

## Jon Benét Ramsey murder confessor

The initial excitement that Inspector Clousseau's American counterparts in Boulder might yet gain a conviction in the Jon Benét Ramsey murder on December 26, 1996, has been meeting more and more skepticism each day.

"Shall be the conqueror," the little twerp confessor's trademark signature from his high school days, was immediately converted to the S.B.T.C. used on the ransom note. At the time, it was to have meant everything up to and including the abbreviation for "Subic Bay Training Center," a Philippines Navy facility at which John Ramsey had once served.

This multiple four letter word (John Mark Carr) has garnered more attention lately than 100m world record holder Justin Gatlin quietly accepting an eight year ban for flunking a drug test.

We've got all these athletes testing positive for drugs and claiming that have no idea how the banned substance got into their urine or blood samples.

Then we've got this yutz who needed a ride home from Thailand confessing to every unsolved crime in American history.

"Yes, I was with Dr. Mudd when he treated John Wilkes Booth. But it was an accident. I loved President Lincoln."

Perhaps they have incontrovertible proof that the little worm had some role in Jon Benét's death. But I wouldn't bet the ranch on it.

Every element of his initial confession that won't stand scrutiny is now being denied. "Yes, I picked up the little girl from school that sunny day and we went bar hopping, then to her home, where she let us in with the key she carried." Oh, dodo, it was during Christmas break from school, she was only six years old and she was never away from her parents.

"Oh. Well, then, never mind."

Boulder police are relying on Carr to solve a number of other unsolved crimes.

Rumor has it that he has confessed to being D.B. Cooper. "I can tell you where I stashed the loot," he supposedly told them. Ah, birdbrain, the skyjacking took place in 1971, when you were six years old. Try again.

"I was in the cockpit with Amelia (Earhart) and Wiley (Post) when they each crashed. I can lead you to Amelia's wreckage."

Is there nothing he won't confess to if it gets him more minutes of attention?

"Laugh if you will, investigative reporter, but I can tell you how Jon Benét got her name. She told me." You mean the affectation chosen by Patsy to take the Anglo "John Bennett" of her husband and pretend to be French with Jon Benét?

Has the goofball ever been in Boulder, let alone at the Ramsey home?

And why would anyone confess to such a notorious crime if they had nothing to do with it? People do get convicted when they are innocent and time in any prison's general population for a conviction of killing and assaulting a six-year old little girl makes things a little dicey for the convict.

Inmates with nothing more to lose can make a name for themselves by being the one who extracted revenge on the killer of Jon Benét - even if he's really not the killer. Who can forget Christopher Scarver? (See Note below)

John Mark Carr reminds us of two comic characters who used to be seen quite often on television. The first, based on appearance - with trousers pulled about four inches above his navel - would be man/child Ed Grimley. That character was a creation of Martin Short who played him on Saturday Night Live and elsewhere.

The other character would be Tommy Flanagan, The Pathological Liar. Jon Lovitz popularized this character, whose catch phrase was, "Yeah! That's the ticket!"

John Mark Carr might tell the Boulder detectives: "I was in the courtyard the night Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman were killed. I was there. I am not innocent. But it was an accident. Yeah! That's the ticket!"

Not only does that little liar get a free plane ride back to the United States, they served him champagne and fed him exotic food. He should have been flown back in the belly of a transport plane and fed MRE - maybe Spam with instant rice.

Book and movie rights to this miserable little jerk's life have already been bought. Not since the story of Amy Fisher came out on every television network will a story be more eagerly anticipated. Not!

Nothing could produce more relief than this character's confession being true. The family was vilified and Patsy Ramsey died with a cloud of suspicion still hanging over her head. Detectives' lives and careers were ruined over this case. Books were written with limited bases in fact. A billion words were droned on television and radio by talking heads and self-proclaimed "experts."

Just the consideration that an intruder may have committed the heinous crime takes the Boulder police department in an entirely new direction. For a decade, that possibility was ruled out.

If he did it, which he didn't, the reputation of Colorado Springs retired detective Lou Smits will hit an apex. He was the first to publicly stake his reputation on it not being the Ramseys. He has worked for years to prove them innocent.

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## Write-in Candidates

First, an apology from the Cheyenne Herald: On advice from the County Clerk, we put out the word that, because of a recent change in Wyoming statutes, it would take a candidate for municipal office 3% of the votes cast for that office to gain write-in status for the general election ballot.

I did not check the statutes myself to see if I agreed with her interpretation. The County Clerk is supposed to be the chief election official in Laramie County and, based on her explanation as to why the change had been made and that clerk's had testified in front of the legislature for the change, I accepted it as accurate.

On Thursday, August 24, 2006, the local Canvassing Board (made up of the City Clerk, the County Clerk and one other) announced that it would take only 3 votes (**3 VOTES!**) to qualify as a write-in candidate for city council. This is not only inconsistent with what was told me a couple weeks earlier, but it is inconsistent with the rules in previous elections.

The position now taken by the Canvassing Board is that, while it still takes 25 write-in votes for county and statewide offices, it takes only 3 votes for a municipal office. (See page 11 for statute text.)

My apology is not just because I was wrong - that I could lay on the County Clerk. But because so many people read the Cheyenne Herald and expect that we know what we're talking about, it is possible - even likely - that potential candidates for the 2-year Ward 3 seat on City Council did not make the effort to gain the ballot with write-in votes because I had said it would take about 120 votes to qualify. That's a lot of votes to get by voters writing in a name. A lot of votes.

Note: Christopher Scarver is the inmate in the Wisconsin Correctional System who killed Jeffrey Dahmer and another man while all were in custody and on a work detail together.

Of the three candidates who may be on the November ballot as the result of write-in votes on August 22, none received even half that many votes (120), in spite of the Democratic Party's organized effort to get party members to write in Leo Garcia's name in House District 12.

And, make no mistake about it, successful write-in candidates are the result of an organized effort, not just random voters choosing to write in someone's name. Sometimes, those campaigns are as active as candidates who filed for the office. When the Wyoming Democratic Party sends out mailings asking voters to write in names for two House District races in which no Democrat had filed, it is no mere bit of luck or chance that the necessary write-in votes are recorded.

At presstime, there are three potential candidates as the result of write-in efforts: In City Council Ward 3, the two-year seat, Delmar Stone received nine write-in votes. For Laramie County Sheriff on the Democratic side, James W. Thompson received 36 write-in votes, and in House District 12, former Representative Leo Garcia received 54 write-in votes on the Democratic side of the ballot.

Write-in candidates can, and do, win elections. In this county, Jon Forwood was first elected through a write-in drive to get on the general election ballot. A disadvantage of beginning a campaign in September is that name recognition must be gained and there is less time to do that. Several years ago, three women arranged the necessary write-in votes to gain the general election ballot. All mounted spirited and costly campaigns (running for Clerk, Treasurer and Clerk of District Court) but came up well short.

I will do my best to provide for voters some information on these three candidates, should they accept the nomination and file the necessary papers. Again, I apologize if our erroneous reporting cost voters a choice.

*/s/ Dave Featherly*

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