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## **Jury: Lover with herpes wasn't libeled by fliers**

BY TODD WRIGHT

A Broward jury acquitted a man of putting up posters in public places claiming his former lover 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 found not guilty of criminal libel and other charges.

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. The fliers appeared soon after.

The odd case garnered much fanfare at the Fort Lauderdale courthouse Tuesday as attorneys, bailiffs and others filled Judge Michael Kaplan's courtroom to hear the verdict.

### **SEX TAPE SHOWN**

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 included the woman's name, address and phone 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 up the signs.

Adams was also charged with child abuse for allegedly subjecting the woman's son to potential emotional distress from humiliation at school.

He had faced 18 years in prison for what the state alleged was an act of revenge because of the breakup.

After the verdict was read, an emotional Adams hugged family members and shunned television cameras.

### **SHAKY TESTIMONY**

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.

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. "I knew he wasn't guilty, but it's a shame his face has been all over the place."

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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