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Hauser's Husband Testifies

Estranged Spouse Details 'Raw Time'

By Joline Gutierrez Krueger Journal Staff Writer

The defense attorney for the homeless man accused of raping and killing a Nob Hill woman tore into the testimony of the dead woman's estranged husband, leaving jurors to ponder whether he is a bereaved spouse or a sociopath who was trying to put his wife in her place, even if it meant killing her.

Hubert Hauser, perhaps the most anticipated witness in the highprofile trial of Phillip Busey, took the stand Thursday in the third day of testimony to describe the last rocky weeks with Kathryn Hauser before her rape and bludgeoning death on Jan. 19, 2005.

Although he was called as a witness for the prosecution, Hubert Hauser appeared to bolster the defense's contention that he, not Busey, had more motive to see Kathryn Hauser dead.

Hubert Hauser, a soft-spoken religious man who referred to himself as a tidy "squareheaded German," told jurors his four-year marriage had not been perfect and had hit a "raw" patch about two months before her death, and that she had moved out of their West Side home and refused to let him know her new address.

But in her final days, he testified that the two had sought Christian-based counseling, prayed and that she had declared to him that it was "her heart" that they reconcile. The two had shared a romantic and intimate weekend in which she disclosed to him that she now lived on Campus Boulevard NE. Still, he testified that the two were going ahead with the sale of their marital home and would maintain separate residences.

"I told her I loved her. She told me she loved me," he said of his last words to her the day before her death, breaking down momentarily on the stand.

But Busey's public defender, Lelia Hood, ripped into his tale of rekindling romance, pelting him with allegations culled from frequent e-mails between them and Kathryn Hauser's other writings that he had often called her a "varicose vein whore" and a bitch who had refused to submit to him as the "spiritual leader of the family."

Hood also asked about his belief that his wife thought of him as a financial loser who couldn't keep a job and earned far less than she did as an Intel manager, that she was not following Christian beliefs to serve him and that "because of her disobedience the Father is not hearing her prayers."

"You have to understand it was a very raw time," Hauser explained, later saying his wife was a liar.

Kathryn Hauser's own haunting words were also read into the trial record. According to a letter she wrote him on Dec. 7, 2004, Hauser told her husband she had chosen never to reconcile with him because of the "rollercoaster abuse" in their relationship and her dawning belief that he was capable of killing her.

Prosecutors, however, were able to show that Hubert Hauser had been home with his mother the morning of his wife's slaying and that he arrived at work dressed nicely with no apparent sign of trauma save for a large bruise on his lower back.

Kathryn Hauser, 47, was beaten in the head, raped and found partly nude in the front area of her home on Campus Boulevard NE. Prosecutors say Busey, a transient, committed the crime and that his DNA was found on her body.



HAUSER: Said marriage had been troubled

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