

Tew denies wrongdoing in sex trial

By Erin Rickert, The Daily Reflector

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Closing arguments are scheduled to begin Monday in the case of a former South Central High School teacher accused of having an improper sexual relationship with a male student.

Katherine B. "Katy" Tew, 31, took the stand Friday, the second day of her trial, and denied having intercourse or any other type of sexual relationship with the young man, now a college freshman.

Tew denied making the 10-minute drive to South Central from her Westhaven home, tracing the route on a map before the jury Friday afternoon.

She said she left her home and traveled to a neighborhood park to make a telephone call to discuss a long-running rumor that her husband was having an affair with a former South Central coach.

Her account differs from the Thursday testimony given by the 18-year-old teenager who was 17 at the time. He testified Tew met him in the South Central parking lot about 11 p.m. Dec. 11, 2004.

He said he intended to break off the alleged relationship. Instead, he testified, the two had intercourse in the back seat of his Isuzu Rodeo.

Tew was arrested Feb. 7, 2005, in connection with the incident and charged with indecent liberties with a student and sex offense with a student, both felonies, after the teenager reported the alleged relationship to another teacher Jan. 25, 2005.

Tew resigned as an English teacher and cheerleading coach soon afterward.

Along with Tew, her husband, students, faculty, family and a U.S. Cellular representative testified Friday before the court and Superior Court Judge William C. Griffin Jr.

Tew testified she and her husband, Andrew Tew, had just finished dinner and drinks and were watching television at home the night she allegedly had intercourse with the teenager.

Tew said the couple started arguing after she received a call from the young man's friend, who mentioned the alleged affair involving her husband.

Tew said her husband was bothered because she was speaking with male high school students at a late hour and he locked himself in the couple's bedroom.

Tew said she left the house about 10:15 p.m. and drove to the park to smoke a cigarette. After arriving at the park, Tew said she realized she didn't have her cigarettes and drove home to grab them from a bag. She left again for the park.

She said she spent about 15 minutes talking on her cell phone with the teenager and his friend. She said she urged them to tell her details of her husband's alleged affair, she testified.

Tew said she was back at her South Baywood Drive home before 11 p.m.

Her husband corroborated her story on the stand Friday, saying he heard her come in the front door from the locked bedroom which was no more than 75 feet away.

She said she went to sleep following a call to a female student she called a good friend.

Thursday, the young man alleged Tew called the female classmate from his vehicle just before the two had intercourse.

He said he asked a friend who lives in the neighborhood across the street to watch the meeting.

The friend testified the two met, but said he went back into his home and did not see them leave.

Tew's attorney Keith Williams had the teen's friend read his statement to authorities, in which he said he watched the young man and Tew leave the parking lot following the encounter.

During the nearly six-month alleged relationship, hundreds of phone calls were made and several notes were exchanged prior to the alleged encounter, the teenager said Thursday.

Tew denied ever exchanging the 14 typed notes brought into evidence Thursday.

One note was found on Tew's school computer, but she testified it was not uncommon for students to use faculty computers.

A faculty member testified students often used Tew's computer.

Tew said the content of the hundreds of phone calls between the two never consisted of anything but discussions about things like scholarships and college.

Four of the five text messages the teenager said he received from Tew were introduced into evidence Friday.

One message from her cell phone number stated "can you or would you like to see me. Home alone tomorrow would love to see you ..."

A cell phone representative said at least two messages were sent via Internet from a computer and could not be traced back to Tew.

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