Brayan Morocho FRSC 201 Introduction to Forensic Science Ms. Austin August 30, 2024

Give your essay an appropriate title

(Your essay must have at least 500 words/ 4-6 paragraphs minimum- delete this line when ready to submit)

Add text to paragraph 1, write your introduction, (Use <u>APA in text Citations</u>.) *Delete this line when ready to submit*

During the 20th century criminology and forensics science was still in development with little to no new techniques discovered, which was also the time where blood typing was established. Ironically between this time is when Helle Crafts a 39 year old Pan American flight attendant was presumed missing and later pronounced dead. As the case unraveled from a missing persons report, many looked at Richards Crafts for answers, and many had feared the worst. Though there wasn't much evidence to connect Richard to the disappearance of Helle at first, many had already pieced the worst due to many problems with the couple's relationship and marriage. With the Crafts case being a significant point in history for the development of the idea that a body isn't always needed to pinpoint a murder and helped pave a way for the idea that a Forensics team in criminal investigations is always needed.

Throughout the ongoing investigation many people pointed the finger towards Richard Craft due to there being a problem within the couple's marriage. Close friends and family remember her explaining how she knew Richard had a mistress and how she was looking for a divorce. Though this didn't tie Richard to the murder, people saw this as a motive for Richard to get rid of Helle, and try to start a new life where he was in control with no financial burden of a divorce. According to an article Kevin McMurray "Helle had found out Richard, then 49, was a serial philanderer. Apparently, she had confronted him with evidence of his infidelity and demanded a divorce. A breakup of their marriage would financially cost him dearly" (McMurray, 2009). This explains how a situation between a financial burden and divorce gave Richard Craft a motive to kill his wife, as a reason to maintain control. Though this wasn't enough to show that there was any foul play in the disappearance of Helle, the video explained how Richard used every excuse to stop being served divorce papers, and how he passed numerous lie detector tests.

As the case continued to progress many witnesses like the snow plower, home nanny, and friends came out with helping details of Helles life and how she was living. But the testimony of her friends and coworkers were the most significant in opening up the case and further developing it to the gruesome murder. According to Thompson, Helle Craft told her friends "If something happens to me, don't assume it was an accident" (Thompson, 2017). Helle's concerned friends remembering this told investigators this, pushing for a deeper investigation on Richard Craft, and examination of the residence. Due to Helle's friends it pushed investigators to look deeper and try to connect other parts of Richards' life to the case. In the video it explains how Helle's concerned friends were the ones to open a missing persons case and also emphasized how Richard gave them no answers, and even lied to them. This shows how Richard would become a suspect even after passing a lie detector test and how he didnt put too much care in his wife's disappearance. Another crucial testimony that helped make a case was the snow plower's description of a man who fit Richard using a wood chipper on the night of Helle's death. According to an article "On the night of November 18, hours after Helle had been last seen, Hine was plowing the roads during the snowstorm when he noticed a rental truck, with a woodchipper attached, parked close to the shore of Lake Zoar" (Connecticut Man Who Put Wife in Wood Chipper Released From Prison 20 Years Early, 2020). This shows how this and with the connection of Richard renting a wood chipper would make Richard a prime suspect for the disappearance of his wife.

The Crafts case was also groundbreaking due to the lack of a body and the extensive use of forensic science to prove both the murderer and identify Helle's body. This case highlighted the evolving capabilities of forensic investigation in solving complex crimes with little evidence connecting someone to Hell's disappearance. Forensics Science changed the scope of the case and helped discover major evidence through various techniques and witness testimony. With them going to the lake and sifting through wood for various hours in the cold weather looking for a clue and the body. Forensics Science also helped detectives by connecting Helle's bones, teeth, and hair to the ones found near the lake, and later connecting them to Richard's purchases. Overall forensic science was the main key used to pinpoint Richards connection to the case and help push towards a conviction.

In conclusion the Crafts case demonstrated the growing importance of forensic science in criminal investigations, proving that even without a body, the evidence found could lead to a conviction. This case set a path for future investigations and highlighted the power of forensic science in solving complex investigations. The case was a very gruesome reality to how society works and how forensics can play a major role in discovering and progressing a case. The Crafts case shows how forensics is needed in many aspects and how their techniques developed over time, to the point where in modern day it is used everywhere.

References

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References (in APA format)

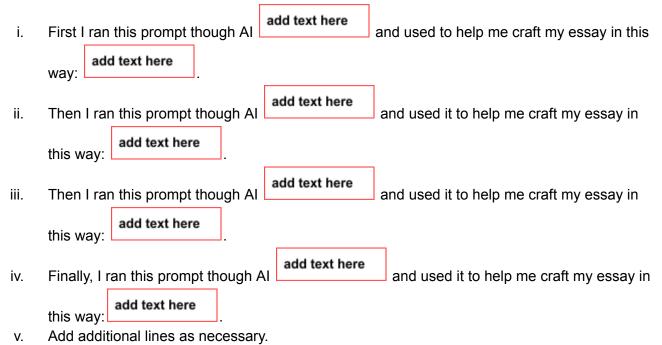
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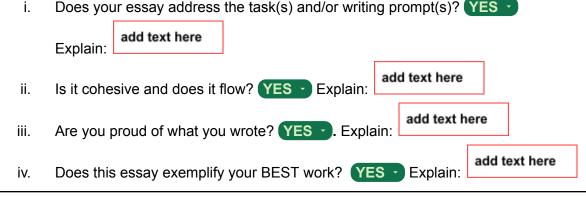
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