

# 'Demon' Murder Case Sent to Danbury Jury

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DANBURY — A Superior Court jury Friday began deliberating the fate of accused murderer Arne Cheyenne Johnson, weighing claims of self-defense against the state's claim that liquor moved Johnson "to do what he wanted to do" — stab his neighbor Alan Bono to death.

After it was charged by Judge Robert Callahan, the seven-woman, five man jury began considering the case against the 19-year-old Johnson just after 3:30 p.m. It adjourned at 9:45 p.m. and planned to return Monday morning.

Callahan specifically warned jurors to consider only the evidence presented in court and to ignore anything they may know about the much-publicized "demon possession" defense that attorney Martin Minnella had wanted to use to explain the actions of Johnson, a tree surgeon.

After Callahan Thursday barred the admission of evidence Minella claimed would prove conclusively that Johnson was possessed, the defense attorney shifted his case to present testimony that a rational Johnson killed Bono, a kennel operator, in self-defense after Bono charged at him with a knife in Brookfield the evening of Feb. 15.

In his closing arguments, prosecutor Walter Flanagan argued that Johnson delivered three separate stab wounds — anyone of which would have been fatal — to Bono after the two men drank together and then apparently quarreled.

"He (Johnson) did what he wanted to do. Why? I don't know, but he did it," Flanagan said, noting that Johnson's

intent to kill Bono is shown in the number and depth of the stab wounds.

The law does not require the state to prove a motive.

The jury must balance conflicting testimony from Johnson's three sisters, witnesses to the incident who, in police statements the night of Bono's death, tended to implicate their brother.

In court testimony, however, Johnson's sister, Mary Tennant, recanted a police statement and said it was Bono who held the knife and charged, and not her brother.

While Flanagan said he thinks the sisters "can't tell truth from falsehood" and are trying to help their brother, Minnella countered that police who were eager to build a case against Johnson distorted Mary Tennant's account. He said he believes statements by Johnson's relatives are consistent.

Minnella added that Johnson and Bono were good friends, that Johnson was usually peaceful and said his client had never been in trouble before.

But Flanagan noted that shortly before Bono's death, Johnson's sisters testified that he had been "beating" his 26-year-old girlfriend Deborah Glatzel.

Minella told the jury he believed that Bono was the aggressor in the incident, and when Johnson, Glatzel and the three sisters tried to leave Bono's apartment after dinner, the 40-year-old Bono became violent and grabbed Mary Tennant in an effort to prevent the group from leaving.

"If Alan Bono had let them all go, we

See Judge, Page B2