



# The Tuskegee News

*"Tis Better To Light A Candle Than to Curse The Darkness"*

Saturday, August 27, 2011

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## News

### Curtis accepts plea bargain in rape case

By JEFF THOMPSON  
Managing Editor  
Updated Apr 01, 2010 - 06:21:43 EDT

Former Tuskegee University Police Department officer William Curtis Jr. is the first to admit guilt regarding an October 2009 rape case.

Wednesday, March 24, while appearing before Circuit Judge Steve Perryman, Curtis pled guilty to one count of criminal coercion as part of a plea bargain with unreleased terms. Curtis was initially indicted on one count of conspiracy to commit rape and one count of conspiracy to commit sodomy.

Curtis signed the agreement regarding his involvement in the alleged rape of a 15-year-old girl outside a Tuskegee club at approximately 5 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009. Curtis agreed to a sentence of 12 months unsupervised probation as part of the plea deal.

Suspended Tuskegee University Police Department officer John David Moon, 45, appeared before Perryman the following day, Thursday, March 25, and pled not guilty to pending charges of one count of first-degree rape, one count of first-degree sodomy and one count of enticing a minor for immoral purposes regarding the same case.

Moon's trial though, originally scheduled for April 12, will likely be pushed back according to Macon County Assistant District Attorney Kalia Lane. Lane said the 5th Judicial Circuit has yet to be delivered a complete case file from the Alabama Bureau of Investigations (ABI), which is handling the investigation.

Another factor that may delay the trial comes from the defendant's side of the case. An ex parte request submitted March 23 by Moon's lawyer, Chrissy Dooley-Calhoun of the law firm Singleton and Associates LLC in Eclectic, was approved.

In the filing, Calhoun requests funds not to exceed \$2,000 to "employ an investigator to assist in the investigation and preparation of this matter for trial," citing reasons including Moon's financial inability to hire an investigator and her inability to testify regarding her own investigations.

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Calhoun's first ex parte filing to hire an investigator was submitted November 2009.

Moon's father, Theodore Moon Sr., passed away Dec. 12, 2009, and Calhoun submitted a request to allow Moon to attend the funeral Dec. 18, 2009 and to wear street clothes. It was unclear in the case file if this motion was granted.

Calhoun's office was contacted for more information, but she did not return the call.

Both Curtis and Moon are being held in the Russell County Detention Facility. Moon's bond is set at \$250,000 and Curtis' at \$50,000.

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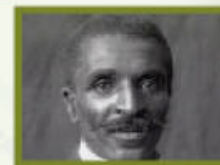
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