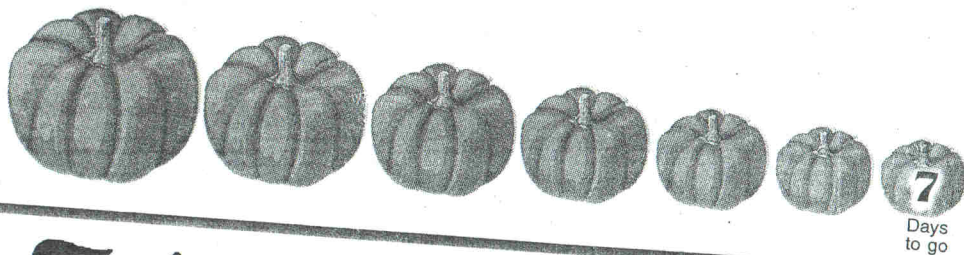


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Pumpkin
Festival
Countdown



Pumpkin facts
Pumpkins, which are 90 percent water, are fruit. They originated in Central America.

The Keene Sentinel

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Not guilty on 10 counts

By BENJAMIN YELLE
Sentinel Staff

Rape suspect convicted on lone kidnapping charge

A jury threw out the most serious charges against accused rapist Brian R. Chevalier Friday afternoon in Cheshire County Superior Court, but, after nearly two full days of deliberating, convicted him on a single charge of kidnapping.

Chevalier, 37, of Merrimack was indicted in February on two counts of kidnapping, five counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault, two counts of

simple assault and one count each of criminal threatening and burglary.

He was accused of grabbing a Jaffrey woman when she came home from work and holding her hostage in her home for 21 hours, tying her up and repeatedly raping and sodomizing her. The two

had dated before the incident, but she said she broke off the relationship.

Jury deliberations began Thursday morning, and wrapped up minutes before the court was scheduled to close Friday for the weekend.

Chevalier, dressed in a dark green

suit and tie, cried as the jury responded "not guilty" to the first nine indictments — criminal threatening, simple assault, burglary, five counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault, and the first of two kidnapping charges.

Lawyers, audience members and court officials appeared confused when the jury found Chevalier guilty of a Class B felony charge of kidnapping with the intent to terrorize.

See SUSPECT on Page 2

about the fact that there was no plan to deal with that," former
dent on issues such as jobs, cost of health insurance and the war

nior citizens, and basically play-

problems ensuing

Greg Hurt
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Sullivan, NH

Suspect not guilty on all but one charge

(Continued from Page One)

He was then acquitted of the second simple assault charge.

"Mr. Chevalier is grateful that the jury saw fit to find him not guilty of 10 of 11 charges and continues to maintain his innocence," public defender Hampton W. Howard said outside the courtroom after the verdicts.

Chevalier's other lawyer, Caroline H. Smith, said it was too soon to consider an appeal of the lone conviction.

"We're just working on the

next phase now," she said. That phase will be Chevalier's sentencing, which should occur within two months.

The woman's account of the alleged assaults varied greatly in police reports, written statements and her testimony on the stand. She also had conflicting stories about how she was tied to the bed.

The defense and prosecution agreed that the two engaged in sex, sodomy and bondage, but disagreed about whether those activities were consensual or not.

Smith repeatedly used the phrase "sexual play and experimentation" during her closing argument to categorize the activity. She said physical, medical and forensic evidence didn't support the brutality the woman alleged.

Assistant Cheshire County Attorney Kathleen G. O'Reilly argued that injuries to the woman's face, Chevalier's parking his truck out of view of the woman's house, and evidence in his truck linking him to the woman were enough to convict him.

As for the inconsistent state-

ments, O'Reilly said it was understandable for the woman's memory to be a little shaky.

"These were traumatic events," she said in her closing argument. "Who wants to remember that?"

O'Reilly was unavailable for comment Friday afternoon.

Chevalier will be held at the N.H. State Prison in Concord until his sentencing. He has been held there since his arrest last year, because he was on parole for an earlier burglary conviction at the time he was charged.