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Special to THE BATTALION

Ottmers and Carter plan to return to Alaska after their December graduation and open a guiding business.

WILDERNESS

Continued from Page 3

to do something like that."

Ottmers said the mountaineers became fascinated with the caribou and moose trails they encountered as they hiked through the snow.

"We saw a lot of trails," he said. "The snow was about the consistency of a slushie and was black from vegetation from the previous summer. We called it licorice slurpee."

Ottmers said he could not begin to describe all that he learned from his trip.

"It taught me a little something about everything," he said. "It helped me ground my knowledge of the world. It's an alternative to College Station, and it helped me to appreciate both places more."

Ottmers also learned about some less important things, such as how to pack for his next trip.

"I learned you need less stuff than we originally thought," he said. "It was like Christmas, with all this new gear, but the gear lost its newness. Most of what you need is just a pack, a tent and some food."

Special to THE BATTALION

Ottmers' parents were concerned about their son's Alaskan adventure

Special to THE BATTALION

The mountaineers returned to basics during their three months in Alaska. At one point, the group ate mosquitoes to maintain their weight.

Talk show guest guilty of second-degree murder

The Jenny Jones Show denies any responsibility for Scott Amedure's death

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — In a case that put "ambush television" on trial, a *Jenny Jones Show* guest Tuesday was spared a mandatory life in prison and convicted of second-degree murder for shooting a gay man who revealed a crush on him during a taping.

In deciding against a first-degree murder conviction, the jury found that 26-year-old Jonathan Schmitz acted without premeditation in the 1995 slaying of Scott Amedure, 32.

Schmitz could get anywhere from eight years to life in prison, with the possibility of parole. First-degree murder carries no hope of parole.

Jurors said they concentrated almost entirely on Schmitz's state of mind when he shot Amedure, who revealed an attraction to Schmitz three days earlier as a studio audience whooped and hollered.

Juror Joyce O'Brien said that for Schmitz, it was like "someone pulls the rug out from under you."

"Even a sane person might have trouble dealing with all that stuff," O'Brien said.

The case had focused attention on "ambush" television and titillating daytime TV tactics, with Schmitz's lawyers arguing that the show misled him into believing he was going to meet the woman of his dreams.

They said he was publicly humiliated when his secret admirer turned out to be a man. That, coupled with his history of depression, suicide attempts, a thyroid ailment and other problems, left him incapable of forming the intent necessary to commit first-degree murder, his lawyers said.

> **"I'm definitely a heterosexual, I guess you could say."**
>
> Jonathan Schmitz
> convicted murderer

The jury of seven men and five women deliberated all day Friday and about two and a half hours Tuesday before reaching its verdict, rejecting the lesser charge of manslaughter.

"We all felt he had a definite mental problem ... and the show exacerbated that," said another juror, Dale Carlington.

Prosecutor Roman Kalytiak said: "I think we had a more compelling case with the facts. The defense had a more compelling case with making jurors feel sorry for Jonathan Schmitz."

Defense attorney James Burdick said Schmitz would appeal and predicted the judge would be lenient at Schmitz's sentencing Dec. 4 and give him the minimum.

Amedure's brother, Frank Amedure Jr., said that he was disappointed by the conviction on a lesser charge and that his family would press ahead with its $25 million lawsuit against *The Jenny Jones Show*.

"None of this would have happened if it wasn't for the Jenny Jones show's exploitation of homosexuality, a sensitive issue, and then exploiting those persons that had difficulty with the tolerance of homosexuality, such as Jonathan Schmitz," he said.

The show's producers denied misleading Schmitz to get him to go on the episode, which was titled, unbeknownst to Schmitz, "Same-Sex Secret Crushes." Jones testified that she knows very little about how her show operates and usually gets the scripts the night before a taping.

The show was never aire was played for the jury. Amedure outlined sexu tasies of Schmitz inv "whipped cream and pagne" and rhapsodized his "cute, little, hard body."

Schmitz reacted with a barrassed smile but no ap anger. He turned away Amedure put an arm aroun and tried to kiss him.

"I'm definitely a heterose guess you could say," Schmit

Three days later, Sch bought a shotgun, drove to dure's mobile home nearb killed him at his doorstep.

Schmitz's parents test that their son behaved od early as 3 years old, whe would bang his head agains wall in anger. They said b time he was 16, he was ba weeks-long periods of de sion. Later, he attempted su several times.

A Detroit gay rights g that saw the shooting as a crime said it was satisfied b conviction. "Their verdict that humiliation and sexua entation are not reasons to said Jeff Montgomery of th angle Foundation.

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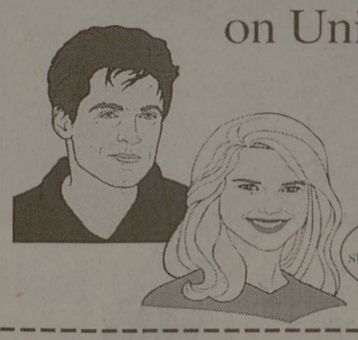

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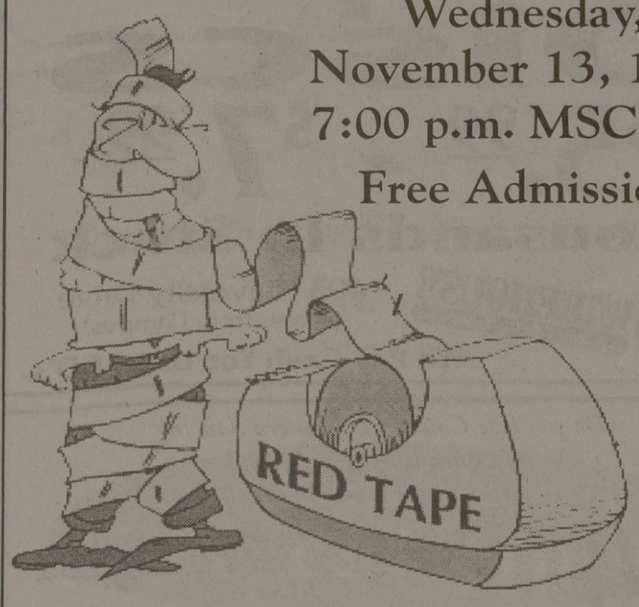

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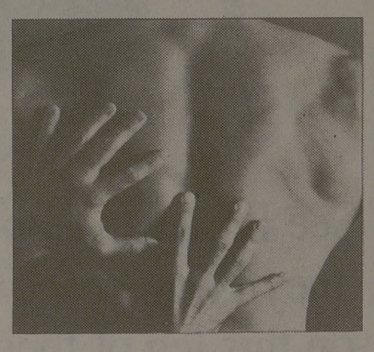

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