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When you're a reporter digging deep, you turn up a lot of dirt. But that doesn't mean you can put all the good dirt in the story.

I've found myself with a lot of extra, good dirt in my new role as senior reporter (hence, Señor Reporter), writing primarily for the Arizona Daily Star's Sunday paper.

Check in often, and let's see what we can turn up.

Contact Tim Steller at (520) 807-8427 or tsteller@azstarnet.com

Jason Bush's letter to the Star

09/03/2009 10:21 AM
Tim Steller



Jason Bush in court last month. Arizona Daily Star photo

In late July (while I was on vacation), murder suspect Jason Bush wrote the Star a letter requesting that we interview him. Eventually, **reporter Kim Smith did** and put together a **story based on the interview**.

I thought some of you might be interested to see what prompted the interview — a letter from Bush. I'd like to have posted a jpeg of the letter, but it's written in pencil (because he's in jail) and the copy I have right now is a faxed copy, so it wouldn't scan well.

(In case you're not up-to-date on this case, Jason Bush is **accused by Pima County authorities** of being the triggerman in the May 30 home invasion murders of an Arivaca father, Raul Junior Flores, and his nine-year-old daughter, Brisenia. Investigators say he executed the two and tried to kill Brisenia's mother as well, but she survived and managed to shoot Bush in the leg. Bush has pleaded not guilty to the Pima County charges, but he has since been **charged with two 1997 murders** in Washington state.)

Here's the text of Bush's July 27 letter as he wrote it:

Dear Sirs,

First let me say that I do apologize for denying any interviews in the past. I have been overwhelmed with requests; not to mention, my attorney has advised me to not do interviews. I have been "slammed" pretty hard by the media and wanted to find the most non-biased and reputable agency that I could. Please let me extend my gratitude for your patience.

I do have quite a story to tell. It starts in 2005 and is not quite over yet. It involves several branches of government, federal agencies, past and current intelligence operations (foreign and domestic). It is a long, arduous and at times, superlative story. One would have difficulty grasping the big picture regarding current events without having the whole story, that includes the beginning of it all in 2005.

I am willing to tell my story. However, you must know that I am camera shy, and I don't really like the "Good cop-Bad cop" method of obtaining a story or "sleeze reporting." No sound bites or cut and paste



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to skew or spin the message.

I would prefer to deal with one person as opposed to a room full of people. There will be a lot of sensitive information being discussed and a lot of personal information as well: I can not afford leaks or an individual going of half cocked with only a portion of the story. I am educated and well mannered; I would like to assume that the individual with whom I will be speaking would be the same.

If you choose to send someone to speak with me, please have them inform the jail that he/she is from the Star and regarding my letter. Otherwise I will not be able to tell you from the rest and will be denied outright.

*Thank you for your time and patience.
Sincerely, Jason E. Bush.*

To put Bush's comments in a little context, he was arrested in 1997 in Wenatchee, Wash., on charges unrelated to the Washington murder charges he now faces. In 1998, he went to prison in Washington, where he was held until 2003. Co-defendant Shawna Forde bragged of his military accomplishments in her online writing, and a **day planner that belonged to Bush** (and was obtained by the Star) contained a copy of the "Special Forces Creed." The Army, Marine Corps and Navy had no record of Bush, and the Air Force could not conduct a complete search.

Back

1. Is it possibly true that Gaxiola confessed too?

— Dufus Dipwater 09/03/2009 01:01 PM #

2. Am I the only one who smells a rat here? From the beginning, just too many things don't add up. All the "witnesses" and "informants" and charges suddenly popping up from 12 years ago, and the blazing trail of incriminating evidence left everywhere...Like they didn't even know they were in deep doo-doo. Maybe they did walk in on something that had already come down. The more evidence that pops up, the more it looks like a set-up. As bad as it looks, I learned from the Ruby Ridge/Randy Weaver incident and Waco Texas, not to believe what comes out of the news.

— Desert Dood 09/03/2009 04:48 PM #

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