

# DNA Evidence Demanded

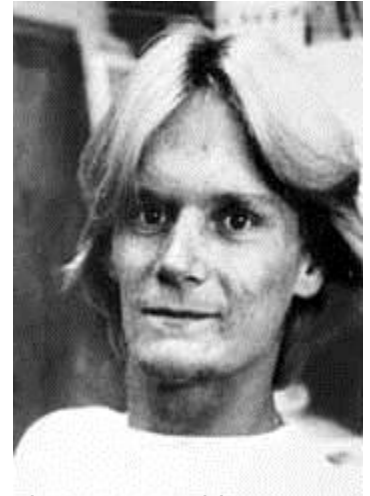
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## Background

On December 16, 1981, a young sales associate from the Tri-State mall in Pennsylvania was abducted in her car after her shift ended. When she did not arrive at home, hours after she was due, her husband called the police. Investigators quickly located her yellow Chrysler Cordoba, abandoned on a roadway in Chichester, PA. The following day, the victim's body was found - beaten, stabbed, and raped - in a church parking lot a mile and a half away from her car. Newly fallen snow covered her body. She was still clothed but the murderer had cut open her thick winter clothing to commit the sexual assault. The police determined that she had bled to death from multiple stab wounds in her chest. Biological materials, including sperm samples and fingernail scrapings, were collected from the victim's body. Police also collected gloves believed to have been left by the perpetrator from the victim's car. The biological evidence collected from the crime scenes would prove to be pivotal in the years to come.

Four days after the discovery of the body, police stopped Nicholas Yarris on a Pennsylvania roadway for a traffic violation. The routine stop escalated into a violent confrontation between Yarris and the patrolman and ended in Yarris's arrest for attempted murder of a police officer. While in custody for this offense, Yarris accused an acquaintance of committing the Tri-State mall murder in a gambit to gain his freedom. When the police ruled out this suspect, Yarris became the prime suspect of the murder investigation. Conventional serological testing was performed on the rape kit, the results of which could not exclude Yarris. Along with the biological evidence, prosecutors relied on the testimony of a jailhouse informant and identifications by the victim's co-workers, who identified Yarris as the man seen harassing the victim before her murder, to convict him. In 1982, Nicholas Yarris was convicted of murder, rape, and abduction. He was sentenced to death.



Still, Yarris proclaimed his innocence, leading to a long struggle for DNA testing of the crime scene evidence. In 1989, he became one of Pennsylvania's first death row inmates to demand post-conviction DNA testing to prove his innocence.

## The Test

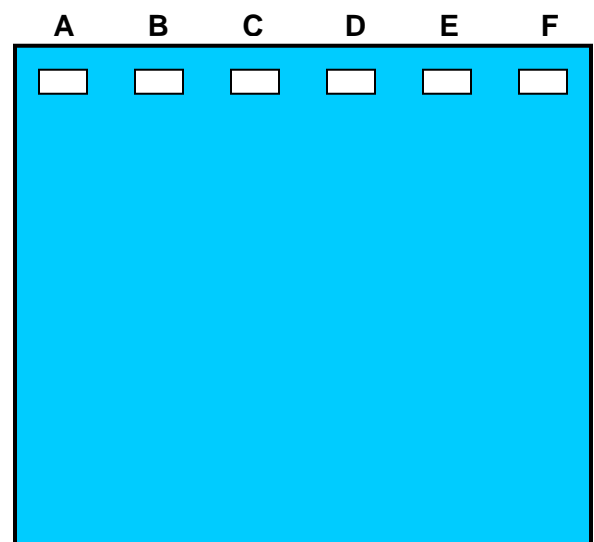
DNA was obtained from various places at the crime scene including: scrapings under the victim's fingernails, a pair of men's gloves found at the scene, and the victim's undergarments.

Use the DNA samples provided to compare the crime scene DNA to Yarrow (Suspect #1). Yarrow's Lawyers have also requested that a new possible suspect named Jim Reeder (Suspect #2), who has been recently imprisoned for a similar crime.

## Here is the Key for the six tubes:

- Tube A DNA Sample from crime scene cut w/ Enzyme #1
- Tube B DNA Sample from crime scene cut w/ Enzyme #2
- Tube C DNA from Suspect 1 (Yarris) cut w/ Enzyme #1
- Tube D DNA from Suspect 1 (Yarris) cut w/ Enzyme #2
- Tube E DNA from Suspect #2 (Reeder) cut w/ Enzyme #1
- Tube F DNA from Suspect #2 (Reeder) cut w/ Enzyme #1

\*\*After the staining is complete, record the band pattern that you see on the gel diagram to the right. →



**Answer the following questions in complete sentences.**

Explain the results of the test?

What should happen to Yarris?

Was it important to use a combination of enzymes? Explain.

**This based on a true story, so what really happened to Nicholas Yarris? Go to the following website:**  
<http://www.innocenceproject.org/>

**When you get there, click on the 'KNOW THE CASES' icon and scroll down to 'BROWSE PROFILES'. Now you can scroll all the way to the bottom and click on 'Yarris'.**

What happened to Nicholas Yarris? Give a detailed answer!