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Man not guilty of handing out sex fliers

BY TODD WRIGHT

A Broward man was found not guilty Tuesday of putting up posters at her son's school and other public places that claimed his ex-girlfriend had herpes.

Hance Adams, 34, was accused of faxing the fliers, which contained images of the woman performing sex acts, to co-workers and mailing it to neighbors.

He was acquitted of criminal libel and five other charges by a Broward jury.

Adams had contracted genital herpes from the 38-year old woman, who, according to court testimony, did not tell him she had the incurable disease before they had sex. The couple broke up in 2003 and soon after the fliers appeared.

During the short trial, jurors heard from the accuser and also saw a seven-minute sex tape the couple made when they were together. The state alleges scenes from the tape were used to make the flier, which also included the woman's name, address and telephone number.

While state prosecutors went a long way to prove motive, little evidence tied Adams to disseminating or creating the flier. Despite dozens of fliers found throughout the Plantation neighborhood and at the son's school, no one ever saw Adams putting the signs up.

An emotional Adams hugged family members and shunned television cameras after the verdict was read.

His accuser, whom The Miami Herald will not name because of the nature of the allegations, sat in the front row of the courtroom with friends and family members as the verdict was read.

She left the courtroom immediately after the verdict.

"I knew he would never do anything like this. He has sisters and he is a mama's boy," said Adams' mother, Florance Adams. "I knew he wasn't guilty, but it's a shame his face has been all over the place."

The odd case, which spawned from an instance five years ago, garnered much fanfare at the courthouse in Fort Lauderdale as attorneys, bailiffs and other staff filled Judge Michael Kaplan's courtroom to hear the verdict.

Adams faced a variety of charges, including child abuse for allegedly subjecting the son to potential emotional distress from humiliation at school. He could have served 18 years in prison for what the state alleged was an act of revenge because of the break up.

Also damaging was the testimony of the accuser, who admitted she never told Adams about her

disease and only told him she contracted the disease after he confronted her about the issue.

"I think the key was the credibility of the witnesses involved," said Helene Raisman, one of Adams' attorneys. "I think justice was done in this case."

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