

# Woman identifies suspect as man who raped her

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A 27-year-old Santa Cruz woman identified John William Jackson yesterday as the man who kidnapped her from her home four months ago and took her to a vacant house where he sexually assaulted her.

The woman testified most of the day yesterday in Santa Cruz Municipal Court at a preliminary hearing to determine whether there is enough evidence to hold Jackson, 30, for trial.

Jackson, of 120 Hall St., Santa Cruz, is charged with the robbery, kidnapping, and sexual assault of that woman and the kidnapping and sexual assault of another 27-year-old woman in a separate incident.

The woman who testified yesterday told a terrifying story of being attacked by Jackson when she allowed him into her Branciforte Drive home to use the telephone. Once inside, he threw the woman on the bed and held a knife above her face, the woman said.

Jackson tied her hands behind her back with a hand towel and used a pillow case to blindfold her, she said. While she pleaded for him not to kill her, he promised he wouldn't hurt her.

He asked if she had any money, and the woman told him how much she had and where it was.

"I told him to take it and leave me alone," she said. "He told me he was a dope fiend and all he wanted was my money and he wasn't going to hurt me."

Despite that promise, he forced the woman outside and into his car, stopping first to grab her purse from the living-room floor, she said.

He drove her a few blocks away to a vacant house, where he gagged her, pulled off her clothes and sexually assaulted her. After the woman refused to cooperate, he finally told her to "forget it," she said, and allowed her to get dressed.

Jackson then broke down in tears, the woman said.

"He said he was real sorry for what he did," she said. "He said he didn't know why he did it. All he wanted was my money."

Jackson was standing up when he said that, she said, and extended his arms toward her, while she was still sitting on the couch. She said his motion frightened her more.

"I thought maybe he was going to kill me after all," she said. Instead, he hugged her and cried.

The woman broke down in tears as she recounted her story yesterday, and her testimony

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appeared to affect Jackson, who let out several loud sighs, wiped under his eyes and covered his face.

Jackson's hearing began with an unusual request by his attorney, public defender Ben Rice, who asked that Jackson not be brought into the courtroom until after the victim had given a detailed description of her attacker. Rice told Judge Robert Attack that he believed there may be a case of mistaken identity, so it was particularly important to hear the victims' descriptions without allowing them to see Jackson.

Rice said he felt Jackson had not been properly identified by the victims, because the victims have only picked out his picture, and have never been asked to go to an in-person lineup. Rice said he thought the photo lineup was not fair and impartial.

Attack denied the request, but not before listening to Rice's attack on Assistant District Attorney Christine McGuire. Attack questioned why Rice hadn't just requested a lineup sometime before the hearing, since Jackson has been in jail for several months and there was ample time for such a lineup.

Rice said he couldn't trust McGuire to put together a fair physical lineup.