A PSYCHOLOGICAL CASE STUDY OF A CONVICTED SERIAL KILLER

By Sage Hilstad
INTRODUCTION

- Definition of a Serial Killer
- What is the True Persona of a Serial Killer?

Overview

- Background: Important Life Experiences
- Overview of Cases
- Guilt vs. Innocence
- Evaluation of Psychological Inventories
Background: Important Life Experiences

- Born in 1943
- Childhood
  - Childhood abuse
  - Poor father figure
- The Sibling Rivalry Continues
- Life Gets Even More Complicated
  - Younger brother goes to prison
  - Gets married
  - First run in with the law
In 1972, within 6 months, there were four murders in and around town:

- Victim 1
- Victims 2 and 3
- Victim 4

Trial:

- Plead innocent to murders of Victims 1 and 4
- Plead no contest to murders of Victims 2 and 3
- Received four life sentences
A FEW MORE WORDS...

- Rivalry Continues in Prison
  - Former wife weds brother
  - The brothers still hate each other to this day
Still Claims Innocence to This Day
- His 15 Year Old Male Friend is the Main Reason for his Conviction
- Appear to be Some Holes in Cases
- Unfair trials?
- Contradictions in Witness Statements and Police Reports
- Items that Point to Guilt
PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATIONS

- MCMI-III (Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory-III)
- MMPI-2 (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2)
- LPS (Levenson’s Psychopathy Scale)
- AQ (Aggression Questionnaire)
- SRP III-R12 (Self-report Psychopathy-III)
Tendency Towards Avoiding Self Disclosure
Experiencing No or Minimal Mental or Behavior Disorder
May Exhibit Depressive Personality Features
Low Expectations of Others
Treatment Not Likely Needed
Scored High in Psychopathic Deviate
Moderately Elevated Score on Depression
Elevated Score on Cynicism
Higher Than Average Score on Family Problems
Indicated No Real Psychological Problems
Psychopaths are social predators who charm, manipulate, and ruthlessly plow their way through life, leaving a broad trail of broken hearts, shattered expectations, and empty wallets”
- Robert D. Hare
- Physical Aggression
- Verbal Aggression
- Anger
- Hostility
SRP III-R12

- Interpersonal Manipulation (IPM)
- Callous Affect (CA)
- Erratic Life Style (ELS)
- Criminal Tendencies (CT)
CONCLUSIONS

- Uncertainty as to Whether Subject is Responsible for These Crimes
- No Real Psychological Problems
- Evaluations are Helpful, but Research Should Not Rely on Them Entirely
REFERENCES


Images

QUESTIONS?