

Ferguson denies killing Heitholt
Columbia Missourian - Columbia, MO, USA

<http://columbiamissourian.com/news/story.php?ID=16618> and
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Testimony of Detective Jeff Nichols, in the trial of Ryan Ferguson, charged with first-degree murder and second-degree robbery in the Daily Tribune sports editor Kent Heitholt's slaying. The trajectory of the blood, Nichols said, suggested that the victim was standing on the driver's side of the car with the door open. The unique stain pattern near the gas cap, he said, suggested a cast-off stain, which is a spatter of blood transferred from a weapon to a surface. The blow to Heitholt's head likely came from a downward motion with some kind of blunt object, he said. The defence's forensic scientist, Ronald Singer, however disagreed with the Nichols' analysis of the blood spatter pattern above the driver's side rear tire. Singer said a cast-off pattern cannot be caused by a downward motion — only by the recoil of a weapon that is already covered with blood.

ABSTRACTS OF RECENT BPA RELATED ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

Basso, W. Review of Principles of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis: Theory and Practice by James, S, Kish, P. and Sutton, P. Journal of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science, Vol. 38, No. 3, pp.179-180, September 2005.

Abstract

A comprehensive review of the text, Principles of Bloodstain Pattern Analysis: Theory and Practice published by Taylor & Francis Group, Boca Raton, Florida.

Martin, L., Cahill, C., Recovery of DNA from Latent Blood after Identification by Fluorescein, Journal of Forensic Identification, Vol. 54, No. 6, 2004

Abstract:

Luminol has been widely used in the field of crime scene investigations to detect latent blood; however, luminol has the tendency to destroy DNA evidence. Fluorescein, an alternative to luminol for detecting latent blood at a crime scene, does not destroy DNA evidence. This paper demonstrates the successful recovery of DNA from a blood sample treated with fluorescein. DNA was extracted from blood-containing denim substrates after fluorescein was applied to the substrates. The DNA locus, D18S51, was amplified using standard polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques, analyzed by electrophoresis, and used to demonstrate that DNA was successfully recovered from the samples.

Perkins, M., The Application of Infrared Photography in Bloodstain Pattern Documentation of Clothing, Journal of Forensic Identification, Vol. 55, No. 1, 2005