

Police Report – Dated Saturday October 3rd

Report written by Officer Joseph Milstead from investigation that began Friday night October 2nd. For the purpose of this report, Officer Milstead will be referred to as OM.

On Friday evening at 7:30 the Custodian for the Matilda J Gibson Memorial Library, Randy Rief called the police station to report that he had found the Director of the library, Aric G. Bishop, apparently lifeless upstairs near the stack of the library. Rief stated that Mr. Bishop had no pulse, and was “quite dead.”

Law enforcement, and Paramedics were dispatched to the library, along with the local ME, and sure enough Mr. Bishop was indeed found to be deceased among the stacks. At the time, the cause of death was not apparent; however, due to the nature of the condition of the body, foul play was immediately suspected.

Mr. Bishop was found lying near the YA, young adult, section of the library, in an interesting position that suggests he may not have been alone when he died.

Several things about his body made this officer think that someone planned his murder. For instance, Mr. Bishop was found lying underneath a quilt... a quilt hand made by the president of the library board. It appears as if the quilt had been hanging on the wall near the YA section, and was secured with a rope. However, this rope was now wound around Mr. Bishop’s neck. The ME noticed there were minor rope burns on his neck from the rope, but it didn’t appear to be very tightly wound.

Mr. Bishop’s lips were tainted blue, which is common amongst dead bodies due to lack of oxygen; yet, that usually happens hours later, and he appears to have been found not too long after he died. As it has been confirmed that he took a call around 6:00pm (which should be noted is the library’s closing time).

Other interesting things I noticed about his body, is that he was laying on his back, with one hand clutching *Their Eyes were Watching God* a classic novel, while the other hand held a deck of cards. I’m unsure if this means something.

There was a very large goose-egg on the front of his forehead, and what appeared to be a small cut. Near his body, was a cart of books, full as if he had been moving them somewhere, and a note that said, “I bet unloading this cart will just be the death of you.”

I can’t help but feel like that note is ironic, but at the same time maybe it is a clue.

As I stopped to get closer to the body, I noticed that Mr. Bishop also had a very large goose-egg on the upper, back of his head, or crown of his head, that looked fairly fresh. While examining the body, I also noticed that the hand which was clutching the book had very strange small cuts on the palm. The cuts looked akin to how someone’s palm would look if a Christmas ornament had been crushed in the palm of their hand.

Mr. Bishop's body was taken to the local hospital where he was pronounced dead, and the library was taped off so that an investigation could begin.

Items that were marked as possible evidence or at least suspect were:

A deck of cards

A large quilt, secured with a yellow nylon rope

A note, that could have been a joke, but now looks suspicious

And one last thing....

Near Mr. Bishop's body was a single white rose. Could this be a clue? At this time, I am uncertain.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Milstead