

CAMPUS & CITY

Jury to begin murder trial deliberations today

By Jeff Gregory
Alligator Writer

The jury is expected to bring back a verdict today in the first-degree murder trial of Herman E. Reed.

Reed is accused of murdering his girlfriend, Terry Yolanda Washington, in May 1995.

Both sides rested Wednesday evening, but the jury decided to wait until the morning to hear closing arguments and begin its deliberation.

Assistant State Attorney Walter Green said juries are unpredictable, but he expects them to bring back a guilty verdict.

"The overwhelming evidence in this case points to Reed killing her," Green said.

The prosecution completed its case

with testimony from Tanya Johnson, a friend of both Reed and Washington.

Johnson testified that Washington came to her apartment appearing "upset and scared" a week before she disappeared.

Johnson said Washington told her that Reed had threatened her in a wood yard — the same wood yard where her body was found three weeks later.

"She told me he (drew) a gun on her out at the wood yard," Johnson said.

Assistant State Attorney Greg McMahon said after the trial that this testimony was crucial because it established a prior situation similar to the circumstances surrounding Washington's murder.

During Johnson's testimony, defense attorney Victor Hulslander requested a mistrial, saying that Johnson's testimony

was hearsay.

Circuit Court Judge W.O. Beauchamp said the testimony was excluded from the hearsay rule because of the excited and urgent nature of Washington's comments.

Beauchamp also denied the motion by citing the Williams' Rule, which allows testimony that proves prior similar criminal behavior.

The defense continued its strategy of attacking the credibility of prosecution witnesses and portraying Washington as a troubled drug addict.

Hulslander tried to prove that two inmates who testified for the prosecution received deals from the State Attorney's Office.

He called both inmates' attorneys to the stand and questioned them about the events leading to their clients' coopera-

tion with the state.

Both attorneys said their clients had not received any deal from the state.

Reed's sister, Early Thompson, also testified for the defense. Thompson said that a week before Washington disappeared, she came by Thompson's apartment and asked Reed for \$500 to pay off "the dope man."

Washington was last seen on the evening of May 11. Reed is the last person known to have been with her.

A Gainesville employee found Washington's body May 23 wrapped in a water-bed mattress near the wood yard behind the ABC Liquors store on Southeast Main Street.

If the jury convicts Reed of first-degree murder, prosecutors said they will seek a life sentence.

Asian Awareness Month has Kaleidoscope of activities

By Sarah Eisenhauer
Alligator Writer

UF students and faculty have been invited to open their minds and take a new look at Asian culture this month.

November is Asian Awareness Month, and the Asian Student Union and other organizations are celebrating with the Asian Kaleidoscope, a month-long array of activities aimed at raising awareness about every Asian culture.

"The Asian Kaleidoscope is dedicated to educating the entire community about Asian cultures," said Don Verde, public relations director for ASU. "A lot of Asians and Asian Americans will participate, but we want to reach out to non-Asian people as well."

Verde said students should try to learn about Asian culture because of the growing Asian-American population on campus.

"As the population grows, more people are going to run into Asians and Asian Americans on campus," Verde said. "It would be good to know about their background and the way they think."

While there are Kaleidoscope activities almost every day of the month, one of the larger events will be a performance on Nov. 23 by the

Asian-American theater company hereandnow, Verde said.

"This is a group of Asian-American college students from Southern California who bring the experiences of Asian Americans to the stage," he said.

Faculty members and students will discuss several issues that affect Asians on campus, such as the separation between the different Asian groups, at the Asian Student-Faculty Roundtable Wednesday, Verde said.

The Asian Kaleidoscope includes a film festival that will feature a variety of movies from Hong Kong action films to Chinese dramas, Verde said.

"We chose a lot of these movies for their entertainment value, but we also wanted to represent several different cultures in Asia," Verde said.

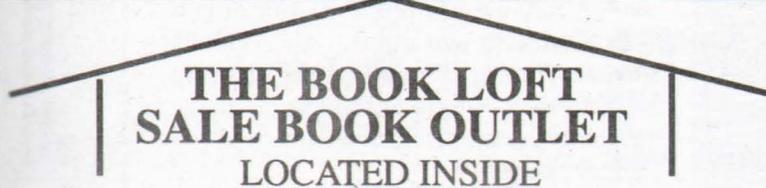
Architecture junior Chuk Or said these types of events help to show that all people are basically the same, no matter where they come from.

"We are all humans. We're all the same," Or said. "We should just stick together. There's only one race — the human race."



ALLISON LONG

Martial arts instructors visiting from Chicago perform the Filipino martial art Maharlika Eskerima on Thursday evening at the University Auditorium. The program was part of Asian Awareness Month.



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