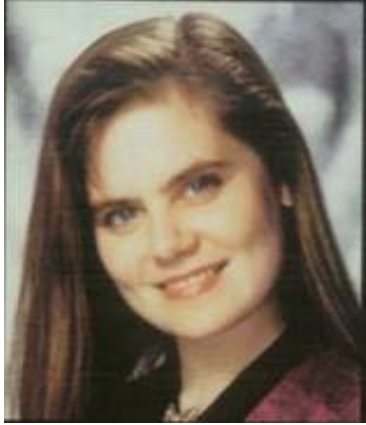


**Holly Suzanne Tarr**, daughter of Paul Tarr & Dorothy (Detzer) Tarr, was born 14 December 1971 in Michigan. She was an honors student and active member of the Class of 1990 at Okemos High School. While on Spring break, Holly was murdered 3 April 1990 in San Diego, San Diego County, California. She was interred Glendale Cemetery, Okemos, Ingham County, Michigan.

by Kerry Byrnes '63



Holly Suzanne Tarr - Class of '90— aspiring actress active on the stages of local theaters; as a freshman, cast member of *Guys and Dolls*; as a junior, member of the orchestra, member of the Someko Singers, and cast member of *While the lights were Out*;



and as a

senior member of the Honor Society

**Play to light up Okemos stage**

Casting has been completed for Okemos High School's fall play, "While the Lights Were Out."

Lead roles in the mystery farce, scheduled for Nov. 17 and Nov. 18, will be shared among the cast of 15 students, said **Dee Greenberg**, the play's director.

The cast includes **Holly Tarr, Dave Glickman, Molly DeLind and Dustin Howes**, who also have appeared in Spotlight Theater, Lansing Civic Players and Lansing Community College productions.

Playing a variety of English characters will be **Craig Collins, Heather Culton, Aaron Espinosa, Julie Finn, Sharyl Foresman, Kirstin Guter, Kelly Hood, Allison Kincaid, Eugene Raikhel, Perry Rentz and Tami Staser**.

Two OHS alums — **Brent Lightfoot and Jim Reis** — will be the technical directors for the show. Tickets go on sale Nov. 6 at the high school.

and "outstanding senior."



Most Musical: Brett Rumminger & Holly Tarr

**The Holly Tarr Memorial Award** for Choral and Theater is a living testament to hopes and aspirations of one who accomplished so much in such a brief moment. The annual Award winner represents the highest achievement for the most talented Okemos Senior and received with humility and honor to the memory of Holly.

A.P. Government Back Row: Dini Constant, Earl Farnen, Nick Tsai, G. Hoffacker, Jon Niss, Tom Noud, Show-Pol Ho, David Woodley, Jim Fugazzi, Thomas, Brian Goodman. Front Row: Alex Nguyen, Holly Tarr, Amy Trab, Kirsten Knutspool, Brooke Heckert, Lara Murray, Anzela Rasmussen, Jenny Grahn, Cheryl Schwers, Jenn Francis, Zach Johnson, David Wilczura, David Kauffman.



## OKEMOS GIRL SLAIN ON CALIFORNIA TRIP

San Diego, Calif. - An Okemos high school girl was stabbed to death while visiting her brother in southern California. Holly Tarr, 17, a senior at Okemos high School, was killed Tuesday, the third young woman slain in the northern San Diego neighborhood of Clairemont since January, police said.

### **Okemos girl slain on California trip**

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — An Okemos high school girl was stabbed to death while visiting her brother in southern California. Holly Tarr, 17, a senior at Okemos High School, was killed Tuesday, the third young woman slain in the northern San Diego neighborhood of Clairemont since January, police said.

## Los Angeles Times

### Michigan Residents in Shock Over Slain Teen

April 08, 1990 | MICHAEL GRANBERRY | TIMES STAFF WRITER

Michigan legislator Francis Spaniola said Friday the capital community of Lansing, where 18-year-old Holly Suzanne Tarr appeared frequently on the stages of local theaters, has been devastated by her stabbing death this week at an apartment complex in Clairemont.

"There's a lot of tough people who walk the halls of the Legislature here, but I've never seen such an outpouring of kindness and concern," said Spaniola, a close friend of Paul Tarr, Holly's father.

Spaniola said he met the senior Tarr when he flew in from San Diego late Thursday night on the same plane that returned his daughter's body to Michigan. Spaniola said the death of the aspiring actress--the third young woman to have been stabbed to death in a two-block area since Jan. 12--has been widely reported in the news media in both Lansing and Detroit. Tarr, whose parents are divorced, lived with her mother in nearby Okemos, Mich.

"At the high school, where Holly was a senior, the students are in total shock," Spaniola said.

"The theater community, in which she and her father and older sister have been active for years, is in total shock. Everyone has been deeply touched and is trying to show, in any way possible, their concern."

Spaniola and Frank DeWald, Tarr's choral instructor at Okemos High School, said family members and friends are concerned about the emotional state of 18-year-old Tammy Ho. She's described as Holly Tarr's best friend, whom DeWald said had lived with Tarr and her mother for 1 1/2 years.

Ho accompanied Tarr on the spring-break vacation to San Diego to visit Tarr's brother Richard, an engineer in the space systems division of General Dynamics. Ho, a senior at Okemos High School, was with Tarr at the Buena Vista Gardens pool around noon Tuesday when Tarr left, by herself, authorities said, and returned to her brother's apartment for reasons that are still unclear.

Shortly afterward, Elizabeth Langworthy, an 84-year-old neighbor of Richard Tarr's, reported seeing Holly and a man walk to the upstairs apartment. Langworthy has told police that about 20

minutes later she heard a scream. She said Ho showed up and tried to enter the apartment, which was locked.

Richard Williams, a 58-year-old maintenance man, was summoned to the unit at 3410 Cowley Way, and confronted a young black man who wore a red T-shirt and black Levi's, who came toward him with a knife. Witnesses have reported seeing the suspect drive away in a gray, "primer-paint-colored" Pinto.

Police said the probable murder weapon, a knife 8 to 9 inches long, was found near the scene by a 15-year-old boy walking home from school Tuesday afternoon.

San Diego Police Chief Bob Burgreen calls the search for the suspect, thought to be 18 to 20 years old and about 5-foot-8, the department's "top priority." Burgreen has assigned two homicide units to the case full time and has stationed a mobile command unit in the Buena Vista Gardens neighborhood. In all, there are about 20 officers investigating the slayings, with several more officers working part time on the case.

Tiffany Paige Schultz was killed at the adjacent Canyon Ridge complex on Jan. 12. On Feb. 16, 21-year-old Janene Marie Weinhold was slain two blocks away, in a Buena Vista Gardens unit at 3301 Clairemont Drive.

After Tarr's slaying Tuesday, police conceded for the first time that a serial killer may be responsible for all three killings.

Schultz's fiance, who is white, was arrested shortly after her death and held for five days in County Jail. He was released when the district attorney failed to issue a murder complaint. He has not been rearrested.

On Friday, Anza Management Co., which oversees both Canyon Ridge and Buena Vista Gardens, announced that the door locks on the 967 units of Buena Vista Gardens would be changed as soon as possible. A spokeswoman estimated the cost at \$20,000.

Because maintenance men and other employees of Buena Vista Gardens have passkeys to all of the units, the management has conceded it's possible that the suspect may have acquired a passkey.

"Our passkey policy is being reviewed," said Suzanne Rosborough, the manager of Buena Vista Gardens.

Frank DeWald, choral instructor at the Michigan high school, said the school's "crisis team" is now "very concerned" about Tammy Ho, who not only lost her best friend but was questioned for hours by investigators as a key witness.

"Tammy's mother moved out of the area over a year ago and wanted Tammy to remain in school," DeWald said. "So she moved in with Holly and her mom. She's not an actual family member, nor is she adopted, but she was like a sister to Holly. They were very, very close. And now we worry that she's very much at risk. She is, after all, at such a vulnerable age. It must have been very rough for Tammy. She saw Holly after she'd died and saw the perpetrator run from the scene."

DeWald said that Tarr was in his select choir and orchestra and had sung a part of Brahms' requiem titled "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place." He said that requiem will now be sung at her memorial service Tuesday afternoon.

The service will feature 100 students in the orchestra (Tarr also played the violin), 70 students from the school choir and dozens more from the choir of University United Methodist Church, where Tarr was a member and where the service will be held, according to DeWald.

Tarr's neighbor Langworthy said she had spoken on the phone with Paul Tarr, who, in reacting to the news of his daughter's death, asked her, "What kind of an awful city is it you have out there?"

"But after we talked a while, he calmed down and just seemed very, very sad," Langworthy said. "I don't think he blames San Diego, although it is a horrible, horrible thing."

"Quite honestly, I haven't seen anger among anyone in Michigan, Paul Tarr included," said Spaniola, who met the senior Tarr in the latter's role as a liaison between the Legislature and the state Department of Mental Health, where Tarr works.

"Paul's done a lot of work with crippled children," Spaniola said. "He's a wonderful guy. I'd say most of what he's feeling is a profound sense of loss, for the daughter that won't be back."

*Detroit Free Press (Detroit, Michigan) Tuesday 5 March 1991*

## **SUSPECT HELD IN 5 SLASHINGS IN SAN DIEGO**

The man arrested in five Sand Diego slashing slayings, including that of a Michigan woman, lived in the apartment complex where two of the killings occurred, the manager said Monday.

Cleophus Prince Jr., 23, was taken into custody Sunday in his hometown of Birmingham, Ala. He was jailed without bail and was being extradited Monday. "A whole variety of things that ultimately came together pointed to Mr. Prince," said police spokesman Dave Cohen.

Holly Tarr, 18, of Okemos was found stabbed to death in her brother's San Diego apartment April 3. The Okemos High School honors senior was in California during her spring vacation. Prince lived at the same Buena Vista Garden Apartments complex, said manager April Weyh.

The five victims, all women, suffered multiple knife wounds. The attacks occurred from January through September 1990. In each case, a killer gained entry through unlocked doors or windows during the day, typically arriving unarmed and apparently obtaining the knives used in the attacks inside the victim' residences. Weyh said Prince moved shortly after the Tarr killing, telling her it was because of police harassment. San Diego police declined to comment on previous questioning of Prince.

# Jury asks death for Tarr killer

By BRIGITTE GREENBERG  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A jury recommended Tuesday that Cleophus Prince Jr. be sentenced to death for the stabbing murders of six women in 1990, including 18-year-old Holly Tarr of Okemos.



The Superior Court jury deliberated just one day before returning the recommendation against Prince, 26, a Tarr former Navy mechanic whose mother and father had pleaded with jurors to spare his life.

The same jury convicted Prince last month of six counts of first-degree murder and a litany of other charges that included rape, burglary and attempted burglary.

But prosecutors asked Tuesday that the non-murder charges be dismissed, after the jury recommended death.

Superior Court Judge Charles Hayes will sentence Prince on Oct. 12.

"We can't punish him any more than killing him," said Deputy District Attorney Daniel Lamborn.

Prince showed no emotion as the jury's recommendation was read. He was rushed from the courtroom shortly afterward by bailiffs. Several relatives of victims and two jurors broke into tears.

In Lansing, Holly's father, Paul Tarr, said Prince knew he'd be punished before he committed the crimes.

"How can I be pleased? The whole thing is a tragedy," Paul Tarr said. "There is a solemn sense of relief that it's over, that he'll never be back out on the street to prey on other people.

"They're sending a message to other predators that these violent crimes, that these violent killings, will not be tolerated."

The aspiring actress from Okemos was visiting her brother on spring break when she was killed in his apartment.

Prince's defense attorney, Loren Mandel, said he was deeply saddened by the jury's recommendation.

"I can tell you Cleophus took it a lot better than I did," Mandel said.

The jury recommended the death sentence in each of the six murders, choosing between it and life in prison without parole in each case.

The six women were stabbed to death with knives taken from the kitchens of their own homes or apartments.

The first three murders in 1990 in San Diego's Clairemont neighborhood prompted the largest dragnet in city history.

*Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 14 April 1993*

## TRIAL BEGINS FOR SUSPECT IN OKEMOS TEEN'S SLAYING

SAN DIEGO - Testimony is under way in the serial murder trial of a man charged in six slayings, as prosecutors try to establish his alleged pattern of stalking young women - including one from Okemos.

Residents of the Torrey Pines Village apartment complex in San Diego in April 1990 identified the defendant, Cleophus Prince Jr., as the man they saw then near the swimming pool at the complex.

Prosecutors on Wednesday called other witnesses to testify about seeing Prince at the complex as they present evidence about his alleged stalking and the burglaries before the six slayings.

Prince, 25, could face the death penalty if convicted in the case. He's charged with six murders and 21 other counts of rape, burglary and attempted burglary stemming from a 13-month crime spree.

The defense contends witness identifications of the muscular, 5-foot-10 Prince was shaky and that he does not resemble the person described by others who saw a man run out of the Clairemont apartment of the third victim, 18-year-old Holly Tarr of Okemos.

Tarr was visiting her brother on spring break when she was killed April 3, 1990, with a single stab wound to the heart.

After a 4 month murder trial, Cleophus Prince Jr. was found guilty by a jury of his peers Tuesday 13 July 1992. He appealed his sentence of death and the Supreme Court of California denied his appeal in 2007. Prince is still on death row at San Quentin prison as of 2017.