Chapter 03

Alternative Methods of Criminal Profiling
FIGURE 3.1 Modern cell phones come in a wide variety of shapes, styles, models, colors, sizes, and configurations with a seemingly endless combination of features.
During the 2007 trial of record producer Phil Spector for the murder of actress Lana Clarkson (pictured), forensic pathologist Dr. Vincent Dimaio (also pictured) testified for the defense. As support for his opinion that the shooting death was actually a suicide, he discussed certain aspects of the physical evidence and buttressed them with references to victimology and victim profile statistics. With respect to victimology: “Dimaio supported the suicide argument by characterizing Clarkson as a depressed, aging, out-of-work actress with health and financial problems who was ‘at the end of her rope’ ” (Ryan, 2007a) and “said his reading of e-mails and other evidence from Clarkson’s personal computer painted her as a depressed, destitute woman with drug and alcohol problems, ‘no skills,’ and flagging prospects in Hollywood. … She was an actress who was 40 years of age. I’m sorry. It’s sex discrimination but that’s the way it is,” Dimaio said with a shrug. With respect to profiling: “Dimaio also ticked off a list of statistics which supported suicide. He said 87 percent of women who kill themselves do so by shooting themselves and 76 percent of those fire into their heads. He said that in his experience, 99 percent of intra-oral gunshots, those discharged within the mouth, are suicide” (Ryan, 2007b).
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FIGURE 3.3 After being terminated from the Vancouver police department, geoprofiler Darby Kim Rossmo, Ph.D., took a job with the police foundation in Washington, D.C. As of this writing, he is a research professor in the department of criminal justice at Texas State University. The least effort principle, distance, decay, and circle theory feature prominently in his geoprofiling theories.
FIGURE 3.4 The marauder and commuter hypotheses.
John Allen Muhammad, a 42-year-old desert storm veteran, and his 17-year-old stepson, John Lee Malvo, were arrested, tried, and convicted for the shooting deaths of 10 people and for wounding 3 others critically in and around Washington, D.C., throughout the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, and along interstate 95 in Virginia. Before they were arrested, FBI profilers assumed that the shootings were the work of a single white male, likely a loner, who lived in the area. Instead, it turned out to be precisely the opposite.
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