

## **Breaking News Headline**

**Seattle Daily Times**

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010**

Mr. John Wait of Seattle, WA, was on his way home from work as a corporate attorney at Boggs, Plubark, and Epstein Law Firm on a cold and rainy Thursday afternoon at 5:26pm. He had just finished negotiating an important case involving the overseas Mayweather Co., Inc, LLPC. He had won the case and several millions of dollars were trading hands due primarily to his savvy negotiation skills and impeccable understanding of international shipping law.

Suddenly Mr. Wait's car swerved abruptly off the road, plunged down an embankment, and crashed front-first in between two huge boulders. Onlookers in two separate cars immediately pulled over and rushed to the edge of the precipice. Scrambling down, one of the onlookers found Mr. Wait covered in blood and unresponsive. The onlooker, Mr. Benjamin March, after bending over the body crumbled inside the car for about a minute yelled back up to the gathering crowd; "he has no pulse and is dead!

Mr. Wait had a wife and three children and his estate was worth an estimated 23.2 million dollars, following his latest court victory.

Detectives with the Seattle Police Department reported today that Mr. Wait's neighbors, John and Maggie Purell, stated that they had seen Mr. Wait's wife Kathleen arguing with him on the lawn of their Seattle home that morning after a party the night before in celebration of Mr. Wait's courtroom victory.

## **Breaking News Headline**

**Seattle Daily Times**

**February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

At 11:23pm yesterday evening a Mr. Benjamin March, the first responder to the John Wait accident on State Hyw 90 in Seattle, was found dead in an undisclosed downtown Seattle hotel room. The cause of death is as yet not known but the hotel room experienced a fire after which the badly burned body was found. Mr. March was found upon autopsy to have small amounts of elemental potassium, zinc, and human skin tissue under his fingernails and two separate types of burns on his body; electrical and fire. \$250,000.00 was found still secured in a large metal suitcase in the motel room closet.

Preliminary DNA analysis revealed that the tissue under his nails came from a wanted felon, Mr. Mark Hollingsworth. Mr. Hollingsworth is wanted on 2 counts of armed robbery and one count of manslaughter. Mysteriously, Mr. Hollingsworth was married briefly to Carla Purell. daughter of Maggie and John

Purell, neighbors of the Wait family reported on earlier this week by the Seattle Daily Times.

Mr. Hollingsworth was known to have worked for Bright Tree Electrical Co. and to have had some basic knowledge of chemistry (not nearly as much as you, however, since he's a bad guy). It is believed that forensic investigation of the cause of the fire will lead police to the whereabouts of Mr. Hollingsworth.

#### For Physical Science students:

Fact 3: Crime scene investigation of the motel room revealed trace amounts of solid granular zinc chloride, an ionic compound, and an exposed electrical outlet.

Question 3: Knowing the properties of ionic compounds (see pg 188 and 195) do you think the zinc chloride found on the scene could have somehow to be involved with Mr. March's death (hint; think of our "Shining Light on Ions" lab)? You must defend your answer with background chemistry knowledge and scientific method/critical thinking analysis.

Fact 2: A complete forensic investigation of the Wait home revealed two party balloons filled with chlorine gas instead of helium. In an interview with Mr. Wait's supposed son Ben (see "Life Science" below) it was revealed that he is an environmental chemist with the Oregon-based CleanAirNow research firm who worked on Ozone Layer depletion by industrial refrigerants and consumer spray can additives such as chlorofluorocarbons.

Question 2: What are the properties of halogen group elements in general and chlorofluorocarbons specifically and how might this relate to Mr. Wait's death? You must defend your answer with background chemistry knowledge and scientific method/critical thinking analysis.

Fact 1: small amounts of elemental potassium, not found purely in nature are found by detectives just under the wiper blade water reservoir and on the ground under the engine.

Question 1: What are the properties of the Alkali metals in general and potassium in particular and might this element be related to Mr. Wait's death? You must defend your answer with background chemistry knowledge and scientific method/critical thinking analysis.

#### For Life Science students:

Fact 2: Detectives suspect a connection between Benjamin March and Ben Wait, son of accident scene John Wait. They have an old tissue sample from the hospital Ben Wait was born in and they have Mr. March's badly burned body. But the forensic genetics department of the Seattle police department just had a budget cut from the Governor of Washington and can only

do one of the genetics tests below to see if these two men are related or not.

Question 2: What genetics test from the three described below would you do and why? You must defend your answer with background genetics knowledge and scientific method/critical thinking analysis.

Test 1: Compare the amino acid sequence of three proteins isolated from skin samples of both men.

Test 2: Compare the nitrogen base sequence from chromosome number 13 of both men.

Test 3: Compare the mid-digit hair and tongue rolling ability of the two men.

Fact 1: Mr. Wait was known to have a possible son, Ben, who lived in another family from an early age and who had publicly stated that he critically disagreed with Mr. Wait's courtroom tactics. Two weeks ago Ben had mysteriously been seen in Seattle, where he hadn't lived before. Ben has attached earlobes. Both Mr. Wait and his wife are heterozygous for Free earlobes.

Question 1: Could Ben possibly be the prodigal son of Mr. Wait? You must defend your answer with background genetics knowledge and scientific method/critical thinking analysis.