

Rice has the write stuff

Gets national audience
in JonBenet Ramsey case

By Charles Mathewson
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PEMBROKE — Ron Rice, Pembroke's resident handwriting expert, appeared on the MSNBC program *Crime and Punishment* mid-day Tuesday. He was asked to comment on the ransom note in the JonBenet Ramsey murder case. He didn't get to do much analysis.

Host Marcia Clark asked if Rice could rule out Patsy Ramsey as the note's author.

"I don't think I can rule out anyone," Rice began.

He didn't get much more out. Clark opened the floor to her lawyerly panel who challenged the validity of graphology but didn't get much into the particulars of the Ramsey case.

Back in his Pembroke office, Rice did have something to say about the note.

"When I first saw this I said in my opinion this is not the first draft," Rice said. "The police found a pad of paper in the house with many indentations of previous drafts. There's an attempt to disguise the author's identity, as often happens. The shakiness in the letters on the first page is contrived. By page 3, the true personality of the author is revealed."

Rice found "clannish" downstrokes on the letters "y" and "g." They have a closed loop.

"There's a high degree of incest in this clannish family structure," Rice said. "And JonBenet Ramsey was a pedophile's dream."

He pointed to the thick stroke of the letter "f." It always appears as an upper case letter, even in the middle of a word. He sees violence in the stroke.



Staff photo/Charles Mathewson

He can see the writing — Ron Rice examines a writing sample in his Pembroke office.

"This is authored by a male," Rice said. "This is a very violent, disturbed individual. He's a very well-educated, well-organized person. He's a professional, but someone with a lot of real serious problems."

He also analyzed a sample of handwriting by Patsy Ramsey, JonBenet's mother.

"She's an extrovert, extremely soft and gullible," Rice said. "She loves variety, loves people. She's fearful of making her own decisions. She's someone easy to control."

The profile doesn't match that of the ransom note author. So, Rice asks, "What other person would have access to the house and have the time to be able to complete three or four drafts of the note?"