

David Bush

The conviction of David Bush is quite different than the plea agreement forced upon Jessica Venable. In Jessica's case, there is no question that she was present when an incident took place in which her husband suffered a fatal knife wound.

In David Bush's case, he was tried and convicted of being responsible for the disappearance of his wife and her murder, even though no body was ever found, and no physical evidence linking him to the crime was presented at his trial.

Lynn Bush was last seen on December 8, 1990 by someone other than her husband, David. He told authorities that he had last seen her and spoken with her at about 3:00 pm on December 9 when he and their young daughter laid down for a nap. Lynn had told David she needed to go to the grocery store and he was aware that they had used the last of the milk on their daughter's cereal that morning.

The prosecution used a time specific later that afternoon for when David had last seen his wife. It was to their advantage if Bush had said he had last seen her at 5:00 pm and that she left for the grocery store after that. He has related to the Cheyenne Herald that he does not know for certain what time she left the house - just that it was after 3:00 pm because he and his toddler daughter laid down for a nap together at about that time.

At different times from December 9, 1990 until 2006, the prosecution and law enforcement in Casper and DCI cobbled together a case to convince a jury that David Bush was responsible for the disappearance and death of his wife. The basic premise was that he was unfaithful and he wanted her out of the way because of that. Yet, he admitted quickly to law enforcement that he had girlfriends and the same law enforcement officials repeatedly tried to get any one of the three women, who all knew Lynn Bush and pretended to be her friend and confidant, to implicate David Bush in the dastardly deed. None would. None did.

Until 2006, when a young mistress, who moved into the house David had shared with Lynn shortly after the disappearance, an act that offended the sensibilities of the conservative prosecutor, even

though his own predecessor as DA was removed from office for criminal behavior. Criminal behavior. David Bush's action may be considered distasteful, even reprehensible, but he had a need for having the young woman move into his house. His and Lynn's house.

Lynn's family had quickly been convinced David was responsible for her disappearance. I mean, who else would have a reason to abduct Lynn? In Casper, the prosecution doesn't buy into the possibility that a stranger could have been responsible for Lynn's disappearance. They do not accept, evidently, the fact that Jaycee Dugard was abducted off a street in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, by a stranger. Or that Lisa Marie Kimmell was taken, raped and murdered by a stranger who is now on Wyoming's Death Row.

No, in their mind, it had to be David Bush. Yet, they could not connect him to the crime and he even willingly took repeated polygraph tests (though inadmissible in court, the prosecution told David Bush that, if he took the polys and passed, they would drop their pursuit of him - which he did and they didn't) and voluntarily submitted to their frequent questions, harassment, threats of arrest and interrogations for hours on end. He tolerated their lies about having found Lynn's body as they described her cause of death to be beating, strangling, electrocution, being shot and being stabbed. Each time they told him they had her body and described a horrific manner of death, they expected him to break down and confess.

Law enforcement and others who cared about Lynn Bush subjected her young daughter to unspeakable acts. They traipsed the child through the hills and mountains north of Casper, asking, "Is this where your Daddy buried your Mommy?" While the intentions of those closest to Lynn may have been good, their conduct was not. The tiny child was coached for years on what had happened to her "Mommy." Eventually, after long periods of coaching, they called it "counseling," she uttered some incriminating words but not to the extent the prosecution and

law enforcement sought. Time after time, answering leading questions, the two year-old child told the counselor that she had not seen her Daddy hurt her Mommy. Yet the prosecution said in both his opening and closing statements that the little girl's life had been adversely impacted by watching her father kill her mother. There was no proof that ever happened and no testimony to support the scurrilous lie.

It is important to remember that an accused can be put under oath and whatever he or she then says can later be used to impeach their truthfulness. On the other hand, law enforcement can deliberately lie and mislead a suspect and their is no penalty. In fact, they will be praised for gaining a "confession" when lies they told lead a suspect to admitting to something they may or may not have done. That ain't pretty but that's the way it goes in the justice system.

After 15+ years, David Bush's 1990 mistress suddenly "remembered" damning statements that David Bush had made to her. During all intervening years, she never said those things. David Bush had her move into his house because his in-laws and even members of his own dysfunctional family in Casper agreed with the police that he must have had a part in Lynn's disappearance and, after she didn't reappear for years, her murder.

A common argument used by the prosecution in both charging and trying a suspect is, "Well, who else could have done it? Who else had a motive?"

So, when those closest to Bush and his young daughter turned against him, at the urging of Casper police officers, he had nowhere else to turn for someone to take care of his daughter while he went to Alabama for Guard training so he asked the girl who would one day turn against him, to move in. He did not know that his act of self-preservation (to care for his child while he was gone) would provide further fodder when the in-laws sought to remove the little girl from his house and grant testimony, without the proper hearing, to the child's maternal

grandparents. His 1990 girlfriend not only lived in that house with David Bush, she moved with him to another house later. While he was in Alabama for training, she traveled down there to visit him. She had previously agreed to be "wired" when law enforcement tried unsuccessfully to get David Bush to utter incriminating statements about himself - in a motel room they paid for. He said nothing to implicate himself in his wife's disappearance.

For a few years after the disappearance of Lynn Bush, this "girlfriend" remained by David Bush's side. She never went to Casper police when she was safe because he was in Alabama. She even went down there to visit him. Later, however, when she was threatened with arrest and criminal charges, she "remembered" things David Bush had told her around the time of Lynn Bush's disappearance.

How did she remember suddenly? She said she had ridden the same bumpy road years later that she and David Bush had taken at the time of Lynn's disappearance and everything came back to her. Did she go to the police? No. She only made the damning statements when she was herself threatened with arrest for signing Lynn Bush's name on documents, an action she had taken 15 years earlier.

It is difficult to write about a couple things the tormented little child said under constant browbeating, coaching and "leading" by those connected to the police, DCI and/or the prosecution. But I must.

As a young woman, she did not testify against her father at his 2006 trial. She said she could not remember anything of that time or about any events connected to that time. A "counselor," who had destroyed interview tapes, was allowed to testify at the 2006 trial as to what the baby had said back in 1991. But that coach didn't testify that the child she had terrified had also told her there was "a monster" in the hole where her mother's body was dumped. Nor, of the little girl telling a woman at the CPD that they would never find her mommy because her daddy had eaten her. Not the bones, the tormented little girl said. But everything else. Those words were not introduced. How they treated the child was despicable.

The streets. Oh, the streets!

I've only lived in Cheyenne since March of 1986 so I can't tell you much about the condition of city streets in aught six. But, over the nearly 25 years I've lived here, I don't remember ever seeing city streets being in such bad condition. Not just little-traveled neighborhood streets that are ignored because neither city council members nor the mayor live on that street. I'm talking about our busiest, most important streets.

It is likely that the streets in Bar X are in pretty good shape but most other neighborhood streets and the streets you have to use to reach the neighborhoods, are in deplorable condition.

And, whose bright idea was it to tear up downtown streets during the Christmas shopping season? Retailers who have struggled through parking garage construction and other interruptions to

their businesses access - to their livelihoods - should not have been subjected to yet another major blockade. A Mexican restaurant that opened in the former Downtowner only to be restricted, traffic-wise, by allowing a church across the street to block through traffic from the east and remove all the parking spaces on the north side of 18th St., have now moved to the former Lexie's location.

When the perfectly sound and fully leased building at 17th and Warren was demolished, the disruption to traffic was very limited and of short duration. Whether the fact that the former mayor's store is right next to that intersection had anything to do with the speed of demolition and clean-up, only he can answer.

In the retail business, it is not uncommon for a store to do 40% of its annual sales volume between November 1 and

Christmas and it is more likely that the same store would see an even greater percentage of its profit during that period.

Cheyenne Frontier Days is certainly an economic boon to certain businesses - particularly restaurant and lodging - but this town must get past the mentality that those ten days in July are the only ones that matter.

Because of that singular focus, there are many local streets, heavily traveled streets, where you cannot see the white dividing lines or center yellow line. Instead of only restriping just before Frontier Days, a schedule of April and October should be adopted so people who pay the freight get some consideration. Do we care more about whether a Colorado or Ohio interloper in town for three or four days can see our street lines better than those who live here year round?

Once again, the mess created in the core of downtown will likely drive a few more businesses under. Non-retailers do not understand. That month to six weeks before Christmas is critical to survival for many businesses. Block the major streets in January and February when retailers can't give anything away - not during the peak weeks before Christmas.

It is tragic that the city's reserves and excess fifth penny sales tax collections were squandered. And now the State is going to reduce the welfare money sent to cities and counties. It is not money the lesser levels of government are due - it is money the State now will hold to pay for their own needs, wants and desires.

Holes in shopping center lots can hold a Geo Metro. Unfortunately, holes in the middle of our busiest streets can hold a Greyhound, with room for the Big Boy.