

Private investigator baffled by bow-and-arrow attack

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Shooting a bow and arrow. It's an activity that takes place all the time in the woods during hunting season. But what do you make of it when it happens at night, smack-dab in the middle of the city? Anthony Hodge, a private investigator who resides on the East Side, is struggling to answer that question.

Hodge says on Oct. 24 about 9 p.m., he and his girlfriend Kim Howard were in his home at 3446 E. Deshler Ave. watching the Cleveland Indians play the Atlanta Braves on television when a car pulled up in his driveway. Hodge looked out of the large picture window in his living room and noticed an orange-red, mid-sized sports car sitting in the driveway. Suddenly, the driver of the car shot a deer-hunting arrow through the picture window.

"It was aimed directly at me," said Hodge.

Hodge shielded Howard with his body as the arrow came through the window. The arrow left

a hole, four inches in diameter, in the plexiglass picture window and became lodged in an antique chest-of-drawers, a family heirloom, down the hall from the living room. Hodge said weather-protection plastic over the window stopped the arrow from striking him.

"It kind of shocked us both. We hit the lights. I dialed 911 but I handed the phone to (Howard) to tell (the police) what was going on. I grabbed my revolver and went after the car in the driveway, said Hodge.

Hodge tried to get the license plate number of the vehicle but it sped away too fast. Columbus police are trying to match up fingerprints off the vinyl feathers of the arrow with ex-cons. Hodge is offering a \$500 cash or merchandise reward for information leading to an arrest or conviction. To call in a tip, contact ATH Hodge Investigations at 231-5595.

Hodge believes the attempted bow-and-arrow attack might have been racially motivated. When the attack occurred, he had just gotten

back from the Million Man March and had recently gotten racist threats. "To get these sort of threats that are racially motivated, it doesn't make you feel too good. Having been a private investigator for 20 years, I've had things like that happen before," said Hodge.

Hodge has been able to keep his sense of humor despite the attack and the threats he's received. "If it was a hundred years ago, I would have thought it was an Indian uprising. Maybe someone was watching the Indians and the Braves play. Maybe they knew I was a Sagittarius (the astrology sign that is symbolized by a hunter with a bow and arrow)," Hodge said jokingly.

Hodge, who is part Cherokee and Indian as well as African-American, has also speculated if his Native American ancestry had anything to do with the attack. Is it possible someone was playing a practical joke shooting an arrow at Hodge, knowing he's part Indian? "I thought about it," said Hodge, "but I doubt it."