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To: Between The Bars,

Ex (Cal) Student Asserts Innocence

March
6th,
2022

CHECK THIS OUT

Have you all read: The Daily Californian?

Well, the "Daily Cal" printed what's turned out to be my life's story; On Nov. 2000 the article entitled, "Ex-Student Asserts Innocence" was printed.

Twenty-Five (25) years later, I'm still incarcerated. By now, more years of life has been spent inside prison than out side.

Please read the attached two (2) -page article.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Michael Manjeet Singh

enclosed: 2 pages

→ Nov. 2000 Daily Cal Article

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See RAPE page 8

JEN CHANG denounced the ASUC's internal party politics as she delivered her resignation speech during the senate meeting yesterday.

DAILY CAL STAFFRAN UMEGA

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Ex-Student Asserts Innocence

Sentencing postponed, attorney expected to file for new trial

By STEVE SEXTON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Pleading for a reprieve from a life in prison, Michael Singh, the former UC Berkeley economics major who was convicted last May of three murders, said he is desperate for help.

With or without a reprieve, Singh's case is expected to stretch on, as his sentencing hearing scheduled for tomorrow has again been postponed.

Singh was found guilty of murdering his former girlfriend, Rhoshima Pippens, their seven-month-old son, and her unborn child. The murders took place in a Safeway parking lot in Hayward on Dec. 1, 1996.

Nearly four years later, Singh has yet to be sentenced, though he has been behind bars since the verdict came down six months ago.

The sentencing, which was originally scheduled for Aug. 8, has again been pushed back, following a motion for continuance filed by Singh's attorney, William Linehan.

Linehan is pushing for a new trial for his client, arguing there was a rush to judgement on the part of the district attorney's office and that several leads were not investigated by police. In a handwritten letter from prison, Singh argues that the criminal justice system has become a "juggernaut." He claims a new trial will prove his innocence.

"Every night I lay and wonder how the jury convicted me," Singh wrote. "From day one, I just knew I'd be vindicated, since I am innocent."

In the letter, Singh cites new evidence and an allegedly perjured criminologist as justification for a new trial.

He claims that a video which likely would have shown the victim with her killer was mysteriously destroyed before trial. Singh also contends that an unidentified set of fingerprints found at the crime scene likely point to the real killer, as does the identity of an unknown caller who confessed to the crime after Singh was behind bars.

In addition, Singh and his lawyer argue that the testimony of the prosecution's forensic expert is unreliable because she lied in the preliminary hearing when she was asked if she had passed a criminologist test. She said she had not yet taken it, when, in fact,

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The Daily Californian
Nov. 2000
Daily Cal Paper (pg. 2 of 2)

Student

FROM FRONT PAGE

she had failed the test several months before.

"If the jury knew these things, would they have acquitted me, or at least hung?" Singh asked in the letter.

Confident that the jury would not have convicted him had they been aware of this additional evidence, Singh and his attorney are hoping for a new trial.

Deputy District Attorney Stuart Hing, the lead prosecutor for the case, denied the existence of any compelling new evidence.

"The police investigation was very thorough," Hing said. "Our office's inquiry was even more complete. We chased down other possible suspects. We double-checked tests."

Hing said the credibility of the criminologist was weakened by her perjury, but that her testimony was otherwise accurate and that the perjury did not affect the facts of the case.

"It's hard to speculate whether (Singh) will be awarded a new trial," he said. "But I know of no reason why (he) should be."

No motion for a new trial has been filed yet, although one is expected soon. The formal sentencing hearing cannot take place until a judge rules on a motion for a new trial.

If a judge refuses to set aside the conviction and hold a new trial, the sentencing will proceed and a judge will likely condemn Singh to life in prison without the possibility of parole, as a trial jury recommended in June. Linehan could then file several appeals on his client's behalf. The legal process, which has already lasted nearly four years, could carry on for several more. Hing attributed the long, drawn-out process to the busy schedules of the courts and attorneys.

In the meantime, Singh, who had once hoped to attend Harvard Law School, remains behind bars.

"When I was arrested, I was a 21-year-old UC Berkeley student," he said. "Now I am falsely incarcerated."