National

Sex not discounted as motive in Atlanta child killing

United Press International
ATLANTA — Authorities said the decomposed body of a black male pulled from the Chattahoochee River late Tuesday was a young man with probably no connection to the city's string of 23 slain and missing children.

The partially nude body was found in the river several miles from where the body of Timothy Hill, the 21st victim, was discovered Monday

Clad only in a T-shirt, the body appeared to officials to be that of a black teen-ager at first, but an autopsy early Wednesday established the victim as being over 20 years of age.

There had been immediate speculation that the body might have been that of 15-year-old Joseph Bell, missing since March 2. But the autopsy, conducted at a funeral home in suburban Douglasville, ruled that out.

"This is not Joseph Bell," said Douglas County Sheriff Earl Lee. "This is a black male who looks about 70 inches tall and weighs about 150-175 pounds."

Lee said he could give no opinion on whether the body might be connected to the child murders, "but it is coincidental that the body was recovered from the same river just a day apart" from the body of Hill.

A spokesman for the special police task force, which is investigating the slayings of 21 black children and disappearances of two others over the last 20 months, refused comment.

Lee said there were no visible wounds on the body, which had been in the water several days, but "we are investigating it as a homicide." The body was discovered, lodged against a tree trunk, by a canoeist.

Just as the youth found Tuesday night was almost nude, so was the mudcaked body of 13-year-old Timothy Hill, the 23rd black victim. His body had been fished from the Chattahoochee Monday and identified Tuesday.

Dr. John Feegel, assistant Fulton County medical examiner, said Hill died of asphyxiation — "suffocation, if you will" — at the hands of a killer who apparently dispatched the youngs-

Forensic experts and officials investigating the unsolved murders say they are more certain than ever that sex is probably the motive in most, if not all, of the slayings.

The removal of all of Hill's clothes except undershorts "may be strongly suggestive of a sexual motive," Feegel said Tues-day. His statement echoed the beliefs of other investigators in the baffling case.

Dr. Larry Howard, director of the state Crime Laboratory, has said that a sexual motive appeared to be a likely reason for the murders. No investigator has discounted the sexual mo-

Hill disappeared while playing near his home March 13, but his name had never been added to the list of the special police task force investigating the murders because authorities stuck to the belief for nearly three weeks that he was a

Hill's death was likely to center police attention on his

acquaintance or other connections with at least seven murdered children. Hill lived around the corner from Jos Bell, 15, who vanished earlier this month. He may also known Anthony Carter and Jeffery Mathis, two others

Hill's older brother Richard was once a maintenance a housing project where two other victims, Curtis Roger Aaron Wyche, lived and which one other murdered Aaron Jackson, frequented.

Feegel said the fact there has been no evidence of se

molestation on any of the victims' bodies does not disc sexual motive.

'One can abuse a person without leaving any mark, said. "Little boys in their underwear are in their under because someone has probably been fooling around

Most of the victims, however, have been found h clothed





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DOLBY STEREO

A new high



College dean says kids learn easier

Clowns vie for spots in school

BALTIMORE — Lou Jacobs, 78, the dean of clowns for the Greatest Show on Earth, watched with keen eye as 37 of his students vied for admission to the one and only Clown College in the United

"I got to think it's easier for these kids now," said Jacobs, as Ron Sederini, the college "dean," put the applicants to the test. "These kids can learn in nine weeks what it took me five years to

'Back when I was young, you didn't get near to the performers.



(R) 7:30, 9:35

LEE REMICK

United Artists

in being low down

every day - every day.

Jacobs, a German immigrant, broke in with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey in 1924, working as a contortionist. Later that same year, he got his break, and began training as a clown.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey began the Clown College in 1968, at the behest of Irvin Felt, its president.

Each year since then, about 50 students have been selected from a pool of as many as 4,000 for nineweeks of training in Venice, Fla. Auditions for the college are held annually in 40 U.S. cities, whenever the circus comes to

Many of those trying out Tuesday in Baltimore viewed clowning as a way to break the routine of the work-a-day life.

"head go-fer" at the Baltimore Civic Center, site of the try-outs. T've waited for this a long time,

and I really want it," he said.
Bill Hechert, 20, is studying natural sciences at Towson State University, but said he'd rather be

"I like to make people laugh, and I'd like to travel," he said.

The tryouts lasted about two hours and included slap-stick, pantomimes and other improvisations, along with the unicycling and juggling.

Sederini asked the first seven people called up to feign happiness, then sadness. Sederini next had them act as though they were peering through a restaurant window and persuading a customer to toss them a pork chop.
Chuck Sidlow, one of two "Boss"

Bruce Forcheimer, 25, of Balti-Clowns," said he saw "one or two" more, described himself as the people whom the admissions

board might want to take a cle look at. Final notices will be set out before Sept. 15.

Admission is a good step towa becoming a professional clow but it is no guarantee. Only abo one-half of "college" graduates contracts with Ringling Bros. an Barnum and Bailey, clowns said

Jim Killebrew and Brian Smit two 1979 graduates who sign contracts, expressed satisfact with the clowning life.

"It's been a blast," said Killeb "The money is sort of seco dary. But I'm like Steve Martin-I'm just amazed that I'm gett paid anything for having fun.'

Jacobs, who boasts owning "the smallest automobile in the wo — 3-feet by 3-feet," agreed. He signed an autograph for a young admirer and said, "Let's keep the world happy.

"I personally think it is not d. I personally think it is

coincidence. We receive this kir

of mail every day, not threats h

people who say God told the

FBI agent-in-charge Ed Grims ley said the note and a second let

ter to Swaggart also postmarked

Grand Junction were sent to th

FBI's national laboratories for

that they were connected with the

attempt on the president, but he are being tested," Grimsley said Wednesday.

printed "prayer request" en

velope inserted in Swaggarts in

tionally-circulated monthly mag-zine, "The Evangelist." The

words were scrawled with a fel-tip pen beneath the pre-printed phrase, "Jimmy, please pray that."

The second Grand Junction let-

ter was also printed on a prayer

request envelope. Although it contained no threat — reading "Right wing KKK trash mail"

Swaggart said it was written is

similar handwriting and the same

type ink as the note threatenin the president.

The note was written on a pre-

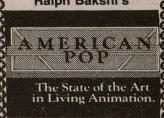
There is no real reason to fee

something.'

Letter predicted shooting

BATON ROUGE, La. — Television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart said Wednesday a letter he received threatening President Reagan's life probably was sent by

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a "kook," but he gave the note to turned over to the FBI," he said the FBI on a chance it might be "I personally think it is m linked to the president's would-be

The note — postmarked March 25 in Grand Junction, Colo. and opened Tuesday — read: "Ronald Reagan will be shot to death and this country turned to the left.'

A ZIP code check of Swaggart's computers containing the names of thousands of previous letterwriters showed a name in the Grand Junction area similar to that of John W. Hinckley Jr., the Evergreen, Colo. drifter accused of shooting Reagan and three others. "It was very similar to Hinc-

kley," Swaggart said. "It was very close. It started with an 'H' and ended as it should have ended to be similar. Swaggart stressed Hinckley's

name was not on the letter nor had the accused gunman been linked

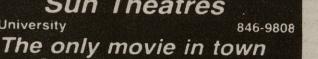
"We get up to 300,000 letters a day," Swaggart told reporters in the television studio of his large, multi-building office complex. "Always in that conglomeration of mail there will be what you call kook letters or crazy letters.

"We usually discount them because you've got a lot of religious nuts in the world as well as other Because of Monday's assassina-

tion attempt, the evangelist said he called the FBI. "In view that it came from Col-

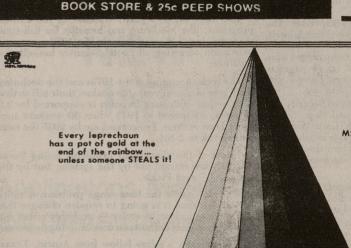
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