

Randy Kraft

Randy Steven Kraft (born March 19, 1945) is an American [serial killer](#) known as the "California Strangler" and the "Freeway Killer"^[3] who committed the rape, murder of 16 young men in a series of killings spanning between 1972 and 1983, the most prolific serial killer in California. Kraft is also believed to have committed the rape and murder of up to 51 further victims. He was sentenced to [death row](#) in California in May 1989^[5] for murdering 16 victims and is currently incarcerated on [death row](#) in California.^[6]

Kraft became known as the "Scorecard Killer", because upon his arrest investigators found cryptic references to his victims;^[7] he is also sometimes referred to as the "Freeway Killer" because his bodies were discovered beside or near [freeways](#).^[8] He shares the latter [epithet](#) with [William Bonin](#) and [Patrick Kearney](#).

Randy Kraft





Randy Kraft, pictured during his trial

Born	<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Randy Steven Kraft</div></div></div><div>March 19, 1945 (age 73)</div><div> Long Beach, California, United States</div></div></div>
Other names	<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>The Freeway Killer,</div></div></div><div>Southern California Strangler,</div><div>The Scorecard Killer</div></div></div>
Criminal penalty	<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Death</div></div></div></div></div>
Conviction(s)	<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Murder</div></div></div><div>Sodomy</div><div>Mutilation^[1]</div></div></div>
Details	
Victims	<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>16–67</div></div></div></div></div>
Span of crimes	<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>September 20, 1971–May 13,</div></div></div></div></div>
Country	<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>United States</div></div></div></div></div>
State(s)	<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>California</div></div></div><div>Oregon</div><div>Michigan^[2]</div></div></div>
Date apprehended	<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>May 14, 1982</div></div></div></div></div>

Date apprehended	May 14, 1983
Imprisoned at	San Quentin State Prison

Early life

Family

Randy Steven Kraft was born in [Long Beach, California](#), on March 19, 1945, the son of (Beal) and Harold Herbert Kraft.^[9] Kraft's parents had moved to California from [New York City](#). His father worked as a production worker, and his mother worked as a sewing machine operator.

The Kraft family lived modestly, and Kraft's mother undertook a succession of jobs to support the family. Nonetheless, Opal Kraft always found time for her children, whereas in contrast to his father, who gathered with his wife and children, and was later described as being "distanced" from them, Kraft was doted on by his three older sisters and mother,^[11] although he was known to be somewhat rebellious.

In 1948, the Kraft family moved from Long Beach to [Midway City, California](#), where their family home was a small, wood-frame [Women's Army Corps](#) dormitory on Beach Street, which was renovated into a three-bedroom house.^[13]

In Midway City, Kraft attended Midway City Elementary school, where his mother noted for his intelligence by classmates and teachers. By 1957, Kraft was doing advanced classes at 17th Street Junior High School.^[13]

Adolescence and graduation

By adolescence, Kraft had taken a keen interest in politics, becoming a staunch supporter of U.S. senator [Barthelme](#). Shortly after his enrollment at [Westminster High School](#), he and other students formed the Westminster Affairs Club. At Westminster High School, Kraft was again regarded as a pleaser, and was popular with the girls.^[15] He was also known to occasionally date girls,^[16] although some classmates suspected Kraft was [homosexual](#).^[17]

suspected Kraft was homosexual.
Kraft later stated he had known from his high school days that he was homosexual. On June 13, 1963, he graduated tenth out of a class of 390 pupils.^[16]
College^[18] in Claremont, California, where he pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree

Claremont Men's College

Shortly after his enrollment as a freshman at Claremont Men's College, Kraft joined the [Reserve Officers' Training Corps](#)^[19] and regularly attended demonstrations in favor of the [Vietnam War](#) and conservative presidential candidate [Barry Goldwater](#). Kraft later declared these political views and not his own, describing his second year at Claremont as being influenced by conservative ideology.^[19] The same year, Kraft entered his first known homosexual relationship.

In 1964, Kraft began working as a bartender at a local [Garden Grove](#) cocktail lounge known to regularly travel to [Laguna Beach](#) and [Huntington Beach](#) to have casual sex. In an effort to announce his sexuality to his parents, Kraft took a succession of meetings with his parents while he was enrolled at Claremont, although he was also known to occasionally date women. His sisters were oblivious to his homosexuality.^[19]

In 1966, Kraft was arrested and charged with [lewd conduct](#) after propositioning a woman.^[19]

Beach;^[18] as he had no previous criminal record, no charges were filed. The following year, Kraft developed his political beliefs, becoming an ardent supporter of [left-wing politics](#), and even joining the Democratic Party. The same year he registered as a Democrat, Kraft became a party organizer, [Kennedy](#) and receiving a personal letter from the senator, thanking him for his support. Kraft was a lackadaisical student, drinking, taking drugs, and regularly attending all-night parties. ^[22] The lack of commitment to his studies in his final year resulted in his not graduating in June 1967. Kraft had to repeat his [econometrics](#) class, resulting in deferring his graduation until 1968, Kraft graduated from Claremont Men's College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1968.

U.S. Air Force

Four months after his graduating from college, Kraft joined the [U.S. Air Force](#) in 1968, being stationed at [Edwards Air Force Base](#) in southern California, where he served in the Air Force. During his service within the U.S. Air Force, Kraft rose to the rank of [Airman First Class](#).

The same year Kraft became an Airman First Class, he disclosed to his family that he was gay. To a friend, he described his father as having flown "into a [rage](#)", whereas he was not fully understood, if somewhat disapproving. ^[18] Kraft's family ultimately accepted his sexuality with his parents and siblings, although his siblings noted he began to "distance" himself from his sexuality to them. ^[23]

On July 26, 1969, Kraft received a general discharge from the Air Force after his discharge was officially listed as being on "medical" grounds. In response, Kraft attempted to challenge the grounds regarding his discharge from the Air Force, but was unsuccessful. ^[24]

Following his military discharge, Kraft moved back into his parents' home and continued to live there.

First known sexual assault

In March 1970, Kraft encountered a 13-year-old Westminster youth named J explained to Kraft that he had [run away](#) from home that day. In response, Kra apartment on the promise that Fancher could live with him. Fancher agreed a apartment, where he was drugged and assaulted. Hours later, Fancher escap youth unattended in the apartment to go to work. A member of the public su Fancher's drugged and disheveled condition; Fancher required having his sto ingested.^[27]

At the hospital, Fancher informed police Kraft had given him drugs and beate or the police that he had been sexually assaulted.^[29] A search of Kraft's apar Kraft's roommate. However, as Fancher had confessed to police he had take officers had conducted the search without a [warrant](#), no charges were filed.

Enrollment at Long Beach State University

In 1971, Kraft found new employment as a forklift truck driver in Huntington prospects following his military discharge two years earlier, he enrolled at [Lc](#) courses. At Long Beach State University, Kraft became acquainted with Jeff Minnesota four years younger than Kraft, and with whom Kraft began a relati

Murders

Between 1971 and 1983, Kraft is believed to have killed a total of 67 victims between the ages of 13 and 35,^{[12][32]} the majority of whom were in their late and convicted of—16 of these homicides, all of which had occurred between enlisted in the [Marines](#),^[33] and most of his victims' bodies bore evidence of h blood systems, indicating they had been rendered insensate before they had Kraft's victims were typically lured into his vehicle with an offer of a lift or alc plied with alcohol and/or other [drugs](#). They were then bound [tortured](#) and s

phed with alcohol and/or other drugs. They were then bound, tortured, and either strangulation, [asphyxiation](#), or bludgeoning, although some victims had and at least one victim was stabbed to death.^[35] The victims would then be alongside or close to various freeways in southern California. (Photographic of his victims were driven to his house before their murder.)^[36]

Many of Kraft's victims were burned with a car cigarette lighter, usually around victims were found with extensive [blunt force trauma](#) to the face and head.^[3] found inserted into the victims' anus while other victims had suffered [emasca](#)

The majority of Kraft's murders were committed in California, although some further known victims murdered in [Michigan](#) in December 1982.^[3]

First suspected victim

On October 5, 1971, police found the nude body of a 30-year-old Long Beach to the [Ortega Highway](#). Dukette, a bartender at a gay bar named "The Stable" on September 20, 1971. [Putrefaction](#) had erased any signs of foul play upon [acute alcohol poisoning](#) due to a high blood alcohol level.^[39]

The first entry upon Kraft's personal journal (referred to as his "scorecard") r Dukette was Kraft's first victim.^{[40][41][42]}

Subsequent murders

Fifteen months after the murder of Dukette, Kraft killed a 20-year-old Marine leaving the barracks at [Camp Pendleton](#) on [December 24](#), 1972. His body was during the early hours of [December 26](#). Abrasions on Moore's body indicated autopsy revealed Moore had been bound about the wrists and ankles, then b before being [garrotted](#). His body also bore evidence of numerous bite marks



Facial reconstruction of unidentified victim found in February 1973, believed to have

Six weeks after the murder of Edward Moore, the [body of an unidentified man](#) was found alongside the [Terminal Island Freeway](#) in Los Angeles. This victim [had a](#) [cock](#) [placed](#) [in](#) [his](#) [rectum](#) [\[45\]](#) Two months later, on April 9, the body of 17 y

a sock placed in his rectum.^[46] Two months later, on April 9, the body of 17-year-old Jeffrey Bailey was found in the ocean at Huntington Beach.^[47] Bailey had been emasculated and sodomized prior to his murder: an unidentified youth whose dismembered body was found in the ocean near Huntington Beach. Wiebe, whose strangled body was discarded beside an onramp to the 405 Freeway, disappeared. Welt marks on Wiebe's wrists and ankles suggested he had been sexually abused prior to his murder.^[48]

Kraft is only known to have killed once more in 1973. The victim was a 23-year-old man named Mestas, whose body was found in the San Bernardino Mountains on December 15, 1973. Like his previous victims, one of the victim's socks had been forced into his rectum.^[49] The victim's hands were bound, and his body, and were never found.^[50]

By November 1974, a further five victims had been found beside or close to freeways, four of which had been conclusively linked to the same killer. Two of these victims were found near James Reeves—had each been found beside a freeway with foreign objects protruding from their bodies. The third victim, 18-year-old Marine Roger Dickerson, bore evidence of bite marks on his neck.

1975

On January 3, 1975, Kraft abducted and murdered a 17-year-old high school senior named Craig Jonaitis, seen boarding a bus in Long Beach; his strangled body was found the following day with a foreign object protruding from his anus. Drag marks along the beach close to where the body was found indicated individuals had carried Leras's body into the water. Two weeks after Leras's murder, the body of a young man named Craig Jonaitis was found discarded in the parking lot of the Golden State Freeway near Loyes Drive in Long Beach.^[2] Jonaitis had been strangled to death with a leather strap.

Investigation

By January 1975, a total of 14 victims, whose bodies had been found discarded in various locations over the previous three years, had been linked to the same killer. All the victims had been found with characteristic bite marks. On January 24, homicide investigators from several jurisdictions

characteristics. On January 24, homicide investigators from several jurisdictions in Orange County to discuss progress in the hunt for the unknown killer.^[54] An FBI profile describing the individual as a methodical, organized **lust killer** of above average intelligence, "with a primary concern for the interests and welfare of society".^[55] Some investigators believed the murderer was one or more of whom had a military background: two victims' bodies had tissue removed in a known military procedure to prevent bodies from purging after death. The procedure was also theorized to be a method used by the killer to prevent purging as the bodies were buried. At this stage, investigators had no solid suspects.^[56]

Murder of Keith Crotwell

On the evening of March 29, 1975, Kraft lured two youths named Keith Crotwell and Kent May into his **Ford Mustang**.^[57] The youths were plied with beer and **Valium** as Kraft drove in a manner around Belmont Shore and Seal Beach. May later recalled feeling **catatonic** after having ingested before he **passed out**.

In the Long Beach parking lot where Crotwell and May had last been seen, two cars, a black and white Ford Mustang rapidly enter and draw to a halt before the driver of the black and pushed the unconscious (but otherwise unharmed) Kent May from the rear passenger seat. The driver then sped away from the scene. As he did so, the friends of Crotwell and May saw an unknown driver's shoulder.^[58]

On May 8, the skull of Keith Crotwell was found in a **jetty** close to the Long Beach Pier, six months later.^[59] Upon hearing the news, the two youths who had observed the driver discarding May onto the ground, suspecting Crotwell's murderer to have been in their neighborhood for the distinctive Ford Mustang they had observed. Upon returning from their home, the youths noted the license plate number and relayed the information to police. The vehicle was traced to Randy Steven Kraft.^[60]

Interrogation and release

Interrogation and Release

The Long Beach Police questioned Kraft about Crotwell's abduction and murder. Kraft never met either Crotwell or May and the police, initially skeptical of Kraft's denials, subjected him to further questioning.^[59]

At the Long Beach police station, Kraft admitted that on or around March 29, 1975, he had driven to a Long Beach parking lot in question and had persuaded them to drink alcohol and come to his car. Kraft claimed to have returned May to the parking lot and then to have driven with Crotwell to a nearby area where his car subsequently became embedded upon an [embankment](#). He claimed to have called for a [tow truck](#) to winch his vehicle from the embankment as Crotwell remained in the car. Kraft claimed, Crotwell had disappeared.^[61]

Although Kraft's roommate was able to verify to detectives that Kraft had planned to leave the area at the time of the disappearance, claiming his vehicle was stuck upon an embankment, detectives were skeptical of Kraft's version of events. The following week, two detectives attempted to file homicide charges with the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office dismissed the detectives' request, citing the lack of any other remains thus far found (solely the youth's skull) that the youth had died of a homicide.

Perhaps because Kraft had been questioned as a suspect in Crotwell's murder, Kraft's personal life in the summer of 1975, Kraft is not known to have killed again until the murder of Mark Hall in [San Juan Capistrano](#).^[62] In this murder, later described by prosecutor as a rape committed by Kraft,^[36] the man was driven to a remote canyon, where he was killed. The cause of death as being asphyxiation caused by leaves and earth found lodged in his airway. The autopsy revealed Hall had been sodomized and emasculated, with his severed genitalia found in a chest, scrotum, nose and cheeks had been burned with an automobile cigarette lighter. The same object. Other injuries noted in the autopsy included numerous incisions on his back and a broken bottle.^[64] Forensic experts were able to deduce that Hall had been an





Victim Paul Joseph Fuchs

Relationship with Jeff Seelig

By 1976, Kraft had ended his relationship with Jeff Graves. Shortly thereafter, he began a relationship with an apprentice baker named Jeff Seelig, and the couple moved to [Laguna Hills](#). Although Kraft was a [polygamist](#), the couple considered their relationship permanent.^[62] Seelig later regularly picked up and [propositioned](#) hitchhikers who, if willing, would accompany them on a [threesome](#). However, Seelig was adamant that Kraft had never been violent and never displayed violent tendencies.

Kraft's relationship with Seelig is believed to be a contributory factor in the murders he committed.^[66] He is not known to have killed again until December 10, 1976. The body of Paul Fuchs has never been found. Nonetheless, Fuchs' name is clearly listed upon Kraft's

Resurfacing of the Freeway Killer

Following the December 1976 murder of Paul Fuchs, Kraft is not known to have killed again. On January 3, 1978, homicide investigators again convened to discuss progress on the investigation of the freeway murders.^[68] By this stage, investigators knew there was more to the case. In 1978, police had arrested [Patrick Kearney](#), who subsequently confessed to the murder of Paul Fuchs.

he had [dissected](#) and discarded in trash bags beside freeways in southern California. Although he dismembered some of his victims' bodies, he never killed his victims by shooting them. Additionally, Kearney had never tortured any of his victims: Kearney's *modus operandi* and investigators were certain that an altogether separate killer was still at large.

On April 16, 1978, Kraft abducted an 18-year-old Marine named Scott Michael Hughes. Kraft slit open his scrotum and removed one of his testicles, then strangled Hughes' fully clothed body—missing only his shoelaces—beside a freeway on the body of 23-year-old Roland Young was found near a San Diego freeway. Young was stabbed to death. Abrasions to his body indicated that Young had been thrown for several days later, the body of a 20-year-old Camp Pendleton Marine named Richard Keith Moulton Parkway. Welts on Keith's wrists indicated that he had been bound and strangled. Keith's throat indicated that he was also drowning as a result of [Flurazepam](#) being administered. [69]



Victim Keith Klingbeil

Three weeks after the murder of Richard Keith, on July 6, Kraft killed a 23-year-old victim who had ingested large doses of [paracetamol](#) and alcohol before he was strangled.

beside the [Interstate 5](#) freeway.^[70] Although Klingbeil was still alive when dis to the Mission Community Hospital. A subsequent autopsy revealed that, pri been seared with an automobile cigarette lighter.^[71]

Two months later, on September 29, the body of 20-year-old Richard Crosby 71 in [San Bernardino County](#).^[72] Crosby had disappeared the previous day as

The youth had died of suffocation, and his left nipple had been mutilated wit

The last known victim claimed by Kraft in 1978 was a 21-year-old Long Beach [castrated](#) body was found beside the San Diego freeway on November 18, 1

Inderbieten had been violated with a foreign object and had suffered burn w Hall two years previously. The cause of death was listed as suffocation.^[71]

Later murders

Kraft is not known to have killed again until June 16, 1979, when he abducted body was thrown from a moving vehicle onto the 405 Freeway. The cause of although rope and burn marks indicated the [Arkansas](#)-born man had been bo discarded.^[74]

Two months later, on August 29,^[75] the dismembered body of an unidentified was found placed in two trash bags behind a [Union 76](#) gas station in Long Be reading "76" is believed to refer to this victim. Although only the head, torso victim, like several others, had had a sock placed inside his rectum.^[77] Two w

year-old Gregory Wallace Jolley was found in [Lake Arrowhead](#). Jolley had be severed after death. His personal possessions were later found at Kraft's ho

On November 24, 1979, a 15-year-old [Santa Ana](#) youth named Jeffrey Sayre by Kraft.^[35] Sayre was last seen at a bus stop in the city of [Westminster](#)^[79] a

The entry "Westminster Date" on Kraft's scorecard is believed to refer to Sa

On February 18, 1980, the [decapitated](#) body of a 19-year-old Marine named M
[Highway](#). Marsh was last seen hitchhiking towards [Buena Park](#).^[80] His hands h

Portland murders

In the summer of 1980, Kraft traveled to the neighboring state of Oregon as
him by his employers.^[79] Throughout the duration of his deployment, Kraft re
returned to California in August, he is believed to have claimed a further two
scorecard with cryptic references including the word "Portland". The first vic
O'Fallon, was killed on July 17. O'Fallon had been on a solo hitchhiking trip ac
college at the time of his murder. He was plied with both alcohol and Valium |
[hogtied](#) body discarded ten miles south of the city of [Salem](#).^[81] O'Fallon was
Denver". The following day, Kraft is believed to have killed a man estimated t
body was found beside a freeway in the city of [Woodburn](#). This victim—listec
ingested a toxic level of Valium and Tylenol before he was strangled to deat



A Polaroid photograph of victim Robert Wyatt Loggins, sitting on Kraft's couch. This in
August 1980.

On September 3, 1980, one month after his return to California from Oregon,
Robert Loggins was found discarded in a trash bag located close to the ELT

Robert Loggins was found discarded in a trash bag located close to the ER I
alive by two fellow Marines close to the Pacific Coast Highway on August 23
found in Kraft's possession depict Loggins in Kraft's living room slumped full
in various nude, pornographic postures. All these pictures depict Loggins wit
victim was alive or dead at the time they were taken.^[83]

On April 10, 1981, the body of a 17-year-old youth named Michael Cluck was
the community of [Goshen, Oregon](#).^[37] Cluck had been abducted as he hitchhiked
[California](#),^[84] the day prior to his body being discovered. The youth had been
blunt instrument which had destroyed the rear of his [cranium](#). In addition, Cluck
beaten, kicked and scoured. Cluck is believed to have been recorded upon Kraft's
extensive blood and debris found at the murder scene.

At the time of Cluck's murder, Kraft is known to have again been deployed by the
Cluck's body was discovered, Kraft is also known to have visited a [Lane Courthouse](#)
foot.^[81]

Four months after the murder of Michael Cluck, on August 20, 1981, the part
[prostitute](#) named Christopher Allen Williams was found in the San Bernardino County
[phenobarbital](#) and [benzodiazepine](#) and was found with tissue paper lodged in his
[death](#) on his own mucus.^[85]

Echo Park murders

By early 1982, the relationship between Kraft and Seelig had become marred by
temporary separation. In an effort to resolve their personal differences and
attending weekly counseling sessions in Huntington Beach. These sessions lasted

Following complaints from residents of [Echo Park](#) regarding a foul odor emanating from
[Freeway](#) on July 29, 1982,^[86] a [Cal Trans](#) employee found the [decaying](#) body of
Raymond Davis discarded alongside the Rampart Boulevard offramp. Rudime

body beneath leaves and soil. Davis had last been seen alive in Echo Park on youth's wrists had been knotted behind his back in much the same manner as previously, and he had been strangled to death with his own shoelace. The evidence is believed to refer to Davis.

Just 40 feet from the body of Davis, the same Cal Trans crew also found the body of a man who had been missing since July 21, although his body was also markedly decomposed. A length of stereo speaker wire.^[90]

Kraft is not known to have killed again until November 1, 1982, when he abducted a man named Arne Mikeal Laine.^[91] Laine was last seen hitchhiking towards Orange County until January, 1984, discarded on a hillside close to the town of Ramona. Four days later, the semi-nude body of 26-year-old Brian Witcher was dumped from a moving van close to the city of Wilsonville, Oregon. Witcher had ingested high levels of cyanide, leading to asphyxiation.^[81]

On December 3, 1982, a 29-year-old carpenter named Anthony Jose Silveira was abducted. His body was found two weeks later: strangled, sodomized and bearing evidence of sexual assault prior to his murder. At the time of the murders of both Witcher and Silveira, Kraft was on a business trip. The business trip concluded the day of Silveira's murder. On December 4, Kraft flew from Portland to Seattle to visit friends. Throughout this brief visit, he was observed by a man whose name "Silveira".^[92] On December 5, Kraft flew from Seattle to the Michigan city of Grand Rapids.

Grand Rapids and return to Portland

Two days after his arrival in Grand Rapids, Kraft encountered two cousins named John and Robert. The trio attended a seminar in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Kraft was observed by a man at the hotel shortly before midnight. The bodies of the two men^[35] were discovered in a room at the Amway hotel. Both victims had been plied with alcohol and Valium prior to their deaths. They were arranged in sexually suggestive positions. Alt, aged 24, had died of asphyxiation.

strangled to death with his own belt. In addition, a ballpoint pen had been inserted into his mouth. Both victims were recorded upon Kraft's scorecard in a single entry.

A set of keys belonging to Schoenborn, plus the military jacket belonging to Schoenborn, were found in the room at the Plaza Hotel.^[n 1]

On December 8, Kraft traveled from Michigan to Portland.^[94] Within 24 hours of his arrival, he met an old hitchhiker named Lance Taggs. Taggs had last been seen hitchhiking from Los Angeles on December 8.^[95] His body was discovered the following day, in Clatsop County, close to where the body of Brian Whitcher had been found just two weeks earlier. In both cases, and Schoenborn, Taggs had been plied with alcohol and Valium prior to his murder. The cause of death was caused by a sock thrust into his trachea.^[95]

Connection of Oregon murders to manhunt

Noting the passage of time between periods of activity when bodies of young women were found in their transportation with alcohol and/or pharmaceuticals in their blood stream in California, Oregon investigators noted that their killer resided in another state and struck in Oregon only when there on business. In the case of Whitcher and Taggs, Oregon investigators relayed details of the murders to California investigators as *operandi* of the killer they were seeking and requesting feedback from any profiles on their files with similarities to those in Oregon.^[96] A response from California investigators revealed that the pattern of killings was identical to victims linked to the unknown killer in California. The victims in Oregon were thus linked to the murders he had committed in California.





Victim Eric Church

1983

Kraft did not kill again until January 27, 1983, when he abducted a 21-year-old last seen alive hitchhiking from Orange County to [Sacramento](#) the day prior to alongside [I-605](#).^[81] An autopsy concluded the [Connecticut](#) native had ingested sodomized. Rope marks on Church's wrists indicated he had struggled against of ligature strangulation and numerous blows to the side of his skull inflicted

On February 12, Kraft killed two Buena Park men: 18-year-old Geoffrey Nelson young men were last seen outside the house of a friend named Bryce Wilson intended to purchase something to eat. Nelson's nude body was found along [Freeway](#) several hours after he and DeVaul were last seen. He had been emma vehicle. DeVaul's body was found the following day; discarded down a mount County. DeVaul had been bound, sodomized and strangled with a cord. As he ingested both alcohol and [propranolol](#) prior to his murder. In addition, both victims shortly before their murder.^[98]

Final murder and arrest

At 1:10 a.m. on May 14, 1983, two [California Highway Patrol](#) officers observed Interstate 5 Freeway in the Orange County community of [Mission Viejo](#). Observed the officers—suspecting the driver was drunk—signaled for the vehicle to stop

The driver slowed the vehicle to a halt and exited the car, discarding the condom. Officer Michael Sterling met the individual, who identified himself as Kraft. Sterling observed that his jeans were unbuttoned. Sterling had Kraft perform a sobriety test for driving while intoxicated.^[100]

Sterling's partner, Sgt. Michael Howard approached the Celica and observed the vehicle passenger seat, partially covered by a jacket and with empty beer bottles. Howard attempted to wake the man. Receiving no response to his verbal efforts, Howard attempted to note the individual had a low body temperature. Upon feeling for a pulse, Howard noticed a mark visibly encircling his neck.^[101] Lifting the jacket from the victim's lap, Howard attempted to expose the genitalia. In addition, the victim's hands had been bound with zip ties. The victim was later identified as Terry Lee Gambrel, a 25-year-old Marine stationed in Afghanistan who was strangled to death.^[102]

Kraft was initially charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and held in custody. A search of his vehicle. Upon the rear seat of the car, investigators found a belt buckle around Gambrel's neck. Other incriminating evidence found included alcohol, tranquilizers, and a syringe. The passenger seat and carpet of the vehicle was heavily bloodstained; however, the upholstery was removed for forensic analysis. The results of the analysis confirmed the blood on the carpet, investigators discovered an envelope containing over 50 pictures of young men. The subjects in the pictures appeared either asleep or dead.^[103] Inside the trunk of the car, investigators found a binder containing a hand-written list of coded notations.^[104]

A search of Kraft's home revealed further incriminating evidence, including clothing and photographs of young men who had been murdered over the last decade.^[105] Fibers taken from the victim's clothing were found in Hughes. In addition, the couch in Kraft's living room was identified as being the same as the one found in Hughes.

Scorecard

The coded list of 61 neatly printed terms and phrases found in Kraft's car is entries appear innocuous, but each is believed to refer to a specific murder, refer to victims' names (for example, the entry reading "EDM" refers to the in "Vince M" refers to victim Vincent Mestas). In other instances, entries indicate bodies and/or places they were last seen. The entry "Marine Head BP", for ex a Marine found decapitated having last been seen hitchhiking towards Buena dump locations; the entry "Golden Sails", for example, refers to the fact the of the Golden Sails Hotel.

The list also contains entries indicating a minimum of four double murders: "(Schoenborn, last seen in Grand Rapids); "2 in 1 Beach" (victims Geoffrey Nels MV to PL" (neither entry of which has been linked to any double murder or dis

Investigators contend that two victims of whose murders Kraft was convicted on Kraft's scorecard. However, since the list is in code, the possibility exists included on the scorecard as an entry which investigators cannot recognize included on the list, although as Kraft was arrested while he attempted to di entry referring to Gambrel on his scorecard. These possibilities indicate the total of 67 victims.

The entry upon Kraft's scorecard reading "Navy White" is believed by investig Sean Cox; an apprentice medic stationed at [Mather Air Force Base](#) who was near Interstate 5^[107] and whose body was found several weeks later in [Ranc](#) Cox was dressed in his white navy uniform. In addition to the color of his unif

A further entry on Kraft's scorecard simply reading "Iowa" is believed to refe Stuart, Jr. Stuart had been born in Iowa; his body was found discarded close 1974.^[108] The man had died as a result of blunt force trauma;^[109] his body rer

Investigators note a similar *modus operandi* in the murder and body disposal

known to have killed.

Twenty-two of Kraft's estimated 67 victims remain unrecovered and unidentified. The murders occurred throughout several states, and with bodies being discarded in varying ways.

Tried victims

On May 16, 1983, Kraft was formally charged with the murder of Terry Lee G. Kraft interviewed over 700 witnesses and had gathered more than 250 physical pieces of evidence. He was charged with further 15 homicides committed between December 1972 and February 1978, and 17 other homicides^[111]—in addition to two counts of sodomy and one of emasculation.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Edward Moore (20) December 24, 1972^[12]• Kevin Bailey (17) April 9, 1973^[47]• Ronnie Wiebe (20) July 28, 1973• Keith Crotwell (18) March 29, 1975• Mark Hall (22) January 1, 1976• Scott Hughes (18) April 16, 1978 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roland Young (23) June 11, 1973• Richard Keith (20) June 19, 1973• Keith Klingbeil (23) July 6, 1973• Michael Inderbieten (21) November 1, 1978• Donald Crisel (20) June 16, 1978• Robert Loggins (19) August 2, 1978 |
|--|--|

Trial

Kraft's trial began on September 26, 1988 in Orange County before Judge D. Kraft was charged with the murder of Terry Lee G. Kraft interviewed over 700 witnesses and had gathered more than 250 physical pieces of evidence.

At the trial, almost 160 witnesses were called to testify on behalf of the prosecution. This evidence pointing towards Kraft's guilt included physical evidence found at Kraft's Long Beach residence and in his vehicle, fingerprints found at the scene of the murder of Mark Hall,^[115] the negatives and photographs of young men taken inside Kraft's vehicle, which depicted the men either dead, drugged or asleep. The evidence had been taken at Kraft's home or as the victims were set inside Kraft's Toyota

been taken at Kraft's home or as the victims were sat inside Kraft's Toyota, Gambrel and the prescription drugs and [buck knife](#) found in the vehicle. Other records and gasoline receipts which placed Kraft in particular locations where and the numerous personal possessions of various murder victims found in Kraft's defense was one of [alibis](#) and alternate suspects: his attorneys dismissed [circumstantial](#) and attempted to portray Kraft as an articulate, hardworking man who did not refute that the 16 men for whose murder their client was tried were "victims of someone, but not Randy Kraft."^[116] The defense also stated that those believed by investigators to have been killed by one of two other serial killers, there was "no concrete evidence" Kraft had killed any of the victims.

The trial lasted a total of 13 months and would prove to be the most expensive. On April 29, 1989, each side opened their [closing arguments](#), which lasted an hour. All the physical and circumstantial evidence pointing to Kraft's guilt; the defense put forward by the prosecution that all the murders were linked and accusing the defendant. Following the closing arguments, the jury deliberated for a total of eleven days. The jury found Kraft guilty of sixteen counts of murder, one count of sodomy and an additional count of sodomy in relation to victim Rodger DeVaul, Kraft was found

"To have something like this take place in our society, I [...] I think I've sent eight or ten before. I can take all those aggravating circumstances in those other cases and try to comment. If anyone ever deserved the death penalty, he's got it coming."

Judge Donald A. McCart in passing the death sentence upon Randy Kraft November 1989

Penalty phase and sentencing

On June 5, 1989, the same jury reconvened to hear further testimony from the defendant, Kraft. This phase of Kraft's trial would last until August^[105] and it was at this

evidence of several additional homicides committed in both Oregon and Michigan committed and for which he had not been tried in Orange County. The defense being "highly speculative"^[121] and introduced testimony relating to a PET scan revealed abnormalities in the frontal lobes of Kraft's brain, therefore reducing impulse.^[122] The prosecution rebuffed this testimony by stating to the jury: "more than that he likes killing for sexual satisfaction", adding that the fact his family had committed any murders simply showed "what a good salesman he is."

On August 11, 1989, the jury rendered a verdict of death.^[123] Three months later sentenced Kraft to death. The sentence was upheld by the California Supreme Court and Kraft remains on death row at the San Quentin State Prison. He continues to deny guilt in any way or suspected of committing.



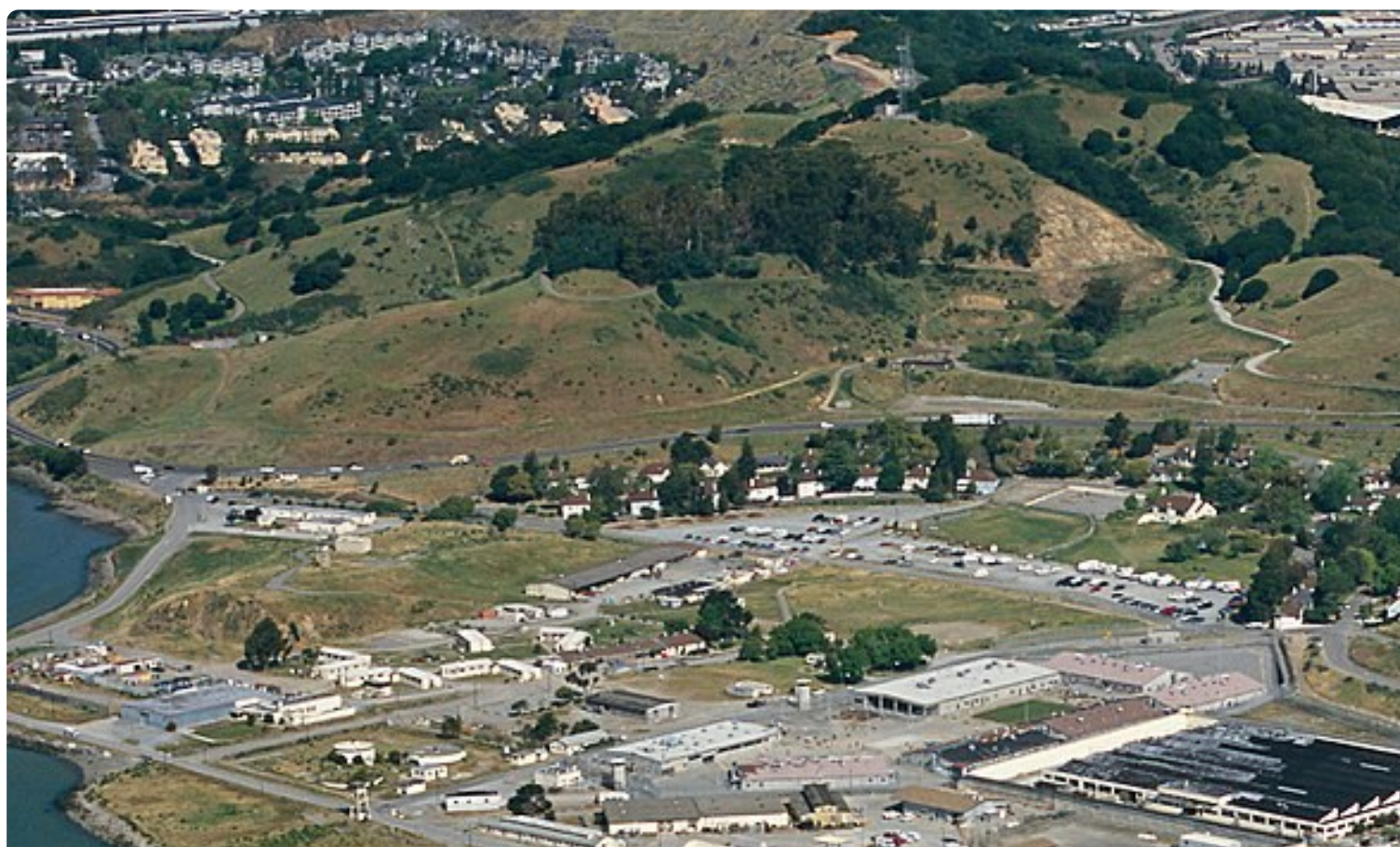
with Kraft between 1971 and 1976 (when 16 known murders attributed to Kraft).
the Croftwell abduction and murder in 1975, when he verified part of Kraft's story
about the incident following Kraft's arrest in 1983, Graves had informed investigators
what he knew."^[126]

Graves died of [AIDS](#) on July 27, 1987.^[127] At the time of his death, police had

Bob Jackson

In January 2000 journalist [Dennis McDougal](#) (author of the 1991 book *Angel*)
published an article focusing upon Randy Kraft. McDougal recounted interviewing
Bob Jackson, who reportedly confessed to murdering two hitchhikers with Kraft:
in 1976. Authorities in both Colorado and Wyoming were unable to [corroborate](#)

Jackson also told McDougal that the scorecard found in Kraft's car included
his opinion, Kraft's total body count stood closer to 100. McDougal reported the
recordings of the interviews. Detectives interrogated Jackson and eventually
murder charges were filed against him due to an absence of direct incriminating





Aerial view of [San Quentin State Prison](#), where Kraft remains incarcerated on death row. Kraft [sued](#) author McDougal and the publisher of *Angel of Darkness* in 1993, contended that the book smeared his "good name", unjustly portrayed him as a criminal, and ruined his prospects for future employment by ruining his chances of overturning his conviction. The suit was dismissed by the [California Supreme Court](#) in June 1994.^[130]

Other "Freeway Killers"

Patrick Kearney, a suspect in a series of killings of young men known as the Freeway Killings, was identified by the Los Angeles Police in July 1977. Kearney subsequently confessed to the murders of 28 bodies discarded alongside freeways in southern California. Although Kraft is also known as the Freeway Killer, Kearney invariably killed his victims by shooting them in the [temple](#). In addition to the Freeway Killings, Kearney was also known for discarding bodies in trash bags. Although primarily known as the Trash Bag Murderer, Kearney

In 1980, [William Bonin](#) and four known accomplices were arrested for a series of murders committed by Bonin and his accomplices display a markedly similar (known to have tortured his victims, although he never plied his victims with a to have stabbed some victims' genitalia with a knife and to have stabbed one victims' bodies and almost all of his victims were strangled to death with the younger than those of Kraft, with the age range of his victims being 12 to 19

See also

- [Capital punishment in California](#)
- [List of death row inmates in the United States](#)
- [List of murdered American children](#)
- [List of serial killers by country](#)
- [List of serial killers by number of victims](#)

Notes

1. [^] [Kraft had resided in the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel throughout his busi](#)

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External links

- [Details of each case](#) noted upon Randy Kraft's 'scorecard'
- "[Killer Stops](#)", *Police: The Law Enforcement Magazine*
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