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Title: KC man convicted of manslaughter
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A Jackson County jury late Wednesday convicted a Kansas City man of voluntary manslaughter and armed criminal action.

There was no dispute at trial this week that Andrew A. Kaczynski, 28, shot Armand Koene, 26, of Kansas City about 1:30 a.m. on May 10, 2002.

Kaczynski contended that he killed in self-defense in the hallway just outside his apartment door at 435 W. Knickerbocker St.

The defendant testified he and his girlfriend had met Koene and invited him to the apartment to smoke marijuana shortly before the shooting.

Koene made sexual advances to Kaczynski's girlfriend and drove off, the defendant said, but returned a short time later and knocked on the door. Koene said he wanted the girlfriend to leave with him, the defendant said.

Kaczynski shut the door, got his .44-caliber revolver and opened the door to the hallway, where, he said, Koene was threatening him.

He shot Koene twice in the front, once in the back and twice in the head.

In closing arguments Wednesday, Amy McGowan, an assistant prosecutor, reminded jurors that Kaczynski admitted firing the last two shots into the victim's head "because he was still alive - he wanted to kill him."

That is the cool reflection needed for first-degree murder and a sentence of life without parole, she argued.

Defense lawyer Mark Komoroski reminded jurors that Koene weighed about 100 pounds more than his client and had a blood-alcohol level of .15 - almost twice the legal limit for driving.

"Facing a loaded gun, he wouldn't take no for an answer," Komoroski said, and he told jurors to put themselves in that dark hallway.

"In that world of darkness and fear," Komoroski said, Kaczynski "did what he had to do."

The jury recommended sentences of 15 years for the manslaughter charge and 10 years for the armed criminal action charge. Circuit Judge Edith Messina will sentence Kaczynski later.

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