

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOLLOWUP REPORT
2001-014705/10

PROCESSED: BY:

PHOTOS: PRINTS:

ADMINISTRATION

OFFICER1:

OFFICER2:

ROUTE : STATE PROSECUTOR

CLEARANCE :

SUPERVISOR :

NARRATIVE TYPED BY: DUCKETT, MICHELLE

ATTACHMENTS:

RELATED REPORT NUMBERS:

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UNIT:

DATE: 11/01/2001

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UNIT:

EXCEPTION:

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DATE:

ON: 11/02/2001

NARRATIVE

#260658

On 11-01-01 at about 3:30 AM, I met with Jerry Trump who had been brought to the Columbia Police Department regarding this homicide. I had learned that Trump discovered the body of Kent Heitholt.

Trump informed me he is employed at C&S Cleaning (Cunningham and Shelton). They are contracted by the Tribune to do janitorial work at the business. Trump is the manager for the cleaning crew and has worked for the Tribune for about two years.

Trump stated it is not uncommon for Heitholt's car to be parked on the street until 2 or 3 AM for several consecutive nights. Trump states he knows him as he visits with him frequently during the time Heitholt is working late.

Trump stated that on 10-31-01 at 9:30 PM, he arrived at work. He did his cleaning and supervisory duties. He recalls looking at his watch at about 2 AM because he wanted to have a smoke break. He contacted a female subordinate of his named Shawna. They commonly take smoke breaks together. He informed Shawna he was going to go take a smoke break and invited her to go with him. He informed her he would be there shortly and suggested she go ahead. He told her he was going to clean one remaining urinal on the dock level bathroom.

Shawna walked away from Trump and Trump continued cleaning the urinal. A very short time later, which Trump estimated to be under three minutes, Shawna returned. It was apparent to Trump that Shawna was scared. He asked her what was wrong and she said, "Two guys are crouched down behind a car."

Trump further questioned her about the two guys and the vehicle. She described the location and the vehicle to Trump. According to Trump, he is familiar with Heitholt's car and told Shawna, "That's Kent's car."

While they were having this discussion about the two guys crouched down in the parking lot, Trump and Shawna were walking to the dock area that led to the exterior near where the vehicle was parked. When they got to the dock area,



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2001-014705/10

Trump closed the only overhead door that was open and locked it from the inside. He then exited through a walkway door and believed Shawna either stayed inside the building or remained close to the door.

Trump stated he observed someone lying or kneeling on the pavement by the left rear tire of Heitholt's car. This was a tire on the side of the car that was away from Trump. Trump stated that from his position he couldn't tell exactly what that person was doing, but he initially thought that the person was changing a tire. He stated he also thought that person may have been Kent. He stated he yelled Kent's name a couple of times.

Trump stated he became more focused on the scene and realized that there was someone lying on the ground and there was also somebody crouched down by the rear tire. A very short time later, he also noticed a third subject who was crouched down by the front of the car, also on the opposite side. He continued yelling in the direction. At that point, both of the individuals stood up and one of them said, "Someone's hurt over here, man."

Trump stated they were still behind the vehicle, however, they were now standing and he could tell they were both white males and one was taller than the other one.

Trump stated he was a bit concerned for his safety as well as Shawna's at that time, so he went back inside. Shawna was standing near the doorway and he escorted her inside. He then lowered the overhead door. He then went back outside and observed both subjects walking eastbound in an alley up the hill from their previous location, which was where the car was parked.

Trump stated his attention was drawn mostly to the person who was lying beside the car, whom he immediately recognized as Heitholt. He approached the vehicle and observed Heitholt's body to be turned face-down with both of his legs partly under his own car. As Trump approached the victim, he observed that the back of his head was bloody and he believed he saw lacerations. He also observed blood to be puddling and actually running down the slope of the parking lot away from the body.

Trump shouted for Shawna to call 911. She then closed the walk-out door, apparently to retrieve a telephone. At this time, Trump returned to the building, having to key in the door since Shawna had shut it when she went in. He found her nearby talking on the phone. She was panicky and shaking. She handed the phone to him and told him, "They want you to give directions and a location." Trump then got on the phone and began talking to a person he believed to be a dispatcher.

After he made the phone call, Trump went to the sports section to notify the folks up there. He told them he thought there was a problem with the car. Someone told him that Kent had been gone for awhile, and that he probably wasn't on the parking lot. Trump then stated that he was certain Kent was on the parking lot and there was a problem. Trump then observed two subjects literally sprinting down the stairway from the sports section. He

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COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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only knew one of them as Russ. It was apparent to Trump that they were going to aid of Kent.

Trump turned and also walked down the stairs. He did not run and believed he was one to two minutes arriving at the body behind Russ and the unidentified other sports writer. As he was there, at this time he observed that Kent's body had been turned over and was now lying on his back. As he was walking closer, he heard a conversation between Russ and this other unidentified male as to a missing wallet. A short time later, two police officers came in a police car. Trump was transported to the police department a short time after that.


* Trump could not provide a detailed description of either of the individuals. He did describe the person who was crouched down by the driver's front as a white male, and that was about it. He was unsure of the height or weight, but stated as they were walking away he realized that the person who had previously been by the front wheel was shorter than the one who was behind the back wheel.


* He described the person who was crouched down by the back wheel as a white male who was about twenty years of age. He described him as having a full face, stocky build, and was wearing a dark colored cap. He then told me he believed he had dark hair. While verbalizing this description, he backed up on a couple of occasions and told me he now is not sure the cap was dark. He also told me he believed that the cap was pulled back far enough that he could see that the hair was blonde and it was spiked up in the front near the bangs.

BL:md

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS FOR THIS OFFENSE

No Supplementary Reports on file at the time of printing


LIEBHART, BRYAN
REPORTING OFFICER


SUPERVISOR