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Ex-intimate tells of Hossencofft youth serum

Prosecution witness Julie McGuire also tells of unsettling telephone calls with Linda Henning, accused of first-degree murder in the presumed death of Hossencofft's estranged wife.

By Joline Gutierrez Krueger
Tribune Reporter

Testimony from a former girlfriend of Diazien Hossencofft continued today in state District Court with more peculiarities emerging about the man who pleaded guilty to killing his wife.

The first-degree murder trial of Linda Henning, also accused in the killing of Girly Chew Hossencofft, entered its third day today in Albuquerque.

Julie McGuire said Wednesday that she met Diazien Hossencofft through an Internet dating service in August 1998 - just more than a year before the disappearance of Girly Chew Hossencofft.

Today, she told the jury she had paid Diazien Hossencofft more than $6,000 for two injections of a serum Diazien Hossencofft told her would reverse aging and make her young.

"It was vanity," McGuire, in her 50s, told the jury with an embarrassed laugh.

During the time she and Hossencofft dated, she said, she heard nothing of Linda Henning until Oct. 2, 1999 - three weeks after the disappearance of Girly Hossencofft - when she saw an unfamiliar number on her phone bill and called it.

Henning answered, she said. Over the course of two telephone conversations, McGuire said, Henning claimed to be a "chosen one" among an alien race and warned her that the government was out to get everyone.

Henning said the government was attempting to pin Girly Hossencofft's death on Diazien Hossencofft, McGuire said, adding that Henning told her she should leave town and move to Seattle.

"It got to be ridiculous," McGuire said.

Diazien Hossencofft was arrested after Girly Hossencofft's disappearance, and afterward Henning was also arrested. Both were charged in her presumed death, although her body has not been found.

Diazien Hossencofft, 37, pleaded guilty to murder earlier this year after spending more than two years in jail and was sentenced to life plus 60 years in a Wyoming penitentiary.

He told investigators that Henning was not involved in the killing, but a jury returned a 20-count indictment against Henning.

She now faces the death penalty.

If convicted, Henning, 48, could become the first woman to be executed in New Mexico since its statehood. The trial began Tuesday.

McGuire testified Wednesday that Diazien Hossencofft told her he was divorcing Girly Hossencofft and that once she signed the papers relinquishing her rights to his 3-year-old son, Dimitri, he knew a person who knew another

person who would "take" his wife.

He said he would pay the assassin in diamonds, McGuire said.

Jurors on Wednesday also heard Diazien Hossencofft's bizarre explanation about how his son, Dimitri, came into being. Adoption agency manager Vonda Cheshire testified he told her he had harvested the egg of a Japanese woman and grew the child in a test tube.

Diazien Hossencofft told her he was putting his son up for adoption in 1999 because he, Diazien Hossencofft, was dying of leukemia, Cheshire said.

Cheshire became concerned that the boy was possibly abducted and contacted the FBI, Special Agent John Schum testified Wednesday.

The investigation into Dimitri's origins led Schum to Girly Hossencofft, whom he interviewed Aug. 27, 1999.

Both Schum and Girly Hossencofft's former manager at the bank where she worked testified Wednesday that she feared for her life, that her husband was planning to kill her.

The investigation into Dimitri's origins led Schum to Girly Hossencofft, whom he interviewed Aug. 27, 1999.

During that interview, Schum said Girly Hossencofft told him she was afraid of her husband and asked for his advice. On Sept. 8, 1999, a day before her disappearance, she called and asked for his protection.

She vanished on Sept. 10, 1999, and was never seen again. A highway worker testified Wednesday that he had found clothing and a tarp on an isolated stretch of road near Magdalena. That material is being presented by prosecutors as forensic evidence linking Girly Hossencofft, Diazien Hossencofft and Linda Henning in the homicide.

Prosecutors intend to present an array of forensic evidence in their effort to convict Henning. They will call witnesses well into next week, they said.

Henning is represented by Ruidoso attorney Gary Mitchell, a well-known death penalty opponent. The prosecution is being led by Assistant District Attorney Paul Spiers.

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