

12/24/17 - COMMENTS BY BARTON McNEIL ON SUSPECT CONVICTIONS  
EPISODE 8

Dear radio/podcast listeners,

Running a bit behind again due to a recent prison lockdown barring my access to a phone, only recently was I able to listen to the latest installment of the SUSPECT CONVICTIONS radio podcast, episode 8. First airing on the Bloomington, Illinois WGLT FM Public Radio station, hosted by Scott Reeder and Willis Kern, the 8th installment of this season's SUSPECT CONVICTIONS was a Q & A session whereby prior guests of the program along with ordinary listeners had the opportunity to ask questions of me themselves. Recorded during phone interviews a week or so earlier, a host of questions were asked of me concerning the 1998 killing of my young daughter, Christina McNeil; relating to my then-increasingly psychotic girlfriend, Misook Nowlin, easily recognized by me as my child's transparently obvious killer (now widely apparent to everyone); and relating to my wrongful conviction that directly facilitated further Nowlin serial killings, one being the subsequent murder of Wenlan Tyda, the mother of Nowlin's husband, Don Wang.

At the start of this episode of SUSPECT CONVICTIONS, Mr. Reeder and Mr. Kern remarked at how unusual it was for a defendant/convictee to openly give interviews to the media, in usual conflict with attorney wishes. Genuinely innocent and always forthcoming, my words today are no different than they were 2 decades ago when first interviewed by Bloomington Police Department detectives back in 1998. More than that, my statements today mirror what my own trial testimony WOULD HAVE BEEN had State's Attorney Charles Reynard and Assistant State's Attorneys Teena Griffin and Stephanie Wong (currently a partner at <https://www.skeltonandwong.com/attorneys/>) not so intently served the wicked interests of serial killer Nowlin by falsely vouching for the innocence of those who really took my daughter's life. In doing so, this McLean County prosecutorial cabal rendered the granting of their evidence suppression motion.

As per Nowlin-friendly intent, the granting of the State's motion barred from my soon-to-be lightning fast trial any evidence/testimony in my defense at the expense of Nowlin... or rather, at the expense of Christina's obvious killer. And later at the ultimate expense of mother-in-law Linda Wenlan Tyda with whom was strangled at Misook's evil hands.

The McLean County prosecutorial trio's pretrial efforts succeeded in prohibiting my own testimony regarding relevant events, facts, and circumstances directly relating to Nowlin's killing of Christina, essentially rendering me my child's killer by default at my now one-sided trial where the identity of Christina's killer as claimed by prosecutors was not allowed contested by the defense.

Barred from testifying in my own defense at trial, regarding the litany of facts and circumstances relating to Nowlin's certain responsibility for Christina's murder, today on SUSPECT CONVICTIONS I can at least openly testify as I would have, had I been allowed to at trial, in an open public forum whereby McLean County prosecutorial alliances with Nowlins cannot dictate the limits of my testimony, nor further conceal the countless relevant events and circumstances directly relating to Nowlin's otherwise obvious involvement in my daughter's murder.

Lacking any legal weight, at least my would-be trial testimony can now be heard, and at least the previously suppressed true facts relating to Nowlin's murder of my daughter are now increasingly known to the public, as is the malicious intent of those, then and now, who continue their abhorrent excuse-making on Nowlins behalf by invoking my long-apparent wrongful conviction.

While takers of Christina's life got clean away back in 1998, abetted by State's Attorney Charles Reynard and his assistants, Teena Griffin and Stephanie Wong, who personally prosecuted me to the fiendish delight of the Nowlin cabal, I now have the producer-hosts of SUSPECT CONVICTIONS to thank for allowing my intended testimony, previously barred from my defense at trial, to be heard in this more fair-minded truth finding venue.

Should current State's Attorney, Jason Chambers, and Assistant State's Attorney, Mary Koll, succeed in further fooling the public by pretending to be unaware of Nowlins responsibility for Christina's killing, thus fulfilling of my eventual death by prison (an act of murder in and of itself), in the meantime at least I'll be able to sleep on my cell bunk a bit more soundly knowing that my genuine innocence is now so widely recognized by many, and that my 2-decade outspoken vehement certainty of Nowlins involvement in my daughter's death was true after all, and surely known also to Bloomington and McLean County authorities themselves all along.

I also appreciate the opportunity to address a number of my own statements that I made to the police on the heels of Christina's death that have been since mischaracterised as "bizarre" and outright suspicious by prosecutors both then and now. Deceptively plucked from the context in which I made them, and presented instead in an agenda-driven prosecutorial context, my statements may indeed have seemed "unwarranted" but completely rationale and sane taken in the whole.

In addressing my prior police statements in response to questions posed by the SUSPECT CONVICTIONS hosts, far from being suspicious in character, I'm sure the listeners of the series found that my statements were not at all inconsistent with my genuine innocence. On the contrary, under the exact same circumstances, any other father seeking answers regarding their child's sudden death would probably have expressed the same thoughts that I did, when aware of the same body of facts as I was at the time. Only when

removed selectively by prosecutors from the true context of Nowlins then-obvious responsibility for Christina's murder might my statements have seemed unwarranted.

As but one example of prosecutorial misrepresentation of my statements, my remarks about the likely cause of Christina's death was portrayed by prosecutors as insider knowledge only the true killer could have known, the cause not even known to the authorities themselves, so they claimed. This was hardly the case at all.

Basic facts and circumstances that I was personally aware of from the outset (or discovered shortly thereafter), and indeed also known to police themselves, fully warranted what any layperson would have also easily (and correctly) deduced, not needing a detective's badge or medical examiner to do so. Reading into the already apparent evidence and circumstances of Christina's death as they were known to me at the time of my search for answers as to the cause of my daughter's shockingly sudden death, anyone else would have drawn the same inescapable conclusions as I did. So easily recognizing what had happened to Christina, having been correct is less of an indictment of me, than an indictment of the police authorities who deceptively claimed to be unaware of what was patently obvious.

Known to investigative authorities from the outset (hours before me), yet inexplicably concealed from me until I myself happened to get a look at the severely tampered-with condition of the open ground floor bedroom window, it only THEN took a nanosecond for me to correctly deduce that last night's intrusion was related to my daughter's death, now an obvious murder... no "insider knowledge" needed.

Obviously unable to scream during the course of being attacked, yet lacking strangulation injuries which may also have prevented Christina from screaming out, and lacking any other obvious injuries that I could discern, it was no great leap to speculate, correctly it turns out, that the late night window intruder had smothered my daughter to death.

Killed just hours following the bitter end of my relations with my increasingly estranged girlfriend, correctly deducing WHO the window intruder was who in extreme probability smothered my child to death, was, to put it simply, a no-brainer. How could anyone have concluded differently?

My own layperson's warranted simple deductions from my reading of the circumstances and available evidence I found myself surrounding Christina's death shouldn't be suspicious because I was correct.

On the contrary, suspicion is deserved of police-claimed unawareness of the presence and severity of obvious intruder evidence. A severely damaged and unlatched window screen in an otherwise wide open ground floor window a mere 20 inches from where Christina lay dead, the police reports claim of their unawareness of the true condition of the open

window (and obvious intruder involvement in Christina's death), despite the police having themselves photographed and videotaped the window's condition when initially at the scene, is simply preposterous. Why else then would detectives photographed the condition of the window? If as they like to state they believed the death was of natural causes, they would have paid the window condition no further thought. But they did as their photographic record of that morning's event clearly show.

An indictment instead of the police themselves, why then did they so long conceal from Christina's own father, the apartment's resident, me, the intruder related damaged condition of the bedroom window - known to them for a whole 7 hours before I belatedly came upon this critical evidence myself, almost by chance? Why did they not ask while taking photos of this window, what I knew of the condition of the window as I lay Christina down to rest the evening before?

More ominous still, why did police and McLean County State's Attorney Charles Reynard and assistant prosecutors Teena Griffin and Stephanie Wong pretend to be unaware of Nowlins responsibility for Christina's murder? A pretension predictably leading to further Nowlin killings), when Nowlins responsibility for my daughter's death was transparently obvious to me (myself explicitly predicting that, aided in getting away with my child's murder, more Nowlin killings would surely follow - a simple deduction conforming to all evidence and circumstances, that I was also mortally correct on?

In short, why do Bloomington police and McLean County prosecutors now headed by State's Attorney Jason Chambers, and aided by Assistant State's Attorney Mary Koo, continue to maintain that they're not as aware as I've been all along that Nowlin was behind Christina's murder, a grossly unwarranted long running deference to Nowlin directly facilitating Nowlins further (now-serial) killings? As some fans of the radio podcast may have concluded by now also, I've long been convinced that Nowlins involvement in Christina's murder was known to police/prosecutors all along.

Giving the authorities the unearned benefit of the doubt, if only having dawned on them more recently after Nowlins only-latest murder (of Linda Wenlan Tyda), from that moment forward, prosecutors today continuing to cover for Nowlins child killing ways, know perfectly well that Nowlin was indeed responsible for my daughter's murder despite their ongoing effort to maintain my long-known wrongful conviction.

The only question remaining is, how different in character is serial-killer Nowlin, from those who abetted Nowlins child murdering getaway thus facilitating continuing Nowlin killings, while simultaneously attempting to take the life of Christina's innocent father through their unjust maintenance of their death-by-prison wrongful conviction sentence? Psycho-killer Nowlin would fit right in with these folks. Their actions ultimately one and

the same. To murder, either by smothering, manual strangulation combined with bludgeoning, or through a death-by-prison sentence.

Of the many questions asked of me for SUSPECT CONVICTIONS episode 8, some of them didn't make the final cut. One cut question in particular I felt was important enough to address anyway, here. A listener asked if I was aware of other McLean County murder convictions rendered during the tenure of State's Attorney Charles Reynard increasingly thought to be wrongful convictions also, namely those of Jamie Snow and Donald Whalen.

Yes, I'm intimately aware of these and more. Charles Reynard's reign at elected State's Attorney for McLean County lasted about 13 years, ending in 2002. During this time his office produced 11 or so murder trial guilty verdicts.

Personally prosecuted by Charles Reynard himself, Alan Beaman has since been fully exonerated of the killing he was wrongly convicted of. I can attest to my own genuine innocence, widely recognized by many, and now the lead client of the Illinois Innocence Project.

Bearing in mind the exceptional high vetting process needed to qualify for Innocence Project-like legal representation afforded only to convictees who are genuinely innocent such as myself, two others convicted by Charles Reynard are clients of Innocence Project-like exoneration efforts.

Convicted by Charles Reynard in the early 1990s, today Bloomington resident Donald Whalen is the subject of intense exoneration efforts, a client of the Illinois Exoneration Project.

Likewise also a client of the Illinois Exoneration Project, Jamie Snow's 2001 conviction is similarly under attack by the Illinois Exoneration Project. Like my own wrongful conviction, the head prosecutor in Jamie Snow's case, himself prosecuted immediately following my own trial, was Assistant State's Attorney (under Charles Reynard), Teena Griffin, the prosecutor most responsible for my own wrongful conviction.

Between the likely innocent Donald Whalen and Jamie Snow, along with Alan Beaman and myself, Charles Reynard must have had a rate of bogus convictions of some astonishing 40%! Surely McLean County stands above all other counties in the nation as having the largest percentage of murder convictions now widely believed to have been at the expense of the genuinely innocent, never mind the likely murderous implications of the true killer(s) getaway, starkly demonstrated by the getaway of Nowlins murder of my daughter, predictably resulting in later Nowlin killings with the murder of Linda Wenlan Tyda now known by all.

Also personally prosecuted by Charles Reynard himself (twice!), the likely wrongful conviction of Dale Fosdick should be added to the list, the victim's own family refusing to go along with the prosecution, instead believing that Charles Reynard was framing Dale Fosdick for a murder he was innocent of. Moreover, the lead detective in the Fosdick case, Larry Shepherd, is the same Nowlin-friendly detective most responsible for my own wrongful conviction. Had Dale Fosdick not tragically died while in prison, like other victims of injustice at the hands of Charles Reynard, today he also would be the client of Innocence Project advocacy.

All of our cases lacking meaningful evidence of guilt, they all share a host of circumstances, and involvement of some of the same key personnel.

In short, I'm convinced they were all innocent also, and the blood of Linda Wenlan Tyda, now upon his hands.