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Crime Scene Investigation

Raises Doubts About Suicide

Ruling in Biker Sherlock's Death

Interview by Darryl Cotton

The Death of Biker Sherlock - December 2, 2015

Scott Roder is a forensic crime investigator who has examined over 2,000 cases in his career. Roder believes with 100% certainty that Biker Sherlock's death was a homicide, not a suicide.

There are a number of critical points that point to foul-play:

1. Gunshot Wound Trajectory

Analysis of the gunshot wound trajectory and the type of bullet used, suggests inconsistencies with a self-inflicted wound. The trajectory and bullet type indicate the wound was not self-inflicted.

2. Gun Position Post-incident

The position of the gun found at the scene is inconsistent with a self-inflicted gunshot scenario. The gun's position suggests it was placed there and does not support a suicide theory.

3. Blood Pattern Analysis

Examination of blood patterns at the scene suggest injuries from an assault rather than a suicide.

4. Physical Condition of Biker Sherlock

Biker Sherlock's physical condition and injuries indicate struggle or fight prior to his death. It appears he was pistol whipped and there is a wound on his forehead.

5. San Diego Police Department's Investigation

The investigation by the police department is seen as lacking thoroughness. The police did not test for gun residue. They could not find the bullet casing.

Roder is confident in his findings and is willing to testify in court to the scientific certainty of homicide.

AN INTERVIEW WITH SCOTT RODER

Roder is an internationally recognized evidence specialist. Roder has professional training in crime and shooting scene reconstruction. This makes him a qualified expert witness.

Based in Cleveland, Ohio, Roder's company, The Evidence-Room.net employs a team of specialists. They have backgrounds in art, 3D modeling, forensic animation, motion graphics, time based media, biomedical illustration, architectural design, law and crime, and shooting scene reconstruction.

Roder's team has worked on a number of high profile cases including George Floyd and Paralympic runner, Oscar Pistorius.

What can you tell me about the appearance of Biker Sherlock at the time of his death?

When Biker left his house at between 8 and 9 p.m. the night before, his wife said he had no injuries on his body whatsoever. He was wearing clean clothes, he didn't have dirt under his fingernails. He wasn't working on cars. He was in perfect physical condition when he left the house.

If you look at his hands, it looks like he'd been in a fight. It looked like he was punching somebody or that he was trying to catch himself after being knocked down.

He has contusions on the back of his head which could be from being knocked into the ground or knocked into the brick, into the rock wall behind right where he's recovered.

There's a blood spot right at standing level. If you see him from where he was found, there's a blood spot right on the rock wall, right behind it at about five and a half feet above the ground. He could have been knocked into that. So he had a contusion on the back of his head. He had dirt on the front of his sweatshirt. He had dirt on the front of his sweatpants.

To me, he clearly was in a fight.

What about the actual gun? What do you find suspicious about the gun found on Biker?

There was only one bullet left in the gun and it was chambered. There were no other bullets left in the magazine.

How many bullets are in the chamber in that type of gun?

It's an extended clip so I think it's 15. A normal clip would hold 11. I think that would hold 15 or 17.

So how would you account for the missing bullets?

It would appear they were taken.

What about the one that they didn't take? This was the one that was still in the chamber that wasn't fired.

Yeah, they forgot about that one. They forgot that there was one in the chamber.

And you feel pretty strongly that if he went down to the beach to take these guys on, he would have had a full clip? He would have had all the bullets?

Oh, hell yeah! Nobody walks around with two bullets if it's an extended clip.

I'm a gun owner and I have 17 guns. Not because I'm a gun advocate or anything. I buy guns for cases that I work on.

Every time I have a case and I don't have that gun, I have to buy that gun to use it in an experiment that goes to my gun safe. When you're a gun owner, a gun user, using it for self-defense, you're not walking around with two bullets in an extended clip. I'm sorry, you're just not doing it. Somebody took those bullets.

There needs to be more examination of that gun, of the clip, of the bullet that was found. We need to know if the gun matches the bullet that was recovered from it. Was it a different gun? We don't even know that.

When it comes to the trajectory of the gunshot wound, is it consistent with a typical self-inflicted gunshot?

The first thing that is important to note is that this bullet was a full metal jacket bullet. And what that means is that the bullet does not come apart and flower upon impact.

A hollow tip bullet is the kind of bullet that you would expect to flower and have catastrophic peripheral damage along the flight path of the bullet. When a full metal jacket bullet is fired, it'll typically stay in one piece. It all depends on what the bullet comes into contact with.

How does a bullet come apart?

If the bullet does come apart, it will do so because it hits a rib or some kind of a femur. It must hit something that would cause a dynamic force impact to break the bullet apart.

When you look at the bullet's trajectory here, the bullet goes through his tongue, and then after it enters his tongue, it exits and goes directly into the back of his throat, hitting his spinal cord. This is a flat trajectory of 90 degrees. This means it has zero deviation up or down. There is zero deviation left or right, and that is not where you want to shoot yourself.

What does this indicate to you in terms trying to commit suicide?

If you want to be sure that you're going to kill yourself, you're going to use an intraoral way of shooting yourself for suicide. Let me just say this, 90% of all people that commit suicide plan for it. They think about it. They want it to be successful. You're not going to use a full metal jacket bullet and point the gun directly through your tongue and into your throat.

The spinal cord is only as wide as the bullet is wide, so if you miss the spinal cord a centimeter to the left or a centimeter to the right, guess what, you're still alive.

If you're going to do a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the mouth, you'd want to shoot up through your upper mandible so that you would hit your medulla oblongata or the occipital lobe of your brain.

People have put the gun directly to their temple, shot themselves, and survived because you can live with damage to the frontal lobe of your brain. This is because this part of the brain controls things like emotion, speech, hand-eye coordination. But you cannot live with any damage whatsoever to your occipital lobe which is in the back of your brain.

Right beneath the occipital lobe is your cerebellum is what most people refer to as your lizard brain, or your medulla oblongata. That's the part where, if you hit it, you die very quickly. If you're going to commit suicide with a full metal jacket, you're going to want to shoot yourself above and behind your ear. And you're gonna want to use your dominant hand.

What it is about the way the gun positioned that leads you believe this was not a suicide?

In Biker's case, this gun was put in his mouth. I believe we can prove beyond a reasonable doubt, and certainly to a degree of scientific certainty, that the gun was in his mouth horizontally, sideways. And that the action of the gun, being the slide of the gun where the bullet was fired, caused damage to his upper teeth. It fractured his upper teeth, and it caused lacerations to his lower lips.

The fractures to his upper teeth and the lacerations to his lower lips, I think confirms that the gun was in his mouth horizontally. And if the gun was in his mouth horizontally, that means it would have to be in with the left side up.

The reason I say that is, the left side of the gun is covered in blood. The right side of the gun does not have blood in it. So that means the top side of the gun was exposed to the blood, which means the gun was in his mouth horizontally. This matches up with the diameter of the barrel of the gun that was put inside his mouth horizontally.

But Biker is not left-handed, he's right-handed.

If you were right handed, you would not use your left hand and put the gun in your mouth horizontally and go directly backward with no upward deviation whatsoever.

If this was a self-inflicted gunshot wound, you would use your right hand and you would put it above your right ear and you wouldn't even put it in your mouth.

Every time you see a self-inflicted gunshot suicide wound that is successful in the mouth, the person used a shotgun or a rifle of some kind, or a high caliber bullet. The person was aware they would be successful in their attempt.

But with a 38 caliber, a nine millimeter, full metal jacket, that's not something you want to put in your throat. There's a very good chance Biker could have survived if that bullet deviated just a little bit to the left or a little bit to the right.

Any person who wants to commit suicide, they will do research. They will want to know what kind of ammunition that is needed. Also, when you attempt to commit suicide, you will want to use your dominant hand. You will use the most effective method possible.

What about the gun position?

The gun was found muzzle up on his left side, at the area of his left elbow.

It's inexplicable that it would be there because it was placed there after the gun was fired.

Think about the arm angle you would have to have with either your left or right arm along with your left or right hand, to be able to put that gun in your mouth deep enough and have a direct back to front bullet trajectory. And then that gun would fall out of your hand and then fall face up by your elbow? No. This type of gun is totally inconsistent with the type of wound that it produced,

So the gun, I would expect, if it was a self-inflicted gunshot wound, it would be in his right hand or on his right side or just laying on his chest. But I would not expect it to have fallen, down by his left elbow and facing upwards. I find that totally inconsistent with the overall crime scene whatsoever.

What about an ejected shell casing?

The police did not recover an ejected shell casing. In this kind of a situation, we know that that gun ejects shell casings. Depending on how the gun was held in his hand or whoever's hand, you would expect that bullet to be within 3 feet of the body. Because in the nature of the area where he was at, we wouldn't expect the ejected shell case to roll 20 feet away into the water. No. It would be right there within 4 feet of his body. There was no shell casing recovered, which means somebody picked it up.

What explains the large red square on his upper right forehead?

It looks like he pistol whipped. It looks like someone smashed the butt of the gun into his head.

Do you believe it was his gun that was used on his forehead or do you believe something else?

I believe it was the gun that was found at the scene, which I believe was his gun. I believe that gun was used to pistol whip him in the upper right forehead. We measured that magazine width and dimensions and it matches perfectly the dimensions with the right angle of that wound on the forehead.

Furthermore, the wound on his forehead is exactly what you would expect if metal hit you with blunt force in the forehead. You would expect that kind of abrasion with that kind of an impression. And in evidence terms, it's called impression evidence, where we can literally take the impression of the magazine butt and match it to the wound on his forehead and it's an exact match. And there's blood on the bottom of the magazine.

What can you tell me about the blood patterns as it relates to this being a murder versus a suicide?

Well, the blood pattern that is on his body is consistent with blood coming out of the mouth. You would expect that. However, I haven't been to the scene, so it's difficult to get the exact measurement and the police department didn't give me any measurements. I estimate that the furthest blood away from him is about six feet away. That is too far for blood to come out of his mouth. And I'll tell you why. Because of the image of the blood.

The blood droplets away from his body are what you call gravity droplets, meaning the blood source was directly above the rock when it hit the rock and that's why the blood looks like a circle. If the blood was thrown in that direction from spurting, there would be directionality to the appearance of the blood. It would have a tail on it, just like a comet.

These blood droplets at the crime scene are over six feet away. In my estimation, they are gravity droplets, meaning they were not from the gunshot wound, but from the injury to his forehead, which happened directly before the gunshot wound.

What are some issues you have with the way the police handled this investigation at the time of Biker's death?

The police put bags on his hands, which they are supposed to do, but they didn't even test him for gunshot residue. If he shot himself, he would have gunshot residue all over his hands. The police investigators even bagged his hands wrong. They bagged his hands in plastic.

You're supposed to bag the hands in paper, because plastic has electrostatic cling. Gunshot residue is very transient evidence. If you just clap your hands together, you can get rid of the gunshot residue. If you put hands in plastic bags, that plastic is going to pull that gunshot residue to the bag. If you put his hands in paper bags, it doesn't cause any damage, or it doesn't disturb the gunshot residue evidence. But it didn't matter in any case, because they didn't test it.

What are your thoughts on the motive behind Biker's death?

The research my team and I have done on this case indicates that the perpetrators of this crime most likely had something to gain from Biker being dead. I also understand that after Biker's death, his wife was the victim of fraud. Biker's signature was forged. Apparently, it was forged by his business partners in order to steal his business interest from the Sherlock family. When you examine who benefitted from Biker's death, it will give you clues as to the motive.

If you had to put a percentage on whether or not this was a homicide, what would you say?

I would say 100% this is a homicide. I would testify to that to a degree of scientific certainty, in court, under oath that Biker Sherlock did not commit suicide. If somebody wants to challenge me on my results I am happy to talk with them and defend them.

What should happen next?

It's time for the prosecutor in San Diego to reopen this case and investigate what really happened. It requires looking at MOTIVE! Biker's death is a direct result of the pay-to-play corruption that exists in San Diego Adult-Use Cannabis Licensing.

Amy Sherlock, her children and everyone else who believes in the rule of law deserves to know the truth, the record needs to be corrected and justice needs to be done.

WARNING GRAPHIC IMAGES

Roder Video Reenactment @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdqCnP8IS8&t=21s>

Roder Written Analysis and Report @ https://www.justice4amy.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/23-12-28_Michael-_Biker_-_Sherlock-Report-with-Animations.pdf