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Ex-teacher gets suspended term  
Jury convicts her of indecent liberties

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A former Greenville teacher received a suspended prison sentence and two years probation Monday after she was convicted of taking indecent liberties with a student.

A Pitt County jury of six men and six women returned a split verdict in the trial of Katherine B. Tew, 31, a former English teacher at South Central High School near Greenville. She was found not guilty of having sexual relations with a student but convicted on the charge of taking indecent liberties with a male student, who was 17 at the time.

Judge William C. Griffin Jr. of Williamston sentenced Tew to six to eight months in prison, suspended the sentence and placed her on probation. He also ordered her to perform 36 hours of community service and to receive a psychiatric examination. She had resigned as a teacher and cheerleading coach after her arrest in February.

Tew and her accuser, who is now a college freshman, left the courtroom after the three-day trial without speaking to reporters. The former student testified that Tew sent him notes and called him repeatedly on the telephone before they had a sexual encounter at a school parking lot one night in December 2004.

It is the policy of The News & Observer not to identify alleged victims of sex-related offenses.

The youth told investigators that Tew met him in her pajamas with a bottle of tequila.

Tew denied the charges. She testified that she left her home after an argument with her husband but did not go to the school. She said she drove to a nearby park to make a telephone call and returned home.

District Attorney Clark Everett said after court that prosecutors were pleased with the conviction.

"We're glad that the guy can move on with his life now, and she can get the help she needs," he said.

Defense attorney Keith Williams declined comment.

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