

✓ Prosecution underscores Hayes' 'power' over women

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SANTA CRUZ — The prosecutor in the Royal Kenneth Hayes murder case underscored Wednesday her contention that Hayes exercises an extraordinary power over women.

Assistant District Attorney Madeleine Boriss introduced testimony — in the form of earlier evidence from Hayes' preliminary hearing — that the defendant had a sexual relationship with a star witness' mother. The daughter, Debbie Chichiletti Garcia, had also been Hayes' lover.

Garcia has already spent several days on the witness stand telling about her role in the slayings of two victims in a drug-money ripoff in 1981.

Wednesday's testimony was from Diane Edwards, Garcia's mother.

Mrs. Edwards had testified during Hayes' preliminary hearing. She is now suffering from cancer and is too ill to testify, said Assistant District Attorney Boriss.

Her testimony from the hearing was read into the record of Hayes' trial Wednesday afternoon, after her daughter finished testifying.

Edwards, a Soquel resident, was age 48 when she spent the night with Hayes and had sex with him in a Santa Cruz motel, just one month before the murders of which Hayes is accused.

Garcia had earlier testified that the 47-year-old ex-convict controlled her thoughts and actions with a combination of love and brutality.

She said he forced her to help him murder another ex-lover, Lauren deLaet, 36, and her companion Donald MacVicar, 32, Dec. 29, 1981, Hayes allegedly lured the two to a remote corner of the UCSC campus from the San Francisco area Dec. 29, 1981. He had promised them a large cocaine deal, but instead took their money and shot them, according to testimony. Garcia and Diane Susan Weller, 33, have testified they were forced to help in the murders, under threat of death.

Garcia, who had met and lived with Hayes in Hawaii in 1979, had been sent by him to live with her mother in the spring of 1981.

Mrs. Edwards had said she was living in Soquel with her husband and son at the time. After her daughter moved in, Mrs. Edwards had spoken with Hayes on the telephone, and when he came to visit in November, he invited Mrs. Edwards to the Dream Inn where he was staying.

Her daughter had warned her to be careful, Mrs. Edwards testified. But despite the warning, she thought Hayes was "a nice man, a gentleman," who told her he cared for Garcia "like a daughter."

Hayes talked Mrs. Edwards into trying cocaine, and the two had sex, according to the testimony.

After the murders, according to testimony, Garcia, Hayes and Weller went to the Dream Inn. Garcia called her mother, asking her to bring her a pair of shoes.

After Mrs. Edwards arrived, Hayes slapped Garcia. Garcia told her mother she was "scared to death."

Hayes sent the two younger women to another motel, Mrs. Edwards spent the night with Hayes. But she said they did not have sex that night.

The next morning, her daughter found her in bed with Hayes.

Mrs. Edwards said her daughter never told her about the murders.

After Wednesday's court session, Boriss wondered, "What is the power this guy has? What is it?"

Since he has been in jail here, Hayes converted to Catholicism from a professed Judaism, and married a Poor Clares nun who was doing social work in the jail. Bonny Rooney, the former Sister Mary, had been a nun for 31 years before she left the order to marry Hayes. She reportedly has a housekeeping job, and visits Hayes regularly.

"He has the ability to turn on an unescapable power, and an almost mystical ability to pick the right people to use it on. It seems like he never fails, because he never picks the wrong person," Boriss said.