



Damion Linton, 25, appeared with his lawyer, David Twohig, at his arraignment yesterday in Cambridge District Court. He pleaded not guilty to charges he strangled his wife, Andrea Harvey. (Globe Photo / Jodi Hilton)

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The Boston Globe

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Cambridge man charged with murdering his wife

Teacher's body found in home

By John Ellement, Globe Staff | March 3, 2005

CAMBRIDGE -- Authorities alleged in court yesterday that Andrea Harvey, a popular East Boston High School math teacher, was strangled by her husband last week after she encountered a woman he had been secretly dating for the past four weeks.

ADVERTISEMENT The woman would come to the Cambridge apartment he shared with his wife for early morning rendezvous while Harvey was at work and he would buzz her in, Middlesex Assistant District Attorney John C. Verner said in court yesterday.

But last week was school vacation, and Harvey was home Wednesday morning when the woman arrived. Instead of buzzing her in, Damion O. Linton went outside to meet her, Verner said.

As the couple sat in her car talking, the woman said, Harvey came out of the building and demanded that Linton hand over her cellphone, which he had taken with him, according to Verner.

Sometime before 1 p.m. authorities allege, Linton strangled Harvey inside their apartment.

Linton pleaded not guilty yesterday to first-degree murder at his arraignment in Cambridge District Court and was ordered held without bail by District Court Judge George Sprague. Outside the courthouse, David G. Twohig, Linton's court-appointed lawyer, said he has not begun his investigation and could not yet answer the prosecutor's allegations. "He denies killing his wife," Twohig said.

Linton was arrested Saturday in North Carolina, where his brother lives. Sunday night he called the woman, who was not identified in court or in court records, and told her he was being wrongly held because "his wife had committed suicide," Verner said in court. She called authorities and told them about her relationship with Linton, Verner said.

As Harvey's parents, Cedric and Shirley Harvey, watched their son-in-law being arraigned yesterday, Verner outlined what he called lies Linton told in the days after the slaying, contradictions that began in

a mid-morning telephone conversation Linton had with Harvey's parents last Thursday, a conversation that led the parents to check on their daughter's well-being later that day.

Linton first told Shirley Harvey that he had left Cambridge at 8 a.m. Wednesday and that his wife was at home, Verner said, but when Shirley Harvey handed the phone to her husband, he got a different story. Linton told Cedric Harvey that he left at 10 a.m. and that Harvey was not home, according to Verner.

Going to Harvey's apartment later, her parents borrowed a key from the building manager so they could get inside her locked apartment. When they entered, the parents found their daughter's body, Verner said. They placed a 911 call to police around 2 p.m.

Shirley Harvey last saw her daughter when the two went for a walk Tuesday night. Shirley called her later, at 10 p.m. "That was the last time she spoke with her daughter," Verner said.

The two were supposed to get together for another walk Wednesday, but the mother was tired and decided not to go.

Linton told a State Police detective he argued with his wife Tuesday night, according to court records, and when he woke up Wednesday around 8 a.m., she was gone. "He left the apartment on Wednesday because . . . Andrea was kicking him out," according to the police report.

Linton gave his occupation as a mover. The police report said he had been employed "only sporadically" during the 13 months of his marriage to Harvey. Linton came to the United States 18 months ago from Jamaica, but the two had met before his arrival. There were no known prior episodes of violence between them, according to authorities.

Andrea Harvey's parents left the court yesterday without speaking to reporters. In a statement released following the teacher's slaying, her family described her as a woman of accomplishment who had nearly completed her second master's degree, with a concentration on teaching math, at Harvard Extension school, complementing her master's in education from Simmons College. She was also musically inclined, with a fondness for the viola, and played with various artists, including Chances, a local Cambridge reggae band.

Yesterday, friends and staff from East Boston High School attended the arraignment. One family friend, Aenis Harris, spoke outside the courthouse. "She was a very beautiful, smart, young woman," Harris said of Harvey. "It is very sad what happened to her."

Linton is due back in court on March 30.

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