

Acquaintance Sexual Predators

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Michael Helgoth (Boots/Bootman) The Helgoth Theory

[Michael Helgoth was a 26-year-old electrician who worked in a nearby auto salvage yard.](#) Two theories have been advanced regarding his involvement in JBR's death.

- **Lone Intruder Theory.** This is discussed in detail in ([Shapiro 2001](#)). Further details at [acandyrose.com](#) including a discussion of a heated [debate](#) between Internet poster MaskedMan and Jameson about this theory. See [Webbsleuths forum chat](#) for further discussion.
- **Helgoth & Partner Theories**
 - **Helgoth & Gigax.** Some of those who believe Helgoth was involved also think he may have had an [accomplice](#), originally named SX who was a known sexual offender. SX was subsequently identified as [John Steven Gigax](#). A [documentary](#) by Michael Tracey, a professor in the at School of Journalism and Mass Communication at University of Colorado Boulder, summarized the case against Helgoth and a partner [later identified as John Steven Gigax: see below for the evidence for and against Gigax].
 - **Helgoth & Left-Handed Partner.** [Nehemiah](#) has posted [here](#) a brief synopsis of how Helgoth and a left-handed partner committed this crime.
- **Photo.** A photo of Helgoth is at [Rolling Stone](#).

Incriminating Evidence Against Helgoth

Regardless of whether he did it alone or with an accomplice, Helgoth had a *motive* (a property dispute with Ramseys); *means* (he owned a stun gun and Hi-tech boots) and opportunity to kill JBR. He also owned dogs whose fur was consistent with that found on JBR's body and a hat with the initials SBTC.

- **Property Dispute with Ramseys.** [Michael Helgoth](#) knew the Ramseys from a property dispute and this may have provided some motivation for the crime. The Ramsey's family private investigator, Ollie Gray, referred to Helgoth as a "hellraiser."
- **Stun Gun.** "a stun gun was found near Mr. Helgoth's body, as well as boots with a "HI-TEC logo like that left on the basement floor of defendants' home. (SMF P 281; PSMF P 281.)" (Carnes 2003:36).
- **HI-TEC Boots.** Internet poster [Mame says](#) she has sources who say "Helgoth's High-Tec boot appears to be a perfect match, same size and even has a dent/chip in the sole at the exact same spot the print does."
- **Wolfdog Fur.** Helgoth owned two wolfdog puppies whose fur, according to the Tracey [documentary](#), "exactly matched" the 2 different colors of animal hairs found on JBR's body.
- **Hat with S-B-T-C Initials.** [According](#) to CNN, a baseball cap with the letters s-b-t-c was found near Helgoth's body.
- **Suspicious Statements.** [According](#) to Trip DeMuth, one of the original prosecutors in this case, Helgoth "had reportedly made statements to a friend, very similar to the types of statements that we're hearing about today in the press with the arrest of John Karr. "
- **Suspicious Suicide.** Helgoth committed suicide on Valentine's Day, 1997. This was suspicious for two reasons:
 - **Timing of Suicide.** Helgoth committed suicide just one day after Alex Hunter announced in a press conference: "I want to say something to the person or persons who took this baby from us, the list of suspects narrows. Soon there will be no-one on the list but you." As Rolling Stone [put it](#) "It's been speculated that once the 26-year-old Helgoth caught wind that he could be a suspect in the case (officials found a boot print allegedly similar to his near the Ramsey's home), he committed suicide before anyone could get to him."
 - **"Suicide a Homicide?"** Because of some peculiarities shown in the [autopsy](#), some further believe that this accomplice--worried that Helgoth might confess--killed Helgoth and made it look like a suicide.

Exculpatory Evidence Favoring Helgoth

- **No DNA Match.** [Michael Helgoth's](#) DNA was not a match with DNA collected at the crime scene.
- **Suicide Appears Genuine.** Internet poster [Michael Cook](#), who claims to have been an acquaintance of Helgoth's for 1-2 years, has [written](#) "I was at Mike's funeral, and it was discussed among friends there that He had committed suicide because of a failed relationship with a girlfriend." [sic](#) The suicide admittedly occurred the day right after Hunter's warning to the killer, but it also occurred on Valentine's Day, which Cook believes is noteworthy as a signal of Helgoth's true motivations.
- **Hi-Tech Boots.**
 - **Boots Don't Match.** BPD Chief [Mark Beckner](#) said in November 2000 that Helgoth's boots did not match the footprints in Ramsey basement; private investigator Ollie Gray "is not convinced. He said Beckner did not give him specifics about how the boots were compared to the partial print, what tests were run or who police interviewed."
 - **Boots Not Significant.** Internet poster [Michael Cook asserts](#) that a large number of Boulder residents are hikers, so Hi-Tech boots could be matched to probably thousands of people; the fact that Helgoth happened to own a pair therefore is not significant.
- **Left-Handed Roommate.** Internet poster [JimMac](#), who claims to have known Helgoth and his left-handed roommate, has [asserted](#) that "the man who raped and murdered [JonBenet Ramsey](#) also murdered Michael Helgoth over the division of their spoils of their numerous burglaries."
- **On-Line Discussion.** See DocG's [Fantastic Theories - Part Five](#) at Solving the JonBenet Ramsey Case for a critique and discussion of this theory.

John Steven Gigax (Possible Helgoth Accomplice) The Gigax Theory

- **Overview**
- **Tracey Documentary.** According to the Tracey documentary, Gigax (who was not specifically named, but whose identity was later deduced from documents shown in the documentary) was an accomplice of Helgoth's. The clip in which Gigax's activities and criminal background are described is [here](#).
- **How Gigax Identified.** The story of how Gigax's name was tracked down by Internet posters [Jayelles](#) and [Tricia Griffiths](#) using a screenshot from the Tracey documentary is [here](#).
- **On-line Discussions.** See [Webbsleuths forum chat](#) for further discussion.

Incriminating Evidence Against Gigax

- **Police Record.** Gigax had been convicted of sexually assaulting a barely underaged girl and had a history of violence. Gigax's name surfaced following the Michael Tracey documentary, which displayed his police record on air. The documentary asserted "Helgoth's associate was convicted following a stabbing here on the trailer park. Witnesses were too frightened to give evidence but court documents summarised his criminal record as "violence -- history of sexual assault". They also reveal that he was a convicted pedophile. He was imprisoned in the 1980s for a sexual assault on a child."
- **Other Evidence.** Internet poster [Margoo](#) has assembled a good compilation of evidence that made Gigax a plausible suspect at the time the documentary was aired.
- **Opportunity.** Gigax lived in a trailer park very close to Helgoth and had worked in the Ramsey house. However, after the Tracey documentary, it was learned that Gigax reportedly was not in Boulder on December 25 or 26 and hence is not implicated in JBR's death.
- **Not Cleared on DNA.** "Mills and Tracey are both under the impression that he was "eliminated" by a DNA test after the documentary aired, but that, too, is erroneous." But this appears to be because police accepted his alibi (see below), hence he likely never was tested.

Exculpatory Evidence Favoring Gigax

- **Alibi.** The available evidence shows that Gigax was not even in Colorado on the night of the murder. "Gigax offered to send Bennett sales receipts that proved he was in Indiana over Christmas 1996. He also had a dozen witnesses who'd seen him there on Christmas Day." Some [question](#) the accuracy of the Tracey documentary given that Gigax was not even in Colorado on the night of the murder. [Reportedly](#), "Tom Bennett of the Boulder D.A.'s office told Mr. Gigax he was never a suspect and the Boulder D.A. was never looking for him to question

him."

- **Never a Suspect.** "Gigax first learned of his sudden infamy shortly after the documentary aired. 'People I didn't know from Adam were e-mailing me, saying I was this prime suspect in the Ramsey case,' he recalls. 'I called the Boulder DA's office and talked to Tom Bennett. He said I was not a suspect, that I had never been a suspect.'" According to Internet poster **Jayelles** Tom Bennett also told Tricia Griffith and Carol **McKinley** that Gigax wasn't a suspect; they reported this on the Peter Boyles show (e-mail communication with Miss Marple, May 19, 2007).
- **Inaccuracies in Tracey Documentary**
 - **Point-by-Point Rebuttal.** A complete rebuttal of the Tracey documentary by Internet poster **Jayelles** is [here](#).
 - **Not a Pedophile.** Most importantly, **Jayelles** has asserted: "He is not on the Colorado sex offenders list OR the Indiana sex offenders list - the two states where he has lived (you can look them up online). He spoke on record about his assault on the barely underage babysitter which resulted in him serving 2 years. He has no record of sexual assaults on children or of possessing child pornography that would make it legitimate for anyone to call him a paedophile" (e-mail communication with **Miss Marple**, 2/14/07).
 - **Gigax's Account.** John Steven Gigax appeared on Geraldo at Large to tell his story and you can see the interview [here](#). He was also interviewed on the Peter Boyles Show and you can hear the audio [here](#).
 - **Gigax Accuser Also a Suspect.** "Gigax's principal accuser in the documentary is John Kenady." But as shown below, Kenady himself could have as easily been Helgoth's accomplice based on his own criminal background, including a sexual assault on an underaged teen, his apparent preoccupation with the case and his proclivity for pointing fingers at others.

John Kenady (Possible Helgoth Accomplice)

The Kenady Theory

- The case against Kenady is discussed [here](#).
- A picture of Kenady has been posted [here](#) and he is an important witness in the Tracey [documentary](#).
- See [Webbsleuths forum chat](#) for further discussion.

Incriminating Evidence Against Kenady

- **Long Criminal History.** John Kenady had a long [criminal record](#).
1. **Sexual Assault on Child.** "Kenady has an ancient conviction for sexual assault on a child, which he says involved a consensual relationship with a teenager."
 2. **Trespassing.** "Kenady was arrested in 2000 for breaking into Helgoth's house and pleaded guilty to trespassing. He says he merely wanted to preserve evidence."
 - **Stole Hi-Tech Boots from Helgoth?** He claimed to have found Hi-Tech boots in Helgoth's [house](#). But he allegedly stole these, among other [items](#).
 - **Attended Patsy Ramsey Funeral?** Internet poster Candy has [asserted](#) that according to the *National Enquirer*, Kenady attended the funeral of Patsy Ramsey.
 - **Sought to Cast Suspicion on Others**
1. **Michael Helgoth.** "Kenady is convinced that Helgoth's death was murder rather than suicide. The Boulder police disagree with him." "The possibility that Helgoth's death, which occurred on Valentine's Day, might have been a suicide related to girlfriend problems also doesn't dissuade him. "I think there were three people involved in this, possibly four," he says. "Mike would say, 'Maybe I should just shoot myself now and get it over with.' I got a pretty good idea he was into something he shouldn't have been."
 2. **John Steven Gigax.** As a witness in the the third Tracey documentary (paid \$200 for his "inconvenience"), Kenady later cast suspicion on John Gigax. "Gigax's principal accuser in the documentary is John Kenady, a mechanic and tow-truck driver who introduced Gigax to Helgoth." But Gigax claims that Kenady knew that Gigax had moved from Boulder to Indiana months before JBR died: "The people pointing the finger at me and saying I'm a bad, scary guy were both aware that I'd moved. One of them called me to tell me that Helgoth had killed himself."

Exculpatory Evidence Favoring Kenady