

Man who killed mother found insane

The verdict will send a Fountain Valley resident to a state mental hospital.

BY LARRY WELBORN
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SANTA ANA • Three sisters and the father of a Fountain Valley man who hacked his mother to death with a meat cleaver in 2005 burst out in sobs Thursday when he was found not guilty by reason of insanity. The family of William Mar-

ruffo, 34, has supported him since he attacked and killed Teresa Marruffo, 58, in the driveway of their home on Jan. 5, 2005.

Wilbert Marruffo, his father, said they knew Marruffo had been mentally ill for years and were trying to get him psychiatric help. "We're all very happy," he



William Marruffo

thought his mother was possessed by Satan and that he was trying to save her soul. He walked into court before the verdicts, smiled at his family, blew them kisses and

said.

Marruffo, a former drummer for Ozomati, a popular multiethnic rock band, told detectives

that he thought his mother was possessed by Satan and that he was trying to save her soul. He walked into court before the verdicts, smiled at his family, blew them kisses and

mouthed, "I love you." He sat quietly at the counsel table when the insanity finding was announced after a day of deliberations.

Defense attorney Dennis O'Connell contended that Marruffo is bipolar and was hallucinating at the time of the attack.

"He's going to a mental hospital where he belongs," O'Connell told Marruffo's family as they hugged one another outside the courtroom. "He

doesn't belong in prison."

Superior Court Judge Richard Toohey is expected to commit Marruffo to a state mental hospital at a Jan. 26 hearing.

Marruffo will be treated at the hospital until a separate Superior Court jury decides that his sanity has been restored.

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