

CRIME Q&A

What happened in the "Midtown Rapist" case around 2001?

— *Curious09, Sacramento*

Dennis Laverne Orr, the man suspected in the so-called "Midtown Rapist" case, pleaded no contest April 5, 2002, in Sacramento Superior Court to sex charges.



Dennis Orr

He was later sentenced to a 27-years-to-life term in prison, according to Bee reports and court records.

Orr pleaded no contest to rape, battery and assault with the intent to commit rape in the attacks on three women in 2001.

Although Orr, 27, was suspected in as many as six attacks, sufficient evidence was recovered in only three cases, including one in Citrus Heights, according to the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office. The attacker gained access to victims through open windows

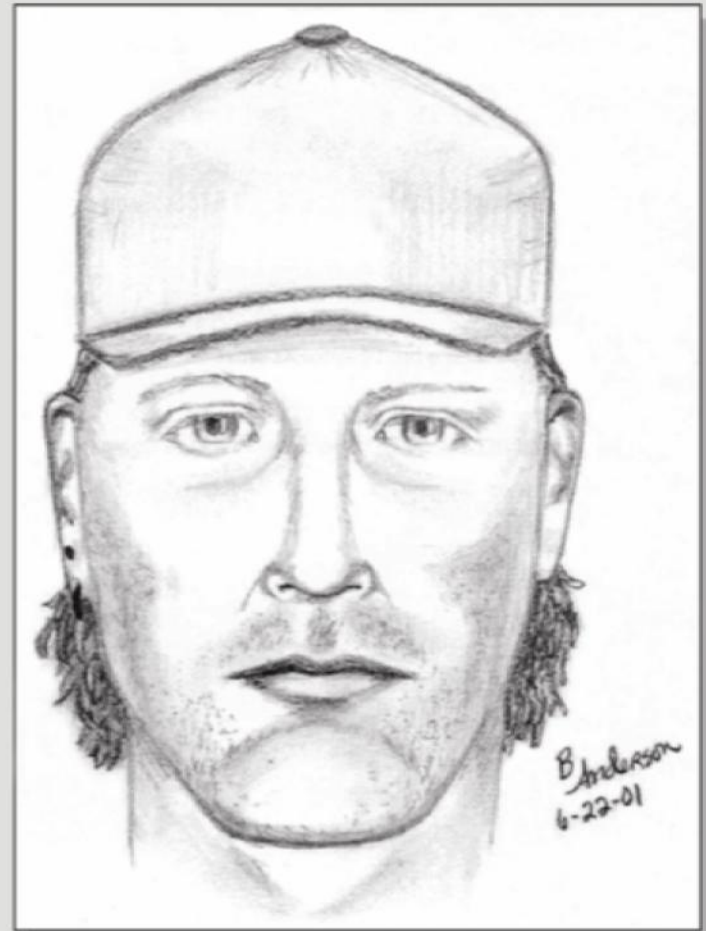
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and doors. The crimes filled women in the midtown area with fear and outrage.

Fliers which read "Beware Rapist. You will not be tolerated" were posted on poles and trees. The fliers were signed AWAR, or Angry Woman Against Rape.

Police contacted an artist and with the help of one of the victims, a composite sketch of the suspect was drawn.

It was that composite sketch that led to Orr's arrest July 5 after someone recognized him. Orr, who has previously been convicted of burglary and battery, was originally picked up on an alleged parole violation. Later, DNA evidence linked Orr to an attack in midtown area.



Once the sketch was released to the media, a citizen called in saying they knew of a person who looked like this. The Sacramento Police Department followed up on this tip and the victim made a positive identification. DNA later confirmed that we got the right man.