

Policeman found not guilty in off-duty altercation

By Paul Klauda
Staff Writer

A Minneapolis police officer who punched a man at a bar last year while off-duty was found not guilty Tuesday of criminal charges stemming from that incident.

Patrick Kiely, 34, was sufficiently provoked when he punched a former friend, Herman Seratzki, during the May 1981 dispute, according to Hennepin Municipal Court Judge Tom Bergin, who presided over the one-day trial.

Kiely had been charged with fourth-degree assault and disorderly conduct in the incident at Gamma B's, 1900 NE. Marshall St. Seratzki testified that Kiely hit him, knocked him to the floor and fell on top of him, punching him three more times. Kiely admitted throwing three punches. Seratzki did not throw a punch.

versation between Kiely and Seratzki's wife, Darlene, according to Bill Mauzy, Kiely's attorney. Herman Seratzki was not present during the conversation.

(Kiely testified that a few years ago Darlene had asked him to help her in a divorce action as a witness to Herman's alleged violent behavior toward her. Darlene Seratzki said that Kiely made a pass at her.)

When Seratzki found his wife with Kiely, Seratzki hit her in the chest and asked her where she had been,

Kiely said. Seratzki and his wife denied that she was hit. The swearing and gestures from Seratzki followed. Kiely and a friend testified; they said they walked over to find out why he was upset.

In his ruling, Bergin suggested that Kiely "might well have walked away" from the bar and avoided the scuffle altogether. Seratzki and Kiely have known one another for about 11 years.

Kiely said Seratzki mumbled something about Kiely not returning a

ladder that he borrowed. Kiely said he saw Seratzki clench his fist and raise his arm. "Based on what I had observed earlier in the evening, I thought it was coming," he said.

Prosecutor Mary Bjorklund argued that Kiely was guilty because he walked over to Seratzki, knocked him down, and continued to hit him. She said Kiely did not act in self-defense after the first punch, which hit Seratzki hard enough to throw him into a window and break it.

Kiely, a patrol officer in the north-

side Fourth Precinct, still may face disciplinary action in a matter that was dismissed last month by the Hennepin County attorney's office. Two felony counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct were dropped because of insufficient evidence.

Police Chief Anthony Bouza said he waited for the assault trial to end before proceeding with a formal hearing on the alleged felony incident. He said the punching incident will not be considered because of the acquittal.

U.S. will try to persuade EEC to stop subsidizing farm exports

By Seth S. King
New York Times

Washington, D.C. Five Reagan Cabinet officers will meet with European Economic Com-

United States contends that the subsidies give Europeans unfair advantages in competing for world markets.

Administration officials say they

made plans to begin retaliating before the end of this month by dumping agricultural products on world markets.

The Agriculture Department plans to

The Cabinet delegation will be Secretary of State George Shultz, Agriculture Secretary John Block, Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, and U.S. Trade Representative Wil-

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