


## Convicted in 'Demons Trial,' Johnson Gets Maximum Sentence

By JOHN B. HARRIS  
*Courant Staff Writer*



DANBURY — Arne Cheyenne Johnson, convicted last month of manslaughter in the "Brookfield Demons" trial, received the maximum sentence of 10 to 20 years in prison Friday from Superior Court Judge Robert J. Callahan, who somberly noted that Johnson has made "no acknowledgement of guilt" and has shown little remorse for causing the death of his landlady.

In meeting out the sentence, Callahan called Johnson's stabbing of 49-year-old Alan Bono, a kennel manager, in Brookfield Feb. 16 "completely unjustified." The judge said that the 18-year-old Johnson's main concern was for himself. Callahan presided over the three-week jury trial, which ended Nov. 24.

While Johnson, a slight, curly-haired man who worked as a tree surgeon, took the sentence calmly, his girlfriend, Deborah Glatzel, 24, shouted at Callahan "You've got to be sick" as the judge concluded the sentencing. Glatzel then ran out of the courtroom.

Johnson's lawyer, Martin Minnella of Waterbury, said he plans to appeal the verdict and the sentence within 10 days, mainly on the grounds that Callahan refused to allow him to offer evidence from priests and psychic researchers that demons forced Johnson to stab Bono.

"The judge showed no respect at all by not allowing our defense," added Glatzel, who explained her courtroom outburst by saying she felt Callahan was "very cold" and unfair.

Callahan had barred the "demon possession" defense and testimony because he said the existence of "objective demons" — not demons imagined through insanity — is unprovable and would only confuse a jury.

Johnson's mother, Mary, said an appeal of the ruling will stretch her family's finances, but added: "If I have to work until the day I die, I'll appeal this."

State prosecutor Walter D. Flanagan, in seeking a severe penalty for Johnson, charged that both Johnson and Bono had been drinking in the hours before the stabbing, that the two men had quarrelled and that Johnson had attacked Bono with a knife, stabbing him five times.

After the sentencing, Flanagan said he considers 10-to-20 years a fair penalty for the death of Bono, whom he described as a "docile pipe-smoking man" and "a gentleman." Johnson will be eligible for parole in a little more than five years.

Although Johnson told Callahan before the sentencing that he was sorry about Bono's death, the judge's comments about Johnson's lack of remorse apparently stemmed in part from a probation officer's report that quoted Johnson as saying he regretted what had happened, but still felt he was innocent.

Johnson testified that he doesn't remember stabbing Bono — a fact Minnella and psychic researchers Ed and Lorraine Warren of Monroe cited as evidence of demonic possession.

The Warrens contended Johnson became possessed through his involvement in a series of rites of exorcism over Glatzel's 12-year-old brother, who they claimed was possessed by 43 demons.

After Callahan rejected the demon possession defense, Minnella tried to build a case that Johnson stabbed Bono out of self-defense. He also cited conflicting testimony from eyewitnesses — three of Johnson's sisters — as evidence that Brookfield police had manipulated facts in the case to implicate Johnson.

But the 12-person jury didn't accept the defense, returning a guilty verdict on the manslaughter charge after about 17 hours of deliberation.

Arne Cheyenne Johnson, convicted of manslaughter, arrives for sentencing in Danbury Friday. He received 10 to 20 years, the maximum sentence.