

Hans Reiser Stumbles on Witness Stand; Defense Attorney Cuts Bait

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Linux guru Hans Reiser took the witness stand for the fifth day at his murder trial here Tuesday and immediately decried the police as law breakers who will do anything to get a conviction, including the planting of evidence.

The open source programmer also testified he suspected the "Russian mafia" was tailing him before he was arrested Oct. 10, 2006. And he said his DNA found on a pillar in the house where his wife was last seen could have gotten there decades ago when he stubbed his toe in the house he grew up in, and where he moved to after he and his wife separated.

Reiser, 44, is accused of killing Nina Reiser -- his wife who was divorcing him -- on Sept. 3, 2006. She vanished after dropping off the estranged couple's two small children for the Labor Day weekend at her husband's residence in the Oakland hills.

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