

**EMILY L. CLARK
149 PARK DRIVE #35
BOSTON, MA 02215
617.536.8081**

April 30, 2002

Mr. Bernie McCabe, State Attorney
Mr. Bruce Bartlett, Asst. State Attorney
Mr. Steve Porter, Investigator
14250 49th Street North
Clearwater, FL 33762
Fax: 727-464-6534

Dear Sirs,

I am writing out of concern for the direction that the investigation into Shawn Robin McMillan's death is taking. I dated Shawn for four years – from December 1995 to December 1999. We spent almost every day together for the three and a half years we both lived in Tallahassee. Although I now live in Boston with my fiancé, I attended Shawn's funeral with his family and I have followed the investigation closely. So many things went through my mind upon hearing of his death – shock, sorrow, confusion, disbelief – I had just spoken to him a week before – it just didn't seem possible. But it never crossed my mind that Shawn took his own life. He wouldn't have done that. It was something he felt strongly about. Whenever he heard of someone committing suicide, he would say that they were idiots. That suicide didn't solve anything.

Shawn McMillan would not kill himself. I believe I told Officer John Halliday of the FDLE that very thing when he called to interview me, but for some reason it didn't make it into his report. It also didn't make it into the report that I stated that Michaela Mahoney only wanted the best for her sons. She wanted Shawn to live a happy, successful life. What decent mother doesn't want that? I met Michaela, along with Richard and Daniel, during the first week Shawn and I dated. I remember thinking immediately how sweet she was. We hit it off right away. She was more than just a boyfriend's mother to me – she was a good friend. Their house was always a happy place to be. Shawn and Daniels' friends were always welcome, as were my friends and family.

Some have tried to paint Michaela as an over-bearing and interfering mother. That is not how Shawn saw her. Shawn knew how Michaela loved him, and he loved her, too. He always appreciated the sacrifices she made for their family. She supported the boys and waited until they were in high school or older to pursue her own legal career. She was interested and involved in her boys' lives. There are national ads running daily pleading with parents to talk to their children and find out about their lives, yet in this case, you have a mother who is devoted to her children; a mother that any child, adolescent, or young adult would be lucky to have; one who is supportive and understanding, and it is being used against her. She cared about Shawn and the direction his life was taking. Is that wrong? Is it not bad enough that she has lost her son, at only 26 years of age, in a violent "accident" that authorities simply refuse to give the attention it deserves? I think it would be embarrassing enough for a police department to make so many mistakes – letting the alleged crime scene be driven away by the intoxicated gun owner.

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who happens to be a Pinellas County Corrections Officer, failing to do gun residue tests on anybody present at the scene & failing to interview relevant witnesses – that they would try to undo the damage they've done, but instead, they continue to ignore mountains of evidence and conflicting testimonies. It's despicable.

Shawn was well liked and admired by his friends and fraternity brothers and was like a big brother to all my friends. They would ask him for advice on dating and he looked out for each of them whenever they were around. He even spoke to my sorority's pledge class the semester that he was the ATO Pledge Trainer about the possible dangers a female college freshman could face. He warned them about trusting people too fast and let them know that if they ever needed anything, he would be there for them. He stood up for people when they were being taken advantage of, as I believe he did the night of his death when a young woman was being threatened. He genuinely cared about people and loved to be with friends. He enjoyed music, reading (he was a history buff), *The Simpsons* (he had dozens of episodes taped), and he loved to be near the water, whether in an inflatable kiddie pool on the ATO deck or on a sailboat on the gulf. He had always loved animals, especially his cat, Tiger, and couldn't wait to get a dog of his own.

Shawn did have some rough times, as many of us do, but he got through them. Through the support of his family, he was able to get his life back on track. But it seems that the rough times are the only part of Shawn's short life the authorities seem to care about. Of all the things I said to Officer Halliday, the information I provided about Shawn's possible drug use was the only thing they focused on. I answered his questions honestly to try to help out the investigation, but none of my positive remarks were used. It seems they were using me to get the information that would fit with the picture they were trying to paint of him and disregarded the reality that he was truly a good person. I told Officer Halliday what a good mother Michaela was. I told him I didn't think Shawn would kill himself. When he asked me if Shawn partied, I said that he did, but not more than any other college kid. He was a social person. He liked to have a good time. He would not kill himself.

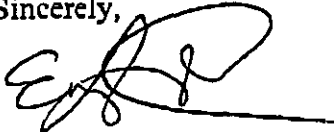
I also told Officer Halliday about the last time Shawn and I spoke. He sounded so happy. He had been working with his mother in her law office and was enjoying himself. He was a valuable asset to the office and they loved having him around. He was extremely intelligent and the situation was rewarding to all parties involved. He was even more excited about the job he was going to start training for the next week with American Express. He said he thought it was going to turn out to be the perfect job; just what thought he would like to do. He still thought about going back to law school, but he wanted to take a break and see what kind of opportunities would arise with his new position. He was also getting ready to move into a house with a friend and seemed very excited about that. At the time, we had been apart for almost 2 years, but we had talked a few times. We discussed all the new things going on in his life and how I was doing here in Boston. I was talking to an old friend and it felt good to know that we were able to have a relationship on that level. From our conversation, I know that feeling was mutual. We parted on extremely good terms & I was looking forward to hearing about his training and new job the next time we talked.

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But that never happened. The next thing I heard about Shawn was the news of his death. Like I said, it was shocking. And then all of us who loved Shawn were dealt another blow upon trying to figure out what happened that night. We were all appalled by the way the case was/is being handled. A dear human life was taken and Shawn's family has had to deal with the "authorities," who choose to portray him as someone who had no respect for life and lay blame on a loving mother and an old girlfriend, who he was on good terms with, rather than dig a little deeper to find out the truth. Shawn McMillan did not kill himself.

I really hope someone has the decency to step up and get to the bottom of this. A life was taken. That is not something that can be covered up and swept under the carpet. Please, Mr. McCabe, you have the resources needed to get to the truth. Use them and do what you can to right what has been wronged. Shawn can never be brought back. He will never be able to live the rest of his life, but you can help him by ensuring a fair investigation and making sure justice is served.

Sincerely,



Emily L. Clark