

GREATER TORONTO

Murder plotted in diaper, court told

Millionaire was in sex fantasy garb when they met, 'hit man' testifies

PETER SMALL
COURTS BUREAU

A wealthy businessman was dressed in a diaper or sumo wrestler's garb for sexual role-playing with his dominatrix mistress while plotting the murder of his wife, the "hit man" he hired says.

Alexander Petraitis appeared to have just finished a sado-masochistic or domination sex game with his mistress, Sandra Lynn Rinella, when he answered the door of her Scarborough apartment in what may have been a diaper to discuss the killing, Kerry Bob Anderson testified Monday.

Anderson told Ontario Superior Court he hid a tape recorder in his sock to secretly record the conver-



Sandra Rinella, left, and Alexander Petraitis are charged with conspiracy and criminal counselling in an alleged plot to have Petraitis's wife slain.

sation at the January 2004 meeting. The tape was played in court.

"I'm just going to grab her. I've got a way of putting a person in a sleeper and breaking her neck in a sec-

ond," Anderson was heard saying.

"All right," Petraitis replied. "But the question is if you come in and grab her . . . I've obviously got to try and attack you and beat you up."

Petraitis, 68, former chairman of magazine wholesaler Metro News, and Rinella, 47, are jointly charged with conspiracy and counselling to commit murder between September 2003 and January 2004.

Anderson testified he extracted more than \$100,000 from Petraitis to carry out the murder, but never intended to follow through.

He said he recorded the conversations to protect himself.

But he later planned to extort \$1 million and a Hummer from Petraitis by threatening to send the tapes to the millionaire's wife, Kirsten Petraitis, he said.

In his cross-examination, Rinella's lawyer, Joseph Neuberger, suggested Petraitis and his mistress were fantasy role-playing rather than really planning a murder.

"What you understand is that sometimes people who are quite wealthy, they just do things for excitement or a thrill?" he said.

"That's right," Anderson replied.

Anderson agreed that when he arrived at Rinella's apartment to secretly tape the three-way conversation, Petraitis answered the door in what appeared to be a diaper or sumo wrestler's garb. He said it could also have been a toga.

"The fantasy or role-playing relationship that he had with my client was part of his relief for boredom?" Neuberger suggested.

"That's right," Anderson replied.

He agreed that Rinella played along with Petraitis's fantasies to support herself and her "raging cocaine addiction."

Anderson also agreed with Neuberger that he testified at a preliminary hearing that the case was crazy because two people were on trial "for a murder they didn't want to commit."

"That's not how I feel today," he said Monday.

The trial continues Tuesday.