Another twist emerges in Hossencofft case

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Supposed shocking disclosures of a private investigator to an Albuquerque psychic could put the third defendant in the bizarre murder case of Girly Chew Hossencofft into even hotter water.

Or not.

At issue is a Jan. 19 phone conversation in which Maurice Moya, the investigator for Bill Miller's defense team, is accused of boasting about knowing the whereabouts of Hossencofft's remains — information that has eluded authorities since the 36-year-old Albuquerque bank teller's disappearance and presumed death Sept. 9, 1999.

"We found the crime scene and we know the crime scene and we know where the body's buried, but we're not going to say anything till three years from now," Moya told local soothsayer Cynthia Hess, according to an Albuquerque police report filed last week in state District Court.

Prosecutors are asking that Moya divulge what he knows. The issue is expected to be discussed at a hearing Thursday before state District Judge Richard Knowles.

Should Moya provide new information in the case or should such information lead to the recovery of the body and additional forensics evidence, it's possible that Miller's case could be submitted for the third time to the grand jury for possible reindictment.

"It's a big moment with regards to Moya," said Assistant District Attorney Paul Spiers, one of three prosecutors in Miller's case.

Miller, an Albuquerque electrician, is the man pegged by co-defendants as the hit man in the splaying that has been tinged with talk of reptilian aliens, cannibalism and the diabolical mannerisms of the self-professed murder mastermind, Diazien Hossencofft, the victim's estranged husband.

But a second grand jury failed to indict Miller on murder charges, likely because jurors did not believe Diazien Hossencofft's outlandish and sometimes antagonistic testimony.

Miller, who had initially been indicted on kidnapping and 11 other charges, now faces five counts of tampering with evidence.

Moya could not be reached for comment. But Ray Twohig, Miller's defense attorney and Moya's boss, said he questions exactly what psychic Hess heard Moya say — and how.

"The only comment I can make is that I think it must be difficult sometimes for people who claim to be or are psychics to know the difference between what people tell them and what they are discerning by use of their psychic powers," Twohig said, "because some of the statements she said Maurice made to her he did not make."

But Hess said it was Moya's loose lips not paranormal tips that she heard.

"He absolutely did. He absolutely told me that," she said. "It was a phone conversation, not a reading, not a consultation."

Hess said Moya contacted her after she notified Miller, a client, that she had been questioned by Albuquerque police about the case.

In their phone conversation, Hess said Moya lambasted Albuquerque police detectives and bragged that he had done what they could not: locate Hossencofft's body.

"They don't even know how to do their jobs," Moya told her, the police report states.

Hess said Moya dismissed her concerns about whether he should feel spiritually or morally obligated to tell authorities what he knew.

"He just kind of blew it off," she said.

Hess, who said she has known Miller since August 2000 when she performed a compatibility reading on a woman he was interested in, said she has always believed Miller to be innocent of killing Girly Hossencofft and would have no reason to offer such potentially damning information to police.

And she said she had no idea about the significance of the "three years from now" statement she said Moya made.

Prosecutors say the three years align with the expiration of the statute of limitations with regard to the charges against Miller.

Twohig declined to reveal what he believes Moya said to Hess but said Moya is prepared to give a statement to the court if requested.

Despite that, Twohig filed a motion for a protective order regarding Moya, saying that any information Moya might have is protected under attorney-client privilege.

Prosecutors argue, perhaps disingenuously, that Moya might have uncovered the information without the help of Miller.

"Since the defendant, for the longest time, has denied any relationship whatsoever to the kidnapping and murder of Girly, it must then be inferred that investigator Moya came into possession of the aforementioned information from a source other than the defendant and the related radius of the attorney-client relationship," prosecutors state in court documents filed last week.

The tampering with evidence charges against Miller stem from allegations that he attempted to destroy business cards by either eating them, burning them in his fireplace or hiding them in his sock. One of the business cards belonged to Hess.

Henning camp dismisses cannibalism talk

Defense attorneys representing the woman convicted of kidnapping and killing Girly Chew Hossencofft have one word for prosecutors' claims that she ate her victim:

"Nonsense."

The singular retort was filed last week in state District Court by attorneys Gary Mitchell and Monica Baca in response to prosecutors' claims that she might have resorted to cannibalism to dispose of the body.

"During the course of the case's investigation, it was reported by more than one individual that the defendant had made statements that she had actually consumed the flesh of Girly Chew Hossencofft and that as a consequence her remains and body would never be recovered by authorities," prosecutors stated in a sentencing memorandum filed Dec. 31, 2002.


Henning

Prosecutors also said Henning, 50, was a known devotee of extraterrestrial guru David Icke, who professes the notion that reptilian aliens who live undetected on Earth must drink human blood in order to maintain their human facades.

Testimony indicates that Henning believed in such aliens.

Henning was convicted in October of first-degree murder, kidnapping and eight other charges for the Sept. 9, 1999, disappearance and presumed death of the estranged wife of her lover, Diazien Hossencofft.

A 60-day diagnostic evaluation ordered by state District Judge W. John Brennan has been completed but has not been received by any of the parties in the case. No sentencing date has been set.

Prosecutors are asking that Henning receive the maximum sentence, which would amount to more than 80 years.

Mitchell has steadfastly proclaimed his client's innocence, saying Henning was a generous caretaker, successful businesswoman and devout vegetarian unwittingly used by Diazien Hossencofft as his alibi on the night he and co-defendant Bill Miller killed Hossencofft's wife.

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