

## Miss Haysom, boyfriend described as free spirits

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of writers

Elizabeth Haysom and her boyfriend, Jens Soering, traveled extensively after they left the University of Virginia in Charlottesville last fall, according to their attorney.

Keith Barker of London has reported the pair since their arrest. "They've traveled widely, it's plain." A police investigator says they may have gone as far as Bangkok, Thailand.

Barker said they had been living in London "for some time," but did not hold jobs.

Some of their classmates at the university, where the couple studied on scholarships, said Thursday they weren't surprised when Miss Haysom left town last October.

"She wasn't unhappy, she was restless," said Eric Engels, a fourth-year student who dated Miss Haysom before she began going with Soering. "They were both loners, independent spirits."

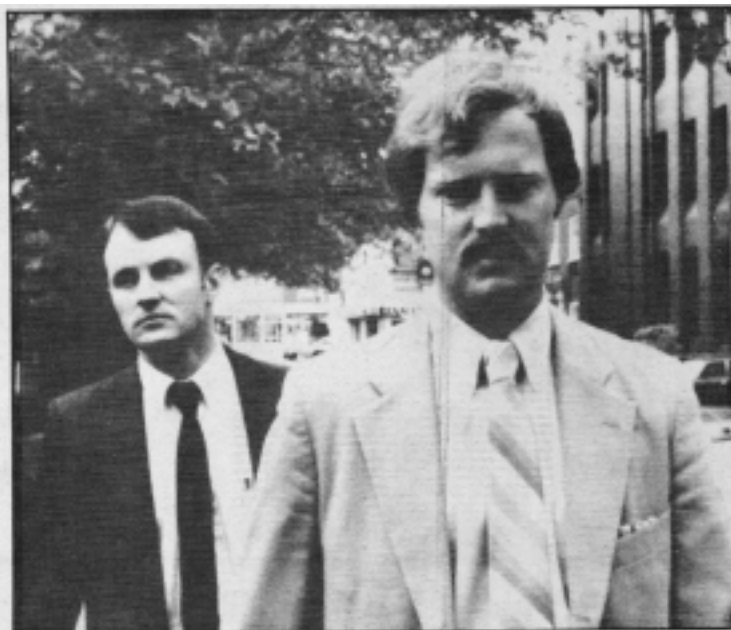
Both came to UVa from exclusive private schools. Miss Haysom attended boarding school in England, and Soering graduated from the Lovett School in Atlanta, Ga.

Miss Haysom, 22, is the only child from the marriage of Derek and Nancy Haysom, who had five older children from previous marriages.

A college friend said Thursday there was a communication gap between Miss Haysom and her parents, who were 72 and 53.

"There were a lot of generational problems, but nothing unusual."

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AP photo

Bedford Investigator Ricky Gardner, left, and Commonwealth's Attorney James Updike arrive in London court

### ★ Couple

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She dressed kind of punky, and they didn't understand it."

Miss Haysom had planned to enroll at UVa in 1983. However, she failed to return from a trip to Europe after her graduation from the British boarding school that summer. Her parents located her in November in West Germany, a family friend said.

After Miss Haysom returned to her parents' Lynchburg home, she took typing and computer courses at Phillips Business College before entering UVa in fall 1984.

"She was a very satisfactory student while she was here," recalled Eunice Hall, director emerita of Phillips.

Julian Haysom of Halifax, Nova Scotia, said his half sister "was an avid reader, she worked very hard. She was always slaving away at school and the university. She had an interest in music."

Haysom wasn't acquainted with his sister's boyfriend, Jens Soering, before his parents' death.

"I met him very briefly at the funeral."

Soering, 19, attended UVa on a prestigious Jefferson scholarship. In high school, Soering graduated with highest honors despite a grueling academic load that included six advanced placement courses in his senior year, according to a Lovett School spokesman.

He was editor of the school's newspaper, Lion-O-Type, and later wrote editorials for the University Journal, a UVa student newspaper.

Eric Engels said the couple became intensely involved soon after they started dating in the spring of 1985. He called them "inseparable."

Julian Haysom said he was surprised Bedford authorities have traveled to England to question his sister about their parents' killing. He said he believes Miss Haysom, who has not been named as a suspect, had nothing to do with their deaths.

"I'm certain, in the end, they'll show there's no connection whatsoever."

Staff writer Steven Zwarg also contributed to this story.