

INNOCENT IN PRISON PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

Nevada v. Curtis L. Downing

Comparison of alleged serial rapist Curtis Downing's two rape cases: Kristie Chiles v. Tami Zold		
The State's theory: both cases have the same pattern.		
Victim's Name + Age + Race	Kristie Kathleen Chiles (20, Caucasian)	Tami Lynn Zold (16, Caucasian)
Case Number	C-114390 (case in chief)	C-119521
Appellate Number:	27734	32394
Date of Crime + Time of the Day	Jan. 21, 1993, approx. 05:40-06:30 h (police report taken Jan. 21, 1993, 06:59 h)	Jan. 18, 1993, approx. 21:00 h (police report taken Jan. 18, 1993, 22:30 h)
Charges:	Burglary, 6 counts of sexual assault, 3 of 6 with use of a deadly weapon, robbery	3 counts of sexual assault
Brief description of the crime:	The victim says she was sleeping in her bed in the early morning when a person came in with gloves and a mask on, took her into her living-room, tied her up, taped her eyes, and committed three acts of sexual assault upon her (once with his tongue, twice with his penis). He took 42 \$ out of her purse and ordered her to shower.	The victim says a man on the street grabbed her and her friend Angela and forced them into a secluded, muddy area nearby. He ordered them to lie down and cover their heads with their coats. He tied Zold's hands with her shoe lace and penetrated her vagina with his penis. He ejaculated inside her and then washed her vaginal area with rain water.
Downing's defense theory:	Chiles and Downing had had consensual sex without a condom before she was raped. Downing lived with his mother Edna Downing, fiancée Abigail Ann Finley, sister-in-common law Lynn Vincent, her 3 children, and Downing's own 2 children at 3883 Silver Dollar, Apt. 6, Las Vegas. Downing was at home. His alibi witnesses were lost due to late investigation.	Downing did neither know Zold, her friend and eyewitness Angela Vaughn, nor Damon Rivera, whom the rapist allegedly had named. Downing did not do it and he was not there.
The State's Star Witness was ...	Tami Zold, although Curtis Downing's guilt of raping Zold had not been proven in court yet.	Downing's prior conviction in Kristie Chiles' case
Sentence:	6 life terms with the possibility of parole for sexual assault + use of a deadly weapon, 30 years for robbery with use of a deadly	3 life terms with the possibility of parole

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	weapon, and 10 years for burglary	
Dates		
Arrest:	Jun. 30, 1993	N/A
Preliminary Hearing:	Jul. 29, 1993	Apr. 7, 1994
Trial:	5 days in July of 1995	3 days in March of 1998
Conviction:	Dec. 4, 1995 (8 th Judicial District Court)	May 20, 1998 (8 th Judicial District Court)
Appeal:	??? (# 27734, Nevada Supreme Court)	??? (# 32394, Nevada Supreme Court)
Location of the Crime Scene	In the living-room of Chiles' home, 4738 O'Bannon, Apt. B, Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, USA	Outdoor, on the school ground of Clark High School, 4291 Pennwood/ Arville (West side), Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, USA
Eye-witness	No	Yes: Tami's friend Angela Vaughn (16), who lived with Tami Zold
Key features of the rapist		
Race:	Black	Black/ Latin ("officer's report" page 2, by Det. F. Galey)/ White(incident report page 3)
Age:	???	25-30 years
Build:	Heavy	Thin. Approx. 6'0", 180 lbs.
Handedness:	Right [Note: Curtis Downing is left-handed!!]	???
Hair Length:	Short	Short
Hair Style:	Curly	???
Facial Hair:	Clean shaven, sideburns	Full beard
Speech manner:	Polite, profane/ abusive	Not unusual, profane/ abusive
Speech characteristics:	Latin accent, soft	Latin accent, Spanish
Appearance:	Ski mask, casual clothes (sweat shirt, sweat pants), dark-blue leather gloves	White sweat pants, dark blue sweat shirt, black beanie type cap
Eyes:	Right eyelid droopy	???
Complexion:	Fair complexion	Medium, dark
Primary means of attack:	Handgun	???
Weapon features:	Blue steel, revolver, small frame	???
Identification of the rapist		
Rapist known to the victim?	Victim says no.	Victim says no.
Can suspect be described?	Police report says: yes.	Police report says: yes.
Can suspect be identified?	Police report says: yes.	Police report says: no.

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<p>Victim's medical examination</p> <p>Date + time of examination: Between the assault + now, the patient has...</p> <p>Patient was penetrated by... Was patient's mouth penetrated by penis? (Cunnilingus) Was suspect's mouth on patient's vagina? Was suspect's mouth on patient's anus? What was used during assault? Was patient licked/ kissed? Was patient's rectum penetrated?</p> <p>Did ejaculation occur in/ on patient's body? Consenting intercourse within last 72 hours? Was condom used? Does patient have communicable disease at risk to lab personnel? Evidence of contusions, abrasions or lacerations?</p>	<p>Jan. 21, 1993, 07:30 h (?) bathed/ showered, changed clothes, urinated, drunk penis + tongue No Medical report: No</p> <p>No Condom Yes, on her breast and vagina No</p> <p>Unsure Yes No Yes, herpes genitals</p> <p>No</p>	<p>Jan. 18, 1993, 23:30 h smoked [Note: See Incident Report page 1: "Substance Abuse: Unknown"] penis, finger, tongue No Yes</p> <p>No Nothing Yes, chest and stomach (!) No [Note: See Forensic Laboratory Report: "Semen was detected on the vaginal samples, panties and rectal smear."] Yes, in vagina ??? No Unsure</p> <p>Shoulder</p>
<p>Key Players</p> <p>Prosecutor: Defense Attorney/Public Defender: Defense Team:</p> <p>Judge: Police officers:</p>	<p>John Lukens (Chief Assist. D.A.) Mark Cichaski + Kevin Williams Ralph Baker, Robert Thompson, Kevin Williams, Tom Woolsey, John Lucero, Jackie McDaniel Myron Leavitt Officer Monte W. Spoor (lifted palm print from window seal), Officer Vetroni (originally took fingerprints from Downing at CCDC), Officer M. E. Moser (latent finger print examiner), Officer G. Loyal Miller, <u>Det. John Fox</u> (arresting officers), S. Scarborough (examiner)</p>	<p>Gary Guyman Peter J. Christiansen</p> <p>Jeffrey Sobel Det. F. Galey + Det. P. Bigham (took initial report), Clark County School Police Officer Rebecca Schell + <u>Det. John Fox</u> (conducted photo line-up), Kerry Petronek (Sexual Assault Detective), R. Hague (crim. ID Specialist), Sgt. Lou Pascoe</p>

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Medical examiners:		[School Investigator Hugh Harrison could not be located.]
Forensic laboratory:	Carol Petersen, Barton W. Butterbaugh (performed the rape kit test on the victim)	Dr. Jay Fisher, Nurse Patricia Perry [Spear]
Rape Crisis Counselor:	Linda T. Errichetto (Director of the LVMPD crime lab), Melisa A. Weber (Molecular Biologist), Dr. Charlotte J. Word (Molecular Geneticist)	Linda T. Errichetto (Director), Pat Berry
		Heidi