

B-6 THE SUN

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Attorneys give closing arguments in Summers trial for S.B. murder

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CHINO — In what was described as the "end of an incredible odyssey," the jury in the murder trial of Roy Summers heard final arguments Wednesday as the 4½-month-old trial entered its final days.

In the first of two days of closing arguments, attorneys offered their interpretation of the 300 exhibits and testimony from nearly 100 witnesses.

"On the first day I stood before you, I told you you were about to embark on an incredible odyssey," Deputy District Attorney Michael Smith said to the jurors.

"And now that we review the course we have taken all the evidence leads to the defendant who on March 30, 1977, killed Beverly Wise and kidnapped her two children," Smith said.

As Smith talked, a small audience in the courtroom listened attentively to every word.

Claude Wise, the victim's former husband, sat with his new wife. Summer's mother, Loucille Herman, and his sister, Shirlene Bley, were also there. Other in the gallery were some relatives of the jurors.

Smith is attempting convince the jury that Summers, 41, murdered his former wife out of hatred and kidnapped her children because they witnessed the slayings. The children are still missing.

"Who else wanted to see Beverly Wise dead and at the same time had the care and concern to take the children?" Smith asked the jurors.

"No one else would have wanted to go into that house to kill her and take the children. But the defendant had a reason; Brandi was his daughter," Smith said in a raspy voice, his throat dried from a two-hour monologue.

But Summers' attorney, Timothy Guhin, said Summers had wanted Brandi adopted by Beverly and Claude. Summers had not seen Beverly since 1972, he said.

"He never called the Wises. He never sent a birthday or Christmas card," he said.

For more than four years Summers had no contact with the Wises and for Summers to plan such an elaborate plan to kill someone . . . that's hard to believe, he told the jury.

Wondering who to believe among the multitude of witnesses,

including six alibi witnesses, was a major theme for both attorneys.

When alibi witnesses first told investigators that Summers was in Utah the day of the murder it was accepted, Smith said, referring to the initial police probe in 1977 that cleared Summers of the crimes. In 1979, police reopened the case and Summers was once again the prime suspect and later was arrested.

"For 2½ years the defendant literally got away with murder," Smith said.

Jerry gets Pat on the back

SAN BERNARDINO — Experience, maturity and the exercise of clean politics will elevate his son to the United States Senate, not the use of "dirty" politics like that of his opponent, Pete Wilson, said a spirited former Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Wednesday.

Brown, in town to address a rally of local Democrats on behalf of his son, Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., blasted Wilson for taking what he labeled "ridiculous" positions on the future of the Social Security System, the U.S. Supreme Court and a state initiative seeking a freeze on nuclear weapons.

Wilson's statements, Brown said, show a lack of judgment that "has no place in the United States Senate."

In an interview, Brown said he was, indeed, in good spirits be-

cause of recent polls, which he said show his son ahead of Wilson or trailing slightly.

Guin said the alibi witnesses had no reason to lie. "They knew Roy Summers for just a short time," he said.

Guin will continue his closing argument this morning at which time prosecutor Smith will have the opportunity to address the jury again. The jury is expected to begin its deliberations Monday.

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cause of recent polls, which he said show his son ahead of Wilson or trailing slightly.

He followed that statement with a prediction that "Jerry, when it comes right down to it, will win this thing by 500,000 votes.

"Wilson's getting kind of dirty now," Brown said. "He's not really talking about the issues anymore — just about Jerry's appointments to the Supreme Court and fruit flies."

Being mayor of San Diego, Brown said, "while it is an important job, is nothing like that of being governor of the state of California."

Bulldog . . .

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the editor then, was fired by student government officials for writing editorials they found "disagreeable," Polich said.

"That's not what they would tell you. They would say the editorials were irresponsible."

At any rate, the 67-year-old paper stopped publishing that semester. In the 1981-82 school year, things went fairly smoothly for the student-run paper. But this semester would have sent even hard-nosed Lou Grant of TV fame reeling.

Nikos had hired the three editors who assist her and was set for the new school year. (Editors are paid the minimum wage or an honorarium for a portion of their work.)

"Two weeks into the semester

News Editor Benita Thomas quit," she said. "Two weeks later, Julie Farren, the features editor, quit. Both said the newspaper was too much work."

That left Nikos and Polich, who was then sports editor, to put out the paper aided by a one-unit newspaper class with 20 students. They were the paper's reporters.

"The problem is the reporters don't turn in their stories," Nikos said. "There's just not enough motivation. If there's a blank space on the page, you just can't leave it. I don't think they understand that."

Polich interjected, "You must understand, most of them are freshmen and inexperienced."

Nikos and Polich, who have stuck with The Bulldog for five semesters and describe themselves as "Bulldog diehards," put out the last issue Sept. 29 almost by themselves. "It was an awful feeling," Nikos recalled.