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Prosecutors to show scientific evidence

WACO, Texas (UPI) — Prosecutors in the trial of David Wayne Spence, accused of killing three teenagers, are expected to back with scientific evidence a convict's testimony that Spence left his teethmarks on one of the victims.

Jesse Haydon Ivy, serving 33 years in Texas prison for aggravated robbery, testified Monday that Spence told him he raped victim Jill Montgomery, 17, bit the nipple off her breast and slit her throat.

Ivy said Spence asked him "if his teeth could get him a conviction."

Later this week, the state is expected to introduce studies by Dr. Homer Campbell, a forensic dentist from Albuquerque, N.M.

Campbell is expected to give his expert opinion on whether Spence's teeth matched the bite marks.

In earlier testimony, a McLennan County inmate said Spence told him of stabbing three teenagers "trying to get them to shut up."

"The girls kept hollering and jerking," said Darrell Beckham, serving a 5-year sentence for forgery when he was placed in a cell with Spence.

"He (Spence) said he became like another person, and was possessed,"

said Beckham. "He kept stabbing them, trying to get them to shut up."

Beckham also testified that Spence had an odd habit of religiously watching his favorite television show, Beckham said Spence would stand in front of the jail television, inches from the screen, twitching his legs as he watched the program "Three's Company," a comedy depicting two women and a man sharing an apartment.

Prosecutors charge the characters in the program physically resemble the murder victims.

Spence, charged with capital murder, is on trial in the death of Miss Montgomery. The state claims she was killed because Spence mistook her for Gayle Kelly — the former girlfriend of another suspect in the case, Muneer Deeb.

Prosecutors claim Deeb, a Jordanian who took out a \$20,000 insurance policy on Ms. Kelly three weeks before the murders, allegedly ordered Spence to kill her because she was too intimate with Kenneth Franks, 17.

Franks, Miss Montgomery and Raylene Rice, 17, were found stabbed to death July 13, 1982, near Lake Waco.