

## Man acquitted in rape case sentenced on trespass charge

Harold Wesley Runningbird, acquitted of rape and burglary charges last week, was sentenced to 75 days in jail for a criminal trespassing conviction in the jury case.

"I would have rendered a completely different verdict," said Clark County Superior Court Judge Robert Harris. "Rape in the second degree would have been a more appropriate finding."

Runningbird was arrested Jan. 31 after he shattered a sliding glass window to gain entry to his girlfriend's residence. He cut what he thought was the telephone cord; she cut him with a knife during the alleged attack.

"If this is first-degree criminal trespass, then it's the most egregious trespass the state has ever seen," said Chris Horne, a deputy prosecutor. He asked for a two-year deferred sentence with a year in jail, six months suspended.

Steve Thayer, Runningbird's attorney, argued that the 66 days already served by his client are a sufficient penalty. Runningbird, 27, said the matter has caused him "a lot of stress and mental anguish" and the charges were the result of "Her being vicious the way she is and this guy's (Horne's) smooth legwork, and they did a pretty good job."

He and the woman had "gotten along pretty good," Runningbird claimed. Harris handed down a two-year suspended sentence with a year in jail, all but 75 days suspended. "It's hard to believe someone is getting along pretty good when she has to use a 6-inch boning knife to protect herself," Harris said.