

Friday, November 8, 2002

The Behrend Beacon

Lawyer to petition new trial for actress Winona Ryder

Zap2it News

Not happy with the "guilty" verdict, Winona Ryder may seek a new trial, even if she doesn't end up serving any jail time. The "Girl Interrupted" actress was found guilty of two felony counts of vandalism and grand theft Wednesday, relating to a shoplifting arrest at Saks Fifth Avenue on Dec. 12, 2001.

Ryder's lawyer, Mark Geragos, told NBC News that he plans to petition for a new trial. Possibly helping Geragos' petition, is a study conducted by the TV program "Celebrity Justice" that showed that no other defendant in Beverly Hills has been charged with grand theft and burglary.



Actress Winona Ryder.

PHOTO BY LIONEL HAHN/BACA PRESS

The information contributes to the feeling of many observers that District Attorney Steve Cooley is making an example out of the 31-year-old actress. One of Cooley's claims during his election campaign was that his predecessor was too soft on celebrity criminals.

"This is a witch hunt," a high-level prosecutor told the Los Angeles Daily Journal, a legal newspaper. "This was all designed to show we can win high-profile cases."

Deputy District Attorney Ann Rundle, in a statement following the reading of the verdict, denied that Ryder's case received special consideration or that the star was charged any differently than other first-time shoplifters.

However, this isn't the case, according to the Daily Journal, which reports that Cooley assigned eight prosecutors to Ryder's case and that Rundle postponed a murder trial to focus on the actress's case.

"The media has decided on its own without any evidence that extraordinary resources were given to this case," Rundle said in response.

Sources close to the case said plea negotiations

broke down over Cooley's insistence that Ryder plead guilty to a felony, and the "Girl, Interrupted" star's refusal to do so.

Juror Walter Fox told "Today" Thursday morning that the surveillance tape showing Ryder leaving the Beverly Hills store with stolen merchandise was the most damning and persuasive evidence against the actress. The jurors reached the decision after about five and a half hours of deliberations, which took place over two days.

The charges against Ryder carried a maximum sentence of up to three years; however, it is unlikely the actress will serve any jail time. After the verdict, Rundle told reporters that she would seek a sentence calling for community service and probation for the actress rather than jail time, so long as "Winona Ryder is made responsible for her conduct," she said.

A sentencing hearing is scheduled for Dec. 6. Ryder was arrested for attempting to steal \$5,550 of merchandise from the store, which included an \$80 pair of socks and a \$200 hair bow.

Forum doesn't end racial tensions at University of Wisconsin campus

by Scott Williams
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Racial tensions are lingering at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha, despite a forum for students to air differences over a column in the college newspaper that sparked heated debate.

Members of the African-American Union said Wednesday that they remain dissatisfied with the response to an editorial column in which an assistant editor at the Observer linked African-American culture to a deadly Milwaukee mob attack.

Some insisted that Dan Hubert should be removed from the newspaper staff. Others talked about circulating a petition to force changes or joining the Observer staff themselves.

"There should be repercussions," said Lee Harris, president of the African-American Union.

At a forum that more than 200 students and others attended last week, Hubert was widely criticized. During the gathering, he offered apologies for his column on the role of race in the fatal beating of Charlie Young Jr.

In the latest issue of the Observer, which came out this week, Hubert again apologizes. But he vows to "stand by my conclusions" and insists he wrote the column as a call to action because he "didn't see Jesse Jackson having peace marches."

The newspaper also features two responses from black student leaders, although those columns are tempered by others, including one that urges minorities to "quit your whining."

Natalie Vance, a member of the African-American Union, said she felt the backlash against Hubert's perceived racism had been diluted. Some published commentary was from students and others at Marquette University, where black students are fighting what they perceive as biased coverage by their campus newspaper.

"It cheapens everything we did," Vance said. "We didn't have our turn."

Observer Editor Lucy Czech was stunned to hear that the African-American Union was still unhappy, considering the in-depth coverage the matter received in the latest issue, including front-page coverage of the forum.

Czech said members of the union are welcome to join the newspaper staff and to write regular pieces on minority issues. She would not yield to pressure to fire or demote Hubert, however.

"That's way out of line," she said. "That's just outrageous."

Pledging not to resign unless Czech requests it, Hubert said it appeared his critics wanted to squelch his First Amendment rights.

"I don't understand why their free speech is more relevant than my free speech," he said.

Hubert, a freshman from Brookfield, Wis., stirred controversy with a column two weeks ago that linked Young's death to African-American lifestyles, neighborhoods and culture.

Those accused in the beating are black, as was Young. Many of the accused attackers are juveniles.

Of the 2,100 students at UW-Waukesha, 150, or 7 percent, are African-Americans or members of other minority groups.

Dean Brad Stewart was not surprised that tensions remained Wednesday. He said school administrators would consider other activities to follow up on the forum.

"We had no illusions that that would solve everything," he said.

At an African-American Union meeting Wednesday, members agreed to seek a copy of the bylaws governing the Observer to determine whether there are procedures for students at large to force changes in the paper, which is published twice a month.

Czech said the operation receives about \$3,500 a semester in student activity fees.

African-American Union members voiced concern about Hubert's remaining as an editor.

"Somebody who's ignorant in a place of power is dangerous," member Andre Bastien said.

Powell says students should stay aware of world events

by Robert Lopez
Knight Ridder/
Tribune News Service

Staying out of other people's business may have been an attractive foreign policy option before Sept. 11, especially to young people, but when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center last year they were forced to care whether they wanted to or not, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday.

"We don't live in an island anymore," he said. "(The United States) may have two oceans, but it is not disconnected from any other place in the world. And our security rests on the overall security situation in the world."

As the Cold War ended in the early 1990s, many Americans, especially college students, lost interest in world events. Powell spoke about the apathy during an exclusive interview in his State Department office as the Bush administration was trying to draft a resolution on weapons inspectors in Iraq.

"I had seen in my first 17 years of life eight years of war," Powell said. "We read a lot in those days, followed current events. But again, that was in the old days when everyone was worried about getting drafted."

Student apathy, not only about foreign affairs but also about domestic issues, has been an issue almost since 18-year-olds were granted the right to vote in 1971. A recent poll conducted by the Center for Democracy and Citizenship found that less than 21 percent of voters between the ages of 18 and 24 cast ballots in the 1998 elections. Less than 50 percent voted in the 2000 presidential elections.

Though such numbers persist, Powell believes that Sept. 11 and the recent debate on a possible war with Iraq have had a profound effect.

"Along comes Sept. 11 and they realize, 'My heavens, there is an enemy,'" he said. "There is something out there. It isn't called communism, it isn't called fascism, it's called terrorism. For the first time since 1812, the United States was attacked on its own shores by a foreign enemy. This was sobering and it was visual. Everyone could see those towers fall and the Pentagon get hit and the plane crash in Pennsylvania, over and over and over."

"Suddenly we saw there was an enemy, who had a name, a face and was determined. How do you go after this enemy? Do you build a coalition? And for the past 14 months it has come back into our consciousness."

Instead of focusing on one geographic area, Powell said students should keep an eye on the world as a whole.

"You can't turn your back on the rest of the world," he said. "It's hard to separate out and say watch this or watch that. College students, regardless of where they're headed in life, have an obligation to keep themselves informed on all major issues."

They should read broadly and read deeply. But they shouldn't become so concerned with one area that they don't see how it connects to other countries or other issues."

The secretary believes that students who have any doubt about the repercussions of taking an isolationist stance should see the implications of ter-

rorism, whether they're in a Moscow theatre or a Bali nightclub.

"Suddenly those things are real," he said. "It makes people say if it happens there, it can happen here."

Though he is often seen as a moderate in the conservative Bush administration, Powell said the clash of ideas and beliefs is the path to building a consensus.

"Out of that clash of ideas and personalities and egos and people comes compromise," he said. "We had an election yesterday (Tuesday) with strongly held views from all parts of the country. Negative ads, positive ads, screaming, shouting, noise, the polls, when do they announce them. It goes on and it's suddenly an election. People speak and they're conveying the American consensus."

Recent campus protests against a war in Iraq underscore the fear many students have that American foreign policy, and the war on terrorism in particular, are being used as little more than devices to flex the nation's military might.

But America can't detach itself from the world, Powell said.

"It is in our interests to help nations of the world move toward a democratic path and put in place a solid economic system, so they can be our friends and not our adversaries," he said. "We have no designs on anyone's people. We have no designs on anyone's country. We don't want to steal resources. We don't want to occupy. People trust us to solve their problems. They all come to the U.S. to help solve their problems."

Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants, also cites a moral obligation in America's status as a nation of nations.

"What is the American majority these days?" he said. "In 20 or 30 years it might not be white males or white males and females. It's going to be people of color, and of color, I mean Asians and African Americans and Hispanic Americans. And what does the majority mean? It's beautiful. It's wonderful. There's no place on Earth like this. You can understand how what happens in the world effects us in every imaginable way. You can have Miami be a Hispanic city or find Laotian communities in the Midwest or go to Providence, R.I., and find more Cape Verdeans living there than in Cape Verde. And somehow we don't fight each other. We have our problems, but there is no place in the world like this."

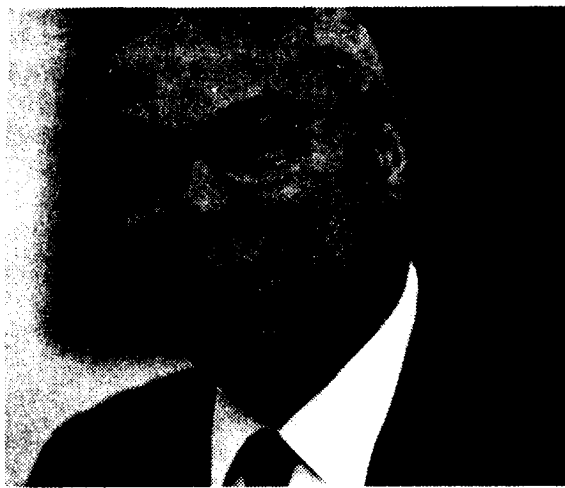


PHOTO BY CHUCK KENNEDY/KRT

Secretary of State Colin Powell recently answered questions in an interview with college newspaper reporters this Wednesday in Washington, D.C.

Fun facts about Krispy Kreme doughnuts

In Fresno, Calif., several hundred doughnut devotees arrived hours before that "Hot Now" sign lit the franchise window at 5:30 a.m. for the first time in August 2001. In Issaquah, Wash., last October, folks camped outside to earn their turn at a new Krispy Kreme counter, then emerged in pajamas looking pathetic but proud as they carted 10 dozen doughnuts past flashing press cameras.

The first day the doughnut company traded on the NYSE in April 2000, its stock soared 76 percent. One would like to think investors knew a good thing when they saw it, since the company had posted \$6 million profit in the months prior.

But one also has to assume they'd tasted the goods.

Right now, Krispy Kreme fans will be thrilled to hear, the company is focusing on northeastern states. About 16 stores will open in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware market during the next four

years, including a store in Erie, Oh., and incidentally, the first person in line for the Philadelphia store's Nov. 7 opening gets a year of free doughnuts.

- Stores across North America produce more than 5 million doughnuts a day - more than 2 billion a year.

- A typical store produces more than 3,000 doughnuts an hour. Larger stores can produce up to 12,000 an hour.

- Krispy Kreme produces enough doughnuts in a week to make a line from New York City to Los Angeles. Talk about a glazing trail.

- In two minutes, Krispy Kreme stores can produce enough doughnuts to make a stack the height of the Empire State Building.

- Krispy Kreme uses enough chocolate each year to fill two Olympic-size swimming pools and a million pounds of sprinkles, equivalent to the weight

of 145 elephants.

- Krispy Kremes are a hot commodity at weddings. Brides and grooms serve the doughnuts at their receptions.

- Krispy Kremes doughnut rings are formed by using air pressure to force dough through an extruder. No holes are cut; therefore, alas, there will never be Krispy Kreme doughnut holes.

Story compiled from excerpts from
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