

# Jury finds Kim's spa employees guilty

By Joanne Mallazowski  
staff writer

of Farmington Hills was unavailable for comment.

It took a six-member jury about 35 minutes to find four women and one man employed at Kim's Spa on Nine Mile in Farmington Hills guilty on 26 soliciting-related charges Monday in 47th District Court.

"It was certainly a victory," said Derk Beckerleg, prosecuting attorney for Farmington Hills, following the five-day trial that began April 8.

Defense attorney G. Stewart Isley

The proceedings were the third relating to activities at five Oriental spas in the city. Raids of the five spas Oct. 7-8 by Farmington Hills SPOT (Special Patrol Operations Team) members — after a six-week investigation following residents' complaints of sex-related offenses at the storefront spas — led to the arrest of one Korean-born man, one Japanese-born woman and 15 Korean-born women.

The latest proceedings before District Judge Margaret Schaeffer of Farmington represented the first full trial proceedings relating to the health spa arrests. Two days into the January trial of employees at the Keiko Oriental Health Spa on Nine Mile Road, the three female defendants pleaded no contest to soliciting-related charges.

Employees of the Tokyo Oriental Health Spa on Orchard Lake Road and Osaka Oriental Health Spa on 10 Mile Road pleaded no contest to soliciting-related charges prior to trial in March. One remaining Tokyo spa employee, Myong Cha Martin, 39, is still arranging a plea, Beckerleg said.

A MAY trial has been scheduled for employees of the Sun Health Spa on Orchard Lake Road, but pleas are being arranged, making a full trial unlikely, Beckerleg said.

Found guilty of soliciting-related charges by the jury of two women and four men earlier this week were Kim's employees Tae Matteson, 35, Sun Tok Song, 35, Ok Son Wolovek, 33, and Sun Ok Weedman, 43, and manager Kyong Hak Chang, 30, the only man arrested in the October police raids.

Schaeffer issued a bench warrant for a sixth Kim's employee, Yong

Sun Wyatt, 27, who failed to appear for trial.

Matteson was found guilty of one count of prostitution, two counts of loitering, two counts of engaging in an immoral or illicit occupation and two counts of aiding and abetting. Song was found guilty of loitering, engaging in an immoral or illicit occupation and aiding and abetting.

Wolovek was convicted of two counts each of prostitution, loitering, engaging in an immoral or illicit occupation and aiding and abetting. Weedman was found guilty of loitering, engaging in an immoral or illicit occupation and aiding and abetting.

EACH OF the misdemeanor counts carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine. Defendants will be sentenced following completion of pre-sentencing investigations, Schaeffer said.

Each of the five Oriental spas was closed following either the October police raids or subsequent court proceedings.

The Tokyo spa, 2884 Orchard Lake Road, reopened in mid-March, four days after being closed. It remains open, pending a hearing under

the city's business licensing ordinance. The spa was denied renewal of a 1988 business license.

Keiko Oriental Health Spa, 29513 Nine Mile, was closed following the no-contest pleas of female employees arrested during October police raids. Osaka Oriental Health Spa, 38419 10 Mile, closed almost immediately after police raids. Kim's Spa, 30322 Nine Mile, and Sun Health Spa, 29402 Orchard Lake, also have closed, said Farmington Hills Police Chief William Dwyer.

Keiko reopened April 3. When notified of the reopening shortly before noon April 4, Dwyer visited the spa and closed it down again. The spa was in violation of operating without a business license and in violation of

a previous cease and desist order, Dwyer said.

FARMINGTON HILLS Police continue to cooperate with Michigan State Police, FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service investigators to determine if there's any connection between the local spa's and an Asian-based international prostitution ring, Dwyer said.

On March 16, Farmington Hills' tough new massage regulation ordinance took effect. Violation is a misdemeanor that upon conviction carries a penalty of up to a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail.

At the time of the October raids, police also ticketed seven men loitering in a place of illegal occupation.

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