

# Vidocq Society



Journal  
Fall 2005

Volume Sixteen  
Number Four

## The Case of Jaimie Weiss is Closed

From Fred Bornhofen, Case Manager

Detective Todd Park of the Salt Lake City Sherriffs office has informed the Society that with its guidance Jamie Weiss' husband will be arrested and charged with her murder.

Jaimie Weiss was found brutally murdered in her bathtub and at the time her husband was the prime suspect. The case was originally presented to the Society in 1999.

## Murder of Bryan Patrick Ruff is "Effectively Solved"

From Fred Bornhofen, Case Manager

Detective Todd Park of the Salt Lake City Sherriffs office has informed the Vidocq Society that with its advice and the help of a jailhouse informant, the murder of Bryan Patrick Ruff has been solved.

Bryan Patrick Ruff, was a security guard at Kennicott Copper in Salt Lake City, who disappeared and was later found buried in the desert, shot five times.

Detectives learned that Mr. Ruff was having an affair with his best friend's first wife. During the investigation there was not enough evidence to charge a suspect and the case went cold.

When Detective Park learned that Mr. Ruff's best friend was a suspect in the death of his second wife, he reopened the Ruff case.

After further investigation he was able to determine that Mr. Ruff was killed by his best friend for having an affair with the friend's first wife. Later the friend killed his second wife when she was unfaithful. Paint and soil samples from the crime scene were matched to the suspect's car. The suspect will be charged with both murders.

His case was unsolved since 1991 and was presented to the Society on September 21, 2001.

## New Editor takes over Vidocq Newsletter

By Staff writer

Paul Plevakas husband of Vidocq member Dr. Jolie Bookspan has taken on the responsibilities as the new editor of the Vidocq Journal.

His mission as editor is to highlight members who have dedicated their careers and special talents to solving the "Cold Cases" and bringing criminals to justice. The newsletter will feature the accomplishments of the Society, The cases that have been closed, updates on current cases, member profiles along with information provided by the Society's members.

Send any information you would like to share with your fellow members to [editor@vidocq.org](mailto:editor@vidocq.org).

## Vidocq Society Journal Fall 2005

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**“veritas EST veritas”  
truth IS truth**

## Bookspan's Bullets

By Dr. Jolie Bookspan, VSM

Welcome to

"*Bookspan's Bullets*." In each issue we bring you a column of summarized forensic education. Enjoy.

### 🔪 Electric Bullets

Currently existing stun guns shoot a wired dart, then send high voltage through the wires to incapacitate the target. A new international patent has been filed by the MDM Group in Santa Clara for a "piezoelectric incapacitation projectile." This new bullet, called Shockrounds, is wire-free.

The MDM Group is parent company to The Harrington Group, an international security company. Harrington has developed a rubber bullet with copper electrodes on the surface, connected to a filling of ceramic piezoelectric material. When the bullet hits the target, the piezo filling violently compresses and releases a shock pulse of close to 25,000 volts through the electrodes. Conductive gel filling the bullet splatters and spreads on impact.

The objective is to instantly stun the target without permanently harming them. Information available from the patent also suggests the ammunition could be used to disable computer or electronic equipment.

- New Scientist June 2005

### 🔪 Ability to Detect Bruises Decreases with Eye Aging

An examiner's ability to see the distinguishing yellow color of a bruise diminishes with age, according to Vanessa Hughes of the department of forensic medicine at Westmead Hospital in Australia. She states, "Someone in their 50s is not going to see yellow as early as a junior doctor."

A fresh bruise has a reddish color from blood leaking in the injured area under the skin. The yellow color of an older bruise occurs as the body breaks down the blood to remove it. Hemoglobin, which has a reddish purple color is broken down to bilirubin, which is reddish-yellow.

"If you see yellow in a bruise, it is old. No other color matters in the age of the bruise," said Dr. Neil Langlois, Mrs. Hughes's supervisor and senior staff

specialist at Westmead. "In 1991 Dr. Langlois established that yellow in a bruise means it is more than 18 hours old.

Mrs. Hughes went on to examine three new ways to objectively evaluate the age of bruises, including use of computers to evaluate wavelengths of light in a bruise. She found even the best of these methods was not as accurate as an expert's eye. "These computer methods can estimate the age of approximately 20 per cent of bruises measured," she said. "They are a long way off replacing humans."

-The Sydney Morning Herald. July 8, 2005

### 🔪 Handcuffed Man Drives Himself Away From Scene of Arrest

Deputies of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department in Highland Park Michigan answered a call about a man throwing rocks at a house. They apprehended the suspect, and placed him in bracelet-style handcuffs in the back seat of the cruiser.

Information is not available about where the deputies were in the next moments. The cruiser was found abandoned several blocks away nearly six hours later. The suspect remained at large, and it seems that he drove the cruiser away himself.

## Vidocq Society Journal

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Deputy Chief Robert Dickerson said, "It's happened before other times. This gentleman has a rather small frame, about 5 feet, 7 inches, and if the cuffs are not on tight, they can slip off."

- CBS News July 12, 2005.

#### ☛ **Summer Camp Teaches Explosives**

The University of Missouri-Rolla sponsored a five-day course this summer for teens to learn about explosives. More than 20 teens got to work with high explosives, including dynamite and C-Four, the plastic explosive used by the military. The campers also learned how to design their own fireworks. The purpose of the camp was job-skill training. Most of the teenagers plan well-paying careers in the mining, demolition or fireworks industries. Margaret Howard, freshman at UMR's Mining Engineering school this fall said, "Getting paid to blow up stuff would be great."

-CBS News Aug. 1, 2005

#### ☛ **Time of Death is Not Exactly Predictable from Body Temperature or Cooling**

Algor mortis is the cooling of a dead body that follows death. Cooling does not follow predictable time intervals as once thought.

In 1710, English physician John Davey first used the then-new invention of the thermometer in a human body at autopsy. Davey's experiments on the bodies of British soldiers were published based on his work took place in the high heat of Malta, captured by the British in 1800. Later pathologists following Davey's published descriptions apparently did not place the thermometer *inside* the body, but in the armpit. Their publications of the inaccurate information of cooling became widely popularized and passed from school to school.

It turns out that the widely held dogma that body temperature drops at a precise and steady rate of 1.6 degrees an hour (later rounded to 1.5 for ease of calculation) was never the case.

- Time Of Death by J.S. Sachs

#### **Forensic Terminology**

Super Glue Fuming – A technique used to develop latent fingerprints on non-porous surfaces. A chemical in the glue reacts with and adheres to the finger oils, and then expose latent prints.

## **2005 Vidocq Society Annual Awards Dinner**

Friday, November 11, 2005  
Beginning at 7:00 pm

**Pen Ryn Mansion on the Delaware**  
1601 State Road  
Bensalem, Pennsylvania 19020-7112

### **Assessment**

\$100 per person before July 31, 2005  
\$110 per person after July 31, 2005

### **Questions and Reservations**

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Additional Questions please call David  
Ziegler, V.S.M., publisher, at 609-538-0508  
or e-mail [publisher@vidocq.org](mailto:publisher@vidocq.org)

# Upcoming Vidocq Society Meetings

September, 15, 2005

October 20, 2005

November 17, 2005

December 15, 2005

Meetings commence at 11:30 am in the

**The Down Town Club**, (215) 925-2040 - located on the top Floor of the Public Ledger Building at 6th & Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, across from Independence Hall.

## **The Vidocq Society**

1704 Locust Street, Second Floor  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103  
(215) 545-1450

## **Solve the Mystery**

**What is Jack the Ripper's real name?**

"Jack the Ripper" is the pseudonym given to the unknown killer of a number of prostitutes in the East End of London, 1888.

If you know the answer email us at Vidocq Society Journal: [editor@vidocq.org](mailto:editor@vidocq.org)

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**The Vidocq Society**  
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