

Altemio C. Sanchez
“Bike Path Rapist”



Information researched and summarized by
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Date	Age	Life Event
01/18/1958	0	Lucy Caraballo and Altemio Sanchez gave birth to Altemio C. Sanchez Jr. in San Sebastian, Puerto Rico; it had been reported that his mother took an extensive amount of pills in efforts of trying to terminate the pregnancy.
1960	2	Sanchez's mother caught his father having an affair with a prostitute; came to United States; lived with her mother in Miami then shortly after moved to New York
1967	9	Lived in North Collins, NY (south of Buffalo)
Late childhood/ Adolescence		During childhood, Sanchez was abused physically and sexually by his mother's boyfriend; later, his mother began physically abusing him. He also witnessed his mother's boyfriend beat on his mother.
Teens		His mother had a drinking problem. Sanchez was characterized as a happy but shy child. In high school, he was very involved in sports and had never had a girlfriend in high school; he was afraid to approach and converse with females.
1974	16	During junior high, Altemio's mother explains that his existence was a mistake and that she tried to terminate her pregnancy by overdosing on pills. Sanchez began having blackouts during his junior year in high school; he would not remember anything that had happened.
1975	17	His engagement in acts of rape began after his senior year. It is thought that Sanchez's first attack began in 1975
1977	19	Graduated from Grover Cleveland High School; enrolled in an Industrial-Arts program at Buffalo State College

1977	19	While attacking victim, he insisted that his name was “Dave”; this was around the age of Sanchez’s first attack. He was living with his mother at the time. He spotted a female riding a bicycle and suddenly smashed her in the head; he then threatened her with a knife. At this early stage, he gained satisfaction by rubbing against the victim without any penetration.
1978	20	He met, and began dating, Kathleen Whitley at Buffalo State College; She later became his wife.
07/05/1980	22	Altemio and Kathleen got married.
04/14/1981	23	Female victim, age 21, was raped at Delaware Park Statue of David Woods; his choice of weapon was a knife.
October 1981	23	Altemio and Kathleen’s first son is born; his name is Christopher. Less than a year later, their second son, Michael, was born; during rapes, Altemio would demand that his victims wait for 30 seconds before fleeing the scene.
1983	25	Took job at American Brass in 1983; regarding his rape victims, he demanded a longer period of waiting time. He insisted that the victims wait for at least 5 minutes before moving.
11/19/1983	25	Raped a female victim who was 21 years of age; this took place a Delaware Park Statue of David Woods; in this attack, he utilized a gun
12/19/1983	25	Raped third victim in Delaware Park Statue of David Woods, using a gun as the weapon of choice. A few days later on December 22, he raped a 28-year old female at the same park.
1984	26	This was a turning point for Sanchez. As he was attacking a victim, he covered her eyes so she could not view his face. This 21 year old woman noticed that he had set his pistol down; she grabbed it and beat him in the head. After gaining control of the situation, Sanchez raped the female. It is believed that this is what made him decide to use ligature.
04/03/1984	26	Raped a 22-year old female at 1700 Elmwood Avenue near a railroad overpass
07/08/1984	26	Raped a 21-year old female at Delaware Park Statue of David Woods
1985		Second time that Sanchez insisted on telling victim that his name was “David”.
06/12/1986	28	Altemio Sanchez’s first attack took place on a Thursday in Delaware Park. His first victim was a 44-year old woman in which she was dragged to a secluded path and raped; he was able to maintain control of her consciousness by tightening the ligature around her neck.

07/14/1986	28	A little before 9:00 a.m., he raped a 17-year old female behind Frontier High School in Hamburg. He looped ligature around her neck twice from behind and then pulled her off of the path; in this incident, he demanded that she not look at his face. When he concluded the act, he told her to wait about twenty minutes before making any moves
06/10/1988	30	He raped a 16-year old female in Buffalo after dragging her to a junkyard.
1989	31	Third and last occurrence of telling victim that his name was "David"; during an unsuccessful attempt, he attacked at 22-year old female in Delaware Park. He approached and grabbed her from behind; his efforts to maintain a grip on her neck failed, so he ran off. Also, Sanchez increased his escape time-frame and instructed his victims to wait 40 minutes before making any movements
05/01/1989	31	He raped a female near an abandoned building; she was 15 years of age.
08/24/1989	31	A girl, 14 years of age, was walking on the Willow Ridge Bike Path in Amherst. She was on her way to summer school. He wrapped the ligature around her neck and drug her to a brushy area off of the trail; he raped her, tightened a garrote around her neck, and left the victim unconscious
05/31/1990	32	Around 7:30 a.m., a 32-year old business-woman traveled the Ellicott Creek Bike Path; As she was walking, she suddenly felt a cord loop around her neck from behind. After she was unconscious, he raped her.
09/29/1990	32	A 22-year old student attending the University of Buffalo, Linda Yalem, was jogging around noon along the Ellicott Creek Bike path; Altemio had raped and murdered his victim. Her body, barely clothed, was found the next day on September 30 around 5:00 p.m.
10/09/1990	32	A co-worker of Sanchez, Bob McGuire, made contact with Amherst police. He had seen Altemio Sanchez at least two times over the past fourteen months on the Ellicott Creek Bike Path; he found this to be highly suspicious. Around 11:10 p.m. on this night, the police set up surveillance on Sanchez's home.
01/31/1991	33	Altemio engaged in a voluntary interview at the Amherst Police Station; he was released after being questioned for only an hour; no DNA sample was taken. The police only took Sanchez's fingerprints.
May 1991	33	Altemio Sanchez was arrested in Buffalo; he was arrested for solicitation. He attempted to pick up an undercover police officer. His charge was reduced to loitering and he paid a fine.

10/30/1992	34	<p>Majane Mazur was raped and murdered by Altemio Sanchez. She was 32 years of age and a mother. She was a prostitute that had encountered Sanchez on more than one occasion.</p> <p>She was discovered in a deserted, low-key field in Buffalo on Exchange Street. Her body was partially clothed. Altemio had not intended to kill her. While he was having sex with her, he put a bag over her head and she began to fight.</p> <p>He murdered her because she knew him and could easily recognize his face. This murder did not fit his normal descriptions; he had prior contact with the victim. He normally did not attack random woman and he killed them on a path, not in a Cheektowaga but returned a short few weeks later after reconciling with his wife. During this time period, allegations have been made that Altemio was having an affair with a woman named Sharon</p>
10/19/1994	36	He raped a 14-year old girl behind a junkyard.
09/29/1996	38	It had been exactly six years since Linda Yalem had been murdered. Altemio Sanchez participated in an annual race that was held every year in order to honor Yalem's memory. His race number identification was 679.
09/23/1999	41	For the second time, Altemio is caught with a prostitute in Buffalo; his charge is reduced to loitering. He also paid a fine. (patronizing a prostitute in the 4 th degree)
May 2005		Altemio Sanchez's mother died.
2006		Altemio Sanchez's father died.
09/29/2006	48	Joan Diver, age 45, was strangled to death but was not raped by Altemio Sanchez. This attack took place on Clarence Bike Path.
11/11/2006	48	Obtained new nickname; he was now referred to as the "Bike Path Killer"
11/15/2006	48	A droplet of sweat was found in Joan Diver's vehicle; after testing the DNA of the sample, the murder was linked to the Bike Path Rapist.
01/13/2007		Sanchez and wife dine out at Sole Restaurant; a linen napkin, dish and straw are collected for DNA sample
01/14/2007		Lab reports confirm that Sanchez's DNA matches the Bike Path Rapist
01/15/2007	48	Altemio Sanchez is taken into custody. His interview interrogation started at 9:30 a.m. and continued for a dreadful 9.5 hours; he was then arrested.
01/19/2007	49	Sanchez was indicted for both the murders of Yalem and Mazur.
03/01/2007	49	Former hardware store clerk testified before grand jury; he was indicted for the murder of Joan Divers; this would make him accountable for three different murders.
5/16/2007	49	Sanchez pleads guilty to 3 murders in the courtroom.
08/14/2007	49	Sanchez's sentencing took place on this day at 9:30 in the morning. He was sentenced to a total of 75 years in prison; twenty-five years for each life he had taken.

11/08/2007	49	Transported from the prison to a new location to engage in interviews for the day; Sanchez admitted to participating in 2 more rapes.
October 2007	49	Kathleen and Altemio are officially divorced.
2008		Last known contact between Altemio and Kathleen
2010	52	Currently held at Clinton Correctional Facility in northern New York

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White; (51% European; 30% Native American; 13% Sub-Saharan African; 6% East Asian)
Number of victims	3 murder victims; 14 other rape victims
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	New York
Cities where killing occurred	Buffalo (Eerie County/Amherst)
Type of killer	Organized lust (although, characteristics of power seeker)
Height	5'5"-5'8"

Childhood Information

Date of birth	January 19, 1958
Location	Puerto Rico
Birth order	The last born (4 th); 3 older siblings under the age of 4; 2 older sisters and an older brother
Number of siblings	3
XYY?	No
Raised by	Both parents until the age of 2; Altemio Sanchez's mother caught his father having an affair; Altemio and his mother moved to Florida, now a single parent, raising Altemio alone.
Birth category	Youngest
Parent's marital status	Divorced; mother had boyfriends
Family event	Parent's divorced; Sanchez's mother caught his father having an affair. His father moved to New Jersey after Altemio Jr. and his mother resided in Florida. His father also had an alcohol problem. Altemio Sanchez was abused (physically/sexually) by his mother's boyfriends as a child; As a teenager, Sanchez's mother informed him that he was a mistake and she never meant to have him. After becoming aware of this, he would be extremely furious every time he had this thought and he would need to release this urge; this led to acts of rapes and murders; he felt that his mother's death (2005) triggered his last murder; also witnessed mother receive beatings from her boyfriend
Age of family event	2 years; mother told him he was a mistake during teenage years
Problems in school?	Had trouble concentrating in school; Altemio began having blackouts in high school when he was a junior. He would not remember anything that happened; shortly after these occurrences, he began raping victims after his senior year.
Teased while in school?	No
Physically attractive?	Yes; community thought of him as a very easy-going, all around nice guy. He was a youth baseball coach/basketball coach and a golfer.

Physical defect?	No.
Speech defect?	Has an accent; no speech defect
Head injury?	
Physically abused?	Mother's boyfriend abused Sanchez as a child
Psychologically abused?	Mother told him he was a mistake and he should not have been born; she even tried to overdose on medication in order to terminate the pregnancy
Sexually abused?	Yes (mother's boyfriend abused him for years); his mother was also abusive
Father's occupation	He never knew his father (since age 2)
Age of first sexual experience	
Age when first had intercourse	
Mother's occupation	
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Abused alcohol
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	alcoholic
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	He graduated from Grover Cleveland High School. After earning his high school diploma, he attended Buffalo State College; after discovering his wife was pregnant, he dropped out of college in search for a job. He never obtained his college degree.
Highest degree	High School Diploma
Grades in school	Very low grades
IQ	
Source of IQ information	
Work History	
Served in the military?	N/A
Branch	N/A
Type of discharge	N/A
Saw combat duty	N/A
Killed enemy during service?	N/A
Applied for job as a cop?	N/A
Worked in law enforcement?	N/A
Fired from jobs?	No; although he obviously did lose his job at American Brass on the day he was arrested.
Types of jobs worked	After dropping out of college, Sanchez worked at a local factory called Trico; in 1983, Sanchez was employed at American Brass, where he worked until his arrest.
Employment status during series	Employed at American Brass (1983)
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married; He never had a girlfriend during his high school experience. During his first year in college, he met his future wife, Kathleen. She was his first and only girlfriend. He even admitted to having problems conversing with females and furthermore, he stated he was afraid to approach females.
Number of children	2 children; had 2 sons. His first born is named Christopher and his second born is named Michael.
Lives with his children	yes
Living with	Spouse (wife)
Triad	
Animal torture	
Fire setting	

Bed wetting	
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	
Time in forensic hospital?	
Diagnosis	
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Arrested for solicitation (May 1991); arrested again for solicitation in 1999; charges were reduced to loitering and Sanchez paid a fine.
Spend time in jail?	No
Spend time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	Murdered 3 females; raped between 11-14 others
Victim type	Mostly young women, mainly college students, because of his proximity to Buffalo State; the victims were usually in their twenties, although some victims were teenagers. He attacked and assaulted two 14-year old females and other victims ranging in ages from 15-19. There are exceptions; Diver's (45) did not fit this description nor did Mazur (32), the prostitute that Sanchez murdered.
Killer age at start of series	32 years of age (killed again at age 34 and at age 48)
Date of first kill in series	Killed Linda Yalem on September 29, 1990
Date of final kill in series	Killed Joan Divers on September 29, 2006
Gender of victims	Female
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	Mainly teenagers or twenties; the youngest victim was 14 years of age and the oldest victims were 32 and 45 years. The first murder victim was 22-years old; the second murder victim was 32 years of age and the third murder victim was 45-years old.
Type of victim	He sought after females who ranged from being teenagers to in their twenties; he did have exceptions. Mazur and Divers were older and Mazur was a prostitute.
Method of killing	Organized; utilized ligature. He would strangle victim and sometimes suffocate. He used duct tape as a method of suffocation on his first victim.
Weapon	Sanchez always brought his own weapon prior to rape attacks; in his early attacks, he utilized a knife as a scare tactic. He also used a gun but after encountering an incident in 1984 during an attack, he switched to his signature, double ligature. He would construct his own weapon by utilizing rope and broom handles. It was very practical and convenient. The three murder victims were murdered by ligature and strangulation; it is noted that Mazur was suffocated as well. Methods of suffocation were duct tape.
Was gun used?	No (not in murders)
Type	N/A
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	N/A

Sex of partner	N/A
Type of serial killer	Organized lust; could be considered somewhat of a power seeker type.
How close did killer live?	Sanchez resided in Cheektowaga; he would drive to desired location.
Location of first contact	Linda Yalem was the first murder victim; she was currently a student at the University of Buffalo. She lived in a dorm on campus; on a Saturday, around noon, she decided to jog along the Ellicott Creek Bike Path in Amherst. Sanchez was living on Allendale Drive in Cheektowaga.
Location of killing	Sanchez murdered Yalem in Amherst, on the Ellicott Creek Bike Path.
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Abducted victim and rape before killing; would use ligature to strangle the victim to control consciousness
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes; Sanchez was not successful in raping his last murder victim, Joan Divers. His intentions were to rape her.
Tortured victims?	Yes; he would rape then strangle with ligature to control consciousness; also used duct tape to cover mouth and nostrils.
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	
Quick & efficient?	Not really; would rape the victim and strangle to control consciousness (strangle and/or suffocate); although, Divers died quickly due to impact (hit head on rock/stump)
Used blindfold?	Yes; the women were forced to use their own clothing (shorts or shirt) to cover their eyes; Sanchez would demand this so the victim would not be able to recognize him.
Bound the victims?	No; controlled them with the ligature
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No; he would leave the victim's body half-naked and pants or underwear scrunched up on one leg. Most often with clothing (t-shirt) covering head. In Mazur's case (2 nd murder victim), he placed her facedown with two plastic bags wrapped around her head.
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No; although, some believe that Sanchez did engage in this behavior even though he does not admit to it.
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Yes; regarding his first murder, he drug the victim off of the path into foliage for seclusion. He left the victim at the scene and covered her face with her t-shirt; regarding his third murder, he left the female at the crime scene and she was covered with a blue jacket, from her chest to pelvic region.
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No

Moved, buried	Yes; regarding Sanchez's second murder victim, Mazur, he raped and murdered her in his white, four-door Pontiac Sunbird. He disposed her body in a secluded yet open field; he tried to cover her body with pieces of trash, a wooden board and rocks.
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	January 15, 2007
Date convicted	May 16, 2007
Sentence	Sentenced on August 15, 2007; for each murder (3), Sanchez was sentenced to 25 years in prison which totals to 75 years to life in prison.
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	At first, he plead not guilty and then at on May 16, he admitted to the 3 murders and plead guilty
Was the NGRI plea successful?	
Name and state of prison	He is currently at the Clinton Correctional Facility in northern New York.
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	N/A

References

Website:

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