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to find enough votes to erase Bush's advantage in initial counting. "The quicker we get this resolved the better off it is for the nation," Bush said. Replied Gore campaign chairman William Daley: "This campaign is not over." That is what worried Democrats across the country,

☆ **Bush, Gore**
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THIS IS THE KITTERY HOME from which 21-month-old Cassidy Bortner of Rochester was transported to York Hospital, where she was pronounced dead on Thursday afternoon. The death has been ruled suspicious.

Toddler's autopsy complete

Officials withhold cause of death pending further study of body of Rochester girl, 1½

By JENNIFER L. SAUNDERS
Democrat Staff Writer

KITTERY, Maine — The state's chief medical examiner's office has concluded an autopsy on the body of a 21-month-old child who died Thursday under suspicious circumstances, but results are being withheld pending further study.

A spokeswoman for the office said the results were complete Friday afternoon, but she did not expect a cause of death to be released before Monday.

Meanwhile, Maine State Police remained at the Kittery Police Department throughout the day Friday, conducting interviews related to the case.

Twenty-one-month-old Cassidy Bortner was pronounced dead at York Hospital on Thursday afternoon after her baby sitter, a close family friend, called paramedics and police, reporting the child was "unresponsive."

According to police, the child, who resided with her mother, Amanda Bortner, 18, of Rochester, N.H., had been dropped off at the Rogers Road residence in Kittery shortly after 8:30

a.m. Police would not comment on the child's condition at the time of her death, stating only that they believe the death is "suspicious."

Witnesses at the scene Thursday said efforts to revive the child using cardiopulmonary resuscitation appeared to be unsuccessful.

The residence, which is rented by Jeff Marshall of Kittery, was cordoned off with police tape through Thursday night as state and local police investigated the apartment.

Rogers Road neighbors knew Cassidy as the child Marshall had been looking after at least once a week for several months.

They were deeply disturbed at the news of her death. They recalled her as a sweet, shy child with large blue eyes. They said she liked to be hugged and to get little kisses on her cheek, which she called "loves."

Maine State Police Spokesman Steve McCausland said Thursday his department is working closely with Kittery, Rochester and New Hampshire State Police in the investigation.

No arrests have been made in the case.

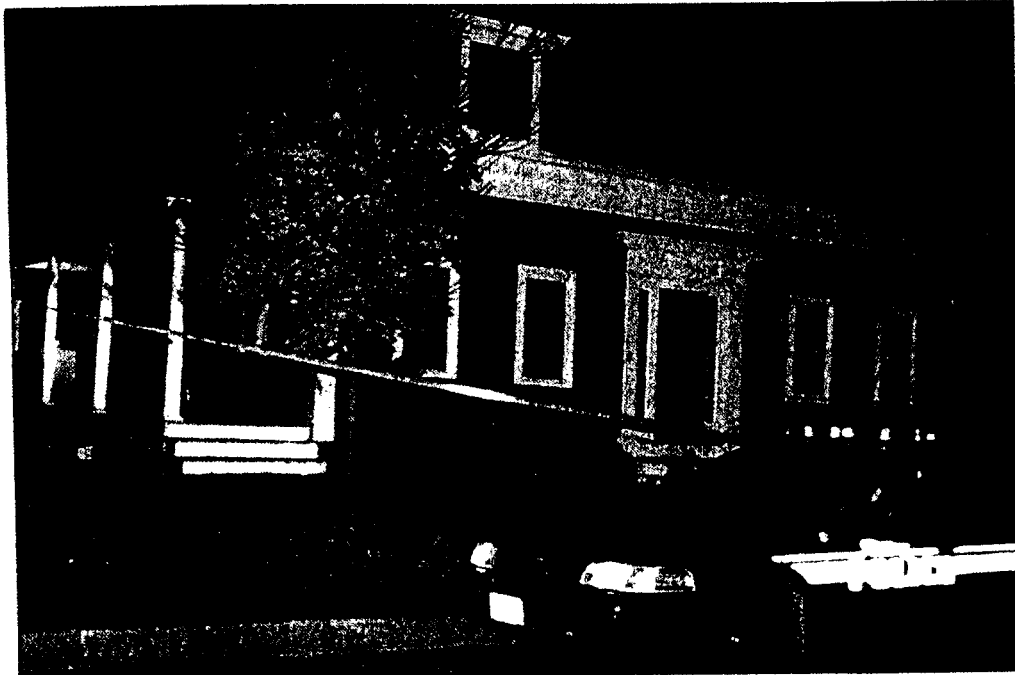


Craig Osborne/ Democrat photo
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Marines at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

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