

The 'Norfolk Four' Convicted of Brutal Rape And Murder Committed By Lone Assailant

By Larry Tice



Danial Williams, Derek Tice and Joseph Dick (left to right) Eric Wilson not shown.

Michelle Moore and William (Billy) Bosko were married on April 4, 1997. Billy was in the Navy stationed in Norfolk, Virginia where they had an apartment. Less than 24-hours before Billy was due back from a Naval cruise, eighteen-year-old Michelle Moore-Bosko was raped, then choked and stabbed to death between the late hours of July 7, 1997, and the early morning hours of July 8, 1997. Over the next twenty months eight suspects were arrested. The five suspects that confessed were prosecuted and convicted of crimes related to her rape and murder. The other three were released and never prosecuted. However, there is compelling evidence that four of the prosecuted men – Danial Williams, Eric C. Wilson, Derek Tice and Joseph J. Dick, Jr. – falsely confessed and were wrongly convicted. Williams, Dick and Tice were sentenced to life without parole, and Wilson to 8-1/2 years imprisonment. The fifth man, Omar Ballard, has confessed at least five separate times, and has not only repeatedly told authorities that he acted alone, but his were the only confessions with details mirroring the crime scene and physical evidence. Three of Ballard's confessions were to police (two orally and one in writing), one was in a letter to an acquaintance, and one was in a March 2005 sworn affidavit. The truthfulness of Ballard's claim of sole responsibility and

his accurate confessions are corroborated by DNA tests of crime scene evidence that excludes the other four defendants, but not him. The following chronology explains how each of the eight men fit into the Moore-Bosko case:

June 24, 1997: Ballard wounds a young woman living in Moore-Bosko's apartment complex by maliciously beating her with a baseball bat. An angry mob chases Ballard to the Bosko's apartment where William Bosko lets him in and refuses to turn him over to the crowd.

July 7, 1997: Between 11:00 pm on July 7, 1997 and 7:30 am on July 8, Moore-Bosko is raped and murdered in her apartment.

July 8, 1997: Moore-Bosko is found dead by her husband in their apartment. She has been stabbed, strangled and raped. He places a blanket over her body before the police arrive.

July 9, 1997: Norfolk police arrest Williams, who lives in the same apartment complex as Moore-Bosko. After an intense interrogation he confesses and is charged with her rape and murder.

July 18, 1997: Ballard rapes a 14-year-old girl near Moore-Bosko's apartment complex.

December 1997: Report provided to Norfolk police that DNA test result excludes Williams.

Norfolk cont. on page 35

Crime Scene Analysis and Reconstruction of the July 8, 1997 Sexual Assault and Murder of Michelle Moore-Bosko

Excerpts of the 60-page Report by Academy Group, Inc.

Executive Summary

Mrs. Michelle Moore-Bosko was sexually assaulted and murdered by Omar Ballard on July 8, 1997, in her Norfolk, Virginia, apartment. Ballard was alone with Moore-Bosko when he killed her. He confessed to this homicide, and solely his DNA was found under her fingernails and in her vagina. Statements made by Ballard to police investigators were consistent with the physical evidence found at the crime scene and found during the victims autopsy.

There was no evidence of any nature linking Danial Williams, Joseph J. Dick Jr., Eric C. Wilson, or Derek Tice to this crime. Statements they made were not consistent with the physical evidence, victim's wounds, or behavioral evidence. They had nothing to do with this matter and were charged only because they confessed to the crimes. (p. 3)

Why the Evidence Does Not Support This as a Multiple-Offender Crime

If eight healthy young men were in a tiny (approximately 700 sq. ft.) apartment taking turns restraining and sexually assaulting a kicking and violently fighting female, it can be presumed that their vigorous activity, anxiety, nervousness and testosterone would lead to a far greater amount of physical, biological, and behavioral evidence being present than was found at this scene.

The greater the number of people present, the greater the chance for leaving fingerprints, hairs, fibers, footwear impressions, and semen, and the greater chance of breaking, stealing, or disturbing something in the small apartment. There was not enough physical evidence present to support this as being a multiple-offender crime. (p. 21)

Physical Evidence

If this were a multiple-offender crime one would expect:

- More fingerprints throughout the apartment
- More fingerprints on the polished surface of bedroom floor

Analysis cont. on page 30

Norfolk Four — Williams, Tice, Dick and Wilson — Seek Pardons From VA Governor

Petitions requesting executive clemency and pardons were filed with Virginia Governor Mark Warner by lawyers for Derek Tice, Joseph Dick and Danial Williams on November 10, 2005. The three men had been convicted of the rape and murder of Michelle Moore-Bosko in July 1997 based on their confessions. They were sentenced to life in prison. Eric Wilson was also convicted of rape, but not murder, after confessing. Wilson completed his prison sentence in September 2005, and has also filed a pardon petition.

All four men have retracted their confessions as being coerced under intense pressure by Norfolk, Virginia detectives and claimed their innocence.

The petitions for Tice, Dick and Williams incorporate the crime scene reconstruction analysis conducted by Academy Group,

Inc., a Virginia based forensic consulting firm. AGI released its a 60-page report on

November 3, 2005. The report examines the condition of the crime scene, the physical and DNA evidence recovered, and the consistency of the men's confessions with the crime scene and evidence. AGI's summarizes its report as conclusively establishing that none of the four men was involved in Moore-Bosko's rape and murder.

The Norfolk Four's pardon requests have attracted national attention to their case, including a feature article in *Time* magazine (Dec. 12, 2005) and a segment on ABC's *Nightline* program (Dec. 29, 2005).

Governor Warner has granted a pardon to three wrongly convicted men, Marvin L. Anderson, Julius Earl Ruffin and Troy D. Hopkins, and he has announced he will pardon two others. It is unknown when he will make a decision about the Norfolk Four's applications.