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JURY ACQUITS BUFFALO MAN OF SLAYING, SHOOTING FOLLOWING MELEE AT PARTY

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A Buffalo man has been found not guilty of second-degree murder in the shooting death of one man and the shooting of a second man during a raucous party.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph Mordino said the jury returned the verdict at about 8:30 p.m. involving Craig Griggs, 21.

It began deliberations at about 12:30 p.m. after a week and a half-long trial before Erie County Judge Michael F. Pietruska.

Griggs, of East Utica Street, has been jailed since September 1998 as a suspect in the death of Tyshon Bryant, 18, of Humboldt Parkway and the shooting of Sh'mere Workman, 18, during a party at Workman's Florida Street home on Jan. 31 that year.

On Sept. 17, Workman, who has recovered from a bullet wound in his right leg, identified Griggs as the man who shot him as he ran to aid Bryant, who had been shot in the chest.

Two other witnesses identified Griggs as the man they saw fire the .32-caliber revolver that police found abandoned on Purdy Street hours after the shooting, which followed fights that had broken out after members of a gang were asked to leave the raucous party.

Although Mordino established through ballistic evidence that the bullet that struck Workman in the leg matched the bullet that ripped into Bryant's chest, defense attorney Paul G. Dell argued to the jury that the prosecution witnesses all lied.

The jury also found Griggs not guilty of felony assault and weapons charges.

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