

# Teen Tried In Crossburning Case

By Donna Oldham  
Staff Writer

A local youth pleading guilty to cross-burning last week, said "I did it to teach a lesson."

David Johnson, 16, a student at Atkins High School, said in Forsyth District Court that he and a companion burned the cross in the yard of Lorraine Roseborough of 1300 Fenimore because he was upset over not being paid for delivering newspapers.

At the time of the cross burning on July 8, Johnson was a substitute carrier for The Sentinel and the Winston-Salem Journal.

J.C. Douglas, an arson investigator for the Winston-Salem Fire Department testified that Johnson, who is white, admitted to him that he and a juvenile companion had decided to burn the cross on the Roseborough's lawn because of alleged trouble they were having collecting for the newspapers.

"Everytime I went to collect she would say I don't have any money, see my husband, and when I'd see her husband he'd tell me to see his wife," said Johnson who added that he and his friend also the Roseborough's paperboy, were out of about \$9.00.

When Forsyth District Court Judge, James A Harrill Jr., asked Johnson why he chose to burn a cross in Mrs. Roseborough yard, rather than stop her papers or use some other means of collecting his money Johnson said that the KKK-Nazi trial in Greensboro had prompted him to think of the cross burning.

"I knew the impact that the trial was having on everybody and I thought that it would be a good way to get back at her, (Mrs. Roseborough)," he said.

Fred Hutchins, Johnson's defense attorney called his clients act "a childish prank."

"What we have here are two young boys on a warm summer night who decided to have some fun. It was a lark with no

intent to harm," Hutchins said of his client's actions.

In testifying, Mrs. Roseborough said that she saw the cross burning in her yard at approximately 11 p.m. on the 8th. "I have a habit of going to the door every night before I go to bed and I saw what looked like a cross burning in my yard," she said.

Johnson said that he had made the four-foot cross by wrapping old clothes, around two nailed sticks, and soaked the cross in kerosene.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph Gatto called Johnson's actions more than a "childish prank."

"The court can't find any excuse for what this boy has done. Fenimore Street is a quiet community and there is no reason to bring Greensboro into Winston-Salem, regardless of the situation," Gatto said that he believed that the effects of the crossburning would be lasting on the Roseborough family and asked Harrill for a ruling "that would make a lasting impression in Johnson." "The effects of what they did are

staggering and the court should be concerned with the gravity of the offense," Gatto said.

Harrill gave Johnson a \$50 fine, a seven day suspended sentence and ordered that he pay the Roseboroughs \$50 for the damage done to their lawn. He also made Johnson spend his lunch hour in jail and ordered him to stay away from the Roseborough's residence.

Upstairs in Forsyth Juvenile Court, District Court Judge Gary Tash ordered Johnson's 15-year old accomplice to reimburse the state \$100 for his court-appointed attorney; and told him to stay away from the Roseboroughs

Tash put the youth on probation, and added that he was impressed with the paper the youth had been ordered to write concerning his feelings on the incident. Tash called the incident "insensitive and inhuman."

Tash also set a curfew for the youth which will last until his probation ends on his 16th birthday.



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## Clinic

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percent female. Of those, 72 percent are white and 28 percent are black. Corresponding to the county's population.

Referral agents include family, relative, physicians, the Forsyth County Health Department; hospitals, schools; the Department of Social Service; local psychological-agencies and the courts.

Children range in age from birth through early adolescence. "We try not set a definite age because the chronological age is no that important, and some children mature faster than others Bragg said.

Of the center's clients, 2 percent are mentally retarded 5 percent have organic brain syndrome; 2 percent suffer from schizophrenia; 5 percent suffer from neuroses; 9 percent from personality disorders; 32 percent from transient situational disturbances; 28 percent from behavioral disorders of childhood; 16 percent from special symptoms and 1 percent suffer no mental disorder or all other disorders.

The center was chartered in 1955 and the clinic was part of the Department of Psychology at Bowman Gray School of Medicine and was located in the kennel buildings on the Graylyn Estate.

In 1960, the clinic moved to larger quarters at the Reynolds Estate in Barn No. 2. The center was moved to its present location on Glade Street Hill in 1970.

Bragg said that while he is pleased with the progress that the clinic has made, the Glad Street location allows the center more accessibility than the other locales.

"For the first time, we are accessible to the entire community. We were on a bus line and easy to find. The remoteness of the locations was a handicap."

Bragg said that while the clinic was located on the Reynolda Estate, in an attempt to reach the entire community, outreach clinics were held at Reynolds Health Center. Bragg calls those clinics "moderately successful, but he said that the separate service did not prove that it could be maintained.

The outreach clinics were like a lot of new projects, after the newness and early enthusiasm wears off it proved to be not as practical as we thought," he said.

Bragg said that in the center's next decade, he would like to see it become even more accessible both geographically and financially.

"All of that has improved over the past, but could improve significantly in the future. A lot of people don't come for that reason," he said.

Bragg continued, "I want people to feel free to use the facility. There is a stigma associated with places like the Child Guidance Center, much like the stigma attached to minorities. Some people are afraid of the myths. We need to do more to shed the light on intelligence."

Bragg said that on of the center's top priorities is to "have the services that we provide out front and available, breaking down the barriers that people have so that they can use the facility."

The early detection and prevention of children's problems and disorders is what the center is constantly striving for and Bragg said that the CGC will keep itself viable by changing and adapting the program so that the services are responsive to the community that it serves.

Funding for the center comes primarily from the county and parents fees.

The center's budget is \$750,000. Of that 33 percent comes from the Forsyth/Stokes Community Mental Health Center. Fees for services, Medicare and insurance totals another 33 1/3 percent, with 21 percent of that paid by parents; 55 percent by insurance, and 24 percent by Medicaid. The remaining 33 1/3 percent comes from federal grants, foundations, gifts and miscellaneous contributions.

Only five percent of the total budget comes from the United Way.

The center will highlight its anniversary with a concert by Metropolitan Opera Soprano Roberta Peters on Friday.

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## City Sanitation Crews To Collect Leaves

The leaf-collection season is here, and city sanitation crews are asking the help of city residents to make sure that leaves are properly placed -- up to the

curb line, but not in the street.

"Putting leaves in the street violates a city ordinance and creates problems that could result in a very

serious injury to someone," said Howard Harmon, street cleaning supervisor.

"After a rain, our crews have real difficulty in trying to scrape leaves off the

streets. Some of the leaves

wash into storm drains and stop them up, resulting in flooding. And when the weather's dry, the leaves pose a fire hazard."

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