

Explosive Case Study

Please go to the website:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/transcripts/2310tbomb.html>

This site contains the complete transcripts of the NOVA show Bombing of America which aired on PBS March 25th, 1997.

- 1) Please read page 1 in full, along with the first paragraph at the top of page 2 (through Chris Ronay) along with page 4 discussing police investigations of bombings and answer the questions below:
 - a) What type of evidence remains after a bombing?
 - b) What types of experts evaluate the evidence?
 - c) What happens when a bomb explodes?
 - d) What, according to Joe Hanlin, is the most important factor in a bomb investigation?

- 2) Select one of the following cases discussed in the transcripts.

Unabomber and Mad Bomber, pages 2-3, and 10 to 13.

World Trade Center (not September 11th), page 5

11th Circuit Court bombings, page 6

Abortion Clinic bombings, pages 7-8

Erin Bower, K-Mart bombing pages 8 – 9

James McFillin, taggants pages 9 to 10

For the case you select, please consider the following questions:

- a) What evidence was collected?
- b) How was the evidence analyzed?
- c) If applicable, what techniques were used to analyze the evidence?
- d) How did the analyzed evidence contribute to the identification and/or conviction of a suspect?

Please come to class on Monday prepared to discuss this article and the case studies.

You may also find the following website relevant to the James McFillin case:

<http://home.speedsite.com/ccohen/taggants.htm>

The following site may also be of interest:

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/teachers/overviews/2310_bombing.html