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## Clarksville man not guilty of attempted murder

By TAVIA D. GREEN • The Leaf-Chronicle • February 19, 2010

A Montgomery County jury found a Clarksville man not guilty of trying to kill a man during a stabbing at a local bar in summer 2008.

Maurice Nigel Dyer-Rice, 28, who is in the Montgomery County Jail, was charged with attempted second-degree murder and two counts of aggravated assault.

He was found not guilty of the attempted second degree murder of Lawrence Oliver, not guilty of the aggravated assault of Lawrence Oliver.

Judge Mike R. Jones declared a mistrial in the final count of aggravated assault since the jury was hung.

The verdict was reached Thursday evening.

A court date is set for Feb. 26 to resolve the aggravated assault charge and another case involving an allegation of retaliation.

Nathan Hunt, Dyer Rice's defense attorney said his client was pleased with the verdict.

"Mr. Dyer-Rice is very pleased with the jury's verdict and looks forward to resolving the remaining charges pending against him," Hunt said. "Mr. Dyer-Rice has been incarcerated in the Montgomery County Jail for almost twenty months regarding these charges and simply wanted the opportunity to clear his name."

Police said Dyer-Rice attacked Lawrence Oliver, stabbing him in the neck twice with a 4-inch pocket knife on June 21, 2008, at a local bar. Dyer-Rice also is charged with stabbing John Oliver in the shoulder.

Jury selection began Wednesday and the case was presented to the jury Thursday, with both alleged victims, law enforcement agents, and a security guard who was at the bar that night all taking the stand. The defense also presented witnesses. Dyer-

Rice did not testify in his own defense.

The jury left at 3 p.m. to deliberate.

For more on this story read Saturday's edition of The Leaf-Chronicle.

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