

Transcription of Freda Black's and Jim Hardin's Closing Arguments

[Showing photos of discovery of blow poke one by one]

[Fade in ...] An inch worm, got that photographed. Oh here's something that looks like a spider egg. This is something here that's supposed to make you think that the blow poke's been there since December, 2001, I guess.

Here's a cob web. That's significant. Here's a little goo or something.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, we really don't know what this is. We have been given no information about who found it, when it was found, why it was there.

[Writer's note- Todd Peterson discovered it in the corner of the garage, perhaps mistaken for a curtain rod over time. Defense Attorney wanted to put Todd on the stand, but Michael Peterson insisted, NO, as Todd had previous marijuana and DUI charges pending and "he would be destroyed on the stand."]

[Freda handling blow poke in front of jury, Facial expression and tone of voice with disgust]

"I argue to you that Defense exhibit 280A is just a piece of nothin'. Nothing! We have never told you that we are absolutely certain that it was the blow poke that killed Mrs. Peterson. We do believe that if it wasn't the blow poke given to them by Candice, it was something similar. And you've heard testimony why we believe that.

But they talk about us doing something last minute when they dare to pull that piece of evidence out in front of you two days before they rested? DOES THAT MAKE COMMON SENSE TO YOU?"

[Pointing at Michael Peterson and said with force]

"And we need to keep in mind we are not dealing with the average individual over here. We're dealing with a fictional writer. Some people even say he's a good fictional writer. He is a person who knows how to create a fictional plot."

[Freda smirking, walking to podium, referring to her notes, using effective pauses]

"And then there was Brad... Do you really believe (Paus) that Kathleen knew (Pause) that Mr. Peterson was bi-sexual? (With emphasis)

[Freda using body language, grimacing and leaning into the jury]

DOES THAT MAKE COMMON SENSE TO YOU that it was okay with her when she went to work that he stayed home and communicated with individuals by e-mail and telephone that he was planning on having sex with?

And it wasn't just a computer relationship. You know what he and Brad were going to do. He told you. And I don't mean to offend anybody but he said they were going to have anal sex. The only reason that meeting did not take place was because of Brad. It wasn't because of Mr. Peterson. He was "fired up and ready to go."

[Freda putting glasses on and staring at the jury]

"And do you honestly believe that Kathleen Peterson knew about that and would have approved of that? And it was just Brad."

[Freda motioning to jury with outstretched arms then hitting the jury rail for emphasis]

"What about the rest of the things on his computer? Once again these things are so filthy; you can't show them on TV. Pure filth! This isn't people involve in a relationship. This is just 'any which away.'" This is called HARD (String rail) CORE (Striking rail) PORN (Striking rail) . Do you think she approved of this type of activity while she's off at work or sleeping? I ARGUE TO YOU THAT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

{Freda returning to podium}

That is not the way soulmates conduct themselves. That is not!

Jim Hardin's portion of the Closing Argument

[Jim showing photos of scalp lacerations and then blood-filled stairwell photos]

"Ladies and gentlemen, this photograph is the first photograph taken of Kathleen Peterson at the autopsy table. It shows the very graphic, brutal nature of this killing.

Ladies and gentlemen, if a picture is truly worth a thousand words, then this photograph at least speaks a thousand words. Look at all of these photographs that show this woman was beaten.

I was thinking if a picture is worth a thousand words and if we only knew what Kathleen knew at the time of her death. And I started looking around at the scene and in the stairwell and thinking... "What if these walls could talk?" What would they say?

Ladies and gentlemen, these walls are talking to us through the blood on these walls. They are screaming at us for truth and for justice. It's all in these photographs.

Ladies and gentlemen, they've said she has died of an accident. We've said she has died of murder and we ask you to return that verdict. Thank you. “