

Abraham Lincoln Indirectly Helps Apprehend Rapist



Everett Stadig - Photo by Jonny Barber

A week ago, I was out wandering around Colfax, as I am prone to do, and spotted a man who looked very much like Abraham Lincoln riding his bicycle, replete with beard and a stovepipe hat!! As he passed by, I asked if he wanted to stop and chat. He obliged, and as it turned out he had a very interesting story to tell. Not only was he the one-time official Abraham Lincoln impersonator for Mt. Rushmore, but he was also at one time the victim of an assault, which backfired on the assailant and actually led to the assailant's arrest for other, outstanding warrants.

Denver Serial Rapist William Burton Costello Arrested: Colorado's 69-year old Everett Stadig, personhood activist and member of Denver Bible Church, was assaulted in the line of duty (while collecting pro-life signatures). When the police DNA tested the suspect, they found out that William Burton Costello was a criminal wanted for serial rape of three women, ages 13, 22, and 49, from 2008 to 2011. (Update: Costello was charged with a fourth rape in 2013 and his defense attorneys have been desperately trying to help him get away with his crimes.)

Here is his story, taken from the website Bob Enyart Live:

Report by Jo Scott

Everett Stadig, long-time Mt. Rushmore employee, is an active Christian pro-lifer and an Abe Lincoln look alike. On June 30, 2012 during the final push to gather signatures for Colorado's Personhood amendment, 69-year-old Stadig was collecting signatures in front of the Stapleton King Soopers grocery store when he was attacked

and thrown off his bike to the ground by a man who became enraged because Everett was asking for signatures "to protect unborn children." A witness who saw the attack recorded the assailant's license plate number and gave it to the police. Everett was taken by ambulance to the hospital where he underwent surgery for a broken hip.

In the following weeks, Mr. Stadig, concerned that the crime against him was not being investigated, enlisted the help of other pro-lifers and two volunteer attorneys to pressure the Denver police department to investigate the crime. Yet it turns out that the police were pursuing the matter, and eventually brought assault and rape charges against the perpetrator, a successful Denver businessman.



In August, William Costello, was arrested for the attack on Everett Stadig. "Katie's Law" allows law enforcement to procure DNA samples after a felony arrest. That DNA linked William Costello to three rapes for which he was charged on November 16, 2012.

Regarding the charge against Costello for the assault on Stadig, "It's rather shocking," said Denver pastor and radio host Bob Enyart:

The police gave Costello a charge of only second-degree assault when Everett, a 69-year-old man, was attacked while straddling his bicycle and asking for signatures on his personhood petition. To add insult to injury, the D.A.'s office didn't even speak to the victim until September 18th, whereas they entered the mere third-degree charge on August 11th, after talking only to the perpetrator and not the victim. In addition to Everett, at least one witness, and perhaps others, spoke with police. The perpetrator, now known to be a pro-abortion Democrat with ties to high-profile governing officials including a former governor, was angry that Everett was a pro-lifer. Costello at first walked away toward his vehicle, then returned, and assaulted Everett by throwing him to the ground. The force of the impact broke Everett's hip. This is a first-degree assault on an at-risk adult and the Denver D.A. Mitchell Morrissey should upgrade this charge against this out-of-control and dangerous offender.

Correcting the charge to first-degree assault might also help to correct the media from falsely reporting that Costello's arrest was the result of "a fight in a parking lot."

The characterization of the assault in this Denver Post headline, "Denver parking lot fight leads to suspect in three unsolved rapes," is absurd to everyone who knows meek and mild Everett. And it might help if the Post's reporter Jessica Fender would speak to the victim.

Denver parking lot fight leads to suspect in three unsolved rapes

Read more:[Denver parking lot fight leads to suspect in three unsolved rapes - The Denver Post](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_22027233/denver-parking-lot-fight-leads-suspect-three-unsolved#ixzz2CsgGSJ7V)http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_22027233/denver-parking-lot-fight-leads-suspect-three-unsolved#ixzz2CsgGSJ7V

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Lynn Kimbrough with the Denver district attorney's office stated:

William Costello, 47, has been charged with two counts of second-degree kidnapping, two counts of sexual assault on a child, three counts of sexual assault, and two counts of impersonating a peace officer. Costello was arrested and charged in July 2012 with assault on an at-risk adult following a confrontation between Costello and a man collecting petition signatures. "Costello's DNA was taken at the time of his arrest pursuant to Katie's Law, and was then linked to three unsolved sexual assault cases occurring in 2008, 2010, and 2011.

Kimbrough appears to be mistaken saying the arrest was in July, since the arrest affidavit is dated August 9 and the D.A. indicated to Stadig that this first arrest was made on August 11.

Costello, whose rape victims range in age from 13 to 49, as reported by the Denver Post, is a successful real estate broker who has ties to "high profile Democrats," all of whom of course are pro-abortion, including being a long-time family friend of former governor Dick Lamm who introduced in 1967 Colorado's first law to decriminalize the killing of unborn children. DNA evidence indicates that William Costello raped a 13 year old girl in March 2008, a 22 year old woman in 2010, and a 49 year old woman in 2011. The Post also reported that Costello was arrested while driving the car of a top political strategist, who they haven't named, while distributing yard signs to a Durango, Colorado Democratic campaign office, and that about a year after the rape of the 13 year old, Costello attended a birthday party for a grandson of Governor Lamm.



Photo of recovering Stadig

Back in July, Everett Stadig told the pro-life media that he was attacked because he was collecting personhood signatures. In a telephone interview from his hospital bed, Stadig told LifeSiteNews that the man was “in his mid-thirties and looked about six foot tall.” He refused to sign, and began to swear and shout at Stadig. “He was yelling ‘I’m pro-choice!’” Stadig recalled, adding that he used “most foul language.”

Stadig explained that being ‘pro-choice’ meant pro-abortion, and again urged him to sign. At first the man walked away, but returned half a minute later, still swearing and yelling. “He said ‘you don’t have a right to be here!’” Stadig related, “and I said ‘I do have a right to be here, this is a Colorado Petition Drive’. Then he grabbed my petition pad, and with the same movement threw me to ground, and I was hurt so bad I couldn’t get up.”

Seems Mr. Costello has a dog in the fight for personhood. Where is a rapist going to get rid of the evidence of his crime without the abortionist? American Right To Life’s leading article on the rape “exception” has been updated:

The men who use women, like serial rapist William Costello who assaulted an elderly pro-life activist Everett Stadig who was merely collecting personhood signatures, rapists as a group are pro-choice because abortion entices them to think they will get away with their crime.

In this news report Denver District Attorney, Mitchell R. Morrissey said that this crime is one of the most “significant offenses that we’ve had” and that without Katie’s law the cases would have gone unsolved. Everett Stadig is thankful also for the dogged perseverance of pro-life attorneys Rebecca Messall and Barry Arrington. They put the pressure on the DA and the police department to bring charges against William Costello. On Aug. 11, 2012, the D.A. charged the perpetrator with merely a third-degree assault after only talking to the offender, his office did not even talk to the pro-life victim, Mr. Stadig, until Sept. 18, 2012.

The pro-life community is thankful that while Everett who was working to protect the innocent and deter the guilty indirectly became involved in the apprehension of a serial rapist.

It remains to be seen whether Stadig's sense that the police were leaving him out of the investigation was merely wrong, or resulted from the pro-choice campaign activist being a well-connected Democrat. What is now known is that the D.A.'s office was more interested in talking to the criminal, Costello, than to the victim, Everett. Perhaps due to his connections, the angry Costello was given a gift and undercharged.

Hear Everett interviewed from his hospital bed just two days after his assault in the BEL radio program Romneycare upheld and Abe Lincoln felled.

Regarding pro-choice serial rapist William Costello, Westword newspaper's alleged journalist Michael Roberts reported that the DA office spokeswoman Lynn Kimbrough has stated that "two other people came forward with information" bringing the number, in addition to the previously reported serial rapes, to four separate crimes, apparently in addition to the assault on Stadig. Halfway through Roberts report, he has a floating reference, "In the wake of Costello's arrest..." But what arrest? As Denver's media has generally underreported and misreported the assault on Everett that led to Costello's arrest and becoming a suspect as a serial rapist, Roberts doesn't even tell his alleged readers what the arrest was for, nor about the fifth victim, an at-risk adult who suffered a broken hip at Costello's hands.

It's been one year and seven months since Costello was charged. Since then he has been out on a \$125,000 bond and ordered to wear an ankle monitor, but he is not on house arrest. He has been free to roam the community.

Last Monday, March 3rd after a series of postponements Costello was finally brought to trial. Monday was uneventful as the jury was chosen. Tuesday Leslie Hanks and Tony Massey attended the trial. Leslie Hanks said, "It was extremely difficult to listen to those poor women (One of them was only thirteen at the time of the assault.) testify about what happen to them. And then to have to listen to the Defense attorneys try to discredit them was heart wrenching."

The local news stations Tuesday night played a clip of Costello walking alone out of the court house. Wednesday morning Ms. Hanks and Mr. Massey were back at the courthouse for the start of trial. But this day Mr. Costello was a no show. The court waited until 10:00am and declared a mistrial. They were tracking his movements with the ankle monitor until a very anxious clerk delivered a message to the DA, who in turn gave it to the judge. The judge read the note and asked his clerk to read it to the court. She read the note sent from the Denver police department, "Mr. William Costello is deceased".



William Costello



Parking garage where Costello ended his life.

Later we learned that he jumped off a four story parking garage to his death. The court was tracking the ankle monitor as his body was being taken to the morgue.

One of the things that Everett Stadig told Mr. Costello during the assault was “I want you to go to heaven.” It’s highly unlikely that he found the Lord but he surely understands today why he should have listened to our meek and mild friend. Thanks for being the ever faithful soul winner Ev.

It is a very sad ending to an even sadder life. If we shout the Gospel from the roof tops maybe less people will leap from them.