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OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER OF HARRIS COUNTY
JOSEPH A. JACHIMCZYK FORENSIC CENTER
1685 OLD SPANISH TRAIL
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77054-2096

AUTOPSY REPORT

CC 99 - 2

January 3, 1999

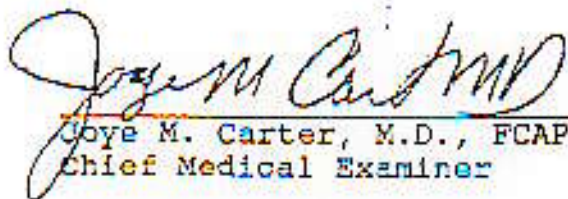
ON THE BODY OF

Melissa Trotter
7201 F.M. 3081
Willis, Texas

CAUSE OF DEATH: Asphyxia due to ligature
strangulation.

MANNER OF DEATH: Homicide.

Reviewed and signed by:

 11 Jan 99
Joye M. Carter, M.D., FCAP Date
Chief Medical Examiner

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POSTMORTEM EXAMINATION ON THE BODY OF

Melissa Trotter
7201 F.M. 3081
Willis, Texas

HISTORY: The body of an unidentified Caucasian female, subsequently identified as that of 19 year old Melissa Trotter, was found January 2, 1999, in the National Forest of Montgomery County, Texas. The body was received at the Harris County Medical Examiners Office for postmortem examination and identification. The sealed body bag was opened at 12:35 p.m. on January 3, 1999, by Mr. Reynolds, Harris County Medical Examiner's Forensic Scientist, in the presence of Dr. Joye M. Carter, Chief Medical Examiner. Prior to autopsy examination, trace evidence was collected and the missing persons report filed on behalf of Melissa Trotter was reviewed, dental records of Melissa Trotter were reviewed, and medical records of Melissa Trotter were reviewed. Total body X-rays were obtained and reviewed. A sexual assault kit was performed.

IN ATTENDANCE AT THE AUTOPSY: Mr. David Tanner and Detective Brian M. DuBose, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office; Mr. Mike McDougal, District Attorney's Office, Montgomery County; Dr. DeLattre and Dr. Stimson; Autopsy Assistant, Mr. Michael Jones; and Forensic Photographer, Ms. Marlene Suarez.

AUTOPSY: The autopsy was performed in the Joseph A. Jachimczyk Forensic Center of Harris County by Chief Medical Examiner Joye M. Carter, M.D., at the request and upon the written authorization of The Honorable John R. Kleimann, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Montgomery County, Texas, beginning at 2:15 p.m., on January 3, 1999.

CLOTHING: The body was received clad in blue denim jeans, white socks, one black and white gym shoe on the left foot. The sole of the gym shoe, with treads, was clean with minimal debris noted. There was no caked mud or grass observed on the bottom of the shoe. On the top of the body was a green, long-sleeved, oversweater which zipped in front with burgundy and white stripes at the elbows. Beneath this sweater was a long-sleeved black sweater and a bra which had been pushed up over the breasts. Beneath the blue denim jeans were red underpants. No personal effects were received with the body. Prior to examination, fingernail scrapings were performed and fingerprints were taken. During fingerprinting, the skin and nails of the right hand removed in a glove formation secondary to decomposition. The outer green sweater and black sweater underneath were cut open with evidence tape along the cut edges marked for further examination. The body was then undressed for further examination. Removed from the front

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right pocket was a piece of lined paper with the number 409-524-3008 and the name "Nicole" handwritten. This information was retrieved for evidence collection. The socks were removed by cutting and removal from the feet which revealed an unusual patterned red and green nail polish. The denim jeans were cut in the front to ease removal. The cut edges were marked with "HC" (Harris County) in red permanent ink. Upon removal, the denim jeans label on the inside read size 5, tapered leg, slim fit, medium length, Number 10912 Levi's. The rear pockets of the jeans contained no paper or other objects. The right rear pocket area was remarkable for an irregular rip which was 11 by 6 by 5-1/2 inches, encompassing the right rear pocket. The long-sleeved black sweater's inside label read "Sweater Exchange, 100% cotton, size small." The overtop, which was green and long sleeved, had an inside label which read "Energie, size medium." The undergarments consisted of a white bra which was fastened in the back; and red, thong-type underpants. The inside label of the bra read "Fruit of the Loom, size 36B." The inside label of the underpants read "size 6."

EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL INTERVENTION: None.

EXTERNAL APPEARANCE: The body received was that of a young Caucasian female whose facial appearance was distorted due to decompositional change characterized by skin slipping, greenish-black discoloration of the facial skin, and marbling of the skin of the legs, arms, chest, and back. The body was damp due to external weather conditions. The body had a length of 63 inches and a weight of 113 pounds with clothes on. The nude body had a weight of 105 pounds. At the time of autopsy examination, rigor had passed and livor was obscured due to decompositional change. The body was cool and damp to the touch. The head was normocephalic and covered by long reddish-brown hair, approximately 12 to 15 inches in length. The scalp hair was slipping due to decompositional change. There were no palpable skull or facial bone fractures. The scalp skin was intact with no evidence of laceration. The ocular globes were liquefied. Iris color was not discernible. The facial skin appeared to have been removed due to decompositional change and postmortem insect and animal activity. Upon reflecting the residual soft tissue around the right eye, rodent teeth impressions were identified. The nasal cartilage was intact. Soft tissue was absent from the nose and midfacial areas. Dentition was natural and in good condition. There were 28 teeth present. The tongue was protruding and dark black in color due to decompositional change. The oral cavity contained fly larvae. The buccal mucosa was not present. The alveolar ridges were not hypertrophic. Both ears were markedly discolored due to decompositional change. There was a single pierced hole of each earlobe. The neck was remarkable for a brown stocking ligature which was tied in the back in a simple knot. There was a 3 by

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