Jury finds Hall guilty on counts of burglary

By DARRELL DUNN Tribune-Herald staff writer

A 54th State District Court jury deliberated about 90 minutes on Tuesday before finding Michael Wayne Hall guilty on two counts of burglary of a habitation with intent to commit sexual assault and one count of criminal tres-

The jury of nine women and three men made its decision after listening to five days of testimony, including the introduction of a 75-minute videotape in which Hall, 19, admits to the Nov. 28 and Jan. 3 sexual assaults of two Baylor University students and the Dec. 26 burglary of a Waco apartment

The jury will consider punishment on Wednesday

Hall could be sentenced to a prison term of five to 99 years, or life for the burglary of a habitation convictions. Criminal trespass is a Class A misdemeanor.

The jury rejected defense arguments that Hall was suffering from a serious mental defect or disease at the time of the crimes and

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did not know his actions were wrong.

Nixon said Hall has a schizo-affected personality that fluctuates between depression and confusion. He said the condition can manifest itself as an episodic disorder requiring a tension release.

Dr. Brock Morris, a Waco psychiatrist testifying for the state on Tuesday, said he disagreed with

Nixon's findings.

Morris said he interviewed Hall once, administered a short mental status examination and reviewed the results of the tests administered on Nixon's orders.

Morris said in his opinion, the urges Hall felt to commit the

crimes "were difficult to control, they weren't uncontrollable. You might fight an uncontrollable urge for seconds but not for hours He made a conscious decision that, 'I'm not going to fight this any-more, I'm going to give in.'"

Morris also took issue with Nix-on's evaluation that Hall had a borderline retarded IQ of 72. Morris said he believes Hall's IQ is closer to 85 or 95.

"He has the ability to think and consider logically a series of alternatives," Morris said. "He obviously knew his actions were wrong, and he tried to hide his actions as well as he could."

In closing arguments, court-ap-pointed defense attorney Walter Reaves said the fact Hall left fin-

gerprints at one crime scene and simply walked out the front door of another crime scene indicated he was unaware his actions were

"He probably didn't think he had done anything wrong in his own mind," Reaves said.

Attorney Assistant District David Deaconson argued that the case was "obvious. Just look at Michael Wayne Hall's actions. There is absolutely no question.'