Perkins and Shelley also took the witness stand during the five days of testimony.

The main victim of the alleged assault, who was left alone by the three men, testified that the defendants locked the doors, pulled down the shades and exposed their genitals. Two of the men grabbed her hand and forced her to touch Shelley's penis, she said.

She also said she was touched on the breast by Perkins, who had followed her into the bathroom and pulled down his pants.

In their closing arguments, defense attorneys said that much of the woman's testimony didn't make sense. The woman testified that at one point two of the men hid in her closet, but Koenig said the closet is not large enough to hold the two athletes.

The defense also questioned why, if the woman wanted the men to leave after the alleged assault, she gave them her phone number and a map to her boyfriend's house in Springfield where they planned to buy marijuana. Phillips said the men wouldn't have returned to the dorm room after driving to Springfield if they had committed a crime. He also questioned why the victims didn't call police earlier.

Gorham said the woman, who has dropped out of school since the incident, gave the men her

number and a map because that was the only way she believed she could get them to leave. She didn't want to call police at first, he said, because she was upset and scared that an investigation would interfere with her homework.

Gorham also said that the testimonies of both women have been fairly consistent throughout the trial.

"They have held up under tedious, sometimes obnoxious, cross-examination," Gorham said. "They have gone through a long and obviously painful process."

Defense attorneys claimed the woman accused the men of sexual assault because she didn't want her boyfriend to believe she consented to any sexual involvement with the defendants. The woman's boyfriend, they said, was angry when he heard about the alleged assault and forced his girlfriend to call police.

Dorothy Morey, the lawyer representing Perkins, said the woman was sulky and pouted on the witness stand, breaking into tears only when asked questions she couldn't answer. Gorham said the entire incident was traumatizing for the woman, and it is irrelevant which types of questions were asked when she cried.

All four attorneys wrapped up their closing arguments Thursday. The jury will deliberate the case today.

IFC meets to discuss internal tension

By Amy Columbo
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Incidental Fee Committee met behind closed doors Thursday night for a special mediation session in which committee members discussed internal tensions.

The meeting was facilitated by University mediator Jackie Gibson. Only IFC members were present, and the session was not open to the media.

Committee chairman Jian Liu said that the mediation session was called to discuss the interpersonal conflicts between members, which are attributed to differences in cultural background. He said the issue needed to be dealt with before the committee continued in the budget hearing process.

Committee member Jack Orozco has expressed frustration with committee member Kris Cornwell for her actions, specifically those during the Feb. 17 MEChA budget hearing.

Cornwell lead the motion to reconsider MEChA's budget after it had been allocated 100 percent of the funds requested for the 1994-95 year. "I felt that the decisions made at the meeting were hasty," Corn-

well said.

"Overwhelmingly I'd say that it's (the internal relations of the committee members that) affected the way we hear budgets," Orozco said.

Orozco wrote a letter to the members of the IFC calling for a better cultural consciousness.

"I think that a number of people from the IFC in many ways don't respect or have little value for these cultures," Orozco said. "In a lot of ways this is unconscious, and I think it reflects in their voting," he said.

"Some members, including myself, have not been open to others' feelings," Liu said. "My intention is that all seven of us can sit down and talk about how individually we've been feeling," he said.

The committee recognized that it may need to schedule more than one mediation session. "In my experience some issues don't get worked out in an hour," said committee member Shannon Wall.

Wall stressed the importance of reconvening and talking about members' reactions. She said it would be fruitless not to meet again.

OCA

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Much of the discussion centered on House Bill 3500, a law that prohibits the enforcement of anti-homosexual city and county measures, but does not affect statewide elections.

House Bill 3500 was passed in the 1993 state Legislature and recently challenged by the OCA on the grounds that the law is unconstitutional because it denies citizens the right to vote. Wooten called the law a "peace treaty."

"House Bill 3500 is organized to keep communities from fighting with each other," she said.

Hinkle agreed. "It was the intention that this would stop the elections," he said.

All three panelists also advocated truth as their most effective weapon in the fight for gay rights.

"It was the success of Joseph McCarthy that he could make a wild charge and then make a second charge before the victims of his first wild charge got their breath back," Allen said. "We have to admit the truth, deny the false, and not allow people like that to dictate our own agenda."

Hinkle said a way to fight the OCA is to "destroy their credibility." As examples of lies, he said the OCA told voters before the 1992 statewide election that if Measure 9 didn't pass, homosexual marriages would be legal; that Bill Clinton endorsed Measure 9; and that New Jersey has a law requiring churches to perform same-sex marriages and that Oregon soon would if Measure 9 did not pass.

By examining the truthfulness of what the OCA says, Hinkle said, people will be convinced that it lies.

Wooten also urged gays and lesbians to rise above their differences. "We can't splinter among ourselves ... We really have to continue with an agenda that seeks gay rights under the law," she said.

The panelists agreed that homosexuals are often scapegoats because of lies that are told — and believed — about them.

Allen compared the OCA's blame of the disintegration of America's values on homosexuals to a drunken man who looks for his lost car keys under a streetlight — "not because he lost them there, but because the light is better," he said.

Allen and Wooten also talked about "coming out," stressing the importance of being as up-front as possible with other people.

"Don't flaunt your sexuality if it makes people uncomfortable, but be honest," Wooten said. "You need to assess for yourselves what coming out means."

Allen agreed that "coming out" is personal, and added that after coming out, homosexuals can then "translate it into political activism."

Hinkle said he believes the OCA will not be successful in prohibiting homosexuals from attaining minority status.

"Ultimately, they are going to fail," he said. "We just need to keep telling the truth and they will fail."

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Pacific Forum will meet today from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation, 1236 Kincaid St. The meeting will include a discussion of Janet Cromwell's book *Leviticus*. For more information, call 344-0483.

Hillel Shabbat services will begin tonight at 5:30 at 2475 McMillan St., and will be followed by a vegetarian potluck. For more information, call 343-8920.

RELIGION

Christian Science Organization will meet

today from 1 to 2 p.m. in EMU Century Room D. For more information, call 342-8215.

MISCELLANEOUS

Oregon Association for Talented and Gifted (OATAG) is sponsoring a workshop for educators, parents, community members, TAG students and other able learners today at the Red Lion Inn on Coburg Road. The theme of the clinic is "Celebrate 21st Century Partnerships in Learning," and the workshop will continue Saturday, March 12, until noon. Participants of all ages are welcome. For more information, call 591-7899.

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