

Witness admits plan was 'crazy'

MURDER FOR HIRE

Preliminary testimony contradicted

BY SHANNON KARI

The purported "hit man" in an alleged plot to kill the wife of a wealthy Toronto businessman admitted yesterday that he previously testified it was "crazy" to believe a murder plan existed.

Kerry Bob Anderson was confronted with his contradictory statements as the cross-examination of the star witness at the trial of Alexander Petraitis and Sandra Rinella began yesterday in Ontario Superior Court.

At the preliminary hearing of the defendants in 2005, Mr. Anderson stated that he found it "funny" that two people were on trial for conspiracy to commit murder, when they did not want to kill anyone.

"I'll agree I said that at the time," answered Mr. Anderson, when cross-examined by Joseph Neuberger, who represents Ms. Rinella.

"Do you think this is all funny?" pressed Mr. Neuberger.

"I know it is a serious case. That is not how I feel today," said the witness, in an attempt to explain his evidence.

The contradictions prompted Superior Court Justice Rob Clark to provide a complex explanation of the use of testimony from preliminary hearings. The explanation led to puzzled looks on the faces of some jurors.

Mr. Anderson testified last week that he believed there was a murder plot.

He was first approached in August 2003 by Ms. Rinella, his former common-law partner, who was a dominatrix and counted Mr. Petraitis as one of her clients.

The witness stated that they wanted him to kill Kirsten Petraitis, who had been married for nearly 40 years to the multi-millionaire businessman (they have since divorced).

Mr. Anderson received nearly \$100,000 and testified that he intended to ask for \$1-million. But he stressed that he never planned to kill Ms. Petraitis.

To protect his own interests, Mr. Anderson surreptitiously taped some of his meetings with the defendants.

Mr. Petraitis and Ms. Rinella appeared to have just finished a dominatrix session on one occasion, said Mr. Anderson,



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Sandra Rinella, a former dominatrix, is charged along with Alexander Petraitis with hiring a hit man as part of a plan to kill Petraitis's then-wife of 40 years, Kirsten Petraitis.

when he met them at her Scarborough apartment. Mr. Petraitis was dressed in what looked like a "diaper" or the bottom part of a sumo wrestler's outfit, the witness noted.

The recording of that meeting was played yesterday and the defendants appear to be talking about a murder plot in their discussions with Mr.

Anderson.

"You know, you got to kind of tie me up and throw me in a closet," Mr. Petraitis is heard on the recording, about a plan to make it look like a home invasion and abduction.

The cross-examination resumes today.

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