

## **Jury sees evidence in woman's slaying - Accused takes notes as prosecutor shows 19 exhibits in case**

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DETROIT -- Jurors winced as they viewed photos of a murdered prostitute with strangulation marks on her neck, presented as **evidence in** the trial of accused serial killer John Eric Armstrong.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Elizabeth Walker presented 19 exhibits, including an empty condom wrapper and numerous color photos of Wendy Jordan's body.

The 39-year-old Dearborn Heights **woman's** half-nude body was found **in** the Rouge River on Jan. 2, 2000.

The condom wrapper with a hair attached was confiscated from Armstrong's Jeep by Dearborn Heights police.

Armstrong, 27, was charged with first-degree murder. He was accused of soliciting Jordan for sex, strangling her and then tossing her body into the Rouge River underneath a bridge **in** a residential neighborhood.

Armstrong, who was charged with murdering five prostitutes locally, told police earlier that he killed 12 others around the world while **in** the Navy. Authorities have been unable to confirm the other killings.

During the second day of testimony on Wednesday, Armstrong took copious notes on yellow legal pad paper while his mother and stepfather sat **in** the first row.

Walker focused much of the testimony of her five witnesses toward discovery of the body **in** the river while defense attorney Robert Mitchell concentrated on the treatment of his client while **in** police custody.

Both of Wendy Jordan's sisters were **in** court again, their eyes red-rimmed.

Prosecutor Walker questioned four of the witnesses about whether they had seen any **evidence** that Armstrong had thrown up on or near the bridge, and all said no.

Armstrong told witnesses and the police he saw a body when he stopped on the bridge to vomit.

"I think it's peculiar that he would park his car, walk over to the other side and lean over a tall bridge to vomit and then there was no vomiting," said Det. Sgt. James Serwatowski.

"And the exact spot he chose to stop contained a dead body underneath it. Rather than drive home, which was close by, he just so happened to stop where the only dead body is for miles."

Forensic pathologist Carl Schmidt testified about manual strangulation as he described the bruises around Jordan's neck to the jurors.

Schmidt, deputy chief medical examiner for Wayne County, offered exhaustive details on how strangulation occurred.

"Her neck was squeezed with a lot of force, and I think death occurred relatively quickly and within two to four minutes," he said. "The cause of death was manual strangulation."

A toxicology report found morphine **in** Jordan's blood, which Schmidt said was determined to be from heroin.

Defense attorney Robert Mitchell had only one question for Schmidt.

"If you had tendinitis, would it affect one's ability to lift objects?" Schmidt replied, "Yes."

He apparently will argue that his client couldn't lift a body and toss it **in** the river because he suffers from tendinitis.

And Mitchell took issue with the way police interrogated Armstrong.

"He asked on more than one occasion to call his wife and he was denied, yet you say he was free to leave, right?" he asked Det. Sgt. Serwatowski of Dearborn Heights.

Serwatowski responded: "He did eventually call his wife and she then called a lawyer for him. If he (Armstrong) had gotten up and left, I would not have arrested or restrained him. He left because there was no information to charge him with a crime at that time."

Testimony was to continue today before Judge Mary Waterstone.

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