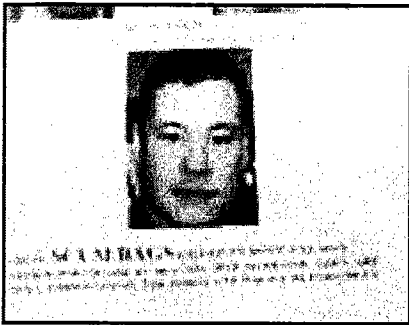


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Officer Humphreys' "Cocky" Beginnings?

Before he joined the Portland Police Bureau in 1999, Officer Christopher Humphreys spent three years with the sheriff's department in Wheeler County, where he was well-liked and popular, but criticized for his **"been there-done that"** attitude, according to personnel files obtained by the *Mercury* this week.



HUMPHREYS: Pictured in Anti-Cop Poster Last Year...

Dr. Ernie Ogard at the cops' training academy in Monmouth gave Humphreys a glowing report in 1996, a decade before he would be involved in the unexplained death of James Chasse as a police officer in Portland.

"He is bright, articulate, and (most importantly) very well adjusted emotionally," wrote Ogard. "He is affable and friendly, yet firm when necessary, and always displayed a professional demeanor."

"Deputy Humphreys fits in well with his coworkers, and is well-liked by the D.A.'s staff, judges, and the public at large," Ogard continued. "He has handled the inevitable disgruntled tax-payer with polite but firm diplomacy."

Ogard balanced his praise by saying "no one is perfect," and mentioned **"a slight tendency on Chris's part to project the attitude that he has little left to learn; that he has already 'been there—done that' and knows it all."**

Ogard said others had mentioned this to him, but that he had also noticed the tendency himself. Although he said "in any event it could best be characterized as self-assuredness as opposed to cockiness," adding that Humphreys had "the clear capacity to rise to the very top."

Humphreys' old personnel file also contains more insights into his character as a young man. In a job application letter written to the then Wheeler County sheriff, Craig Ward, Humphreys talked about his qualifications for a job as sheriff's deputy.

"I command a strong vocabulary and very refined communication skills—both written and verbal," wrote the young applicant. "I am well-versed in the field of computers and most aspects of modern networking with an emphasis on the Internet. I have belt rankings in three separate martial arts, Shito-Ryu Karate being my main style."

Humphreys listed his hobbies as including "reading, writing, and in-depth discussions regarding guns, the law, or history. **My motto is 'everyone is a teacher, learn what you can.'**"

He also confessed to a **Minor In Possession charge "as a result of being the Vice-President of a fraternity back in 1992,"** which he was at the time seeking to have expunged by the municipal courts in McMinnville. Humphreys said he wanted to have a "clean slate between employer and employee."

Lastly, Humphreys said he had been "very impressed" with meeting Sheriff Ward, "and as many from Spray would tell you, I am picky when it comes to choosing my teachers." He added that "without sounding too overconfident, I can assure you that you have chosen your student well."

Before joining the sheriff's office, Humphreys spent a year working for a defense investigator, according to his resume. He also spent six months in the summer of 1995 working as the head floor manager of a night club.

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