
Astro\nut'

Posted by KPW1956 - 2007/02/06 00:26

Did anybody see this news piece?

I just caught a bit of it on the news tonight and had no clue what they were talking about. Maybe it all just came to light today..

This accomplished astronaut must have lost a few marbles!

What in the world was she thinking?

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070206/ap_on_re_us/astronaut_arrested

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Re:Astro\nut'

Posted by ceilidh - 2007/02/06 15:09

KPW1956 wrote:

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K...I just read about this on the home page! Didn't you get the impression that the guy in question might be unaware of her "interest?" I thought her description of their "relationship" sounded "odd"...more like fantasy?

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Re:Astro\nut'

Posted by ceilidh - 2007/02/06 15:54

Just to add...what exactly is "more than a working relationship, but less than a romantic relationship?" :huh:

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Re:Astro\nut'

Posted by KPW1956 - 2007/02/06 17:43

There are just so many elements to this story that makes it one of the most bizarre news pieces I've seen in awhile!

The fact that she had such a prestigious job...(maybe the weightlessness or pressure did something to her brain!).. The fact that she drove 900 miles wearing diapers so she wouldn't have to stop to use the restroom... (astronauts apparently wear diapers in space or at least on blastoff).. The fact that she was married with 3 kids... makes me wonder what is going on with her mentally... and that is in addition to all the other stuff.. Definitely she was dealing in fantasy here..

I had to look up his pict.. He is a cutey! Born here in the D.C. area (Ft. Belvoir!) but grew up in Alaska!

But somewhere she lost touch with reality.. I'm just glad that the plan fell apart... No telling what she really planned to do. I'm sure we'll find out..

I just get the feeling that somehow her life unraveled and she lost all sense of reality.. She certainly wasn't thinking about her kids!

I hope she's not suicidal.. I think it's more in the headlines because of the comical and/or bizareness aspects of the case... I hope if they find out she's mentally ill that the press leaves it alone.

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Re:Astro\nut\'

Posted by KPW1956 - 2007/02/06 18:23

Hey C... I just saw that they had a newspiece on channel 5...
That women is from Rockville (Md) originally and her parents apparently still live there!

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Re:Astro\nut\'

Posted by ceiliidh - 2007/02/06 18:28

I agree...something went drastically wrong in her thinking process.
I found myself feeling sorry for her re her description of the "relationship," because I could only come up with "friend" or "colleague" between the two! It will be interesting to hear his"take" on things. There must be more to it...?

I don't think there is much chance of the press leaving it alone! I can just hear lawyers arguing that she was "organized" enough to formulate a plan, accumulate an array of weapons , and make the trip. Hard to believe that she just intended to "talk."

It certainly is a strange...and sad story...

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Re:Astro\nut\'

Posted by wish - 2007/02/07 00:29

Just watched the news about her what a sick woman .

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Re:Astro\nut\'

Posted by ceiliidh - 2007/02/07 15:33

Just read that Ms. Nowak's victim has filed a restraining order against her, claiming that she stalked her for two months. I had not heard that mentioned before. In the initial report I did not get the impression that she knew who was following her...but maybe I missed something?

I feel a bit annoyed that there has been no mention that other astronauts have had emotional problems after space flights. I remember hearing about several in years past. If I'm not mistaken, a Russian cosmonaut even committed suicide. I don't mean to excuse her behavior, but I am interested in the "whys and wherefores." Was also shocked to read that our astronauts are NOT evaluated before OR after!

It seems clear that Ms. Nowak has been troubled for some time...her physical apearance alone should have given someone cause for alarm, IMO.

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Re:Astro\nut\'

Posted by Debby - 2007/02/08 15:10

You can say that again. She looks really bad...sort of like crystal meth junky.

I was discussing the case to day with a colleague and she said she thought that the reason she wore the diaper was to save time as much as possible, so that after she killed the lady, she would drive back to Texas before the woman's body

was even discovered and nobody would know she had left her home. If she was ever questioned, she would say that there is no way she could have driven there and back in such a short time. If she had flown there it would be a record of it.

From the items she had in her possession, she had planned this out very well. I do believe from the items she took, she planned to abduct the woman with the BB gun...the lady wouldn't know it wasn't real and would probably go along with her. Then she was going to tie her up and then beat her to death with the mallet. Then she would quickly drive back to Texas as if nothing happened.

Did I leave anything out?

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Re:Astro\nut\'

Posted by KPW1956 - 2007/02/08 17:08

Debby, You must have watched alot of Perry Mason episodes!

It's a wonder she didn't get pulled over for speeding. Wouldn't she have had to get gas? I'm sure there would have been credit card purchases for the gas... She wasn't thinking straight... I don't think she would have gotten away with it.. I'm glad her victim put up a heck of a fight..

I think she'll be able to pull off an insanity plea and avoid time altogether..

Post edited by: KPW1956, at: 2007/02/08 17:09

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Re:Astro\nut\'

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2007/02/12 03:21

I agree KP.....she would have used a credit card or even using cash, with her obvious looks she would have been recognized!!

Yeah, I think she'll cop a successful insanity plea.....but it really is very sad.....she has children!!!

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Re:Astro\nut\'

Posted by TigerRose - 2007/02/12 08:13

I often wondered about the stresses these astronauts are under. It doesn't surprise me one bit that NASA doesn't do anything to check their mental health or what not... esp after the tragic loss of fellow astronauts. When it comes to the military, it takes a lot before Government sees a need to attend to the mental well being of their soldiers/ test pilots, etc. It's amost like because they were mentally fit going in, they should be mentally fit throughout, which may be a good thought if it was normal everyday stresses but they ignore the fact that these people are put through extraordinary stresses- soldiers, astronauts, and medical personal... battle, remote assignment, physically challenging work daily.

When I was in the military there were mental health services but you had to ask or brought in as a group (debriefings) and asked if anyone needed mental health help... and then if you went there- co-workers, supervisors, and sometimes higher up would question your personal fitness.. so it wasn't something used that often.

It's been war after war, tragedy after tragedy to get better mental health for any government agency and it's yet to be good enough.

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Re:Astro\nut\'

Posted by Debby - 2007/02/12 13:56

OH, I think she might not have been caught, if nobody knew she had the hots for this man who was not interested in her.

I mean would you expect someone you have previously worked with before, but never had any romance, to suddenly drive cross country to murder someone you are dating? I'm not sure that without a license number or something, she would have ever surfaced on their radar.

I do think she would have stopped for gas but was trying to cut down the time as far as possible. I hope she would know better than to use a credit card for any purchase.

Did anyone see the true story on tv about a former attorney who flew from Texas (that's odd) to Virginia, and shot her ex-husband to death over a custody battle. She dressed in a disguise on the flight, but used her sister's name. The lady had the balls to check in a handgun with the airline for the trip. She also telephoned her children on her cell phone while she was in Virginia. Of course, the police were able to tell her cell phone was being used while in Virginia, although she claimed she never left Texas. That was very dumb. There was even a record of her or sister buying the wigs. It seems as if she didn't think this through at all.

One odd thing about it though, was that the police were waiting at the airport for her return flight back, but, they never saw her depart the plane AND she was listed as being on board. The state could never explain that. She was convicted of first degree murder. She was also a very nice, kind loving mother who no one ever thought would murder someone.

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Re:Astro\nut'

Posted by grizzlys4 - 2007/02/17 03:40

I saw that Debby.....I think it was on a Court TV show or something. So tragic when a parent leaves small children behind in an act of revenge!!

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Re:Astro\nut'

Posted by TigerRose - 2007/03/06 15:24

I found out an interesting bit of news... when she said they are more than friend but less than romantic one. HE admitted they had been romanicantically involved since 2004. She had copies of some pretty steamy e-mails to Oefelein from Shipman.

That adds a whole new dimension to what happened. My question is did he break it off with Nowak before he started up with Shipman or was Nowak discover the other woman when she read those e-mails?

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17483013/>

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