

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**2013 TENNESSEE STATE HIGH SCHOOL  
MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION  
CASE MATERIALS**

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**IN THE CRIMINAL COURT FOR BIG ORANGE COUNTY  
AT NEYLAND, TENNESSEE**

**STATE OF TENNESSEE,**

**PLAINTIFF,**

**v.**

**CAMERON PAUL,**

**DEFENDANT.**

**No.: 8675309-III**

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**The Tennessee State High School Mock  
Trial Competition is organized by the  
Young Lawyers Division  
of the Tennessee Bar Association.**

Questions or comments may be directed to your Mock Trial District Coordinator or the Chair of the State Competition. Teams may not edit the materials. Please note the rule changes that apply to this year's competition.

The problem is as written. If there are discrepancies, please regard them as complexities for consideration in developing a trial strategy. **All witnesses, as well as the defendant, should teams choose to have one sit at counsel table, may be portrayed by persons of either gender. Any similarities between this problem and true events shall be disregarded.**

This year's High School Mock Trial Committee is comprised of:

**Troy Weston, Chair**

**William Holloway, Vice Chair**

**Candi Henry, Chair, Mock Trial Long Range Planning Committee,**

**Kristen Corn**

**Joshua Dougan**

**R. Holland Matthews**

**William "Bill" McManus**

**Angela Rauber**

**Robert Sands**

**Tommy Santel**

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**PAST WINNERS**

<b>1980</b>	<b>Austin-East High School</b>
<b>1981</b>	<b>Bearden High School</b>
<b>1982</b>	<b>White Station High School</b>
<b>1983</b>	<b>White Station High School</b>
<b>1984</b>	<b>Knoxville West High School</b>
<b>1985</b>	<b>Father Ryan High School</b>
<b>1986</b>	<b>Knoxville Doyle High School</b>
<b>1987</b>	<b>Greeneville High School</b>
<b>1988</b>	<b>Memphis Central High School</b>
<b>1989</b>	<b>Jackson Central Merry High School</b>
<b>1990</b>	<b>Father Ryan High School</b>
<b>1991</b>	<b>Father Ryan High School</b>
<b>1992</b>	<b>Franklin High School</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>Montgomery Bell Academy</b>
<b>1994</b>	<b>McCallie School</b>
<b>1995</b>	<b>Montgomery Bell Academy</b>
<b>1996</b>	<b>Clinton High School</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>Clinton High School †</b>
<b>1998</b>	<b>Houston High School</b>
<b>1999</b>	<b>Clinton High School</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>Clinton High School</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>Clinton High School</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>Family Christian Academy *</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>Family Christian Academy *</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>Hume-Fogg Academic High School</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>Hume-Fogg Academic High School</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>Knoxville West High School</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>St. Mary's Episcopal School of Memphis</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>St. Mary's Episcopal School of Memphis</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>White Station High School</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>White Station High School</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>White Station High School</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>McCallie School</b>

\*Indicates a team that went on to win the National Championship.

† Indicates a team that went on to place second in the National Championship.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**These materials have been changed for the 2013 state competition. Teams should disregard the materials used at the district competition level, as there have been substantial amendments *throughout* the case materials.**

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**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**CASE SUMMARY<sup>1</sup>**

Thor Brush was the director, president and portfolio manager of U.R. Rich Financial Services Company located in Neyland, Tennessee. U.R. Rich operated a residential-mortgage-originating-business and brokered, through wholly-owned subsidiary companies, a variety of marketable securities, including certificates of deposit, private placements, partnerships, and mutual funds, to individuals in Tennessee and elsewhere.

Between 2009 and 2011, Brush conspired with colleagues to devise a scheme to defraud investors who deposited funds with U.R. Rich by soliciting and obtaining money from clients, friends, and acquaintances and falsely promising to invest and manage the money in growth-oriented, traditional instruments, such as investments with fixed annual returns, or in established marketable securities. Individuals were solicited by Brush via email, telephone calls, letters, and, in some cases, personal invitations to lavish spots like Ibiza and the Seychelles in which Brush falsely encouraged investors to purchase U.R. Rich stock. Brush represented that the proposed investments were well-researched and safe. However, Brush was aware that the purchase of U.R. Rich stock was a high-risk investment and that U.R. Rich clients, who were mostly well-to-do, but trusting, investors, would not have invested in the stock but for his false assurances. Brush falsely assured clients that U.R. Rich was profitable and “making money,” but Brush knew well that U.R. Rich was not profitable and that there had been significant losses.

Naturally, Brush’s clients lost their money (many lost everything they had), and several reported the scheme to the Neyland Police Department which, along with the state and federal law enforcement agencies and regulatory boards, investigated Brush, who was indicted for his involvement. Brush was awaiting trial at the time of his death; however, because of the scattered involvement of many law enforcement agencies, Brush’s defense attorney, Carol Cravens, was able to turn what was once a slam dunk prosecution into a difficult uphill battle for the government through a series of successful motions to dismiss and motions to suppress.

Among the clients who lost most of their money (and who were involved in the investigation) were Cameron Paul and Quesey Midas. Cameron Paul is the town’s premier auto mechanic, as well as the owner and operator of Cameron’s Cars, an establishment specializing in custom car work and repair of exotic European luxury cars. Cameron’s Cars was a local small business success story, growing from Cameron running a small shop out of his/her garage to a full service garage, employing 10 expertly trained mechanics and multiple mechanic’s assistants and apprentices. Cameron had invested the company’s pension with U.R. Rich at the urging of Mr. Brush.

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<sup>1</sup> This case summary is meant to quickly acquaint participants with the 2013 problem. It is not evidence, nor does it represent a statement by any of the characters/witnesses.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

Quesey Midas, the town pharmacist, was a family friend who had invested millions of dollars with U.R. Rich. Midas was a hometown prodigy, graduating first in his/her class from Neyland Commonwealth University, a perennially ranked top-five pharmacy school. S/he had offers to continue into research and development at several highly acclaimed companies, but chose instead to return home to open a small pharmacy. Cameron and Quesey were both understandably devastated by the loss of their money. Mr. Brush was equally angry at Cameron and Quesey, as they had both agreed to give testimony against him at his trial set for March 25, 2012.

On March 12, 2012, Brush and a friend were running errands in his electric car. Shortly after Mr. Brush picked up his migraine medicine at the pharmacy, they were involved in an automobile accident. According to the police report, Mr. Brush's vehicle entered an intersection on a red light. There were no brake marks on the street. Mr. Brush was not wearing a seatbelt, and he was ejected from his vehicle. He died later that evening at the hospital. His blood tested negative for alcohol, but did have elevated levels of a heart medicine that had recently been recalled for safety reasons.

Mr. Brush's passenger reported to the police that immediately prior to impact, Mr. Brush was sending text messages on his phone. In fact, subpoenaed cell phone records show that he sent a message stating, "Time 2 get rid of the car kid." The cell phone number he was texting was assigned to a disposable phone, so it was impossible to confirm with physical evidence either the owner of the phone or, alternatively, the intended recipient of the message.

Upon a post-accident investigation of the vehicle, it was determined that the battery and brake connections were loose, which, in an expert's opinion, could have only happened after being loosened by a person with expertise in vehicle mechanics. This would have caused the vehicle to have trouble stopping. The police located a receipt in the glove compartment of the vehicle that showed that the vehicle was recently "serviced" at Cameron's Cars, though the receipt was general in nature, and the precise work or the person responsible for that work was not listed.

After investigation, the Neyland Police Department arrested Cameron Paul for the murder of Thor Brush, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 39-13-201. The prosecution will attempt to show that Cameron intentionally loosened the connections on Mr. Brush's vehicle, knowing that the vehicle would fail to function and ultimately crash.

The defense will attempt to show that Mr. Brush's carelessness in driving was what caused the crash that killed him, and further, that the amount of heart medicine in his bloodstream could have had fatal results, and that the medicine was mixed into his migraine medicine.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**AGREED STIPULATIONS**

1. Whenever a rule of evidence requires reasonable notice, the teams must presume that such notice has been given.
2. No props may be used. Teams may use markers, pens, pointers, or sticky notes to assist in the presentation of witness testimony concerning an exhibit. Exhibits may be copied and enlarged for demonstrative purposes if the proper foundation for admission is laid at trial. Enlargements may not exceed 20" by 30" in size.
3. Participants may only cite evidence contained herein. Cross-reference to other mock trial problems is prohibited. Any similarity to true events or persons is to be disregarded. Participants may not cite legal or factual authority outside that presented in the problem, the Rules of the Competition, and the Mock Trial Rules of Evidence.
4. Stipulations may not be contradicted or challenged. However, it shall be the responsibility of the teams to bring the stipulations to the attention of the Court as the situation requires.
5. The report of the Medical Examiner and Toxicologist report as relied upon by Shayden Rach Tolmes are admissible evidence. (N.B. This is not a stipulation as to the expert status of Shayden Rach Tolmes.)
6. All exhibits in these materials are authentic. No objections to the authenticity of exhibits may be made.
7. All witness statements have been sworn to by the declarant.
8. It is stipulated that the crime occurred in Big Orange County, Tennessee.
9. Alex Brown created and has knowledge of the Tennessee Electronic Traffic Crash Report.
10. Gerry Brush has knowledge of the Autoswreepport.com document and can identify it as the report that Thor Brush purchased regarding a Fancy Hotrod.
11. Both Alex Brown and Michael Dachsund have knowledge of the diagram of the vehicle that Michael Dachsund signed.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

12. Exhibits C through I are photographs taken by Yuri Machado de Silva Pereira. They are described in his/her witness statement, and correspondence with the referenced exhibits in his witness statement, as noted above.
13. Yuri Machado de Silva Pereira has knowledge of Exhibit J as the correspondence that s/he prepared and transmitted to the District Attorney's Office summarizing his investigative findings.
14. Shayden Rach Tolmes has knowledge of his/her *curriculum vitae*.
15. Shayden Rach Tolmes has knowledge of the medical examiner's report, and reviewed it in forming his/her opinion.
16. The excerpts from the Big Book of Meds are complete and accurate. The Big Book of Meds is a widely accepted tome on prescription medications and is a learned treatise.
17. Cameron Paul's testimony must be consistent with the witness statement that is provided in these materials.
18. The transcript from the preliminary hearing of Cameron Paul is a true and authentic transcript of prior sworn testimony, which was prepared by a licensed court reporter.
19. Quesey Midas has knowledge of the photograph of Fixurheart stock, shown in Exhibit N, which accurately reflects the janitorial closet at Midas' pharmacy as of March 2012.

**A Word on Inconsistencies in the Case Materials.** As with any actual case, not all facts develop consistently among witnesses or exhibits. As a general matter, the case materials should be deemed to be correct, inasmuch as inconsistencies should be read as intentional complexities that permit teams to develop their own strategy for their presentation of the materials. However, with that in mind, teams should also be aware that there is no single dispositive fact contained in these materials.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**APPLICABLE LAW<sup>2</sup>**

**Burden of Proof**

The state must have proven beyond a reasonable doubt all of the elements of the crime charged and that it was committed before the finding and returning of the indictment in this case.

**Presumption of Innocence**

The law presumes that the defendant is innocent of the charge[s] against [him] [her]. This presumption remains with the defendant throughout every stage of the trial, and it is not overcome unless from all the evidence in the case you are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty.

**First Degree Murder**

- (a) First degree murder is:
- (1) A premeditated and intentional killing of another; or
  - (2) A killing of another committed in the perpetration of or attempt to perpetrate any first degree murder, act of terrorism, arson, rape, robbery, burglary, theft, kidnapping, aggravated child abuse, aggravated child neglect or aircraft piracy; or
  - (3) A killing of another committed as the result of the unlawful throwing, placing or discharging of a destructive device or bomb.
- (b) No culpable mental state is required for conviction under subdivision (a)(2) or (a)(3) except the intent to commit the enumerated offenses or acts in such subdivisions.
- (c) As used in subdivision (a)(1) "premeditation" is an act done after the exercise of reflection and judgment. "Premeditation" means that the intent to kill must have been formed prior to the act itself. It is not necessary that the purpose to kill pre-exist in the mind of the accused for any definite period of time. The mental state of the accused at the time the accused allegedly decided to kill must be carefully considered in order to determine whether the accused was sufficiently free from excitement and passion as to be capable of premeditation.

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<sup>2</sup> Adopted by the Tennessee High School Mock Trial Committee, and based upon Tennessee's Pattern Jury Instructions.

## MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE

### Lesser Included Offenses

There are no lesser included offenses contained in these materials. To that end, teams may not argue lesser included offenses.

### Direct and Circumstantial Evidence

There are two kinds of evidence: direct and circumstantial. Direct evidence is direct proof of a fact, such as testimony of a witness about what the witness personally observed.

Circumstantial evidence is indirect evidence that gives you clues about what happened. Circumstantial evidence is proof of a fact, or a group of facts, that cause you to conclude that another fact exists. It is for you to decide whether a fact has been proved by circumstantial evidence. If you base your decision upon circumstantial evidence, you must be convinced that the conclusion you reach is more probable than any other explanation.

[For example, if a witness testified that the witness saw it raining outside, that would be direct evidence that it was raining. If a witness testified that the witness saw someone enter a room wearing a raincoat covered with drops of water and carrying a wet umbrella, that would be circumstantial evidence from which you could conclude that it was raining.]

The law permits equal weight to be given to both types of evidence, but it is for you to decide how much weight to give any evidence. In making your decision, you must consider all the evidence in light of reason, experience and common sense.

### Cause of Death

In order to sustain a criminal conviction for homicide, the evidence must establish that the defendant's actions or conduct caused the requisite harm. Generally, this is established by showing that the victim's death was the natural and probable result of the defendant's unlawful act. *State v. Barnes*, 703 S.W.2d 611 (Tenn.1985), *cert. denied*, 476 U.S. 1153, 106 S.Ct. 2260, 90 L.Ed.2d 705 (1986); *State v. Randolph*, 676 S.W.2d 943 (Tenn.1984); *Letner v. State*, 156 Tenn. 68, 299 S.W. 1049 (1927); *Copeland v. State*, 154 Tenn. 7, 285 S.W. 565 (1926); *Odenal v. State*, 128 Tenn. 60, 157 S.W. 419 (1913). In *Odenal*, the Tennessee Supreme Court established the general rule on the issue of causation:

One who unlawfully inflicts a dangerous wound upon another is held for the consequences flowing from such injury, whether the

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

sequence be direct or through the operation of intermediate agencies dependent upon and arising out of the original cause.

128 Tenn. at 69, 157 S.W. at 421; *see also State v. Barnes*, 703 S.W.2d at 615 (quoting *Odeneal*).

This causal chain may, however, be broken. The Court discussed the relevance of intervening or superseding acts:

“Where it appears that the act of the accused was not the proximate cause of the death of the person for whose murder he is being prosecuted, but that another cause intervened, with which he was in no way connected, and but for which death would not have occurred, such supervening cause is a good defense to the charge of homicide.” [13 R.C.L. 750.]

\* \* \* \* \*

[But] “[w]henver an independent responsible person, disconnected with the defendant, causes some intervening act to be done, the defendant is relieved of responsibility for the consequences thereof, *unless the act of intervention is the natural result of the defendant's act.*”

\* \* \* \* \*

“The unlawful act of omission need not be the sole cause of death. Thus if defendant's negligence was a cause of the death, it is immaterial that the negligence of the deceased himself or of others also contributed thereto. If an injury caused by defendant contributed to the death, defendant is responsible, although a subsequent mortal wound inflicted independently by another also contributed thereto. Defendant's act or omission need not be the immediate cause of death; he is responsible if the direct cause results naturally from his conduct. The same is true if the direct cause is *an act of the deceased himself* reasonably due to the defendant's unlawful conduct.”

\* \* \* \* \*

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

In other words, the defendant cannot escape the consequences of his wrongful act by relying upon a supervening cause when such cause naturally resulted from his wrongful act.

156 Tenn. at 75–76, 299 S.W. at 1050–51 (emphasis added)  
(quoting *Corpus Juris* ).

*State v. Ruane*, 912 S.W.2d 766, 774-75 (Tenn. Crim. App. 1995) (*rev'd on other grounds*).

**Reasonable doubt**

Reasonable doubt is that doubt created by an investigation of all the proof in the case and an inability, after such investigation, to let the mind rest easily as to the certainty of guilt. Absolute certainty of guilt is not demanded by the law to convict of any criminal charge, but moral certainty is required, and this certainty is required as to every element of proof necessary to constitute the offense.

**Credibility of witness: In general and when defendant testifying**

You are the exclusive judges of the credibility of the witnesses and the weight to be given to their testimony. If there are conflicts in the testimony of the different witnesses you must reconcile them, if you can, without hastily or rashly concluding that any witness has sworn falsely, for the law presumes that all witnesses are truthful. In forming your opinion as to the credibility of a witness, you may look to the proof, if any, of his or her general character, the evidence, if any, of the witness' reputation for truth and veracity, the intelligence and respectability of the witness, his or her interest or lack of interest in the outcome of the trial, his or her feelings, his or her apparent fairness or bias, his or her means of knowledge, the reasonableness of his or her statements, his or her appearance and demeanor while testifying, his or her contradictory statements as to material matters, if any are shown, and all the evidence in the case tending to corroborate or to contradict him or her.

[The defendant having testified in [his][her] own behalf, [his][her] credibility is determined by the same rules by which the credibility of other witnesses is determined, and you will give [his][her] testimony such weight as you may think it is entitled.]

**No inference to be drawn from failure of defendant to testify**

The defendant has a lawful right not to testify and [his][her] election to not testify cannot be considered for any purpose against [him][her], nor can any inference be drawn from [his][her] decision not to testify.]

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**INDICTMENT**

CASE NO. 8675309-III

HECK ROBINSON, NPD

\_\_\_\_\_  
STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROSECUTOR

vs.

WITNESSES

\_\_\_\_\_  
CAMERON PAUL

\_\_\_\_\_  
HECK ROBINSON, NPD

Here duly summoned as witnesses and sworn by me,  
and testified before the Grand Jury on this  
indictment

CRIMINAL HOMICIDE

Robert Ross

GRAND JURY FOREMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A TRUE BILL**

THE CLERK will issue summons for the following:

\_\_\_\_\_  
HECK ROBINSON, NPD

Robert Ross

GRAND JURY FOREMAN

Gerald Villefort

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
**STATE OF TENNESSEE, BIG ORANGE COUNTY, TENNESSEE**

**APRIL SESSION OF THE CRIMINAL COURT, 2012**

THE GRAND JURORS of Neyland, Tennessee, duly empanelled and sworn upon their oath  
that in Big Orange County, Tennessee and before the finding of this indictment, on March 25<sup>th</sup>,  
2012

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

CAMERON PAUL did unlawfully kill another person, to wit: Thor Brush, in violation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-13-201

and against the peace and dignity of the State of Tennessee. *Gerald Villefort*  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**WITNESSES FOR  
THE STATE OF TENNESSEE**

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**● ALEX BROWN ●**

My name is Alex Brown. I've been with the Big Orange County Police Department (BOCPD) for over 8 years. Prior to joining the force, I drove a Miller Lite delivery truck part time and worked part time for my significant other at the Damodice Pharmacy. Although it took me 4 times, I finally passed my detective's exam a year and a half ago, and I am now the lead detective for the homicide division of the BOCPD.

I was the lead investigative officer for the murder investigation of Mr. Thor Brush. In fact, I was lucky enough to have witnessed the wreck in which Mr. Brush was in on the day of his death. It was kind of exciting, really. I mean, I knew everyone in town had to be out to get him, and we had a pool going at the precinct about how he'd die. Most people thought gunshot or poison or a Hoffa-style disappearance, but I had money on a vehicular accident of some sort. I thought Andy Burns would probably rig his Segway to explode, but, since the bet said vehicular accident, I won the pool. Lucky break, huh? Get it? Lucky break? 'Cause there weren't brakes?

On March 12, 2012, I was on patrol in my unmarked cruiser. At approximately 12:10 p.m., I was on my way to the pharmacy to pick up my boo and have my lunch break. As I approached and stopped at the intersection immediately south of the pharmacy, I noticed a small, electric-car-type vehicle approaching the intersection from the opposite direction. Even though the front end of the car was facing my direction, I could see the light emanating from the brake lights – that particular model of car has pretty large brake light all over the rear of the car. Even though I could see the brake lights illuminating, I perceived the car to continue at roughly the same speed into the intersection. The vehicle then ran through the stop light, lost control and collided with the electric pole. Upon impact, one occupant of the vehicle was thrown through the windshield and landed approximately 30 feet away.

I immediately called for back-up and emergency medical personnel to report to the scene. I then exited my vehicle and approached the ejected occupant. Upon observation, although the individual was covered in blood (dude was toe up!), I was still able to positively identify the individual as Thor Brush. I was able to identify Mr. Brush for multiple reasons. First, his likeness had been all over the news media discussing his recently discovered investment fraud charges and prosecution, although I was not involved in the investigation or case. I also recognized him because he used to be my significant other's investment manager and would sometimes stop by the pharmacy back when I worked there. Anyway, although Mr. Brush was unconscious, I was able to detect a faint pulse. I attempted CPR, but I am not very good at it. Thor hung on for a few more hours, ultimately dying in the hospital.

I then proceeded on foot to the wrecked vehicle where I observed one occupant who was seated in the front passenger seat. This man was conscious but visibly in pain and shaken

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

up. I recognized this occupant to be Xing Xing Bo. I knew Xing Xing from a previous arrest for conspiracy to commit murder and misprision of a felony, both of which were tossed out on technicalities, thanks to Carol Cravens—the same lawyer who was probably going to help Thor Brush walk away scot-free. I asked if Xing Xing was ok. Xing Xing then looked up and stated, “I don’t know if I’m going to make it through this one. Brushy always was bad about texting and driving.” I told him that the emergency medical team was on the way and to hang on. I then asked Xing Xing to tell me what happened. He stated, “Tell them to hurry up! I’m going to die!” I again asked Xing Xing to try to explain what happened. Xing Xing responded, “Brushy was sending a text, and then, right as we hit the intersection, Brushy grabbed his chest and shoulder and started stomping his leg down and said ‘something’s wrong.’” I told Xing Xing to hang on because I needed to know if the light was red when they were going through the intersection. He responded, saying, “I’m dying here.” Then, Xing Xing said for me to give love to his cats, Misty and Sapphire, and to tell everyone that Xing Xing didn’t have anything to do with Brushy stealing all that money. Xing Xing then lost consciousness.

I then proceeded back over to Mr. Brush and found an elderly lady standing over the unconscious individual and hitting him with her walker and yelling, “That’s what you get you snake.” I proceeded to remove the elderly woman from the scene and then back up and the EMT’s arrived on the scene. They placed Mr. Brush in the ambulance. We then got back over the now-smoking vehicle to aid the other occupant. The EMT examined the other occupant and pronounced him dead on the scene.

Once the medical teams left and the scene was secured, I began my investigation. I first searched the damaged vehicle. I found few items in the vehicle. Other than the broken glass and blood, it was actually pretty clean. Anyway, I found what appeared to be a recently-filled prescription pill bottle in the center console. Also, I found a crushed cellular telephone in the floor board. Lastly, I found a receipt in the glove compartment, along with the vehicle registration in the name of “Brush Offshore Investments, L.L.C. c/o Thor Brush.” The receipt was from Cameron’s Cars, and the work description just stated “services,” but it was dated March 12, 2012. Since I didn’t have any evidence bags with me, I just left these items in the vehicle.

Next, I walked the scene looking for clues and any other items that might have been thrown from the vehicle. No, I did not find any other items, but, interestingly, the one thing I did notice was that there were not any skid marks on the roadway. I then checked the electrical box at that intersection to make sure the traffic lights were working correctly, which they were.

I then checked the undercarriage of the vehicle. Although I had to pull a bunch of plastic and wires out of the way, I was able to get under the vehicle with my flashlight. I then observed a loose battery cable and a loose brake cable. Based on what I learned from watching a History Channel show the night before about accident reconstruction, and the fact that I

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

hadn't heard squealing brakes or seen brake marks, I was able to come to the opinion that the brakes had failed and someone had tampered with them. So, I called a wrecker to come and tow the vehicle back to our impound lot so that our forensic mechanic and accident expert could take a look at the vehicle. After the car was towed, I left and went to have lunch with Hayden, as originally planned.

Later on that evening, I stopped by the hospital to see if I could question Mr. Brush about the wreck. Upon arrival, I was informed that Mr. Brush had expired. Based upon my conclusions that Mr. Brush's brakes had been tampered with, I then opened a homicide investigation file.

The next day, I subpoenaed Mr. Brush's cell phone records to determine whether the passenger's statement could be corroborated with respect to Brush's habit of texting while driving. The records indicated that Mr. Brush had in fact sent a text message at 12:09 p.m. on the day of the wreck to a number that, through my investigation I learned, was assigned to a disposable phone that said, "Car is driving funny." No, unfortunately, we were not able to trace the owner of the disposable phone or the recipient(s) of that text. The best that we could do was to trace the phone to having been purchased at Rubble's – a local store specializing in the sale of high end fashion and disposable cellular devices.

Next, I proceeded to Cameron's Cars to question the owner about the recent "service" on the Brush vehicle. Upon arrival, Cameron Paul came out to greet me. Of course, it wasn't much of a greeting. The first thing that was said to me was, "hey occifer, what do you want, we don't sell doughnuts here." I told him/her I was investigating a wreck in which Mr. Thor Brush had been involved and that Brush had died. Cameron Paul just looked away with a smirk and mumbled something like "that's what you get" but I'm not sure, it might have been "what wreck" or "I am a fan of the movie, Shreck." I then asked if the shop had ever serviced the Brush vehicle to which he replied "I'm not sure." I perceived that to be strange in light of the receipt I had seen in Brush's car which was dated for the same day as the wreck.

At that point, the defendant then became irate, saying, "I haven't forgotten what you did. I haven't forgotten how you accused me of cheating you on the work we did on your car and how you told everyone I was a cheat." Paul then put a finger in my face and told me to get off the property and that if I wanted to talk then I better go get a warrant first. The Defendant then went back inside the shop and locked the doors.

Then, as I was walking back to my cruiser, I noticed the hotdog vendor, Michael Dachsund who is always set up at the corner next to Cameron's Cars, so I went to get a hotdog and see what information I could get. I asked if s/he had ever seen an electric car matching the description of the Brush vehicle at Cameron's. Dachsund said, "Yep, I seen it." I then asked whether Michael remembered seeing it the morning of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Michael said, "Yep, seen it

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

then, too. I remember because Mr. Brush came and got a hotdog from me while they worked on it." I then asked if s/he knew whether Cameron Paul was there that day. S/He said, "Yep Cameron was there; I remember cuz I thought it was strange that Cameron was under the car working." Michael stated that s/he thought it was strange because in the year and a half that he had been selling hotdogs on the Cameron's Cars lot, s/he had never seen Cameron Paul get under a vehicle and get dirty. Paul was normally seen lording over the shop's employees wearing his/her prized Silvio Bergamot's.

I had Michael indicated where Paul was on a diagram, and Michael then signed the diagram for me.

At that point, I received a call from dispatch that a 1027 was in progress. I instructed the hotdog vendor to stay put and that I would be back in 1 hour to take his written statement. When I got back to take that statement, however, Michael was gone. When I finally tracked Dachsund down again, s/he was not willing to supplement the prior statement.

Shortly after this encounter, I received the report back from our forensic mechanic expert which confirmed tampering with the Brush vehicle's braking system. Shortly thereafter, I took Cameron Paul into custody for the murder of Mr. Thor Brush.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

● **MICHAEL DACHSUND** ●

My name is Michael Dachsund. I have been a gourmet hotdog vendor in Neyland, Tennessee for the last year and a half. Prior to selling hotdogs on the corner, I owned and operated a restaurant, Magnificent Mike's, which was a culinary delight. I was looking to expand and start a second restaurant, but I needed a lot more cash to cover the expansion. I had seen how much money Thor Brush was able to make for some other people, so I invested every penny I could scrape up. I even took all of the money out of my operating account. I just knew that within a year or two of good returns on my investment, which Thor had promised, that I could open my second restaurant, Magnificent Mike's II. And well, that turned out to be the worst idea ever, as Thor's investment scheme collapsed and I lost all of my money. Thereafter, I had a couple of slow months at the restaurant and then was unable to keep up with my expenses and eventually had to close Magnificent Mike's and my dreams were crushed. Now, I sell my gourmet hotdogs here on the corner next to Cameron's Cars. I was upset at Thor Brush initially, but I started practicing Yoga and have found a new inner peace and forgiven Thor for losing all of my money and my restaurant. There is a lot less stress in selling hotdogs than running a restaurant, and I have plenty of time on the corner to practice my Yoga and people watch, which is very interesting because people do some crazy things.

Most of my customers at the hotdog stand come over while they are waiting on their vehicles to be serviced or repaired at Cameron's Cars. I will always appreciate Cameron Paul's generosity in allowing me to set up my hotdog stand on the corner of his parking lot. I have embraced being a hotdog vendor as a new calling in my life, and I hope that one day they might use my hotdogs in the big stadium where thousands and thousands of fans can enjoy them, and I will call them "Touchdown Franks."

Over the past year and a half, I have enjoyed watching all of the employees at Cameron's Cars work on the vehicles. However, I have no idea why they call it Cameron's Cars, because I have never seen Cameron Paul work on a vehicle. Cameron normally just walks around supervising and talking to customers, and sometimes s/he might try to make it look like s/he is doing something important in front of a customer, but all the employees and myself know it is just for show. That is until I saw Cameron working on Thor Brush's fancy little electric car. I was sad to hear about the terrible crash that killed Thor Brush, and it was just that morning that I had talked with him while Cameron serviced his car. Thor came over to get a hotdog, and I looked up and saw that Cameron was actually sliding under Thor's electric car to do some work. I guess it was because Thor Brush had such a unique car and Cameron felt like s/he would be the only one who knew how to service it properly.

Thor and I had a nice conversation while Thor waited on his vehicle. Thor looked a little worried when he walked up to my stand, and I asked him what was wrong. Thor said, "I never dreamed that Cameron Paul would actually work on my car, it is always one of the employees

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

who does it and I am little afraid Cameron might still be upset with me about losing his entire pension fund.” I told Thor not to worry, because Cameron Paul always seemed to be a stand up guy to me, and I do not think s/he would ever risk his business over messing with someone’s car. Thor and I then had a long conversation about the upcoming football season. While eating his hotdog, I took a certain inner pleasure in knowing that I gave him the one that was made with all the byproducts – you know, snouts and hooves – the kind that has a grainy aftertaste. As Thor was finishing his sun drop, or...what he thought was a sun drop, and hotdog he said, “it sure is taking Cameron a long time to service my car, all I needed was my tires rotated and balanced, s/he must be a little rusty.” Then Thor got a phone call and I heard him saying something about a new car and he walked away.

Then later that day a policeman came by my hotdog stand and started asking me a bunch of questions about Thor Brush’s electric car and whether I had seen it at Cameron’s Cars. The officer then told me about the wreck. I told the officer, who was not brightest bulb in the box if you know what I mean, that I had seen Thor’s vehicle there earlier and about our conversation while Thor ate a hotdog and Cameron had worked on Thor’s vehicle. The officer seemed to be implying that he thought Cameron Paul was involved in the accident that killed Thor. The officer handed me a crude diagram of a small vehicle and asked me to mark an “X” on the vehicle diagram where I saw Cameron Paul working on Thor Brush’s vehicle, and I did as the officer requested. The officer then had me sign and date below the diagram. While I was watching Cameron work on Thor’s vehicle, Cameron was always around the tires or under the car.

If you ask me, it was just karma that finally caught up to Thor Brush.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

● **GERRY BRUSH** ●

My name is Gerry Brush, and this one is on me ... heck, the next one is too. I ain't paying' for'em anyway. I'm 32 years old. I don't have a job, don't won't a job and I live at parents' home in Neyland, Tennessee. I live in the guest house, behind the pool house, behind my parents' house, behind the guard house by the road. Ha!! I know, I live on my parents' property, but I don't like cleaning, picking up or doing laundry. My parents' domestic staff has always taken care of me, and I see no cause why they shouldn't be working hard for their money.

My daddy is Thor Brush, or as I always referred to him, just "Thor," or, when he got on my nerves "TB." He's been my daddy since I was born. I didn't know him too well. He was always working. I'd see him a little on the weekends every once in a while. But, while I was growing up, he was always into something with work. In town; out of town; on the phone; on the computer; you name it; he always had something going on. He had a company that had something to do with investments. That's about all I can tell you. I don't know much else about that. I don't know how much money he made, but must have been a lot, he was always spending it.

Don't get me wrong, I've worked. My dad got me a job some years ago at the country club parking cars for the guests. It was only a summer job; but it was hot and I'd rather be lying by the pool. Plus, I had to be there way too early. I was getting up every day by 10:00 a.m., which is ridiculous when I didn't get home from the night clubs until four or five in the morning. So, I quit the job. I did have one other job as soon as I got out of high school-cutting grass. But, you already know-too hot and I had to be by the pool.

The majority of my income is non-liquid, save for the investments in my trust fund, which total approximately forty-six million. Dad and I were always squabbling about that fund near the end, though. I suppose when times got hard, so did our relationship. He wanted to re-allocate the proceeds from some of the investments. We fought about that constantly. Don't get me wrong – dad valued propriety in public, but we would often get into heated arguments via text.

Currently, I'm in college. After I graduated from high school, I took off a year to find myself. It didn't work out so great. I found myself alright, slept every day until noon, went to jail twice-even though neither time was it my fault. I told those bums at the night club I was only nineteen, but they let me in anyway, two hours later, I was arrested for public intoxication and underage consumption. Ultimately, my daddy took care of it.

The second time, I was arrested in a local nightclub, Unpure, for possession of a controlled substance. That was a little trickier. By the time of my second arrest, the local police

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

had really started to resent me. I really don't know why; I have never flaunted my wealth or power in the community – though, trust me, I could. Fortunately, thirty days in an intensive outpatient treatment program under the care of Dr. James Wilson, and one diversion certificate later, and my record is still as pristine as the waters of Lake Maggiore. Man, I love Carol Cravens!

Since then, I have been clean, well, clean-ish. Everyone has a lost weekend here and there.

Anyway, presently, I'm in college, been in college the last 2 semesters, working on my degree. I don't know if I'll do anything with it. Really, truth be told, this degree is for my family anyway, not me. Truth be told, I know I just said that, my daddy told me I'd never have to work – I hope after the estate is settled, that is still true.

One thing is for sure, my daddy was always worried about what we looked like and how we acted when we was out in public. He told me I was always representing the family every time I stepped out of my house. That's why he got so mad when I got arrested those two times and why he worked so hard to make sure the charges never hit the paper. He always cared about how we looked. Even though we didn't see him much, he said I was representing. You know that's right ... I'm always representing!! Always had the best shoes, shirts, pants, shades and even my ride was sweet. I remember that first car he got me. I was only fifteen. But, he wanted me to have it. It was sweet: two-door, leather seats, and 300 horsepower. I took care of that car for two weeks. Only got two speeding tickets before I ran it up on its side on the interstate. Daddy got me a new one after that. He always did. Whether I wrecked the car or it just got too old, daddy always got me something new and better.

I usually spoke to Thor using the cell phone. Usually we texted each other when we talked. He would always get angry and say I wasn't ever gonna be able to talk to anybody or spell anything because I did all my communicating through social media. You know, the usual: Profilebook and Twister; or, I'd just text everybody. But, you know, you can really broaden your world through social media. Anyway, that was dad: totally type A and hot-headed; he was always threatening to bring the hammer down on me.

A few days before Thor's death, we had been talking about getting me a new car. At the time I had a Jeep; well, come to think of it, I still do, I have a Jeep ... same Jeep. What ... yeah ... it was new. Had it about six months. I didn't like it though. I really wanted something with a little more appeal – something that I could throw the top down and fly. I really had my eye on a Fancy Hotrod – starting at \$83,000.00. That car was mint. I'd been looking and told Thor. He said just let him know when I found a good one and I could have it ... if I stayed in college. I was staying in college, so it seems that things were on their way to working out. Supposed to be an

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

early birthday present. Look, here's a copy of the autoswreepport.com report that we ran on the Fancy Hotrod to make sure it was new.

I talked to Thor the morning of his wreck. When I talked to him that morning, he was at Cameron's Cars. I thought that was strange – Cameron's was known for specializing in high end European cars. I used them during my convertible phase when I was driving a TW Cabrio. Cameron usually did the work on our fleet, so it wasn't unusual that Daddy would have been there, but Daddy was driving the Plymouth Charge that day – you know, the electric cars that people with money buy to look like they are socially conscious – it's transparent, but Thor needed the good PR. He didn't usually have Cameron or the crew work on the Charge.

In fact, since the whole blow-up with Daddy's business, it seemed like Daddy was a little put out with Cameron; that was just the feeling I got. I mean, if Carol Cravens hadn't been able to do the usual Cravens magic, Cameron was going to testify against Daddy if things had gone to trial. I wouldn't have been surprised if Daddy was looking to shift all his car maintenance elsewhere.

Anyway, Thor and I were talking on the morning of his death. I got up early, about 9:30 a.m. I called daddy and we talked about my early birthday present, he was strangely less enthusiastic and kept indicating that we needed to be more careful with money. That was a real 360 . . . no 180 . . .no 360 for him. But, he had to go, so I told him I would text him later. I didn't hear from him for a few hours, so I sent him a message asking "what's up?" His first response was, "Hang on, busy, on phone with work." About two or three hours later I knew he must have been ready to go get the Fancy Hotrod because he sent me a text message that said "Time 2 get rid of the car kid." I knew what that meant. I had been waiting all day to get that message. I was really on edge the whole day – not sure if he would back out, or what was going on. I had to do something to take the edge off, and I am glad that I did, because the news that Thor was dead hit me like a bad quarter on my trust portfolio.

Thor died too soon – sure he was old as heck, but he had a lot more success ahead of him, once that criminal unpleasantness was over. He stayed way too busy with work. It caused him to have chronic migraines, and he was constantly taking prescription headache medicine along with some holistic concoction that had grapefruit juice and some cactus juice that can only be found in the Gobi desert. I don't know what prescription he took or how often. He didn't keep up with how much he took either. I remember sometimes when we'd all be together, he'd get real hot and sweaty and he'd take him one to either calm down or cool off. We used to tell him he better keep up with how much he was taking or he was gonna wind up sick or worse. That didn't stop him. As long as can remember, he just took the migraine medicine whenever he thought he needed it.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

Thor always got his medicine from Quesey Midas. Quesey is great – I heard Quesey was the inspiration for the reference in that Prince song – there is no doctor out in Beverly Hills – there is a pharmacist here in Neyland. Quesey is a great pharmacist; good business head, too. Quesey knew where the money was and made sure that anyone who needed it never missed a fix. Quesey's a good friend to most of the teenagers in town.

Truth be told, I'm gonna miss Thor. He's the only daddy I ever had. He did a lot for me. Practically made me who I am today. True to his word though, I don't think I'm ever gonna have to work. I guess I'll finish school ... I mean ... I don't know. Come to think of it, I never went looking for a car after everything happened. How much longer is this going to take? I'm gonna run out and get me some new wheels. True to my daddy's word, it's time for this kid to get rid of that car.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

● **YURI MACHADO DE SILVA PEREIRA** ●

My name is Yuri Machado de Silva Pereira. My role in this investigation was to examine and report on the 2011 Plymouth Charge that Mr. Brush was driving at the time of his accident.

A little about my background: After completing high school in Brazil, I gained an undergraduate degree in electrical engineering at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. I then began employment with a South American division of Plymouth. At that time, I worked in a factory that produced vehicles solely for the Central and South American market. Specifically, my team engineered drive train and general system components for various vehicles. After a few years in that role, Plymouth decided that I was valuable enough to the company to receive further education. Since I was a young child, I had always been inspired by my father's lifelong affection for jazz records. Thus, I decided to travel to the United States to enroll in electrical engineering program at the University of California – Reno. In 2003, I completed a master's degree in electrical engineering with an emphasis in electric power systems at the University of California – Reno, and I also received a certificate of completion from the University's renowned a cappella jazz fusion immersion program. While at UCR, I "floated" between several Plymouth research and development facilities and proving grounds in the southwestern US and Baja California.

After finishing my master's degree, Plymouth placed me on the research and development team for its first clean-sheet electric car project. This vehicle eventually became known as the Plymouth Charge. I spent the next few years on a team of highly skilled personnel who designed and proof-tested the Charge's drive train and braking systems. I am familiar with the most intricate details of the Charge, having remained on the project team through its transfer to manufacturing.

Two years ago, I left Plymouth to open a consulting business. Although I enjoyed my work at Plymouth, I felt that I reached the limits of my potential there. Plus, I wanted more free time to work on my jazz tribute album to REO Speedwagon, so, I decided to place my career on a new trajectory. I spend most of my time performing certain R&D projects through contracts with several auto parts manufacturers and suppliers. We strive to create vehicles with even greater efficiency and range through adding after-market modifications.

It was through this work that I was asked to investigate an accident involving owner/operator Thor Brush and his 2011 Plymouth Charge.

**THE PLYMOUTH CHARGE**

At the time of the accident, Brush was driving a Plymouth Charge. Plymouth introduced the Charge to the U.S. market in early 2011. Brush purchased his vehicle in September of 2011

### **MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

from a dealer in Chicago. Plymouth manufactured only 278 Charges in the 2011 calendar year, limiting production numbers for two reasons. First, the Charge was Plymouth's first all-electric vehicle. Second, it was a very expensive vehicle to manufacture - the sticker price was \$90,000.00. So, Plymouth sought to test the market for this vehicle while not overextending its financial exposure.

The Charge uses a 288-cell battery pack to power the vehicle.<sup>3</sup> The pack, composed of lithium cells, weighs nearly 500 pounds in aggregate. Because of the battery pack's significant mass, Plymouth's engineers placed it low on the car's frame and closer to its center in order to lower the vehicle's center of mass and increase power efficiency. This location also has an additional advantage: the T-shaped pack can be removed from a Charge relatively simply, provided the correct tools and equipment are available.

A shield covers the battery pack - an important protection, given the deadly current that the pack holds. Once the shield is removed, a person may obtain direct access to each cell in the pack and to the components that connect the pack with the rest of the Charge's power train. Five contactors, located on the on the end of the pack's T-shape, transmit voltage from the battery to the power train. The Charge battery has five contactors: two carry high-voltage power, while the others are for pre-charge, regeneration, and charging. The pre-charge contactor brings the capacitor up to voltage to reduce inrush to the main contactor, while the regeneration contactor receives power input through the Charge's regenerative brakes.

The Charge also contains a unique dual braking system designed to capture the maximum amount of power. When a driver applies the brakes, the electric motor normally used to transfer power to the drive train essentially reverses its application. Instead of transferring power to the drive train, the electric motor acts as a generator, transferring the vehicle's dynamic energy into electricity and depositing it back into the battery. The friction created by the regenerative braking system (RBS) assists in slowing the vehicle. But in addition to the RBS, the Charge also uses a set of standard friction disc brakes.

Now, I should take a moment and note that much of the part development that took place in the research and development phase of the Charge was done in collaboration with General Motors. While Plymouth made the bulk of the initial investment in the project, the global financial crisis that began near the end of the last decade meant that collaboration was a dire necessity – especially for domestic car companies. Plymouth and General Motors ultimately worked collaboratively on much of the final development and production of the Charge, which manifested itself in the GM Aegeus.

#### **THE ACCIDENT**

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<sup>3</sup> The Charge contains a small gasoline engine, but it does not provide direct power. Instead, when the battery capacity is reduced, the gasoline engine drives a generator that produces electricity to power the vehicle.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

Before inspecting the Brush vehicle, I reviewed the Uniform Traffic Crash Report and associated documents. I also spoke with Alex Cross, the investigating officer, because the crash report left me with more questions than answers. Given my expertise with the Charge, it was not necessary for me to review any technical documents related to the vehicle.

Cross shared with me the observation of functioning brake lights immediately prior to the accident. As I will note below, this does not mean the brakes were functioning correctly. Indeed the mechanism that causes brake lights to illuminate is wholly separate from the mechanisms that cause the electric and friction brakes to actually function. Indeed, it is fairly brilliant to leave the brake lights operational, as it would fool any accident observers from believing that there was a mechanical failure.

The materials that I reviewed before inspecting the Brush vehicle informed me that the street showed no skid marks resulting from heavy brake application. Additionally, the passenger riding with Brush, Xing Xing Bo, had stated that Brush was stomping his foot as he approached and traveled through the intersection. Because of this information, I began to suspect that some component of the drive train or braking system failed. Thus, although I inspected the entire car (as much as possible, given its damage), my experience with and knowledge of this type of car lead me to focus on the vehicle's braking systems and drive train.

**THE INSPECTION**

On August 30, 2012, I took temporary possession of the Brush vehicle. My assistants and I placed the vehicle into an enclosed truck and transported it to my automotive laboratory for inspection. We were careful not to damage or alter the vehicle in any way during loading and transport, and I am confident that it arrived at my premises in the same condition as it was when I took possession of it.

A preliminary assessment revealed that the vehicle had been involved in an accident. The front of the vehicle had sustained significant damage. In addition to body damage, the windshield was almost entirely destroyed on the driver's side. This appears to have been caused in part by Brush's body being ejected from the vehicle due to the impact's strength.

As this report has explained, my expertise led me to focus on the Charge's battery pack/power train and brake system. After placing the vehicle on a lift, I removed the battery pack from the Charge.<sup>4</sup> When the battery was safely secured on its customized support, I removed the battery shield and inspected the battery and associated components.<sup>5</sup> While

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<sup>4</sup> Exhibit A shows the battery after removal along with its relationship to the Charge's structure. Exhibit B shows the battery after the shield was removed. Exhibit C shows the shield after removal from the battery.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

inspecting the contactors, I noticed the unusual presence of what appeared to be a transparent plastic film less than one millimeter thick. This material was located on the two primary contactors that transfer power to the vehicle, and on the contactor through which current flowed to the battery when the RBS was activated.

Further testing showed that the transparent material was actually an unusual compound of silicone and rubber. This material is similar to that found in the interior joints of incandescent light bulbs. When exposed to continuous heat on a repeated basis, this compound swells slightly, typically causing a seal. In this case, though, its presence was far more sinister. When the Charge's battery is used or recharged, it emits heat. Through several heating and cooling cycles, this material gradually increased in size. Though the size increase was miniscule, it was enough to make the contactors' connections extremely sensitive to vibrations or sudden jarring. In my opinion, the person who placed this compound in the contactors did so in order to cause a temporary and brief loss of power.

But this loss of power alone would not result in an accident such as the one involving Brush. Instead, the saboteur knew that it was necessary to tamper with the Charge's brakes. This was partially accomplished when the compound was placed in the contactor used by the regenerative braking system. If this connection were interrupted during travel, the RBS would fail to engage, placing the burden of stopping the Charge solely on the friction brakes.

My inspection also showed that the brake lines to each front wheel failed.<sup>6</sup> While one failed brake line is not an extraordinarily unusual occurrence in an accident such as this, finding two failed lines was a surprise. As I inspected the failures more closely, I noticed that the point of failure seemed nearly identical on both sides.<sup>7</sup> I removed and tested the lines, and found that a slow-release compound containing nitric acid had been applied to both points of failure. It appears that a person familiar with vehicles applied this substance, knowing that the lines would not fail during normal use. But an RBS failure such as the one noted above would be much more likely to push the weakened lines beyond their breaking point.

**CONCLUSIONS**

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<sup>5</sup> Exhibit D shows the front of the battery, including the contactors. Exhibit E shows the contactors. The two rectangular contactors at the battery's top handle high-voltage power (positive and negative). The regeneration contactor is located at the bottom right. The others handle pre-charge and charging.

<sup>6</sup> Exhibit F shows the brake assembly. The green arrow points towards the CV joint, which also includes components of the RBS.

<sup>7</sup> Exhibit G, a second view of the brake assembly, contains a green arrow denoting the area where the acid was applied and where the failure occurred.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

Based on the facts above, I am confident that someone altered the Brush vehicle's power system and brakes, leaving, however, the brake lights functional and operational when the brake pedal was depressed. Were only one problem present, there is a slight chance that it could be attributed to an assembly or production defect, or perhaps damage from someone indiscriminately pulling on wires. But due to the unusual circumstances of both the brake and power system, coupled with their interrelated nature, I can confidently state with a high degree of certainty that a person who is very familiar with the Plymouth Charge and similar vehicles intentionally and deliberately sabotaged the car driven by Brush at the time of the accident.

Frankly, the saboteur's plans most likely worked better than he or she could have hoped. In my opinion, Brush must have made a sudden motion while driving, or have hit a pothole or bump in the road. This, coupled with the silicone and rubber compound's placement, interrupted the power supply to the vehicle. It also prevented the RBS from functioning correctly. When Brush noticed that his brakes were failing to respond normally, he surely panicked and depressed the brake pedal strongly. This caused the lines in both front brakes to fail catastrophically, thanks to the chemically-weakened portions. Brush had no way to effectively stop the Charge, and the accident occurred.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

**WITNESSES FOR  
CAMERON PAUL**

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

● **SHAYDEN RACH TOLMES** ●

My name is Shayden Rach Tolmes. While my degrees and training involve biochemistry and pharmacology, and my monograph on differentiating Mary Kate from Ashley Olsen is, in some circles, hailed as the definitive work on the matter, I consider myself a consulting detective. I solve medical mysteries.

I do not dwell on the importance of my pedigree; it is all contained in my CV, a rather dull convention of the professional set that my dear colleague Dotson insists I maintain. Law enforcement officials, members of government, and private citizens ask me to step in when more pedestrian means of solving problems have failed to generate results. While I have certainly been called upon to serve as an expert in multiple court proceedings and formal inquiries (particularly when the police are otherwise at risk of letting a felon go free), I find that the majority of my clients want a quiet solution to an untidy problem and are content to express their undying gratitude, compensate me adequately, and go on with their otherwise mundane lives.

I was retained by counsel for Cameron Paul. It was, of course, impossible that Mr. Brush's demise stemmed from an ordinary car accident. Having eliminated the impossible, Cameron Paul wanted to be eliminated as a suspect as well, as improbable as that may have sounded.

I was happy to oblige, as it is so rare that genuinely interesting cases present themselves at my door. I was asked to review the Medical Examiner's Report in the death of Thor Brush, which I did, and which is customary for the profession. Although, of course, the Medical Examiner's Report could tell me nothing I couldn't deduce from reading the papers. Thor Brush was a generally healthy, middle-aged man who died with an assortment of contusions, some internal bleeding, and evidence of a heart attack.

No, it was the toxicology report I sought, and there I found the key. You'll note that the report states that the body was alcohol and drug free, except for traces of the migraine medicine, which was not unexpected. The migraine medicine itself is usually fairly innocuous, unless one has regularly overdosed, or, perhaps, unless a frequent user also drinks lots of grapefruit juice. Grapefruit juice is a notorious enzyme inhibitor; it can interact with medications, inhibit or augment their performance, and cause all manner of complications, including heart attacks and death. T3 and T4 levels unremarkable, cholesterol and sugar levels unremarkable, other elements, niacin, chromium, Adlerinium, unremarkable.

Well, it's no great feat to have seen the error in the report: while it is unremarkable that Adlerinium be found in human remains, the concentration in the blood was most certainly to be remarked.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

Adlerinium is a particularly vexing trace mineral. It is the only one that has ever perplexed me, although I am certainly more expert on the matter than anyone else in the world. Adlerinium is found in nature, so it is, in fact, unremarkable that one would find it on a toxicology report in trace amounts. It is also a by-product of the breakdown of a class of chemicals used in certain aftershaves and has been known to be absorbed by the body and concentrate in the liver from use of the products.

However, “trace” amounts of Adlerinium should be between .001 and .03 mg/dL. So, while it is theoretically possible that concentrations of Adlerinium could be in the range of .33 mg/dL because of environmental exposure, I find it highly unlikely, particularly since the autopsy was performed 48 hours post-mortem. Of course I cannot say for sure, but in all probability, the concentration was much higher at the time of death. A concentration of only .40 mg/dL could have induced a heart attack. Thus, the toxicology finding should certainly pique the curiosity of the acute observer—particularly coming so soon on the heels of the recall of Fixurheart.

As any dullard who can be bothered to read the papers will know, Fixurheart was a drug intended to lessen the accumulation of plaque in the arteries and prevent plaque from binding there. While it was quite successful in loosening plaque in the arteries, it came to be understood that the plaque simply built up in the heart faster. Worse, high dosages had such an immediate impact on plaque regulation that an accidental overdose could result in the induction of a heart attack. As a result, it was taken off the market entirely and recalled on February 14, 2012. Before it was recalled, it was quite a popular medicine and would likely have been stored in most retail pharmacies. As Fixurheart breaks down in the body, it leaves trace elements of Adlerinium. Take it from me when I say Adlerinium will quite literally break your heart.

Ah, here’s the rub, though. Mr. Brush did not take Fixurheart. Based upon medical records provided to me by the police, the only prescription record for him is Fixurhead, the standard migraine medication that our esteemed toxicologist was so clever as to discern in accepted therapeutic amounts in the bloodstream. It is extraordinarily unlikely that Mr. Brush could have accidentally come across Adlerinium in concentrations strong enough to induce a heart attack. It is also highly unlikely that Mr. Brush could have mistaken a dose of Fixurheart for a dose of Fixurhead. As the learned treatises describe, one is a capsule; one is a pill. For those same reasons, a pharmacist would not accidentally fill one prescription with the other—especially when all Fixurheart had been recalled and the products should have been disposed of. While I cannot speak as to what actually happened in this case, it would seem that in order to induce a Fixurhead user to take an overdose of Fixurheart, one would have to grind up Fixurheart pills and put them in a capsule otherwise containing Fixurhead.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

It is, of course, true, that the 48 hour delay in performing the autopsy could have had other unintended effects on the results, in addition to resulting in an understatement of the concentrations of Adlerinium. While I am not a Medical Examiner, I can tell you that when the medical history does not otherwise confirm a heart attack that occurred before death, rigor mortis can make heart tissue appear to have evidence of a slight myocardial infarction.

So, while I will leave the fact-finder to determine the results of this case, I can say without question that the Adlerinium levels in Mr. Brush's blood deserve close scrutiny. Solve that puzzle, and the game is yours.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

● **AUSTYN JAKOBZ** ●

My name is Austyn Jakobz. I am 45 years old, and I am currently unemployed. I worked at Cameron's Cars in Neyland, Tennessee until early March 2012, when I was terminated by Cameron Paul. I have worked for Cameron for over 15 years and I held the title of Assistant Manager when I was fired. I was a lot more to the business than just Cameron's Assistant Manager. I ran the place, took care of payroll, and made sure everything went smoothly--things that Cameron should have been doing, instead of squandering all the profits in get rich schemes. Like the one where Cameron lost a lot of money investing in U.R. Rich, Thor Bush's company.

I have an agreement with Cameron that if the business is ever sold, I have the right to purchase before anyone else. My lawyer says that agreement is still valid, even though I don't work there anymore. So if Cameron needs to sell Cameron's Cars to pay for legal fees, I am ready, willing, and able to purchase it, after all, why wouldn't I want to get MY business back? Yeah, Cameron started the business, and was the best mechanic in the European Exotic Car Repair market, but I AM the one that made it what it is today, I am the one that expanded things, hired the mechanics and ran the place. The business should be called Austyn's Auto Awesomeness, and if all goes well, soon will be.

I know, or should I say knew Thor Bush. Can't say that I am sorry Thor is no longer with us. In fact, Thor is the reason I got fired, but I'll get to that in a minute. Why don't I like Thor? Well I learned from Cameron, the police, the District Attorney's Office and my parents that Thor came up with this great idea to scam people out of their hard earned money. Thor made promises that could not be kept. Lots of people lost lots of money with Thor's business, U.R. Rich. As it turns out, the only one that made money was Thor!!!

Two of those people that lost EVERYTHING were my wonderful parents, Ozzie and Harriet. They turned over their life savings to Thor, only to lose it all! Eventually, their house, my childhood home, was foreclosed on, and they had to move in with me. They lost their R.V., their cars, and their vacation condo in Knoxville. They didn't lose their Vols season tickets, but it's not like those have any value anymore. My dad passed away soon after losing the house, Doctors say it was a heart attack, but I think he just lost the will to live after losing everything. Mom needs to be in a nursing home, but because there are no more assets, I have to take care of her, or make arrangements for someone to sit with her. So I guess you could say that I blame Thor for everything my parents have gone through.

As I said, Thor is the reason I was fired. Thor came in to Cameron's Cars all the time. Thor must have owned half the cars in town. His business kept Cameron's Cars in the black, even with the investment scheme losses. Well, one day he came in his little Electric Trash car to get it serviced. I assumed that, with everything that had happened, that Cameron would

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

turn Thor away at the door. Not only was Thor a grade A Peter Nincompoop, but I was not aware of our garage ever servicing a Plymouth. Hey, a Plymouth can be Trash! I mean the thing costs more than I make in ten years. My parents' money helped buy that car for Thor, and Thor walks around like nothing is wrong, even though he took everything from them.

Well, Thor was throwing money around like it was growing on trees, and I couldn't take it anymore and just snapped. Yes, I confronted Thor and made sure that Thor knew exactly how I felt about the scheme, the money, U.R. Rich and how my parents lost everything. Thor did not appreciate what I said and more words were exchanged, along with a few shoves. Thor started it, but I ended it by putting Thor on the ground. No one saw anything, because it happened just outside of the rest room area, and the security system doesn't record in that area. Cameron intervened and sent me back to the bay to continue working. When s/he came into the hallway and broke up my tiff with Thor, his/her hands must have been really messy because it got all over my shirt. It was greasy and clear, just like maybe a sealant, but I can't say for sure. S/He must have been trying to grandstand again for customers. But, then again, all of us had messy hands from time to time. I mean, it's an auto shop. I didn't touch Thor's vehicle. I was replacing the Panther's brakes, as well as winterizing the entire vehicle. I also applied a clear silicone paint sealant to the wheel wells and front hood. This helps to prevent nicks to the paint from things like rocks and other debris that the tires kick up.

I don't remember who was working on Thor's vehicle. I assume that Cameron could have been around it. Cameron likes to grandstand around customers and pretend to take a hands-on role with the work. That usually means that trotting out when the work is near completion and talking in hyper technical terms that confuse and awe the customers. It's phony, but it works.

At the end of the day, Cameron called me into the office and fired me; Cameron even docked me a day's pay! Of course, keep me on the job, but stop the clock. Cameron said that the reason I was fired was for assaulting a customer. A *customer*, really? I couldn't believe that Cameron would do this to me, a loyal employee. I certainly wasn't so much of a danger that s/he had to get me off the premises immediately after the confrontation. I only did what Cameron wanted to do, confront Thor and try to get something back.

When Cameron fired me I left the shop, went home, packed a bag, got mom a sitter, and headed to my teepee in the woods to meditate. I did not take my tools and equipment with me, and I kept my keys so I could get back in to get my things if I needed to. However, I was hoping that if I let things cool down for a few days, I would be able to come in and talk to Cameron and try to salvage my job. When I got back in town, I heard about Cameron's arrest; it was all over town. So I went to the shop, got all my stuff and turned my keys in to the new manager, Jesse Stewart.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

Look, I've got a beef with Cameron for firing me, but I can tell you Cameron IS NOT the one that loosened the cables on the car, IF ANYONE DID. As I said earlier, I worked with Cameron for over 15 years; I have lots of experience working on various cars, even if Thor's was a little less common than others. To say the cables were loosened on purpose is just wrong. Those cables come loose all the time from routine driving, and considering this was a crash, I would say it's possible that the cables actually were knocked loose by the force of the impact – they came undone then. I can't even tell you the number of times we have had to tighten them up when we are doing routine maintenance on those cars. Why do you think there was a limited production run of Thor's car?

Look, Cameron is a big believer in karma. The motto of the shop is "We put the car in your good karma." One time, after all the news about Thor's scheme came out, I even joked once that we could get even with Thor--all we had to do was mess with the car a little bit, and if we were lucky, Thor would get in an accident and have to deal with getting sued, with Cameron being the plaintiff's expert saying the car was in perfect condition. It was a joke, but Cameron cut me off and said if I ever threatened to hurt someone again I would get fired. And, Cameron did fire me when Thor and I got into it.

If someone loosened those cables, I can tell you, without a doubt, Cameron is not the one you should be looking at. There were plenty of other people at the shop, whose friends and family lost money with Thor. Cameron DID NOT do this, and, like I said, I don't think anyone did. I think the cables just came loose and no one caught it at the shop during its last service.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

● **CAMERON PAUL** ●

My name is Cameron Paul and I have been wrongfully accused of murder. I am here to tell you the truth as to what happened in this case. Yes, it is true I did not like Thor Brush but, it is also true that I did not kill him. I don't like him because he stole all of my money. You see, he asked me to invest in what I later learned was a Ponzi scheme. He promised me that this was a sure bet and that I would make a huge return on my money. Instead, I lost everything as did many other investors. However, I understand it's just money and I would never kill anyone because of this. In fact, I was looking forward to the day when I was going to get to testify against him and make sure he went to prison for a very long time. That was the punishment that I wanted to inflict on him.

I was born here in Neyland. I had a pretty normal life growing up I guess. I was a good student and worked hard for my grades. However, things went downhill for me in my last semester of my senior year of high school at Neyland High School. I had just won the local high school mock trial competition. (I was voted best witness). Unfortunately, I let that win go to my head. I stopped focusing on my school work, skipped class, and just celebrated my win for the last few months of high school. All this partying led me to make the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst decision in my life. (The worst was investing with that scum bag Thor Brush). I dropped out of high school with one month to go.

Eventually, I hit rock bottom. I went back to school, obtained my GED, and learned from my mistake. I decided I wanted to make something of myself. I began working hard in an auto repair shop and started saving my money. I never turned away a customer. I also promised them that when all this hard work paid off, I would eventually open my own repair shop; Cameron's Cars, which of course, I did. I worked extremely long hours and eventually Cameron's Cars became a profitable business. One of the big reasons for this was that I promised every customer that before their vehicle left the shop, I personally would take a look and make sure the work was done properly. It is a promise I still keep to this day. Things were going well and I had saved a substantial amount of money. This changed when I met Thor Brush.

Thor came into the body shop several years ago for the first time. He refused to speak with any of the other employees and said he would only talk to the "head honcho." Thor began to tell me about all the money he made and how he had all these fancy cars he wanted me to work on. I have to admit that I was excited about getting Thor's business. All those cars! So I agreed to take on the work.

The day of the accident, I remember being approached by Officer Alex Brown. Yeah, that Officer Brown is something else. S/he came to Cameron's Cars to talk with me. Not only is Officer Brown a bad police detective but s/he also doesn't have much of a sense of humor.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

Listen to this; first thing I said to him when he arrived was something to the effect of “we don’t sell no donuts here.” (Of course, I didn’t know anything about the accident at that time). Well, Officer Brown did not think that was too funny and began angrily questioning me about Mr. Brush’s car accident. When Brown told me about the accident the first thing I said was “what wreck?” Officer Brown did ask me if we ever serviced Mr. Brush’s car. By this point, I was a little worried about what Officer Brown was trying to pull. You see, me and Officer Brown don’t get along. Officer Brown accused me some time ago of cheating him/her on some work we did on his/her car. I denied it because we never cheated any of our customers. After that argument, he stormed away and excitedly exclaimed “I will get you for this Cameron Paul!” Ever since then he’s been looking for a way to pay me back. So, when he mentioned an accident and then angrily began questioning me about working on Thor Brush’s car, I could see what he was trying to do. So, I lied. I lied to him and told him to get off my property and that he needs a warrant if he wants to talk to me anymore.

The truth is I did not *work on* Thor Brush’s car that day. However, as I do with all my customers, at the end of the job, I climbed under his car and made sure the work was done properly.

I understand they now got this expert to try and blame me for this accident. I am a high school dropout who started my own business. I fix cars. I don’t know nothing about “unusual compounds of silicone and rubber” or “incandescent light bulbs” or “slow release compounds containing nitric acid.” I also don’t know nothing about how compounds react when heated. The State’s theory that I knew all this scientific stuff to make Mr. Brush’s brakes fail is absurd. Yeah I guess it is true that I would know how to cut the brake lines. But, that doesn’t mean I did it. Let me ask you this - If I was going to rig his car so that it would malfunction and cause an accident, you think I would do it in my own shop in the middle of the day?

My opinion is that Thor Brush set this whole thing up as a way to make money. Thor goes and buys a \$90,000 car and tries to wreck it to get the insurance money. Thor is nothing but a con artist. He would do anything to make a buck; even it means putting friends like Xing Xing in danger.

Yeah, I invested almost all of my life savings with Thor Brush and yeah I lost it all. But it really wasn’t that much money when you look at someone like Quesey Midas. Midas lost millions. Talk about somebody that had motive. I do remember having a conversation with Quesey at the Chumba Vita. Quesey and I began to talk about Thor and how he stole our money. Yeah, I was angry and yeah I probably had a few too many that night. But Quesey was angry too and he agreed with everything I said. He also told me that night about Thor’s medication and said it “would be a shame if Thor was given the wrong medication.” We both got cheated by that scoundrel.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

I have been told that Mr. Brush was sending text messages prior to his wreck. I don't know anything about who he was texting or what he was texting. Furthermore, I don't know anything about battery or brake connections being loose on his car. I didn't do any work on Thor Brush's car when he brought that car to the Cameron's Cars. All I did was make sure the work was done properly. I think it is clear that Mr. Brush's accident was caused not by some mechanical failure in his car but clearly by his texting and driving which we all know is very dangerous. I further understand that his medicine was mixed which could have also caused the accident. If anything was wrong with the vehicle, it was probably from that incompetent Officer Alex Brown pulling all them wires and plastic out of the way when he was looking under the vehicle. Everybody knows pulling all those cables like that is can make the battery cable and brake cable come loose.

Oh, and if it wasn't already painfully apparent, Austyn Jakobz is just a disgruntled greaser. You shouldn't believe a word that comes out of the lying, crooked-teeth sporting, halitosis promoting mouth.

In closing I just want to say that I had nothing to do with Thor Brush's death. The man had enemies all over. I am just the unlucky one that had a prior run in with the lead detective.

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

● **QUESEY MIDAS** ●

My name is Quesey Danglars Midas – I know, strange name. My parents' first date was at the local Hispanic Restaurant, La Pereza Románico, and they could not, apparently, stop talking about the queso for the next nine months.

My attorney, Miller Trant, has advised me to not make a statement, pursuant to the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 19 of the Tennessee Constitution. I rebuke that advice – I have nothing to hide, and I am comfortable helping the light of justice and truth shine.

I spent my formative years in Neyland, where I was lauded for both my scholastic achievements, as well as being a record-setting punter for my high school football team. Following my graduation from high school, I matriculated at Moultrie University, where I graduated, *summa cum laude*, with a Bachelor's in chemistry with a minor in motorsports science and engineering. I was briefly engaged during college to an amazing person in the insurance investigation industry. Yağmur was great, but the days of discussing the pros and cons of Caravaggio over dinner are long behind me.

My true passion has always been the chemical compounds that create and improve life. When my grandmother lay dying from a rare inner ear disorder, I saw an experimental drug exponentially improve her quality of life. I felt that the *courant de la vie* was taking me to the world of pharmaceuticals. I followed that guidance to pharmacy school at Neyland Commonwealth University.

I excelled in pharmacy school, which is par for the course, and could have gone on into research and development or academics. In fact, I was the youngest pharmacist ever invited to serve on the state Board of Pharmacy, which is responsible for establishing, reviewing, and monitoring the qualifications of persons applying to be licensed pharmacists. While serving my three-year term, I also took a professorship at Commodore U in Capital City teaching organic chemistry and underwater basketweaving. I also opened up "Hipster Hash," a mobile pharmacy and nutritional supplements truck that also sold smoothies.

Life in the big city was good, but I decided to return to Neyland and blow the roof off the place. Shortly after my return, I took out a small business loan and opened my shop – the Damodice Pharmacy. Things were slow at first – it is hard to compete with big box stores like Kruger and Volmart, but I found my niche. I began selling discounted prescriptions alongside a full service shop that also had the latest herbal supplements.

I was fortunate to build a successful career and hometown pharmacy from relatively humble beginnings. After just a couple of years in business, I woke up to find my savings

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

account having swelled to nearly 2.6 million dollars. In need of guidance, I reached out to my friend and longtime customer, Thor Brush. Initially, Thor was hesitant to get involved with my money. This intrigued me. I kept calling and asking for his guidance and he kept shoving me off. Finally, I figured out the way to the man's heart is through his progeny. I befriended his kid, Gerry, and taught Gerry about some holistic approaches to mood management. I also shared with him a recipe for Greenies—a smoothie that my friend Nic Atwell invented. Thor seemed happy that Gerry was more chilled out after hanging around with me. In return, Thor took me on as a client.

Thor and I bonded over a deep sea fishing excursion off the coast of Big Sur. He convinced me to go past my threshold of \$500,000.00, and I ended up investing \$2.2 million. Over the first year or two, the returns on my investment were averaging 12.5%. It was an galvanic experience. That's when the hammer dropped.

I saw no losses on my investment until the investigation went public. When it became apparent that Brush's investment scheme was nothing more than a classic Ponzi scheme, I tried to liquidate my investment. Unfortunately, all of my money was frozen, and ultimately, the fraudulent returns were to pay off investors that took priority over my claims. Sure, I have a case against the Brush estate and U.R. Rich, but it is going to take years in court, just to see pennies on the dollar.

Of course, following the indictment, I continued to transact pharmacy-related business with Thor, the donkey. The least he could do was to still get his migraine medicine from me. He was dependent on Fixurhead. Fixurhead is vasoconstrictor, anti-inflammatory sedative that depresses the central nervous system and helps manage the symptoms of migraines. Granted, it is designed to treat the symptoms more so than act as a preventative medicine.

Thor was constantly popping Fixurheads. There is nothing, *per se*, wrong with that; it treats the symptoms and does not have dire or progressive side effects. But, as with any medicine, your body tends to adjust to the medicine's presence in your blood stream, and you reach a point of diminishing returns. In addition, evidently Gerry had introduced Thor to the wonderful world of dietary supplements, as Thor was always buying this smoothie "boost" at the store. It contained a rare and expensive extract from a cactus found only in the Gobi desert. I was personally aware that he mixed it together with grapefruit juice (and sometimes Vodka) to create a smoothie that was designed to boost your metabolism and maximize focus (the Vodka had no effect, other than to cement that Thor had more than one problem).

I am well aware of Fixurheart and its recall less than a month before Thor's death. The local doctors had really come to rely on Fixurheart, and we had a substantial stock in the store at the time of the recall. Normally, after a recall, we would immediately send everything back to the manufacturer; however, the genesis of the recall was here in Neyland, and there was an

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

ongoing medical malpractice suit that involved an allegation of “enhanced” Fixurheart, which was said to be more potent than industry standards. There was and has been no allegation of tampering on the part of my store, but a temporary injunction did enter that required that we keep our supply local and locked up pending further discovery in the civil suit. I probably should have done a detailed inventory of the remaining Fixurheart, but I decided to just deposit whatever I had left in the janitorial closet of the store. It’s all still there, I suppose. I haven’t removed any. I know that, at one point, there was a picture taken by one of the investigators in the medical malpractice suit. The closet still looks the same.

On March 12, 2012, Thor came into the store to fill a scrip, and to pick up some of the supplement that he loved, Desert Attack. I had a pharmacy tech fill the prescription, but took it from her to hand to Thor. Every time he comes in, I want him to have to look me in the eye, and know that I’ll see him in Tartarous. We exchanged hollow pleasantries, and he was on his way.

I was very sorry to hear about his death. He deserved to rot in jail for years before dying a painful death.

Yes, I am aware of Adlerinium, and know that, as medicines, such as Fixurheart, break down, they leave trace amounts of Adlerinium. I also know that Desert Attack, and its main ingredient do the same thing. With as much of the supplement as I know him to have personally ingested, I would have found the toxicology report strange if Adlerinium had not been there.

Speaking to prior brushes with law enforcement, I am pleased to say that I have never been convicted or indicted with a crime. A few years ago, I became aware of a DEA investigation into my prescription practices. A couple of silver spoons, including Gerry, “cooperated” with an investigation that suggested that I was selling prescription pain pills “off the back of the truck.” I had hired Carol Cravens to represent me, but the police had to drop a lot of their investigations when Parker Maddox celebrated Aphid Appreciation Month by releasing 25,000 plant lice through the ventilation system of the police headquarters. A lot of records were destroyed during the infestation.

Finally, I do know Cameron Paul. Cameron is a perfectly fine person. A pharmacist and a mechanic don’t really mix in the same crowds – you can put as much designer clothing on as you want, but some folks will always be low rent. That does not mean that Cameron had anything to do with Thor’s death. Granted, I have personally seen Cameron get very upset in public about Thor.

One time, I was having a drink with some friends at the local Swahili bar, The Chumba Vita, when I ran into Cameron. Cameron seemed to be impaired in some fashion, but of course,

**MARCH 1, 2013 RELEASE**

it is a bar. Cameron was going talking very loudly and publicly that s/he had a deep hatred for Thor. Cameron went on in an ominous tone about how his/her dark passenger would not let the transgressions that Thor had committed go unaddressed. After that Cameron stumbled toward some other lucky patron and I could not hear any more. The whole scene approached the ridiculous.