

Writings of the accused

Gabel's words show early obsessions

By Mike Kluck
© 1996 DN Summer Edition

A man charged with murder details an obsession with cats that drink out of toilets and the color of plungers in his writings to a Lincoln magazine, but little is said about his peers and family members.



Gabel had as a youth was toward a cat he had to give away and a teacher who moved away during his fourth grade school year.

"It seems that he never bonded with anybody," Nesselletti said. "He also shows some anti-social personality traits as well.

"His primary remembrances when he's 11-years old are cats and a teacher, who moved away during the school year," he said. "After his fourth grade period of time it seems he is not connected to society and is being shuffled from one psychiatric association to another."

But Nesselletti said the writings could

also show a possible link to the 1995 slaying of UNL student Tina McMenamini.

At the age of 11, Gabel wrote in the Lincoln literary review magazine "Big Pile of Bones," he became "rebellious against authority."

"No matter who all tried to help me it was not the answer," Gabel wrote.

Gabel was charged Thursday with first-degree murder and the use of a weapon to commit a felony in the July 25, 1995, slaying of McMenamini.

After the charges had been read and Gabel said he understood the charges, he waved to the judge and said "bye."

Mark Baldrige a co-editor of "Big Pile of Bones" said Gabel was a talented writer and his stories had the tone of an alienated voice, which Baldrige liked for the publication.

Nesselletti, a psychologist with the Nebraska Mental Health Centers, said Gabel's writings are helpful in determining a possible pattern to his behavior, but more writings would be needed to make an assessment.

"It certainly is odd writing," Nesselletti said. "How we take it from there to make a good psychological evaluation, we would need other pieces of information. But this does point to some odd-thinking behavior.

"He could have done the murder if he was in a psychotic state and concocted something in his mind that he

needed to do this in some shape or form."

Gabel submitted many pieces of work for the literary review of Lincoln authors, but only two selections were used.

In the first selection, entitled "Story of My Life," Gabel wrote about having to give his kitten, Kitty, away because his younger brother was allergic to the cat.

Then during his fourth-grade year in Gering, his teacher, Miss Schueneman, married and moved to Coffeyville, Kan.

"Having two misfortunes were hard on me," Gabel wrote. "I did not know how to rationalise when I was 11 going on 12 in 1975. Aside from the cat and the teacher, I had began an obsession with cats that drink out of the toilet and color of plungers."

Gabel wrote of noticing that a classmate's plunger was green and then started asking other kids what color plungers they had in their homes.

Gabel's story about the plungers is significant in analyzing him, Nesselletti said.

"It's probably his first recollection of a psychotic experience," Nesselletti said. "His thinking becomes irrational and he (Gabel) has recognized it as an unusual and irrational thinking behavior. It was probably an onset of the mental disorder when it was occurring."

Gabel wrote when he was 11, he



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

Surrounded by reporters, Sarah Bognich, Tina McMenamini's roommate at the time of her death, leaves the courtroom after Greg Gabel's charges were read in court Thursday. Bognich said the hardest part of the trial will be when she has to testify.

was going to a mental health clinic in Scottsbluff and was prescribed Thorazine by Dr. Clark Wheland. Sources in Scottsbluff told the Daily Nebraskan that Dr. Wheland did practice at the Scottsbluff Mental Health Center in the 1970s.

The Thorazine caused Gabel painful twitching in his neck and shoulder muscles, so he was given Haldol "to counteract with it."

Nesselletti said Thorazine, an antipsychotic medication, can cause twitching in the neck and shoulder, but Haldol is only a stronger form of

Thorazine and can cause the same problems.

By June of 1975, Gabel wrote his parents sent him to a place in Omaha where he stayed for over a year.

In Gabel's second writing, entitled "A Fiction", which appeared at the end of "Big Pile of Bones", he wrote about the same incidents, but used the fictional television character Dr. Sam Beckett.

Beckett, a character in the television series "Quantum Leap," traveled through time putting right historical

Please see **GABEL** on 7

Editor's Note: This is a reprint of a story written by Greg Gabel, who was recently charged with the murder of Tina McMenamini. The story, which was written in all capital letters, was published in 1993 in "Big Pile of Bones," a Lincoln literary review.

"Story of My Life" Greg Gabel

In 1974, that was the last full calendar year that I was living at home in winter I had just go kitty, who was inly an infant cat. By summer of that year I wrongfully gave her up for a readoption. My younger brother was

coughing alot. The family physician readily concluded it was the cat. He should have tested my brother for what he really was allergic to rather than conclude it was Kitty. I named her Kitty simply because it was a perfect name for a female cat. I wanted to rear her and watch her grow up into an adult cat. When I gave her away, I gave her to my mom's parents of Lusk, Wyo simply because I know my grandfolks. I should have given kitty to someone in Gering, Nebr so I could have easier access to her. I felt extremely traumatised by this. As school days 1974-75 begin I enter 4th grade and get Miss Shirley Schueneman as my teacher. I liked her. She previ-

ously taught 1st grade. 1972-73 school days she began teaching 4th grade. I never had her when she had taught 1st grade in 1971-72 school days. She married a man named Clyde Kygar. He worked for an oil refinery that my dad had worked for. The 2 men were coworkers. Clyde gets a transfer to Coffeyville, Kan. I could not bear seeing Mrs Kygar leave, Mrs. Judy Margheim takes the position that Mrs Kygar left. I didn not hate Mrs Margheim I just missed Mrs Kygar. As 1975 begins things go downhill for me. Having 2 misfortunes were hard on me. I did not know how to rationalise when I was 11 going on 12 in 1975. Aside from the cat and the

teacher, I had began an obsession with cats that drink out of the toilet and color of plungers. It all started out when I was at Kip Gross' house. He was a class mate from 4th grade. He was making sight and sound effects of cats drinking out of the toilet. I noticed his plunger was green with a white handle. I asked other kids what color their plungers were to find if Kips was the only green headed plunger in town. I felt that I was not getting enough freedom when I was 11. So I became rebellious against authority. No matter who all tried to help me it was not the answer. I was already going to a mental health clinic in Scottsbluff. Dr. Clark Wheland put

me on thorazine. That drug was a bad drug. It caused me to have painful twitching in the neck and shoulder muscles. I was given Haldol to counteract with it. I was even put in the hospital. I was taking up a bed that someone else could have needed worse than me. I never finished my 4th grade year up at Westward Elementary. Rumors got around fast. I never finished my 6 week summer school class. On 6-21-75 my parents sent me to a place in Omaha Nebr where I did not get out of until 8-31-76.

© 1993 "Big Pile of Bones"

Editor's Note: This is a reprint of a story written by Greg Gabel, who was recently charged with the murder of Tina McMenamini. The story, which was written in all capital letters, was published in 1993 in "Big Pile of Bones," a Lincoln literary review.

"A Fiction" Greg Gabel

In 1974, Dr Sam Beckett witnesses a Gering, Nebr boy goes through 2 missfortunes. Sam tells Dr Walter Harvey Jr. a general practitioner that he must test Brian Gabel's allergies to make sure that it is not the cat at all. Sam spares the older boy from relinquishing ownership of Kitty. Next goal Sam sees into the future as Marty McFly would. A 4th grade teacher,

Miss Shirley Schueneman is getting married to Clyde Kygar. Sam is not even invited the wedding he objects to their marriage, he knows what will happen if the 2 get married. Clyde will get a job transfer to Coffeyville, Kan and Shirley will quit and end up leaving her students. Brian Gabel's older brother will act up in class in 1975, he will get expelled from school and not be able to maintain attendance. Dr. Clark Whealand will drug him with Thorazine, 6-21-75 his parents will commit him to a mental hospital in Omaha, Nebr for 14 months and 10 days all locked up and drugged up. After that he will be all drugged up in 6th grade and will be real sick and and his parents will commit him to another hospital in Lincoln, Nebr although drug free, will get whistled at by a huge Native American in the

summer of 1977 and will not wear shorts openly in public (until spring 1985) never be enroll in another public school again even when 2nd semester of school days, 1978-79 comes by and lost all interest in public schools The last 4 months (4-19-79 to 8-17-79) will be the 1st time a summer is experienced in the community of Lincoln, it falls short by being sent back to home to Gering where the teen is wasting his valuable life living at home in 1979-80 school days, attending a day program against his will, and winds up being recommitted to the same hospital in Lincoln on 4-14-80, but will live at the teen house for 28 months rehabilitating all over again because the 2nd coordinator runs the house like another hospital, she gets overthrown on 10-2-81. Rehabilitation under the former head nurse of

the adolescent cre hospital helped it speed up until 10-18-82. The day he hits age 19. The preacher does not marry the couple after he sees a film of "1975 to 1982, A Lost Teen Life". The Gering boy of 1974 does not go to Omaha in 1975, lives in Gering until 3-2?-77 and becomes a permanent Lincoln resident. He never lives in Gering between 8-17-79 to 4-18-80, spends 8-20-79 to 3-13-80 free from partial care and never knows Pat DeFeyer who no kid liked. She lost the chance to push 1 guy around. Dr Sam Beckett saves a man's teen life, by allowing him to go to Lincoln Northeast and he graduates in 1983 as a senior at age 19. He is drug free in the public schools in 7th,8th,and 9th grade, in Lincoln. The G.E.D. is not needed because Sam believed that Greg Gabel could make it in the pub-

lic schools. Most of all 1977 through 1984 he openly wears shorts in public around female age mates in who wore short themselves. Dr Sam Beckett argued with pyschiatrists, and persuaded a regular family doctor to test for allergies before blaming it on cats. He prevented a gal from marrying, a couple from committing their older son to 2 different hospitals, spared a boys shorts wearing during adolescent years, kept his education intrests alive so he would not be on any welfare at age 19 and beyond and owns a home so he could have cats and rent homes out. Sam made a land lord out of a man who lives off his tenants that pay their rent.

© 1993 "Big Pile of Bones"