

Chest Injuries Assertions and Retractions

**DETECTIVE
MICHAEL HOULE**
07/06/05

Dr. Evans told Houle that the injuries to Reid's skull was post mortem. Evans later stated that Reid's ribs were broken in a manner as if the *ribs were crushed*. (38368)

**MEETING
02/09/06**

Prosecutors Chuck Keefe and Kirsten Wilson, NH State Police Bob Estabrook and Tim Jackson
Injuries from autopsy, hole in left side of skull, right eye fracture, *11 broken ribs*. (23764)

JOSEPH VROOMAN
12/08/06

Joseph Vrooman Proffer AG's office
Charles Keefe, Scott Gilbert, Don Blaska, Bob **Estabrook**, Jason (?)
Notes – formatted with \$.

JV: Tiestraps still put around his legs by Joe after *Joe hit him 2nd time*. (22839)

12/08/06

Joseph Vrooman Proffer AG's office
Charles Keefe, Scott Gilbert, Don Blaska, Bob **Estabrook**, Jason (?)
Notes – formatted with bullets.

JV: Tiestraps still put around his legs by Joe after *Joe hit him 2nd time*. (22849)

12/08/06

Joseph Vrooman Proffer
Report authored by Scott Gilbert – reviewed by Lead Investigator Bob **Estabrook**

JV: Vrooman put zip ties around REID'S legs after *Mike hit him the second time*. (22542)

HENRY BELLEMARE
07/19/07

Interview Henry Bellemare – Working as "Informant" for Lead Investigator Sgt. Bob **Estabrook**.
Chuck Keefe, Kirsten Wilson, Sgt. Paul Hunt

Joe sat on Reid's chest. (22508) first paragraph

Interview Henry Bellemare Troop A
Sgt. Paul Hunt, Sgt Bob **Estabrook**, Chuck West, Kirsten Wilson

*Joe is sitting on Reid's chest could still hear the victim breathing
Joe weighs 240 etc*. (22917)

10/02/07

Interview Henry Bellemare
Charles Keefe, Atty. James Laura, Scott Gilbert

Robin mentioned that *Joe was jumping on Reid's chest*. (42192)

Note: On January 30, 2008, Assistant Attorney General Huntress described Henry Bellemare as "a jailhouse informant in the Brooks case [who is] a witness for us" in an email to Attorney General Ayotte and Assistant Attorney General Wilson. Bates 26157

JOSEPH VROOMAN

01/08/08

Senior Assistant AG Kirsten Wilson, Assistant AG Karen Huntress, Trp. Encarnacao, Trp. Gilbert, Atty. Donald Blaska.

- I talked out of school -**Pridgen, Brian Ayer and Jeff White** about his case and deal. told White I was looking @ 17 ½. (25981)
- Vrooman repeated that Pridgen said he heard from a guy that Knight plays cards with that Vrooman was trampoline man, that he **jumped on Reid's chest**, Vrooman then stated "I absolutely did not," "100% I did not." Vrooman further added that he has never told anyone, except us, that he did anything to Jack Reid. (22923)

PROSECUTION NOTES DR. RICHARD EVANS Massachusetts Chief Medical Examiner

03/05/08

Dr. Evans suggested "**stomping**" as a possibility. (RTK002359)

Note: Dr. Evans was not provided information about the amount of blood at the scene, Joseph Vrooman's 9/12/08 polygraph, and the injuries Joseph Vrooman inflicted to Jack Reid, which included hitting him, admitting that he may have caused shoulder, back and facial injuries. In addition to those injuries he testified 11/12/09 that he "**sat on**" Jack Reid's head.

BRIAN GAGE

01/18/08

Zwicker Letter by AAG Karen Huntress and Sr. AAG Kirsten Wilson
An inmate named Brian Gage was there for the conversation, and some of the inmates started singing "Trampoline Man" based on an assertion that came through the inmate, purportedly from Knight, that **Vrooman had jumped on Jack Reid** during the homicide. (p. 1)

ROBIN KNIGHT

03/14/08

Robin Knight
Rundles, Huntress, Wilson Lewis, Sgt. **Estabrook**, and Jeffco for Knight

Um, the only thing that I know Joe did, and I saw this, was when they had him pulled out in the—they pulled, uh, Reid out into the barn, I was back in that little room going between the house and the room, I was cleaning, um, and when I walked back and forth I could see Joe and—and Reid. And **Joe was sitting on the guy's chest**. And I thought, what the heck is going on, I just—I couldn't figure out what was going on, but **he was physically sitting on the guy**, on his chest. I don't know if that was to try to suffocate him or what. (28973)

MICHAEL CAYTON

02/25/08

Inmate housed with Vrooman.

Interview with James White, Sgt. **Estabrook**

Claims Cayton requested that the interview not be recorded.

Cayton initially inmate with Vrooman, then moved to Belknap with Jay Brooks.

VROOMAN stomped on his chest quite a few times and thought it would be a miracle if he survived. (26666)

BRIAN AYER

02/25/08

Interview by Sgt. **Estabrook** and Sgt. James White

Benton snapped a nutty and startin' bashin' with a hammer. (28406)

BA: You know? Somewhere in a body of water between Amesbury and Deerfield but as far as I understand about (Joe), what you guys really need (Joe) for is to implicate (Jesse) who they had prior separate meetings. You know what I mean? And uh, (Oasis). (28406)

And then friggin', there's two stories goin' on about whether (Brooks) put the, the final death blow on him or it was *(Joe) jumpin' up and down on him.* (28407)

(Unintelligible). You know what I mean? I'm not gonna get into splittin' hairs whether it was jumpin' up and down or stompin' (28408)

Joe has no remorse. (28409)

DR. RICHARD EVANS
03/05/08

Massachusetts Chief Medical Examiner
Deposition

Dr. Evans introduced idea of "*stomped with booted foot*" as a possibility as to the type of chest injury Jack Reid sustained. (RTK002359)

JOSEPH VROOMAN
03/24/08

Karen Huntress Recorded Interview

KH: Did you sit on him at all?

JV: No.

KH: *Did you sit on his chest?*

JV: No. (28537)

JOSEPH VROOMAN
07/07/08

Deposition – Janice Rundles

Q. Okay. *Did you yourself ever hit Jack Reid?*

A. If you consider pushing a hit, then, yes, I hit him. If you don't consider pushing a hit, then no, I didn't hit him.

Q. And I take it you're talking about when you pushed him into the commode area?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever *sit on his chest or jump* on his chest?

A. No. (pg. 342 lines 4-16)

KEN CARPENTER
Undated Letter

After Benton clobbered Reid and Joe's body slam, *Joe continued sitting on Reid's Chest*. He said the idea is to allow him enough air to (?) He learned in the Marines- Bouncing on a man's chest is the easiest way to choke and kill someone according to Joe. Joe said Reid had lost consciousness a couple of times. Joe dope slapped Reid a couple of times. Joe snickered telling me this, he said it brought back old memories of the Marine Corp days.

06/03/08

Letter Addressed to Prosecutor Kirsten Wilson (prosecutor for Ken Carpenter & John "Jay" Brooks)

Joe told me he only stomped on Jack Reid. I guess it was his old Marine Training, ex-Navy too.

MICHAEL BENTON
06/12/08

Michael Benton UNRECORDED Interview

Notes – Michael Benton, Karen Huntress, Michael Lewis, Joe (last name crossed out)

I didn't see Joe ever sit or jump on JR (29846) "New Information"

JOSEPH VROOMAN

Jay Brooks Trial

Vrooman – Direct

THE WITNESS: I was called in one time and Chuck O’Keefe—Charles O’Keefe or Keefe—It’s O’Keefe or Keefe, I forget.

BY MS. RUNDLES:

Q. Is he one of the prosecutors?

A. He—

Q. —who used to be on the case?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay.

A. *He had said that I had lied to him. And it was in regards to talking about the deal and about stomping on Mr. Reid’s chest.* (pg. 3152 lines 1-12)

CHRISTOPHER

BOUCHARD

11/13/08

Called Vrooman “Trampoline Man” – referring to *JV jumping on JR’s chest.*

SHAUN COOK

11/20/08

Stepped on JR’s Chest

JOHN SKERRY

02/17/09

JV sat on JR’s Chest

JOSEPH VROOMAN

11/12/09

Jesse Brooks Trial

Vrooman – Direct

A. So we took everything off from Mr. Reid. It was being handed—well, Robin—*I sat on Mr. Reid’s head*, so we rolled him one way, took stuff out of his back pocket, rolled him the other way, took stuff out of his back pocket, took stuff out of his front pockets, like I said his watch. I believe we took his belt. The—and it was all being handed to Jay, to Mike and Jay. (pg. 2472 lines 21-23, 2473 lines 1-4)