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To the editor:

This letter is about the interrogations and convictions of the four young men charged in the beating death of John Hartman on October 11, 1997, hopefully opening up more questions and answers.

In reading the transcripts of the interrogations, the impression is the four men knew nothing about the murder. Two were drunk and questioned for an extensive period of time. All four denied, and to this day deny any involvement. It shows the police continuously used coercive methods in the interrogations. It shows that they already made up their minds the boys were guilty.

Robert Downey defended George Frese. Now he's defending Dale DePue, who along with Shawn [unclear] one month before Hartman's murder, beat Chris Stone with billiard balls and left him for dead. Now both are in jail for the beating and stabbing murder of Maurice Smith in August 1998.

Why does Stone's story differ from the last person to see them together? Why was Hartman wearing Stone's pants? Where is Hartman's pants? Was E's uncle and aunt questioned? When? Was Stone questioned and when? Were his clothes and shoes checked? Stone and Hartman were smoking crystal methamphetamine earlier? How did they get it? How deep does the drug story go?

A private investigator asked three jurists why they had found Frese guilty, and was told they relied on Arlo Olsons story. Was he telling the truth? He was picked up for domestic violence but not charged. Did he lie for the police in exchange for dropped charges? Was John Heffle given leniency in exchange of his surprising testimony that the men confessed to him?

Judge Steinbrenner said she thought it was proven Frese's shoeprint was on Hartman's face, even though an expert witness testified that none of the fourteen pairs of footwear confiscated from the defendants matched the shoeprint. Also the photo of Hartman's head was enlarged by the D.A. so Frese's shoe could fit in the shoeprint.

Anyone who's had experience with the double standard of justice, based on their race, is welcome to call 366-7222 or fax 366-7249. Too many people in positions of authority and law laugh at these words, "double standard of justice", but the Natives know how it is to have lived under it.

More questions next month.

Thank You,

Curtis Sommer

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ORIGINAL VERSION:
edited before
publication

Downs

where is the transcript
Stone's just
taken &
it takes
from

as the court
records suggest?

assisting
witness for the
defendants

stake in court

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