

PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Name of Client:	Gerald Stano
Date of Evaluation:	September 25, 1983
Date of Birth:	September 12, 1951
Age:	32
Highest Grade:	12th
Referral Source:	Kenneth Friedland, Assistant Public Defender
Place of Evaluation:	Brevard County Jail
Assessment Procedures:	Draw A Person-Story Bender Gestalt Visual Motor Test Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test Wide Range Achievement Test Rorschach Thematic Apperception Test Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory Mental Content Questionnaire Structured Interview

INTRODUCTION

Gerald Eugene Stano is a divorced, 32 year old, Caucasian male, who is 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighs 186 pounds. He has black hair, brown eyes, and wears glasses. He came for testing dressed in a jail uniform and moderately groomed.

PRESENTING PROBLEM

Gerald Eugene Stano is presently in the Brevard County Jail on charges of first degree murder. This evaluation was requested to determine the authenticity of his involvement in this particular charge and to evaluate his overall development and adjustment to date. Gerald Stano was charged with approximately six other murders which has resulted in his receiving two death penalties and three consecutive life sentences totaling to 75 years.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Gerald Stano was born in Schnectedy, New York, and remained there

then moved to Daytona, Florida, where they remained for the next two years. Then they moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and resided there for the next six years. Finally, the family moved to Armand, Florida, where they have lived up to the present time. Gerald also indicated that while living with his adoptive family he also lived with a younger brother who also was adopted. He felt that he had an excellent relationship with his brother and had a good relationship with his mother and father. Although there were some problems on occasion he felt that the relationships basically were fairly good.

Gerald was also asked regarding his developmental years. He indicated that as a youngster he was not a serious behavioral problem to his family although he was involved in some minor adolescent pranks. He did admit to having started some minor fires on two occasions as an adolescent; indicated he did become sexually active while in the eleventh grade; was involved in some vandalism which specifically involved his pulling the fire alarm on three separate occasions; began to drink beer and Seagrams 7 during the seventh grade; was suspended from school on one occasion for fighting with another student; was caught stealing twenty dollars from his parents as a youngster; and did make some minor nuisance telephone calls to individuals but nothing serious or severe. He also indicated that he wet his bed up through the second grade. None of these types of problems appear to be serious and only indicate that, in many respects, he was involved in the type of activities that the average child his age might be involved in.

Gerald was also asked regarding his employment history. He indicated that he began working at the age of 15 with his father. He worked for him for approximately five years and then quit to begin a course at a computer school. He successfully completed this after being with them for approximately six months. Then he began to work at the Bryn Mawr Hospital, in 1972, and remained with them for approximately one year. However, he was fired from this job due to being involved in petty thefts. He then began to work for the Burroughs Company and remained with them for approximately three months and was fired once more for irresponsibility and petty theft. Next he joined the Navy and remained with them for approximately one month before he was given a Medical Discharge. Apparently, he had difficulty with one of his knees and the Navy felt that this would be a possible disability claim in the future and did not allow him to remain within the Navy. He returned home and next began to work in Florida at a Montgomery Wards store. He worked for them for six months and was then fired once more for petty theft. Next he began to work in Armand, Florida, in a motel. He worked for them for three months and was once more fired due to petty theft. Then he began to work at a Holiday Inn, in 1974, and remained with them for six months before being fired for petty theft. Next he worked at a gas station in Orlando and remained with them for approximately one year. However, this job was abruptly terminated when he was divorced by his wife who was the daughter of the owner of the gas station. In addition, he was involved in petty thefts while he was employed there but was never fired due to the fact that he was the boss' son-in-law. Then, he began to work at a Howard Johnson's and remained with them for approximately one year.

were told to leave. When he worked at Canada Dry, in 1978, and remained with them for approximately six months. There he was also laid off, making Gerald quite happy. He did not like the work and wanted to resign. His next job involved his working at the Hampton Restaurant, in 1980, where he remained for four months. This job was abruptly stopped due to his having been arrested and being incarcerated up to the present time. However, once Gerald was placed within the prison system he also had other employment positions. He was first placed in the Lake Butler Facility after he was convicted where he remained for a two month period. While there he was involved in working in the laundry helping other prisoners with their laundry needs. He then was put in the Florida State Prison facility and, there; was involved in working in the janitorial area. From there he was placed in Raiford for approximately two weeks and was involved in working but out of the band room. From there he was then placed in other county jails where he was questioned regarding other murders but not allowed to work. Since then he has not returned to any of the state correctional facilities and has not had any type of work responsibility.

Gerald was also asked regarding his general interests and activities. He indicated that prior to being incarcerated he was extremely involved in roller skating. It seemed that this was a strong interest and took up much of his spare recreational time. He also had hobbies which involved dealing with hooked rugs and painting by numbers. He also claims that in the past he enjoyed dancing and being involved in social functions. Obviously, he cannot be involved in these particular activities while incarcerated. Next he indicated he enjoys watching television; enjoys listening to the radio; and enjoys reading newspapers. However, in reference to general reading interests he also indicated that he enjoys reading National Geographic, Reader's Digest, and popular magazines. Finally, he indicated he has a strong interest in music due to his extensive musical background. He has received many lessons in music and is trained to play an organ, piano, guitar, violin, and a clarinet.

Gerald was also asked regarding his heterosexual relationships. Gerald Stano indicated that he first became sexually involved when he was in the eleventh grade in high school. Apparently, he dated a young girl who was mentally retarded who eventually became pregnant. Gerald had to pay for the abortion. Then, while a senior in high school he dated another girl who, this time, suffered from epileptic seizures and had had four brain operations. Eventually, Gerald married in 1975, and was divorced approximately one year later. When asked the conditions of the divorce, he indicated that he was extremely abusive with his wife which he classified as wife abuse. At the same time he indicated he had a serious drinking problem which generally resulted in his coming home extremely intoxicated and being verbally and physically abusive to his wife. On one occasion he also tried to strangle her dog. All of this resulted in his wife eventually filing for divorce. However, he also indicated that his wife was extremely critical of him and would often call him: "stupid", "dummy", and "bastard". Since he worked for her father it appeared that she had an enormous amount of power over him and apparently may have used it or, at least, he perceived her using it to

had. He indicates that at this time he has high blood pressure which is indirectly related to his being overweight. He added that he has problems with his right knee due to a childhood operation. This is the same knee problem which resulted in his being medically discharged from the Navy.

Gerald was also asked regarding psychiatric treatment to date. He indicated that in 1976 he originally saw a psychiatrist due to his wife's insistence over his hostile, aggressive outbursts towards her and his physical abuse in general. He visited with the psychiatrist for approximately four times and then discontinued. He indicated he was referred to another psychiatrist and went a few times. Apparently, none of these psychiatric contacts were helpful in trying to resolve his marital problems. As a result, Gerald Stano was divorced by his wife. Then, once incarcerated, Gerald was evaluated by approximately five other mental health professionals trying to evaluate his mental state for trial and mental state at the time of the offense. No other psychiatric contacts or psychological services have been offered outside of his marital problems and the competency and sanity issues.

Gerald Stano was also asked regarding drug and alcohol abuse. Gerald indicated that he had smoked marijuana on occasion but not extensively and never had any kind of addiction to it. However, in reference to alcohol, he indicated that he did have a serious drinking problem and had many difficulties when he was intoxicated. During the week he indicated that he might drink approximately two or three cans of beer an evening. However, on the weekend he indicates he might drink as much as two cases of beer with a pint of Seagrams or Jack Daniels. When in such an intoxicated state, he generally had his most serious problems.

Gerald was asked regarding juvenile delinquency problems and adult criminal violations. He indicated that he had never had any juvenile offenses but does have many adult criminal violations. In 1976, he was charged with uttering a forged instrument and given ten days in jail with one year probation along with restitution. Then, in 1980, he was charged with first degree murder involving six different women. From this he received 75 years mandatory incarceration. Then, in 1982, he was charged with murder in the first degree involving two women and give two 25 year sentences to be served concurrently. Then, in June of 1983, he was convicted of two first degree murders or more but given two death sentences. At this time he is now before the court on another murder one charge.

BEHAVIOR DURING THE ASSESSMENT

Gerald was extremely cooperative throughout the evaluation and complied with all testing requests. He did not try to be evasive with most of the material but rather was quite open, informative, and direct. He was able to respond to most of the material and did not become unduly anxious or frustrated. He applied himself in a fairly emotionally controlled manner and appeared quite friendly throughout.

Gerald was administered the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test to determine his present level of intellectual functioning. In addition, this test was administered to determine his general ability to cope with problems of daily living. On this examination he received a standard score of 86, placing him in the low average to average range of intellectual functioning. Such a score would indicate that he has sufficient intelligence by which to cope with problems of daily living and has sufficient intelligence to apply himself with a degree of skill. Such a score also indicates that he has a moderate fund of information; has moderate social judgment and common sense; has moderate skills by which to deal with abstract conceptualizations; has adequate analytic and intuitive abilities; has adequate remote, recent, and immediate recall abilities; and has good nonverbal performance skills. Overall, he is functioning within the low average to average range of intelligence without any unusual problems.

The Wide Range Achievement Test was also administered but to determine his general literacy to date, and his general ability to cope with the demands of a literary society. On this examination he received a reading grade level score of 8.9 with a standard score of 100; a spelling grade level score of 7.0 with a standard score of 96; and an arithmetic grade level score of 7.8 with a standard score of 104. This evaluation indicates that he is a fairly literate individual and is capable of dealing with the demands of daily living which is expected of the average adult. He did benefit from his academic experiences and continued to be fairly educated. The standard scores indicate that he does have average intellectual abilities and does have skills comparable to the average individual. Thus, he has adequate skills by which to deal with the demands of daily living and has sufficient skills by which to experience appropriate success for someone with his age and academic background.

Next the Bender Gestalt Visual Motor Test was administered to evaluate for visual processing difficulties, perceptual motor skills, and neurological functioning. On this examination he did relatively well, drawing all of the designs correctly and being extremely methodical in the organization and placement of all of his designs. These results indicate that he has good visual processing abilities; has good perceptual motor skills; and is free of any neurological dysfunctions. In addition, his drawing of the designs would indicate that he is a fairly organized and methodical individual who takes great pleasure in experiencing success and being fairly constructive.

Finally, personality tests were administered and an interview was conducted to evaluate his mental status, emotional stability, personality development, and interpersonal skills. These results indicate that Gerald Stano was well oriented to person, place, and time; was in good contact with reality; was alert to his surroundings; and is emotionally stable. In addition, he appears to have an adequately developed personality structure with adequate interpersonal skills. In essence, he displays good controls and inhibitions and can be a fairly restrained

... indicated that he is well aware of societal demands and can be a fairly responsible person. He also has the ability to develop emotional relationships and apparently has been able to develop some adequate relationships over the years. He also has strong desires to be involved in a heterosexual relationship, indicating he can be fairly sensitive and compassionate when in the appropriate social setting. He also appears to be fairly mild mannered and does not generally appear to be under an enormous amount of stress. He perceives himself as being fairly meticulous and punctual in his interactions and perceives himself as being able to present himself in a fairly favorable light. Overall, Gerald Stano appears to be average and/or normal and relates to others without any unusual problems.

However, psychological testing also shows that Gerald has many problems that have been of long standing. Although he might appear to have many normal personality characteristics and is able to relate to others without any unusual problems, he does have many difficulties that interfere with his general daily functioning and heterosexual relationships. Specifically, psychological testing indicates that Gerald is a fairly self-centered individual who appears to be more preoccupied with the gratification of his own drives and desires rather than disciplining himself to be much more concerned for the welfare of others. In essence, he would rather sacrifice others for his own drives rather than sacrifice himself. In addition, he continues to be somewhat preoccupied with his own welfare, as well as being concerned for his own appearance. Testing also indicates that Gerald has a tendency to be somewhat defensive and quick to feel a sense of threat or rejection from others which is part of his distortive style of interaction. He is quick to perceive threat or negativistic tendencies in others and often is only perceiving what he has actually created or what is not present. In such situations he becomes extremely angry or negativistic and then quite susceptible to acting out without the appropriate controls and restraints. This is especially noticed when he is interacting with women where they are less able to protect themselves and he can feel much more powerful and controlling. Thus, his anger can be easily displaced on them and without any types of controls or inhibitions. Many of his statements throughout the evaluation indicated that he never had any concerns regarding women retaliating his physical abuse but did make statements that he would be extremely concerned if he interacted with an abusive man. Thus, he experienced no threat from women and would become abusive towards them without any second thoughts or reservations.

Testing also indicated that Gerald is extremely dependent on the affection and support of women, although he is still extremely angry and negativistic towards them. Being so dependent on their affection, praise, and support, he becomes extremely angry when he does not receive it. In essence, he is like a child who is in constant need of the love and affection of a mother and becomes extremely upset when they lose it for any brief moment. In Gerald's case, such feelings become overwhelming and he reacts with an uncontrollable vengeance. All the women he has assaulted or killed were involved in extremely negativistic, hostile types of interactions with him. A young child would feel the same feelings

admit this. He tries to give the impression of being in excellent control of his thought processes and feelings although he is extremely concerned and scared. Testing shows that at this point he is in an acute emotional state and can be unpredictable and somewhat unstable. This does not indicate that he is incompetent to stand trial but rather that he is under an enormous amount of stress, realizing that he may be facing a third sentencing of the electric chair. He has good reason to be as acutely, emotionally distressed as he is at this time.

Gerald Stano was also asked questions regarding many of the murder charges he has had against him. Gerald indicated that in every case where he was charged and convicted of a murder he did have some type of negative, hostile argument with the women involved. He indicated the arguments always involved some criticism that they made towards him. To some extent it appears that he intentionally provoked these negative interactions by how he basically presented himself. Unfortunately, the women involved responded to his negativistic tendencies, resulting in Gerald becoming extremely angry and dangerous. He indicated that the women he had murdered in the past all criticized him in some manner which enraged him. Typical comments that most of the women made were that they did not like the way he was driving, which was the result of his weaving in the street while he was extremely intoxicated. Secondly, they would indicate that he was severely intoxicated and that they had disliked it. Thirdly, he indicated that they would dislike the music he had on his radio and possibly even disliked how loud it might have been. Next, he indicates that they also criticized the way he dressed which was a severe blow to his self-concept since he felt he was an excellent dresser. In addition, it appears that he was extremely obsessive in trying to keep his car clean and resented how they would all sit in his car and dirty the floor with their dirty shoes. He also noted that many of them appeared to be somewhat verbally aggressive and were somewhat intimidating. As a result, he would become extremely angry with them and at one point would punch them while he was driving and tell them to either be quiet or that he was going to kill them if they would say anything else. This eventually would result in the women being quiet while he continued to drive to some remote spot. Once he arrived at the remote spot he then indicated that he would take out the knife that he had underneath his seat and stab the women. In essence, this entire style would indicate that all of these murders were premeditated and that he received some form of satisfaction by attacking these women after they would verbally attack him.

What is most significant regarding all of these particular incidents is the fact that all of the women that he admits to having killed reminded him of his wife. He continually stated that, as these women would yell and criticize him, it reminded him of the torment and arguments he experienced while living with his wife. He obviously had an enormous hatred for how his wife treated him and how that marriage ended. Thus, he would then displace the rage that he had towards his wife onto these women who basically became psychological substitutes.

In discussing this entire incident of all of these murders, Gerald was also confronted by this examiner that he was not being honest and probably had committed other murders that he was not willing to disclose.

with Mr. Stano, he eventually did admit to this murder and proceeded to discuss his involvement. Again, he claims he was intoxicated when he picked up Kathy Lee Scharf, and she proceeded to criticize him. This began to enrage him as he had experienced other times. He eventually hit her and then drove to an isolated area where he then stabbed her to death.

He specifically indicated that he first picked up Kathy Lee Scharf in the Daytona or Port Orange area where she was walking along the road. He promised to give her a ride and then proceeded to drive in his own direction. She began to complain about his music, his driving, and his general attitude. He then punched her, and she began to cry. Driving on U.S. 1 he then claims he went to Nova Road and then went back to U.S. 1. He then took State Road A-1 and then drove down the dirt road. Once he arrived there he told her to get out of the car, but she refused. He then stabbed her while she was in the seat and then removed her and put her deep in the bushes. He then got back in his car and returned to the same area he was originally in and went skating at the Starlight Skating Rink. He remained there until 11:00 that evening and went home to sleep. He then indicated that this had occurred back in December of 1973 and was eventually arrested and confessed to this crime to Detective Johnny Mais in October of 1982.

After having discussed the murder of Kathy Lee Scharf, Gerald was also confronted with other possible crimes he might have been involved in. He was told that it was extremely difficult to believe that he only could have committed the murders he has been convicted of, and that the police had done an excellent job of convicting him of every case. Confronted with this reality and the fact that it appears somewhat suspicious, Gerald finally admitted that he had attacked other women but they had escaped being murdered. However, when he was asked about this earlier in the evaluation session he had adamantly denied being involved in other attacks. When confronted with this contradiction, he admitted and explained that he did not want to admit to anything he did not do because he did not want to be given the electric chair once more. He feared that this one might not be overturned as might the other two that he has already received. He felt it was to his advantage not to admit to anything he did nor admit to anything he did not do. In essence, he was not trying to be grandiose or brag at this time of the evaluation and was not going to admit to something someone else might have done. He even tried to deny the present charge as a form of trying to escape any type of prosecution at this time.

In reference to the issue of Gerald Stano admitting to incidents, crimes, or murders that he may not have committed, it appears highly unlikely that he would do so at this time. The rationale for his not admitting to any of these crimes at this time is that he is aware that this may actually result in his receiving the electric chair and possibly being the second person to ever receive the electric chair in the state of Florida. Thus, he has no thoughts of trying to appear like an overly glamorized multiple murderer. However, back in 1980, he might have been somewhat susceptible to admitting or confessing other crimes he did not commit only as a means of his appearing much more glamorized and much

murders he did not commit and enjoyed the publicity he might have received. However, at this time this is not accurate, and he is not trying to receive any additional publicity. He is extremely scared at this time of the electric chair and is fighting quite desperately to try and have himself acquitted of the present criminal charge. Thus, there is no effort to admit to something he has not done. As a matter of fact, he is making every effort to make it appear that he did not commit the murder which he eventually did discuss with this examiner.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Gerald Stano was referred for evaluation due to his being charged of having murdered Kathy Lee Scharf. This murder occurred in 1973 and is only now being brought before the court. Gerald Stano initially refused to admit that he had murdered this young woman but eventually confessed this to this examiner after a few hours of interviewing and psychological testing. The only reason he discussed this and confessed it to the examiner is because he felt that this was his only hope of receiving some type of supportive services from this psychologist. Testing, in general, indicates that Gerald intellectually functions within the low average to average range of intelligence and is fairly intelligent regarding his own decision making skills. Thus, he is well aware of what he is doing and is well aware of what he is saying. Testing indicates that he can be a fairly controlled and restrained individual and can appear to be quite well socialized. However, Gerald Eugene Stano is similar to a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde who can also respond in an extreme manner and appear to be extremely volatile, dangerous, and homicidal. He appears to have an extremely strong hatred towards women and can be quite assaultive with them. When he feels he is being extremely belittled and criticized by them and has them within an extremely vulnerable point without protection, he becomes the most dangerous to them and, in the past, has been quite homicidal in his interaction with them.

In reference to the present charge involving Kathy Lee Scharf it appears that Gerald Eugene Stano did murder this woman and only confessed this to the examiner under intense interviewing techniques. He did not want to admit to it and gave no indication of being grandiose or wanting to admit to some kind of charge that he did not commit. At this time he is not grandiose or susceptible to admitting to crimes he did not commit but rather is extremely protective of himself and wants to prolong any type of incarceration, electric chair, or any other type of punishment possible. He is not masochistic at this time and is not suffering from any delusions of grandiosity. At this time he is in excellent contact with reality and tried to save himself from as much punishment as possible. Overall, testing would indicate that Gerald Eugene Stano was truthful with this examiner regarding his convictions but withheld information regarding other crimes he may have done. In essence, it appears that there are other crimes that he has committed which he has not admitted to.

Gerald Mussenden, Ph. D.