Ted Bundy

Background:

- Born in 1946 to unwed mother in Burlington, Vermont.
- Grew up thinking grandparents were his parents and mother his sister.
- Grew up well-liked and did well in school.
- Felt awkward around wealthy peers when he attended college.
- Fairly introverted and awkward in teenage years.
- Fell in love in 1967 with an attractive, wealthy, intelligent woman but she broke up with him in 1968 which led to him dropping out of college with extreme depression.
- He found out the truth about his mother and grandparents, returned to college with new-found confidence; he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.
- Met a woman named Elizabeth, although he was supposedly cheating. At the same time, his first love came back to him impressed with his confidence.
- Became involved in politics after helping Dan Evans become governor of Washington. He had a promising future in politics, now.

Crimes:

- When he returned to college, some gave him the reputation of being a petty thief, but he had no other criminal history prior to 1974.
In 1974, many girls from colleges in the OR and WA area began being reported missing.

When he moved to Utah for law school in 1974, Carol DaRonch escaped from being kidnapped by a man dressed as a policeman. She described his appearance, his tan VW and investigators found his blood. Another woman went missing in the next few months in the area.

Also, in 1974, hikers found a bone yard in a forest in Washington. These remains were found to be those of all: young, white, long-haired blond women.

Profile of a man named “Ted” came together who would approach young women and ask for help while wearing with a fake cast or be on crutches.

In 1975, six women, including Caryn Campbell, vanished from a ski resort in Colorado whose bodies were found later with comparable head contusions.

Bundy was pulled over for a traffic violation in Aug. 1976 in his tan VW, found with handcuffs, an ice pick, a crowbar, and a pair of panties with eye holes cut in them. He was arrested for possible burglary.

DaRonch recognized many of Bundy’s tools as well as his vehicle and picked him out of a line-up. He was charged for kidnapping as well as for Caryn Campbell’s murder. He was given a 15-year sentence. There was much speculation of his involvement in many of the above kidnappings and disappearances.

In 1977, he escaped from the law twice, one for only a week, the second time, for a far longer period.

He escaped to Tallahassee, FL and rented near a college. He was convicted of murdering two sorority girls and severely injuring two others. This information was found by one of their friends, Nita Neary, who saw a man walk away from the house.
• He may not have been convicted for these, but it is theorized by many reliable sources that he raped and murdered over 100 women in his life.

Most Recent Crime:

On Feb. 8, 1978, Bundy killed a 12 year-old named Kimberly Leach. He was soon brought in again after being matched with evidence such as: bite marks from one of the sorority girls, being identified by students, those at the college and Leach’s school, and a mask found in the home of another strangled woman which would later be found in Bundy’s van.

Sentence and Death:

• Bundy was offered a plea bargain of three sentences of 25 years each in exchange for the confession of the killing of the two sorority girls and Kimberly, he turned down the offer.
• Bundy’s trial was televised and he represented himself in court most of the time. He was tried for the murders of the sorority women and received two death sentences. He was represented by an attorney when he received a third death sentence after being convicted of the murder of Leach.
• After he knew he was completely screwed, he gave details of the murders of over fifty women, the fact that he committed necrophilia (raping corpses), and keeping severed heads of his some of his victims in his house.
• He was electrocuted on Jan. 24, 1989 at 7:13 AM on the front lawn of the prison he was serving time in. It was described as a “carnival-like atmosphere” as an audience gathered. Many cheered when he was announced dead.
Quotes by Bundy:

- “We serial killers are your sons, we are your husbands, we are everywhere. And there will be more of your children dead tomorrow”
- “You feel the last bit of breath leaving their body. You’re looking into their eyes. A person in that situation is God!”
- “Sometimes I feel like a vampire.”
- “Murder is not about lust and it’s not about violence. It’s about possession.”
- “there are lots of other kids playing in streets around this country today who are going to be dead tomorrow, and the next day, and the next day and month, because other young people are reading the kinds of things and seeing the kinds of things that are available in the media today.”
- “I’m the most cold-hearted son-of-a-bitch you’ll ever meet.”
- “I’ve met a lot of men who were motivated to commit violence just like me. And without exception, without question, every one of them was deeply involved in pornography.”
- “I didn’t know what made people want to be friends. I didn’t know what made people attractive to one another. I didn’t know what underlay social interactions.”
- “What’s one less person on the face of the earth, anyway?”
- “I don’t feel guilty for anything. I feel sorry for people who feel guilt.”
- “I just liked to kill, I wanted to kill.”
- “... I deserve, certainly, the most extreme punishment society has and society deserves to be protected from me and from others like me, that’s for sure.”
- “Well-meaning, decent people will condemn the behavior of a Ted Bundy, while they’re walking past a magazine rack full of
the very kinds of things that send young kids down the road to be Ted Bundys.”

Bundy and the Anomie Theory:

Ted Bundy’s reason for his series of abominable acts such as: rape, murder, sodomy, necrophilia, and postmortem (post death) mutilation can be best explained by the anomie theory. The anomie theory states that crime happens when there is a strain between mores and the legitimate means to obtain them. Individuals may start out trying to achieve their goal legitimately and try to conform to society. However, when they can’t, their goals go in the opposite direction society wants them to go. So they succumb to a life of deviance.

Bundy was known as being awkward from a young age. All though he was socially inept, his good looks and intelligence put him in a relationship with the woman he would grow to love. When she broke up Bundy, it demoralized him. He may have thought he could never be in a happy relationship again. Since he may have either been too awkward or too unhappy to get his love back, or perhaps, a new love, he was predisposed to getting what he wanted through deviance. From then on, he kidnapped, raped and killed numerous women, many with similar features shared between these victims and Bundy’s first love. Only through brutal rape and murder could he attempt to achieve the pleasure he had from his first relationship. This sickening mental process of his truly earned him his self-proclaimed title, “...the most cold-hearted son-of-a-bitch you’ll ever meet.”