

31 May 1994

I was at Dr. Isidore Mihalakis' press conference 4:10 PM May 26th at the Lehigh Valley Hospital in Bethlehem, PA. I videotaped the interview. Also present were Mary & Tyrone Couey, Keith's sister Sherri Warren, and a friend of Sherri, C.L.A.M.S. steering group member Mary Betters, Detective Joe Alercia and a fellow detective from New Jersey.

Dr. Mihalakis began with the findings of his autopsy. The body was well preserved; Collins funeral home had made numerous penetrations to infuse formalin (formaldehyde) instead of the usual single entry through the naval. (Why?)

There was no evidence of any bone fractures, nor evidence of bruises. In particular, the neck was not broken; all the small neck bones were intact as was the thyroid cartilage. There were no bites or lacerations on the tongue. (All are common in hangings if the body dropped.) Dr. Mihalakis could not rule the death a suicide, nor could he rule it a homicide. He could, however, absolutely state that Keith could not have jumped (or been pushed) off a log or other platform of any height; otherwise his neck would have snapped and been broken.

Dr. Mihalakis reiterated twice that the bottom line was that he could not rule it a suicide. This seems to contradict the repeated police allegations that Keith Warren's death was clearly a "suicide." They have held firm to this claim despite disturbing new evidence and now this expert autopsy! The claim on the official police report of July 31, 1986 that, "the victim apparently used a log to jump off" is decidedly fallacious.

The following Montgomery County officials have affirmed suicide:

Mat Campbell, Deputy State's Attorney, January 5th, "I am convinced it was a suicide."

Officer Thielman, Homicide Division, June 11, 1993 at meeting in Neal Potter's office Defended death of Keith as a suicide; they "reviewed it three times."

Chief of Police Clarence Edwards, Dec. 29, 1993 in Montgomery Journal, "The position of the county government with respect to this matter has been articulated by the county executive as well as the county attorney. That position is, and remains that Keith Warren's death was a suicide."

Sgt Harry Geehring, Police Spokesman on Channel 9, March 25, 1994, "It was a suicide."

These are only a few of the affirmations of suicide made by our officials.

How will these individuals defend their unequivocal judgment of suicide in the face of this careful autopsy analysis by Dr. Mihalakis?

Dr. Mihalakis also said, "Had an autopsy been performed at the time it would have saved a mother 8 years of grief."

When he was asked if a non-pathologist could rule a death a suicide, Dr. Mihalakis said no, "not an unwitnessed event, without a suicide note or past claims of or actual past suicide attempts."

How can the police in attendance at the scene then claim in good faith that they could "eyeball" the cause of death?

Dr. Mihalakis stated that, "if there simply had been blood drawn and a urine sample collected, one could have done a toxicological screening." This is a minimum requirement, he indicated.

The bottom line is Dr. Mihalakis cannot say IT WAS SUICIDE NOR A homicide.

Over the next three weeks extensive tissue studies will be done. Dr. Mihalakis will send us the final report. We will be in touch with you and inform you of the results.

Sincerely,