The Troubling Questions about the Death of Andrew Libby in Mayor Francia's Yard

Was Andrew Libby's death a suicide?

How does one commit suicide with a long rifle shot in the back of one's head?



Typical Stevens .22 caliber, .410 caliber Over/Under Long gun.

The report states the autopsy shows a shot centered in the back of the head as an entry wound with a level trajectory exiting near the front eye.

- How could Andrew Libby's body lie unnoticed in the Francia yard from 12:30 AM until his death was reported at 6:17 PM?
- Did Andrew Libby kill the dog that was found with him?
- Why would he want to bring his dog along and kill it too?
- How was it killed? These reports never say.

- Were fingerprints lifted from the gun in question?
- Why not?
- If so, whose prints were they?
- Were any of the family tested for GSR (gunshot residue)
- Why not?
- Why did no one hear two gunshots at 12:30AM where the family resided?

The report says "her and her daughter Anyada Francia, just arrived home from going out to dinner, when her daughter went outside to look for Andrew."

"Ms. Francia also said that Anyada saw Andrew in the desert area by their house when she was getting on the school bus in the Morning."

- How is that possible? The time of death was hours before at 12:30AM.
- What exact time was that?
- Was he already dead?
- The Police report says he was already dead by that time. If so, why did she carry on normally without reporting it?

Anyata got up, went to school after seeing Andrew, attended classes, came home and went out to dinner with her mother, returned home and then reported his death at 6:17 PM.

• If Anyata saw Andrew when she was getting on the bus, he must have been dead because the time of death was set at 12:30AM...many hours before she got on the bus.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Supplement Report says the time of suicide was: "Approximately 1200 hrs." on 09-12-97.

- Why was Anyata not concerned about looking for Andrew until she and her mother had dinner?
- Why did Anyata Francia report to MCSO of finding the body at 6:17 and not her mother when they had both been out to dinner together?

"K. Green #1156 writes "I did not contact Lori's Francia's daughter, daughter Anyada Francia, because of her mental state."

- Was Anyata ever asked how she could see Andrew in the morning, hours after he was dead, and why she had no concern about Andrew having been out to dinner with her mother?
- Is it possible that Anyata is protecting someone?

There is no mention anywhere in the report that Vincent Francia was ever interviewed about his knowledge of the death of Andrew, where he was or what he might have heard just a few feet from his house.

- Why didn't Vincent Francia know there was a dead body in his own yard?
- How did Vince Francia become such a non-player that he was never interviewed?

The report says "Victim was laying on his back with head toward the East, right hand was extended away from body toward the rifle which was approximately 3 feet North of the body, the left hand was laying across the body."

How is it possible to commit suicide with a long gun and have it found 3 FEET away?

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Supplement Report says the time of suicide was: "Approximately 1200 hrs." on 09-12-97.

This was reported in the supplemental report of September 13, 1997...one day later:

"Several areas beneath the trees appeared to have some type of disturbance and dog paw prints were noted."

The same report says a 'wooden bench approximately 30 feet from the southwest corner of the house. Written in black ink was the following:

"Love you always will

Will return for you!

Andy Libby"

- Does this clearly indicate an impending suicide or just a note that he would return?
- Why was this concluded to be a suicide note?
- Is this simple statement a clear indication of suicide?
- "Will return for you!" would seem to indicate he'd be back rather than die.

There is no indication in this note that he intended to take his life and it was most likely an assumption or premature conclusion.

The report says that the body was found in a "small clearing approximately 17 by 12 feet. The clearing was approximately 200 feet from the southwest corner of the residence."

The body was found with "dark red colored shirt that appeared to be a pajama top."

This would be consistent with a very early morning death not one later in the day.

Det. K. Swingle #1059 says in his report that that "Anyata said that she and her mother came home at about 1800 hrs. Anyata said that she went for a walk around her residence. She thought that Andrew might be in the area because he had come over the last time he had run away. Anyata said that she saw Andrew's dog and began walking towards it. When she was 5 ½ feet away from Andrew's body she saw him and could tell that he was dead. Anyata then went to the house and told her mother, who called the police.

K.Green's report says that Lori Francia contacted the police. K. Swingle's report says that Anyata told her mother, who called police.

- Why did Anyata decide to go for 'walk' around the house after dinner? She had told the police she thought Andrew might be in the area.
- How can this be if the time of death was 12:30 AM that morning? That was more than 18 hours before.
- Why did Anyata tell K. Green she called to notify police and then tell K. Swingle that her mother made the call?
- Why are these two statements inconsistent?
- Why did Lori Francia remove the 'suicide' note?
- What happened to it?

The report says, "None of the Libby's suspected that Andrew had been contemplating suicide."

- Earlier Anyata had reported to Det. K. Swingle that "She said that she had talked with Andrew the night before. She could not recall the exact time. She said that Andrew had told her that he was in pain and that he wanted to sleep forever. He told her that he had a Beretta handgun. Anyata thought he was thinking about taking his life."
- Why couldn't she give a rough estimate of the time of the conversation?
- Why didn't the police pursue the time frame question and ask for an approximate time?
- What part did Vince Francia play in the relationship between Anyata and Andrew?
- Did Vince Francia approve of Andrew?
- Was their attraction to the Goth lifestyle approved by Vincent Francia? It's known that the young couple was into the Gothic lifestyle.
- Was the cause of his pain disapproval or prohibition of Anyata and Andrew's relationship?
- Did Vince Francia ever have a conversation with Andrew about him and Anyata?

Did Vincent Francia forbid Anyata from seeing Andrew?

Supplemental Report Page 1. "Several area underneath the trees appeared to have some type of disturbance and dog paw prints were noted."

- Did Vincent Francia and Andrew Libby have an altercation in the 'disturbed 17 X 12 area"?
- Is that the reason there was disturbed area?
- If not, what was the reason for the "disturbed area"?
- Why was the 3 foot long ½ Diameter branch lying on the weapon not tested or examined as a possible use as a defensive weapon?
- Could the chain wrapped in Andrew's fist have been used as a defensive weapon?
- Was it ever tested for evidence?
- Why not?
- Would an altercation with Vince Francia that resulted in Andrew's death be the reason the dog was killed?
- If there was an altercation between Vincent and Andrew, was the dog killed because it would have lingered about the body, possibly whining or barking through the night?
- Why wasn't Vincent Francia interviewed or asked any of these questions?
- As member of the household, why was Vincent Francia never once mentioned in the reports?

The Medical Examiner's Office reported this:

"Dr. Buchholtz said that the projectiles trajectory was from back to front, nearly horizontal with a slightly upward angle, there was not much left to right deviation."

In the end, important questions still remain about the circumstances and 'suicide' of Andrew Libby.

- Just how did he commit suicide with a long gun that was reported to be out of reach?
- Andrew Libby said he had a Beretta handgun. Why did he use a long rifle?
- Why was none of this ever reported in the Sonoran News?
- Why would Don Sorchych not report this as a news item?
- Is it possible Sorchych deliberately ignored this event on behalf of his friend to protect him from something?

There are many questions that beg answers. Some will not want those answers to be found and will say why now? We say why not before now? If not now, when?

This case needs to be reopened to get answers.

What is the truth about Andrew Libby's death?

We want to know...for the sake of Andrew Libby.