

from our viewpoint...

Who's the victim, Karr or society?

We were not surprised when the DNA from JonBenet Ramsey did not match the 41-year old former school teacher, John Mark Karr, who was arrested in Thailand and supposedly confessed to her murder.

From his first appearance in Thailand, where he confessed to being the killer of the little girl in her Boulder, Colo., home nearly 10 years ago, to his appearance in the Boulder County Court, there was a surrealistic feel and too many things did not fit.

However, once the DNA did not match, we were surprised at the attacks on the Boulder County District Attorney Mary Lacy for arresting Karr and bringing him to Colorado at taxpayers expense before having to drop the case.

Karr's defense attorney seemed to be reaching for headlines when he claimed his client was a "victim who was dragged out of Thailand."

Seth Temin, the Boulder public defender assigned to Karr, said he thinks the Boulder district attorney's office should have "done more work before bringing this guy across the world."

"I didn't know that the Boulder DA was protecting the children of Thailand," said Temin on Wednesday after apparently learning more about his client's past activities.

Karr may not have killed JonBenet Ramsey, but he is facing at least five misdemeanor charges in California for possession of child pornography.

In a society where the rule of law is supposed to prevail, there was not much of a choice for DA Lacy, especially after Karr had his splash of fame with the news conference in Bangkok where he "confessed" to killing the girl in the basement.

Former District Attorney Trip DeMuth was critical of Lacy's decision to arrest Karr.

"There are a lot of things you can do, in following him around in collecting cups he drinks from and the like to get his DNA and compare it to the evidence before you make a move like this," said DeMuth. DeMuth lost an election to Lacy in 2000.

However, Denver Channel 9 legal analyst Scott Robinson said, "Investigators needed Karr here to do it right; they've done it right. They've determined John Mark Karr did not kill JonBenet Ramsey, so it's time to release him from these charges."

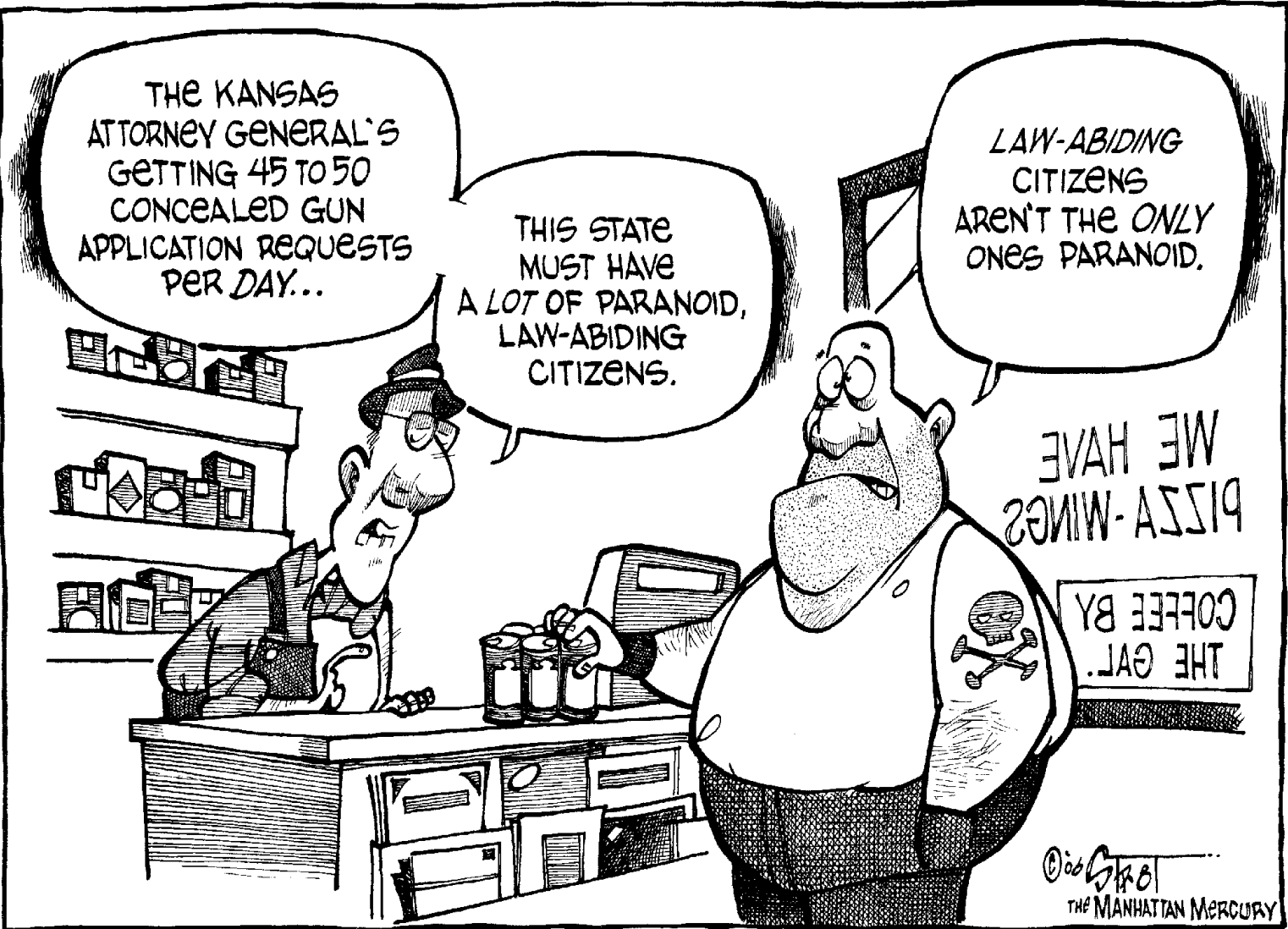
Karr is a victim only in the sense that he is obsessed with the Ramsey case, and appears to be very interested in little girls.

Yes, bringing Karr all the way back to Colorado was expensive, and it gave Jay Leno and other late night talk comedians something to poke fun at.

There is every chance that the Ramsey case might never be solved, unless the real killer gets upset at the upstarts who want to take credit and comes forth.

We hope the justice system finds a way to deal with Karr to help him with his obsessions, and to keep him away from other vulnerable little girls who night end up on their teacher's lap.

— Tom Betz



Mountain driving has plenty of bumps

The guy driving the truck didn't look too happy. If anything, his wife looked less happy.

"Where does this road go?" he asked, trying not to sound desperate. "Does it go to Ouray?"

"We've been driving around up here for hours," she said.

I pointed down the canyon.

"It's six or seven miles to Silverton," I said.

"You can get the highway to Ouray. It's only about 20 miles."

"Thanks," he said. "That's great."

"We've been driving around all day," she said.

I smiled as they drove off.

I was about to get mine, though. I'd ignored the friend in Silverton who told me you take Stony Pass east and Engineer Pass west.

I'd never been over Engineer and I knew what the road on Stony was like. Thirty-five miles of stones.

And I was bored with driving the highway back through Pagosa Springs. Too much traffic, too little scenery.

Cynthia consented to the route, though she likes neither heights nor scenery.

These are the roads that ol' C.W. McCall, the country singer, used to write about. When he retired, he moved to Ouray and became mayor.

You could look it up.

The road out of Silverton wasn't too bad. We



steve
haynes

• along the sappa

came to a fork and started up Engineer Pass. Pretty soon the truck was sideways on the mountain as we bumped our way up.

Flatlanders in rented Jeeps were roaring down the road, totally out of control.

"Brakes? What brakes?"

Signs at the base clearly articulated state law that uphill traffic has the right of way, but I doubt that they were going slow enough to read them.

Then came the Jeeps with Texas tags, really dangerous.

I just got out of their way.

Bump. Bump. Bump Bump.

I looked over, and Cynthia has a tight grip on the door handle. She smiled bravely. She's been driving mountain passes with me since our honeymoon. I don't think they've grown on her.

The road wasn't particularly steep or dangerous, just rocky. Then we came to a bare outcropping so steep and rough we had to shift into four-wheel low. Up we went, only to meet

face to face with a big diesel pickup with Colorado tags.

He wasn't backing up. I didn't think I should back down the big rock. Finally Cynthia decided we had room to back up a little.

"Aren't you supposed to do the backing," I asked as he went by.

"Not when you can," he snarled. "Why don't you go back to Kansas or wherever you came from?"

About two dozen rental Jeeps later, we made the summit. The scenery was spectacular, snowcapped peaks for miles around. I looked over; Cynthia has a tight grip on the overhead handle.

"Can we go down now?" she asked.

The east side was pretty simple, just your basic gravel mountain road. There was a new house, miles from any power line, with a suspension bridge over a chasm the only entry. Wow.

We wound our way down to Lake City, where we bought a pop and caught the highway for home.

"Next time, maybe we should take Cinnamon Pass," I said.

"Yeah," Cynthia said, glaring at me. "At my age, I'm losing my mind pretty fast. I'll probably have forgotten this and say yes."

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Goodland is looking great

To the Editor:

WOW! Goodland appears to be a community moving forward and looking great.

Having spent this past weekend in your city, I was pleased to see all the positive changes taking place. From your Main Street to your entrance way, Goodland was definitely living up to its name: "Good Land" then again, are you sure it shouldn't be "Great Land."

I want to give a special thank you to the following persons and organizations for assisting us, while we were shooting video in your community: Donna Price of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Tiffani McMinn of the Sherman County Economic Development, Lynn Hoelting of Mueller Grain, the employees of the National Weather Service office and the Antique Warehouse Mall.

Though they did not know we were shooting video, a special thank you to the Goodland Rotary Club. The work we seen you doing at the Giant Van Gough painting will make a positive difference.

The citizens of Goodland and Sherman County should be proud. Your community is looking great and it representatives are doing a fantastic job.

PS: The sunflower fields sure do look outstanding in the morning sun!

Rick Dykstra
Junction City



from our
readers

• to the editor

To the Editor:

Right wing conservatives, ha ha.

Quote — U.S. responsible for 65 percent of world borrowing. Owe Japan \$600 billion, China \$300 billion, England \$200 billion and Mexico \$40 billion.

It took 42 presidents 224 years to run up a trillion dollars of external debt. The wimp has

doubled that amount in five years.

Congress just raised the debt ceiling to almost \$9 trillion.

This disaster administration has bankrupted the U.S.

Billions stolen from Social Security, thousands of young Americans killed, more thousands crippled for life plus thousands of innocent foreigners, for what?

We're in more danger now than ever!

World War II vet.
R.D. Russell
Goodland
PS: The world would have been better off if he'd stayed on the booze!

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