



Grand jury refuses to indict UIS students for hate crime

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A Sangamon County grand jury has refused to indict three University of Illinois Springfield students on hate crime charges in connection with an Oct. 3 altercation in a campus parking lot.

However, the grand jury Thursday did indict two of the men on other charges, including a felony.

Jonathan Bishop, 27, of Belleville was arraigned Thursday on two counts of misdemeanor battery, felony criminal damage to property of more than \$300 and resisting a peace officer, also a Class A misdemeanor.

Charles Sales, 23, of Farmersville was arraigned on the two Class A misdemeanor battery counts and criminal damage to property, a Class 4 felony.

The grand jury refused to indict Michial Filipiak, 22, of Chicago, who had been charged along with the other two men with a hate crime. All charges against Filipiak were dismissed.

All three posted bond shortly after they were arrested in October.

The three men allegedly were at an off-campus party when they began calling two other men derogatory names concerning sexual orientation.

When the two groups ended up in the same parking lot at apartments on Larkspur Court about 3:40 a.m. after leaving the party, one man was beaten and a car belonging to a second man was damaged, according to UIS police.

Assistant state's attorney William Vig said evidence didn't show that the altercation occurred because of the two victims' perceived sexual orientation, which would be required to prove a hate crime.

He said there also were conflicting witness statements about Filipiak's role in the fight. He told police he was trying to break up the fight and only was holding the beating victim upright.

Both Bishop and Sales pleaded not guilty to the charges. Their trial was set for March 15 before Circuit Judge Patrick Kelley.

UIS police reports said Bishop, Filipiak and the man who was beaten all appeared to be intoxicated. The 20-year-old man whose car was damaged is a UIS student, according to police reports, while the man who was beaten is not.

"Words were exchanged at the party," Vig said. "There was no fight, nor criminal damage to property at the party."

He said the two victims apparently followed the three other men from the party to the parking lot, although the two men said they didn't realize they were following the men with whom they previously had words.

The driver whose car was damaged told UIS police the 22-year-old got out of the car and was attacked. He said he started honking his horn, and the men tried to get to him by kicking and punching his car and pulling the door handles and mirrors off.

The man who was beaten told police he got out of the car with his hands out and palms up, and was knocked to the ground, punched and kicked.

As a part of their bond, Bishop and Sales are not allowed to be in campus housing or parking lots designated for housing residents. Circuit Judge John Belz said the previous bonds remain in effect. All three men have previously returned to classes.

A UIS spokesman said the university disciplinary process through the Campus Senate Disciplinary Committee is ongoing with regard to Sales, Bishop and Filipiak.

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