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"Forensic Opinions reference condition  
of Body Part found in Canal"  
(Adam Walsh)

From: **Phil Mundy**  
Investigator  
State Attorney's Office  
Phone 305-831-6368  
Pager  
Mobil

To: R. Ray —

10/25/83 - SEARCH - PASEBAUGH R.D.

HOFFMAN REPORT

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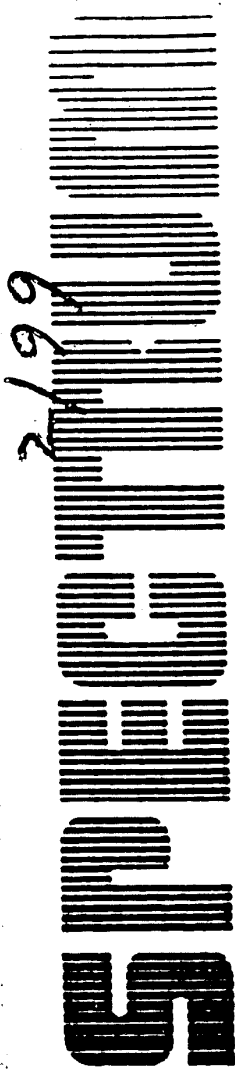
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*D. P. Hughes, J. D.*

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000534

April 20, 1998

To: Chief A.S.A. Ralph J. Ray, Jr.

From: Inv. Phil Mundy

Subj: Pathology Investigation re: Adam Walsh

I finally got hooked up with Dr. William Rodriguez, Medical Examiner, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D. C. regarding the condition of the Adam WALSH remains particularly as to the apparent lack of damage from aquatic life.

As soon as I can I will formalize a investigative memo covering all the aspects of this portion of our investigation but wanted to make you aware of Dr. Rodriguez' comments.

Basically he states that he is not at all surprised at the lack of any evidence of "feeding" or other damage to the remains from marine or crustacean life and that this is not an unusual phenomenon. In fact, he pointed out that forensic investigators are often misled by this causing them to question the time of death in these type cases.

Dr. Rodriguez explains that regardless of how long the head was submerged there often will be no evidence of marine or other aquatic life activity simply because there probably exists an abundance of other dietary life that are fed upon by whatever fish, etc. are present in the water. It's sort of a filet mignon choice as opposed to hamburger.

There are of course many other variables that Dr. Rodriguez mentioned such as the type of life in the water and just how hungry the "feeder" would be at that time. He indicates that in the case of only the head these opinions would be more appropriate than if we were discussing an entire body.

The basic facts of the time the head was in the water and when it was found, the opinions of Dr's. Cox, Davis, and Byrd were provided to Dr. Rodriguez. He concurs that the remains are in a condition consistent with the time period involved. Also, since Dr. Byrd finds no insect activity nor any activity from bird life, particularly crows, this seems to substantiate that the head was on the surface for a short period of time.

As long as I had Dr. Rodriguez I went ahead and provided the account of the body having been left above ground in the wooded area and that the area is populated by a number of carnivorous animals. Dr. Rodriguez believes that under those circumstances the body would be quickly devoured and quite likely removed from it's original site in a very short time, a day or two at most, and that this would be particularly true in the case of a body of the size we have in this case.

I will formalize a memo to the file unless you would like me to make any further inquires on the pathological aspect but I wanted to give you an advance on Dr. Rodriguez' opinion in any case.

I also recently received Det. Larry Hoisington's transcript of a lengthy statement which ties in with the re-investigation of the Radebaugh Road crime scene. That too will be formalized hopefully in the near future.

I know we have agonized over this question of marine life activity, or absence thereof, but to hear Dr. Rodriguez talk it is very common and he was not at all surprised.

000535

I guess sometimes what appears to be the most complexing of puzzles have the simplest of answers.

FEBRUARY 20, 1998

To: Ralph J. Ray, Jr.

From: Phil Mundy

Just wanted you to know that Dr. Jason Byrd called me late Friday afternoon having just got back from San Francisco.

While there he learned of some studies done by North Carolina University. They conducted some experiments using pigs, which are generally accepted as physiologically close to humans. He said they submerged the carcasses in water that would be similar to that found in the Southern states, that is brackish and warm. The results of decomposition after fourteen days resemble the results we have in our situation with the Walsh remains, particularly regarding the skin slippage.

Dr. Byrd said he would try and consult with an marine biologist on campus regarding marine life activity on the remains. He offers that from past experience we will probably be told that there is no set rule. Sometimes they will feed on something, and other times not. But he will inquire and either include it in a report he will send to us or provide us with a marine biologist name for us to contact.

He is going to send us an all encompassing report but he did mention he had some catching up to do so I don't think we will see the report in the very near future.

How was Mt. Dora?



**MICHAEL J. SATZ**  
**STATE ATTORNEY**  
SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
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PHONE (954) 831-6955

January 27, 1998

Dr. Jason Byrd  
Department of Entomology  
University of Florida  
Bldg. 970, Hull Road  
P. O. BOX 110620  
Gainesville, Fl. 32611-0620

Dear Dr. Byrd:

The below listed items are enclosed for your examination as we discussed in regard to the Adam Walsh murder investigation.

1. Photographs #1 thru 11 and notes of crime scene at Florida Turnpike m.m 130.
2. Autopsy photographs # 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, & 7 and notes.
3. Copy of autopsy report of Dr. Franklin Cox, Indian River Co. M.E.
4. Copy of Spectrum Laboratories report of August 1981.

Item 1 consists of copies of the original photographs. The original photographs are of about the same quality as of those we are enclosing.

After you have completed your examination please return the enclosed items addressed directly to me. If there are any aspects of the case you would like to discuss you may reach me at 954-831-6368.

Our office appreciates and thanks you for your efforts in this matter.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Mundy  
Investigator

cc: Chief, A.S.A. Ralph J. Ray, Jr. ✓

000538

From: Phil Mundy

JAN. 15, '98

To: Ralph Ray, Jr.

Just an informal update.

On Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> I spoke to Dr. Franklin Cox who is now retired. He candidly qualified his remarks that he was not a forensic pathologist and would certainly defer to the opinions of Dr's. Wright and J. Davis.

When asked about the apparent lack of any facial damage from insect, fish, fowl or animal he responded that he honestly never considered the question.

He said a severed head would of course remain submerged longer than an entire body but could not give any time estimates.

When asked about the condition of the brain he explained that the brain would reach it's liquified condition anywhere from several days to a few weeks but that there of course are many variables.

We did discuss a range of other topics regarding the case but nothing new emerged.

I called Wayne LORD at Quantico and he referred me to Dr. FALSETTI. I am attaching my notes as he referred me to Dr. BYRD who also recommends consult with Dr. BASS.

Det. HOISINGTON called me and is arranging to clear it to come in for statement. Hopefully next week.

Eventually I will memo the Radebaugh Road re-investigation, i.e. HOISINGTON, Howard Howe, FHP troopers, etc. as well as what may come of the forensic investigation ref: BYRD/BASS.

I will try to duplicate the photos needed by BYRD and eventually BASS. If they are of a good quality we should be able to mail them. If not I will get back with you for consult.



BYRD, Jason  
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352-392-1901

Dr. Byrd was recommended by Dr. Tony FALSETTI who has done work on this case.

Dr. Byrd was contacted by telephone on Jan. 15, 1998 and the question was put to him as to what explanation there could be for the lack of any sign of insect activity on or in the remains of Adam WALSH.

Dr. Byrd advised that he would have to examine the photos that we have but generally speaking he would expect to find some activity as early as 20 minutes after exposure and certainly after 24 hours. The problem in this situation is not knowing when the head surfaced.

Dr. Byrd indicated that if he could examine the photos, despite their not being of the best quality, he might detect something, particularly in the hair and in the brain. Also all the medical reports and the report on the analysis of the water would be helpful.

Dr. Byrd advised that if given notice he could do this within a day and then render a written report. I explained that I would try and copy the photos but if they did not duplicate satisfactorily we might require a hand to hand delivery of the photos since they are the originals and of course evidence.

It was also suggested that I contact Bill Bass who is an anthropologist who was associated with the University of Tennessee and is considered an expert in human decomposition studies. Dr. Byrd believes that Dr. Bass, who is now retired, would be helpful since he has done many studies using human bodies and would be the person to render an opinion regarding the condition of the remains. Although retired Dr. Bass still performs studies and apparently maintains an office with the university.

Attempted to contact Dr. Bass but he is out of town until Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> so a message was left requesting he call me.

INCIDENT REPORT  
POLICE DEPARTMENT - HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

Incident Number: 81-56073  
Sod: DB Badge: 1163

Date: 03/03/97  
Entered by: 0717

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ON 1/30/97 THIS DETECTIVE RESPONDED TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE AND RETRIEVED THE REMAINS OF THE VICTIM TO BE TRANSPORTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA FOR THE PURPOSE OF TOOL IMPRESSION EXAMINATION OF THE SKULL AND SHARP INSTRUMENTS ACQUIRED THROUGHOUT THIS INVESTIGATION.

THIS DETECTIVE ARRIVED AT THE SPECIAL PROJECTS BUILDING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ON 1/31/97 AT 8:30 AM, WHERE CONTACT WAS MADE WITH FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGIST, DOCTORS ANTHONY FALSETTI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA AND STEVE SYMES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE. THIS DETECTIVE BRIEFED THE DOCTORS, AS WELL AS ASSISTANTS ~~TS~~ KENDRA SMITH AND MICHAEL WARREN, PRIOR TO THE ANALYSIS. THE REMAINS AND INSTRUMENTS WERE LEFT IN THE CUSTODY OF FALSETTI TO COMPLETE THE ANALYSIS AND WILL BE PICKED UP WHEN DONE.