

Daily Light
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In triple murders

Mother talks at Waco trial

WACO, Texas (UPI) — Nancy Shaw, the mother of 17-year-old Jill Montgomery of Waxahachie, who was one of three youths killed in a Waco city park, tearfully testified Monday that her daughter resembled a woman prosecutors claim was the intended victim in a botched murder-for-hire plot.

David Wayne Spence, 25, formerly of Waco, is on trial for capital murder in the slaying of Jill Montgomery, whose body was discovered in a park July 14, 1982, along with her boyfriend, Kenneth Franks, 18, of Waco, and Raylene Rice, 17, also of Waxahachie.

Mrs. Shaw sobbed silently on the witness stand Tuesday as she compared pictures of her daughter with those of Gail Kelly, the woman prosecutors claim Spence was hired to kill.

"Does the girl in this picture resemble your daughter?" asked McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell.

"Yes, she does," Mrs. Shaw replied.

Dr. Mary Gilliland of the Dallas County Medical Examiners Office testified that she determined Ms. Montgomery died from "multiple stab and cutting wounds consistent with those of a knife."

All three victims had been bound and gagged, stabbed repeatedly and their throats slashed, Dr. Gilliland said. Bite marks were found on the bodies of the two girls.

Dr. Gilliland said Ms. Montgomery's body had 14 cuts, three of which were bite marks. The teeth mark were found on the neck, shoulders and breast, she said.

The state is expected to call forensic odontologist Homer Campbell of Albuquerque, N.M., to the stand later in the trial. During a pretrial hearing, Campbell testified the bite marks matched the teeth of Spence.

Prosecutors claim the teenagers were killed in a botched murder-for-hire after Spence and two accomplices mistook Ms. Montgomery for Ms. Kelly, who was unharmed.

Feazell said Spence had been offered \$5,000 to kill Ms. Kelly by her

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Trial continues in Waco murders

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boyfriend, Muneer Muhammad Deeb, 28, formerly of Waco. He alleged Spence and two other men went to Speegleville Park to look for the intended victim and mistook Ms. Montgomery for the woman.

Deeb, a Jordanian, and two other men also have

been charged in the slayings.

Anthony Melendez, 25, last week accepted a plea-bargained sentence of life in prison in the slayings of Ms. Montgomery and Franks. He still faces trial in the death of Ms. Rice.

Deeb and Gilbert Melendez, 28, the other

suspect's brother, were in the McClennan County Jail awaiting a September trial in the Montgomery slaying.

The Spence trial is reportedly expected to last about four weeks. Prosecutors have indicated they may call as many as 45 witnesses.