

Delilah' Clips and Tells About Unabom Suspect

Jim Robbins

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A canning jar on a windowsill in Dundee Warden's one-chair barbershop holds an unusual souvenir: tangled hair clippings, dark brown and shot through with gray, that she clipped from the shaggy head of Theodore J. Kaczynski, the Unabom suspect.

Ms. Warden, 33, cuts the hair of inmates at the Lewis and Clark County Jail, where Mr. Kaczynski has been held without bail since his arrest in Lincoln, Mont. on April 4. Last Tuesday, she got a telephone call from a jailer. Could she come over for a haircut?

When she walked into the jail office where suspects are booked and hair is cut, she said, one of the most notorious men in the United States was sitting in a chair in his orange jail jumpsuit, ready for coiffing.

"A woman barber?" Mr. Kaczynski said, his eyebrows raised in surprise. Unperturbed, Ms. Warden went right to work. As she snipped and the hair flew, she and Mr. Kaczynski chatted like any other barber and customer, ignoring the five jailers who watched and the belly shackle to which manacles on Mr. Kaczynski's feet and hands were chained.

The man who the Federal Bureau of Investigation believes to have waged a nationwide campaign of terror for 18 years is soft-spoken and mild mannered, in his barber's opinion. And extremely intelligent.

"He was tracking," she said. "He was coherent."

As she cut he told her that although he had given himself haircuts for the last 16 years with scissors and a mirror, he had never been able to get it the way he wanted. "I never cut it too short because it leaves lines in my hair," Mr. Kaczynski said.

"You need thinning shears," she told him.

Snip. Snip. As hair fell, Ms. Warden said, the real Ted Kaczynski began to emerge. "He's very handsome," she said. "I told him "when I'm done with you, you'll look like a different guy."

"Maybe I'll be able to walk right out of here," Mr. Kaczynski remarked.

"I don't think so," she said, "You're face is pretty well known."

"I hate it," he said. "I hate the media."

As Ms. Warden neared the end of the \$15 cut, Mr. Kaczynski asked for a mustache trim. "Please cut my mustache off at the lip," he said. "I hate eating food and hair at the same time."

And then the former mathematics professor went into a long description of an ancient Japanese tribe whose members never cut their hair. The tribesmen, he said, had to make special lifters to keep their mustaches out of the way when they ate.

The tale of the trimming of Ted Kaczynski, said Ms. Warden, will make a stand-out chapter in a book she is writing called "Delilah's Diary," a collection of unusual anecdotes from her 14 years standing behind the chair.

Meanwhile, Ms. Warden, who loves fly-fishing, has plans to tie Mr. Kaczynski's hair into artificial lures she hopes to give friends as a keepsake. "I'm going to tie a fly about that big," she said, holding her thumb and forefinger an inch apart. "And call it the Bomber."

The Ted K Archive

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