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Two admit affairs

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A second woman testified Thursday she had a sexual relationship with **Vincent Brothers** while he was married to the wife he is accused of killing. Lupe Hernandez testified she had a sexual relationship with the former vice principal in 2002 and 2003. Joanie Harper and Brothers were married in January 2003.

Hernandez works as a clerk at Fremont School where Brothers worked.

The prosecution believes Brothers cheated on his wife many times with many women and killed his family because he did not love them and he wanted to pursue a relationship with another woman.

The defense believes these women are confused about the dates and insist Brothers did not have an affair. Brothers has pleaded not guilty.

Hernandez said Brothers did not tell her he had a wife or children and was secretive about his personal life, but she later learned he had a son because Brothers would take his son to Fremont School after he was finished at preschool.

Hernandez said she went to a house Brothers owned and to an upstairs apartment he rented on Real Road. He rented an upstairs apartment on Real Road in April 2003.

Hernandez said she had sex with Brothers on his apartment floor because he didn't have furniture.

She did not initially tell investigators the whole story because she did not want to hurt her family, but she later confessed to the affair, she said.

Defense attorney Michael Gardina objected to Deputy District

Attorney Lisa Green bringing on all the women she believes Brothers ever had sex with while he was married to Joanie Harper because their testimony would be repetitive.

Kern County Superior Court Judge Michael Bush said he had already ruled the prosecutor could only bring three of the alleged mistresses into the trial who may have had sexual relationships with Brothers during his 2003 marriage to Joanie Harper.

Later, Maria Crisafulli, a bus driver, said she had a sexual relationship with Brothers in 2003, then later testified she had not. She insisted the relationship was in 2002.

Bakersfield police Sgt. Jon Scott later testified that Crisafulli told him, just after the homicides, that she and Brothers had a relationship in 2003. On June 29, 2003, Brothers told Crisafulli he had broken up with his wife and Crisafulli said she tried to press Brothers into committing to her, the sergeant said.

But Brothers didn't want a relationship and Brothers and Crisafulli broke up, the sergeant said Crisafulli told him.

Crisafulli admitted she has visited Brothers in jail many times since he was arrested in 2004. When Green asked Crisafulli how many times she visited Brothers in jail, she said she didn't know.

"Does 78 times ring a bell?" Green asked. Crisafulli said she didn't remember.

Gardina said Crisafulli has difficulty understanding English and is easily confused. Crisafulli said she was born in Italy and did not move to the United States until 1985.

Another woman testified Wednesday that she, too, had an affair with Brothers in 2000 and 2001 while he was married to Joanie Harper.

Earlier in the day Thursday, the jurors were bused to the house on P and Third streets where Brothers' wife, Joanie Harper; their three children, Marques, Lyndsey and Marshall; and Joanie Harper's mother, Earnestine, were killed.

Green wanted the jurors to see the complicated layout of the house because she believes only someone familiar with it could have killed four family members at one end, then found the way to the other end to kill the fifth family member.

Brothers' family was found dead on July 8, 2003, and he was arrested in April 2004 on suspicion of committing the murders.

Testimony is expected to continue today.