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Spence trial sees dental evidence

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Prosecutors on Tuesday introduced plaster casts of David Wayne Spence's teeth and photographs of Jill Montgomery's body to set the stage for testimony Wednesday from a forensic dental expert who is expected to link bite marks found on the victim's body to Spence's dental pattern.

James Ebert, a forensic consultant from Albuquerque, N.M., testified Tuesday in Spence's capital murder trial that he enlarged and electronically enhanced photographs of the bodies of Miss Montgomery and Raylene Rice in May 1983 at the request of Dr. Homer Campbell, a forensic odontologist from Albuquerque.

Spence, 25, is on trial in Miss Montgomery's death. He also is charged with capital murder in the deaths of Kenneth Franks and Miss Rice.

Ebert, who along with Campbell assisted Florida investigators in building a case against convicted mass murderer Theodore Bundy, said he has worked on about 300 criminal cases since 1977 in which he uses modern photographic techniques to compare

bite marks, fingerprints, footprints, wound patterns and other evidence.

Law enforcement officials found bite marks on Bundy's victims.

Using what he calls remote sensing and photogrammetry, Ebert explained that by enlarging the photographs and enhancing the contrast, investigators can get a sharper image for comparison of forensic evidence, such as bite marks on victims' bodies.

Photogrammetry, Ebert said, is a "\$75 word for a 10-cent idea" in which photographs are used to measure and analyze evidentiary items.

Prosecutors Vic Feazell and Ned Butler introduced enlarged photos of Miss Montgomery's nude body and Ebert pointed out bite marks on the teen's neck, shoulder and breast areas to the 54th State District Court jury of eight women and two men.

Three Texas prison inmates testified Monday that Spence confessed to them that he bit off the end of Miss Montgomery's breast, raped her and sexually abused her with a wooden stick before stabbing her 14 times.

Please see PROSECUTORS, Page 2A

Prosecutors introduce dental evidence

□ From Page 1A

In other testimony Tuesday, Dr. W.A. Brinkman Jr., a McGregor dentist, and J.L. Crawford, an investigator in the district attorney's office, described how they took a bite sample from Spence in the county jail in May 1983, and made a plaster cast from the sample for comparison with bite marks on the female victims.

Crawford said that he owned a dental laboratory in Waco at the time the sample was taken and prepared the cast of Spence's teeth after Brinkman fitted the mold to the defendant's mouth.

Dr. Mary Gilliland, a pathologist with the Dallas County Medical Examiner's office, returned to the witness stand Tuesday to verify that the bite marks on Miss Montgomery's body were "produced very near the time of (her) death."

Dr. Gilliland testified last Tuesday concerning details of autopsies performed on the victims but was

recalled by prosecutors to pave the way for Campbell's testimony concerning the bite marks.

She said that five of the stab wounds were "non-penetrating" wounds, and indicate that the victim was tortured by her assailants.

"There are wounds that couldn't cause death and wounds that are fully superficial. They could be called torture wounds, because they would cause pain in a bondage situation, but not death," Dr. Gilliland said.

During pre-trial hearings in April, Spence's court-appointed attorneys Russ Hunt and Hayes Fuller charged in a motion to prohibit Campbell's testimony that it would be a "travesty of justice" should his testimony be allowed by Judge George Allen.

The attorneys claimed that forensic odontology, the study of the anatomy of the teeth, is not universally recognized in the medical community as a reliable science.

Campbell has contributed to an article about forensic odontology that appears in a recent edition of the

World Book Encyclopedia and contributed to the book *Outline of Forensic Dentistry*.

Defense attorneys are expected to call a forensic dental specialist to refute Campbell's testimony.

Prosecutors are expected to rest their case against Spence Wednesday. Defense attorneys expect it to take about three or four days to present their case.

It was not known Tuesday if Anthony Melendez, one of three others charged in the triple slayings, will testify against Spence. Melendez, 25, pleaded guilty to two counts of murder two weeks ago in a plea-bargain arrangement and was assessed two concurrent life prison terms in the deaths of Miss Montgomery and Franks.

Melendez was returned to Waco from the Texas prison system on Monday in case prosecutors decide to call him as a witness.

Melendez's brother, Gilbert Melendez, 29, and Mu-neer Mohammad Deeb, 25, also are charged with three counts of capital murder in the deaths.