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Police describe evidence found in defendant's home

Comments
 May 05, 2010 7:47 PM

By SANFORD J. SCHMIDT

The Telegraph
EDWARDSVILLE - A detective testified Wednesday how he and other officers tracked down sexual assault suspect Meanith Huon by tracing a call the alleged victim made to his cell phone.

Huon, 40, a Chicago lawyer, is on trial in Madison County Circuit Court, where he faces two counts of criminal sexual assault. The trial began Tuesday.

Sgt. Dave Vucich of the Madison County Sheriff's Department said he obtained the phone number from the victim, who said she had called him to set up a job interview.

The Sheriff's Department obtained cell phone coordinates from the cell phone company records, and from those obtained the name and address of the owner.

The Chicago Police Department then put the home under surveillance and obtained the name Meanith Huon from a package delivered to his door.

The Sheriff's Department then obtained a search warrant and went to the home, along with several other officers, and placed Huon under arrest.

Vucich said that, while conducting a search of the Chicago home, he dialed the cell phone number and heard a buzzing sound coming from a closet. He went to the closet and found the phone, the alleged victim's purse, her shoes and some personal effects.

The woman had testified that she left the items in Huon's car the night of the alleged assault in late June 2008.

Defense attorneys continued Tuesday and Wednesday to question witnesses about what they call "glaring inconsistencies" between the alleged victim's testimony and what she told police.

Attorneys Michael J. Mettes and N. Scott Rosenblum questioned the woman and police about whether she was completely truthful about how much she had to drink that night. They also quizzed her about the fact that she spent some five hours with the defendant in various bars during what was said to be a job interview and other details that contrasted with police reports or were not mentioned.

Rosenblum characterized the encounter as "a thorough night of bar-hopping."

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the woman testified she went along with Huon's suggestions to go to several bars in order of meeting co-workers and because she needed the work.

Mettes said in his opening statement that the encounter was "consensual sex." He claimed that the event became social in nature, and the alleged victim tried to extort money from his client.

He told jurors that the woman tried to extort \$500 from Huon, but he refused, and she said she was going to "cry rape" to get back at him.

The woman firmly denied having consented to sexual activity and broke down crying both during direct testimony and during a lengthy cross-examination Tuesday afternoon.

The defense attorneys also questioned the woman's claim that her cell phone ran out of power during the night. They claim she made that up to explain away the fact that she never called for help until after she jumped out of Huon's car near New Douglas.

The victim, 28, formerly of Carlinville, claimed she was sexually assaulted while in a car being driven by Huon up Interstate 55 between Sauget and Staunton in late June 2008.

She said she met Huon in hopes of getting work as a representative in a promotional campaign for a tavern in downtown St. Louis.

The alleged victim testified that she often works in promotions for various products, such as soft drinks and cell phones. She obtains the jobs by using the Craig's List website, and she responded to a call she received from someone who called himself "John" but later turned out to be Huon.

She said she met Huon at a bar in downtown St. Louis to discuss a job, but they ended up going to several bars and having drinks. Huon ordered and paid for the drinks, the alleged victim said.

He missed the turn off I-55 at Sauget and soon began to grope her, she said. His demeanor changed from friendly to demanding, the victim said.

Eventually, he performed what the lawyers call "digital penetration" on her and forced her head into his lap, forcing her to perform a sex act, she claimed.

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cynthiamellis Been a long day, but I got a lot done :) It's back to work 2moro, but I'm looking forward to the work week

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maddladd

10:13 PM on May 5, 2010

Score: 0

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"digital penetration"??? sounds like someone's reaching.. this whole story has appeared from the beginning like a Craigslist encounter that turned into extortion..and then of course a Rape accusation.. Come On Guys.. keep it in your pants.. every casual act u have can turn into an accusation weather it was consensual or not.. especially if u have money, power or anything that can be gained from doing so.. and apparently there's a new way to harm someone.. "digital penetration" this should be defined like being a sexual video game..possibly for the WI and not for a court of law.. the case should be settled .. NOT GUILTY .. as long as this stupid digital penetration is being used..



cvillenative

8:34 AM on May 6, 2010

Score: 0

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You do realize "digital" refers to the fingers, as in digits?



verbose

8:41 AM on May 6, 2010

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If her cell phone "ran out of power" during the night as she claims, how did it ring when detectives called it as they were searching Huon's home?



boogiestu

9:32 AM on May 6, 2010

Score: 0

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Wait....FINGERS ARE DIGITS?!?! OMG!!!



fishaholic

11:30 AM on May 6, 2010

Score: 0

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it wasn't her phone that rang while they were searching verbose, it was his, must have been a pre-paid phone since they couldn't get a name from the phone company. what i am wrestling with in this whole "story" she is giving is the fact that this guy did this, and/or forced her to do, all while driving 70 MPH down the freeway? he must be a heck of a driver, or she must not have fought against him, i mean simply crossing her legs would have made things difficult enough to "digitally penetrate" that the guy would have had a hard time driving, then when you throw the hands fighting back into the equation, i will have to say she is a liar and should be criminally charged, as well as sued by this huon guy.



fishaholic

11:42 AM on May 6, 2010

Score: 0

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i think she did it all willingly to obtain a fictitious job and then when he informed her that the job didn't exist she got mad and made this big stink about rape to get back at him. they are both equally guilty of being idiots at this point, but i think in the end she is going to be the bigger idiot. i mean this is equal to a prostitute having consensual sex for money and then crying rape when he doesn't pay.... it's not rape if he don't pay..... that's the risk one takes in that trade. this is just my opinion



mommy2raydom

1:47 PM on May 6, 2010

Score: 0

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this is too ridiculous Y do women meet strange men n get n cars with them! she's grown n shoulda knew better! He should still b punished



johnbender

1:38 AM on May 7, 2010

Score: 0

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There's no victim here. Just a non too bright gold digger whose story didn't hold water in court, and the jury saw through it.

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