

2 PATRONS CONVICTED IN SATYRICON DISTURBANCE - Oregonian, The (Portland, OR) - July 4, 1991 - page C03

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Two patrons of the **Satyricon** nightclub were convicted Wednesday of harassment arising from an early-morning fracas with police last year.

At the same time, the Multnomah County Circuit Court jury acquitted Steven A. Birch, 26, and John J. Noyola, 33, of companion charges of assault and assaulting a police officer.

Circuit Judge Robert W. Redding placed each defendant on probation for 18 months and ordered both to pay \$500 fines plus \$369 each for their court-appointed lawyers.

The verdicts after a three-day trial marked the end of criminal cases stemming from the April 29, 1990, incident that police originally described as a "riot." Two other defendants, Gilley Hanner and George Touhouliotis, earlier entered pleas of guilty and no contest to misdemeanor charges.

A complicated civil suit filed by four police officers against Touhouliotis, who is the club's owner, and five other individuals, including Birch and Noyola, is still pending. It tentatively is scheduled for trial in October.

In deliberations spread over two days, jurors concluded that Birch and Noyola harassed two police officers either by touching them or by making public insults likely to provoke a violent response.

Birch said he objected verbally to the amount of force used by a police officer to arrest Hanner. He admitted placing an open palm on the shoulder of one officer while trying to get the officer's attention.

Noyola suffered a broken arm and a head gash that took three stitches. He testified that he traded obscenities with a police officer after the officer first swore at him.

The incident began when officers entered the club at 125 N.W. Sixth Ave. to arrest Touhouliotis after one officer saw him urinating in a vacant lot adjacent to the building. About 200 underground music fans were in the club at the time, and several objected to the amount of force used by the police.

Redding summarized the incident as a "very chaotic situation" that the police perceived to be inflammatory and potentially dangerous.

"This has been a long 14 months," Birch said after the trial. "I felt the trial went very fairly."

Redding originally ordered both men to perform 120 hours of community service, but both said they preferred to pay fines instead. "I just want this to be over," said Noyola, who has since moved to Milwaukee, Wis.

In response to the civil suit against him, Touhouliotis has filed a counterclaim seeking \$20,000 for lost income for eight days that the **Satyricon** was closed after the incident.

The closure occurred while the Oregon Liquor Control Commission investigated allegations that the club had been the scene of a riot.

The officer who initiated Touhouliotis' arrest, Rocky Balada, claims that a painting displayed in the club after the incident damaged his reputation as a police officer.

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