

Manslaughter verdict reached in smothering

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ly members muttered comments to each other, while others wept.

FARMINGTON HILLS Det. Sgt. Charles Nebus, who testified in the first half-day session of the trial Monday, also was disappointed with the verdict. "I don't feel it was accidental. It (the killing) might have been in the heat of the moment, but it was not accidental. You don't accidentally smother someone."

Throughout the four-month investigation that led to Doll's arrest May 28, 1991, Nebus said Doll was given every opportunity to tell police the death was accidental, which he never did.

Doll "deliberately lied to police" and hid Albert's body in his house on Warner in Detroit for 53 days before dumping her body on Goldsmith, where neighbors found her, Nebus said. "Maybe the judge will make an appropriate punishment to fit the circumstances of what happened."

In the first half-day session Monday, Nebus and other Farmington Hills detectives as well as a Livonia police officer and patrons from the Toy Box Bar on Six Mile and Telegraph in Detroit, where Albert was last seen alive, testified.

The trial resumed Tuesday for about an hour during which the last prosecution witness, Farmington Hills Det. David Loe, testified. Defense attorney O'Connell offered no witnesses.

Loe told the court that Doll's stories of what happened to Albert changed almost everytime he was interviewed by police. "They would change when I would tell him I had

evidence that would contradict his story," Loe testified.

Albert's father, Ronald Bekkala of Livonia, reported his daughter missing Dec. 31, 1990. She was smothered to death Dec. 15 and her body was found Feb. 7 about 40-50 feet west of Goldsmith, according to testimony.

IN A STATEMENT from Doll — taken by a Detroit police officer and read aloud in court by Loe — Doll said he saw Albert at the Toy Box Bar the evening of Dec. 15. He escorted Albert out of the bar because the management had banned her because she had previously thrown a drink at a waitress.

Once out in the parking lot Albert attacked him. "She came at me with a pair of scissors and hit me in the hip and cheek." He then saw Albert walk toward Six Mile as he returned to the bar, according to the statement.

When he went home later that night, he found Albert without keys and waiting for him on the front porch of his house on Warner.

"Kristine went off again. She started to yell at me, screaming at me. She tried to hit me in the face," Doll said in the statement. He then threw her on his bed in the bedroom. "I put my hand over her mouth to shut her up."

After she calmed down, Doll apparently went into the living room and about 10 minutes later Albert returned with a baseball bat and tried to hit him. Again he took her into the bedroom, threw her on the bed and held his hand over her mouth, according to the statement.

Doll said he left Albert in the bedroom when she calmed down and re-

turned to the living room. He later returned to the bedroom and layed down on the bed next to Albert, hugging her, and fell asleep. "She was always a heavy sleeper after a drunk," Doll said in the statement.

LOE TESTIFIED that Doll told him that when he awoke the next morning, Dec. 16, Albert was still asleep. He left the house and returned to the Toy Box Bar to replace a window. When he returned home, Albert hadn't awakened. "I realized she wasn't breathing and I panicked," Doll said in the statement.

He told the Detroit police officer who took his statement that he put his hand over Albert's mouth about 2-3 minutes on two separate occasions that evening. "I didn't mean to (hurt Albert). I only put my hand over her mouth because she kept biting at me," Doll said.

Loe testified that Doll told him he felt Albert's body, which was still warm, and took her pulse. "At that time, he indicated he left her in bed until the night before the body was found (Feb. 7)," Loe said.

The Farmington Hills detective also testified that Doll offered various versions of why he left Albert's body in his bed. In one version, Doll said, "that he couldn't live that way," Loe said.

In another version, Doll told Loe he knew he was going to be evicted from his rented house on Warner. "He admitted he had to move the body to avoid being discovered."

In the statement, Doll said he carried Albert's body outside and put it in the backseat of his car. "I drove to this place where I used to play golf when I was younger."

Councilman helps with study

Farmington Hills councilman Ben Marks was part of a year-long National League of Cities effort that resulted in new policy initiatives to address environmental issues facing cities.

Recommendations calling on the federal government to share in meeting the costs of environmental mandates, such as managing pollution caused by stormwater runoff, were approved by the league's membership when the 1991 Congress of Cities concluded its work in late December.

Also approved were recommendations that call on Washington to clarify federal wetlands policies and to assist municipal recycling efforts by developing markets for hazardous waste disposal sites.

"We are taking the lead in encouraging people to reduce the volume of solid waste, but we cannot realize the full potential of recycling without a national effort to develop markets for the recycled materials," Marks said. He served on the league's energy, environment and natural resources steering committee.

Another call for clarification and participation at the federal level focused on the question of municipal liability for hazardous waste disposal sites.

The prospect of having to finance the costs of massive cleanups solely at the local level is both "frightening and unfair," Marks said. "It is clear that our citizens want a clean and safe environment, and it is just as clear that they believe, as we do, that Washington has to help do the job."

Teacher pleads guilty

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"Everything she saw was indicative of a man urinating and not of a man masturbating," Herschfus said of the victim. "Obviously we will seek my client's vindication (and) regain his once-sterling reputation."

Scheer's quest for vindication ended at his pre-trial examination. Herschfus asked the prosecutor to accept a plea of guilty to urinating in public, a move the prosecution denied.

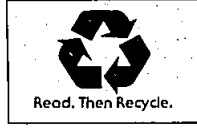
"We wouldn't accept that because there was an audience," said town-


ship police Det. Michael Wildt. "He was at Hines Park in the middle of the afternoon standing by a waterfall and staring at a girl painting a picture."

The defense next offered to plead guilty to disorderly conduct without mention of the indecent exposure charge, Wildt said. That request also was rejected and Scheer pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct/indecent exposure.

North Farmington High School suspended Scheer with pay after hearing of the charges. A declanon on Scheer's employment was due after

resolution of criminal charges and after completion of an internal investigation. School officials did not return a reporter's telephone calls by deadline.





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