



LU Exec Jailed After Domestic Dispute!

Acquittal Is Given By a Jury Defendant Is His Own Attorney

By THOMAS E. SEWARD
Special to the Chronicle

A man accused of a slew of felonies who ended up defending himself during his trial was acquitted Monday by a jury that deliberated just two hours.

Paris Lapriest Powell, 38, was found not guilty of several felony counts that stemmed from a home-invasion attack, during which two women said they were bound and sexually assaulted.

Mr. Powell, whose trial began with his being represented by two public defenders, was tried on four counts of rape, three counts of forcible oral sodomy, two counts of kidnapping, one count of conspiracy to commit robbery and one count of larceny.

After firing his defense lawyer and then defending himself, Mr. Powell was acquitted on all counts.

Oklahoma County District Judge Jerry L. Bass tried to discourage Mr. Powell from representing himself.

The judge warned Mr. Powell that he would face life in prison without the possibility of parole if he were convicted.

"I'll still be facing life with the representation of the public defender's office," the defendant responded.

The jury made its decision despite DNA evidence placing Mr. Powell at the scene of the crime.

Prosecutors blamed the inconsistent testimony of two women who testified they were handcuffed, blindfolded, subdued with a stun gun and assaulted overnight.

One of the women's three small children were said to have been in the house in another room when the alleged crimes occurred.

"I'm disappointed in the verdict because I felt there was independent corroboration that [Mr. Powell] committed the crime,"



Paris L. Powell questioning a witness as he represented himself in his trial on Thursday.

said Oklahoma County Assistant District Attorney SuAnne Carlson.

"But the jury couldn't get past the victims' lifestyle and the inconsistencies in their testimony."

Mr. Powell fired Robin McPhail and Mack McCormick, his public defender attorneys, on Thursday, saying they were "ineffective."

He then acted as his own counsel for nearly three days of the six-day trial.

The defendant accused one of his accusers, a stripper, of "blatant perjury" as he made his closing arguments.

Earlier during the trial, the woman admitted lying to police about her relationship with Mr. Powell and then testified that he protected her in exchange for money she made as a prostitute.

"When you're a victim, you don't have to lie," Mr. Powell said to the jury. "There's no reason to lie."

The second woman, who also worked as a stripper, told police it was Mr. Powell who removed her from a closet where she was detained before removing his mask and her blindfold to

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Rams Vehicle Into Car That's Driven by Wife?

Oliver Lands In Jail After Altercation

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

PERKINS—An executive at Langston University was arrested late last month after he is believed to have rammed a vehicle owned by the school into another car being driven by his wife.

Police called the incident a domestic dispute.

The 15-year-old son of the Langston executive was a passenger in his mother's car at the time of the altercation.

Both vehicles incurred damage, Officer Clayton T. Collier of the Perkins Police Department told *The Black Chronicle* earlier today.

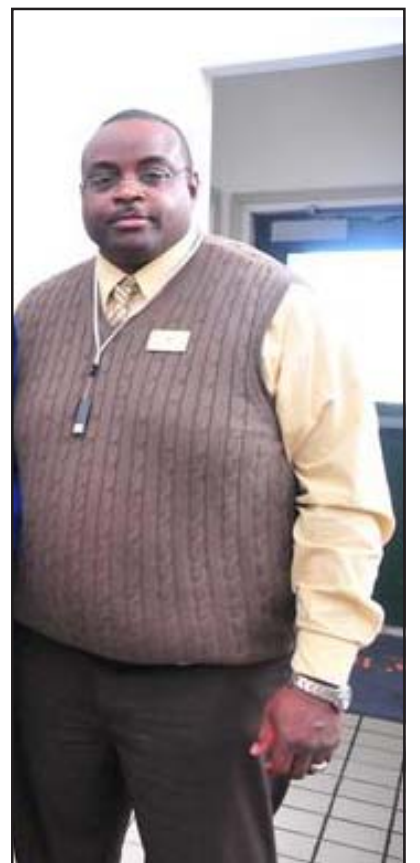
Ruben D. Oliver, 42, director of physical plant at Langston University, who lives in Perkins with his wife and son, was arrested at about 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 24, Officer Collier said.

He was jailed on complaints of domestic violence and assault and battery with a deadly weapon.

Mr. Oliver has yet to be charged, Officer Collier said, and that may be because Bridget Oliver is not cooperating with prosecutors.

Bridget Oliver is Mr. Oliver's wife.

Attempts to talk with the Payne County prosecutor were unsuccessful, but a court clerk did



Ruben D. Oliver

confirm Mr. Oliver's arrest and said prosecutors had not yet decided whether to prosecute Mr. Oliver.

The Langston executive, Officer Collier said, bail was set for Mr. Oliver.

The officer said that Mrs. Oliver called police to the scene, using a cellphone from her car, at about 3:30 p.m.

The altercation occurred "on the road" near the Oliver's home, the police report said.

Officer Collier, who responded to the call and arrested Mr. Oliver, said Mr. Oliver was driving a Langston University-

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A Promethean board like this one was presented yesterday to a class at Millwood Elementary School by the Capitol Rotary Club.

Early Xmas Students Get 'Promethean Board' Gift

By ROBERT E. BARNES
Special to the Chronicle

Some Millwood Elementary School students got an early Christmas gift yesterday when the Capitol Rotary Club presented a class with a "Promethean board."

The first-grade class taught by Christina Jennings received the gift of what is frequently called a "white magic board."

"Promethean boards" allow for "interactive" teaching and learning.

"This so-called 'magic board' (continued on page A4)



Justice Clarence Thomas and his wife, Virginia Thomas, a critic of the health care law.

Calls for Recusal Intensify Impartiality of Thomas, Kagan Being Questioned

By CALVIN S. SCRIBNER
Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—In the months before the U.S. Supreme Court announced it would hear an important health care dispute, partisan critics called for Justices Clarence Thomas and Elena Kagan to sit out the case because of alleged conflicts of interest.

Since the court's order



Justice Elena Thomas

agreeing to take up the constitutionality of the President Barack Obama-sponsored health law, complaints about the two justices have grown louder.

The latest developments sug-

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