

Transient guilty of sodomizing teen

A jury Tuesday found a 28-year-old transient guilty of sodomizing a 15-year-old boy at the Jefferson City Salvation Army shelter in May.

Perry Frezzell, who stopped here on his way from Pennsylvania to California, faces up to seven years in prison after being convicted of second-degree statutory sodomy. Cole County Circuit Judge Byron Kinder will sentence Frezzell following an investigation.

The jury rejected Frezzell's defense that he had a mental disease. Evidence was presented of Frezzell's bizarre behavior in the Cole County jail, including throwing urine and scalding oatmeal on guards, talking to the walls and drinking from the toilet. Two court-ordered psychiatric exams resulted in different conclusions, assistant Prosecuting Attorney Bill Tackett said. One psychiatrist said Frezzell had chronic schizophrenia; another said the disease was in remission.

Tackett said the mental-disease defense failed because Frezzell's behavior was not consistent.

"This is really a classic case of trying to fake symptoms to get out of criminal responsibility," Tackett said. "He went so far with it, it made it unbelievable to the jury that he could go in and out of that state of mind."