

AUTOPSY REPORT

TOWNSEND, LAUREN DAWN
JCCO #99-047
Page 1

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSES

1. Penetrating shotgun (pellet) wound to the trunk with:
 - a. Entrance, lower chest.
 - b. Recovery of pellets (2 in number), spine at the level of the third thoracic vertebral body and subcutaneous tissue of the left back.
 - c. Fractures of the lower sternum and spine (as above) without injury to the spinal cord.
 - d. Perforating lacerations of the pericardium, heart and upper lobe of the left lung.
 - e. Associated hemopericardium, hemomediastinum and bilateral hemothoraces.

2. Penetrating gunshot wounds (2 in number, overlapping paths) to the trunk with:
 - a. Entrances, left back.
 - b. Recovery of bullets, right pelvic region.
 - c. Perforating lacerations of the upper and middle lobes of the left lung, left hemidiaphragm, liver, small and large intestines.
 - d. Fracture of the right ilium of the pelvis.
 - e. Associated left hemothorax and hemoperitoneum.

3. Penetrating shotgun (pellet) wound to the head with:
 - a. Entrance, right ear and underlying occipital scalp.
 - b. Recovery of pellet, right mastoid process.
 - c. Fracture of the mastoid process and minimal associated hemorrhage.

4. Perforating gunshot wound to the right lower extremity with:
 - a. Entrance, posterolateral right thigh.
 - b. Exit, anterolateral right thigh.
 - c. Soft tissue injury only.

5. Perforating gunshot wound to the right upper extremity with:
 - a. Entrance, anterolateral right arm.
 - b. Exit, anterior right arm.
 - c. Soft tissue injury only.

6. Perforating gunshot wound to the trunk with:
 - a. Entrance, upper left hip.
 - b. Exit, left medial buttock.
 - c. Soft tissue injury only.

7. Perforating gunshot wound to the trunk with:
 - a. Entrance, lower left hip.
 - b. Exit, left lateral buttock.
 - c. Soft tissue injury only.

Jefferson County Coroner's Office

AUTOPSY REPORT


TOWNSEND, LAUREN DAWN
JCCO #99-047
Page 2

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSES Cont'd:

8. Penetrating gunshot wound to the trunk with:
 - a. Entrance, lower abdomen/pubic region.
 - b. Recovery of bullet, subcutaneous tissue of the lower abdomen/pubic region.
 - c. Soft tissue injury only.
9. Superficial shotgun (pellet) wound to the head with:
 - a. Entrance/exit, top of the head.
 - b. Scalp injury only without fracture of the skull or injury to the brain.
10. Early postmortem decomposition.

OPINION

This 18-year-old female sustained multiple firearm wounds at her high school. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Her death is attributed to multiple visceral lacerations due to multiple gunshot and shotgun wounds to the trunk. Other wounds to the head and extremities were also seen at autopsy. Toxicologic analyses of body fluids obtained at the time of autopsy were negative. In view of the scene and circumstances surrounding the death and autopsy findings, the manner of death is classified as homicide.



Michael J. Dobersen, M.D., Ph.D.
Forensic Pathologist
Coroner/Medical Examiner, Arapahoe County

5/18/79
Date Signed

MJD/kmc