

NOF Mock Trial
Fact Pattern:
State of Nilla
V.
Ben Jerry

In the late hours of November 1st, 2024, a tall figure wearing a black mask entered the ice cream shop, Scoops Ahoy, and held a gun to a 20-year-old female worker, Nicole Ramirez. While the figure did not fire the weapon, they insisted that the owner of the ice cream empire, Marco Neapolitan, "knew what would happen, and since he didn't give us the recipe, this is the consequence of his stubbornness."

Nicole Ramirez pleaded with the intruder to leave, stating that she "knew nothing about the recipe of the famous Chocolate Nana" and begged them not to harm anyone in the shop. The figure ultimately agreed, dropping the gun and fleeing the scene. Exhibit One is a sketch created based on the details provided by an eyewitness. Eyewitnesses also recall the initials 'DB' stitched on their jacket.

During the police investigation, authorities discovered a string of emails Marco Neapolitan had received on his personal account, spanning from March 16th, 2024, to October 31st, 2024. Exhibit Two is one of these emails, which contains a request for Neapolitan to disclose his ice cream empire's famous secret recipe for the state's most popular ice cream flavor, Chocolate Nana.

Investigators turned their attention to Neapolitan's rival, Ben Jerry, an ice cream mogul who had announced in February 2023 that he was expanding his shops to the state of Nilla. During the investigation, officers found online payments made to an unknown person with the initials "DB," sent using suspicious emojis. This discovery provided probable cause to arrest the defendant.

The state of Nilla has charged the defendant with conspiracy and extortion. Ben Jerry has entered a plea of not guilty. The Defense asserts that the defendant was framed by someone who sought to ruin his ice cream empire. They also argue that the state's investigation was incomplete and failed to consider alternative suspects.

Witness Statements

Prosecution Witness 1 - Rocky Lawson

“I am the private investigator assigned to this case. I recovered both Exhibit Two and Exhibit Three from the defendant’s phone during a thorough inspection of his home. Exhibit Two contained an email that we classified as a threat to the victim. We believe the defendant sought the recipe to gain an advantage over his competition, especially since the ice cream industry in Nilla is highly competitive. Exhibit Three was a payment of \$10,000 tied to the defendant’s account. I believe this was the amount he paid to co-conspire in the crime on November 1st, 2024.

Additionally, we received an anonymous tip from a male caller who claimed he was hired for a few thousand dollars to ‘send a message’ to the owner of Scoops Ahoy. He was paid under the table to appear at the storefront on November 1st, 2024. Unfortunately, we were unable to track down the anonymous caller, and he remains at large. It is also important to note that while the defendant stated his account had been hacked multiple times over the past three years, all the evidence I collected strongly suggests that the defendant was intentionally extorting Marco Neapolitan for the secret recipe through that account.”

Defense Witness 1 - Vanessa Lillibee

“I am a private investigator for Ben Jerry. In the state of Nilla, there are five major ice cream empires, one of which is owned by Reece Bryant. Bryant has been convicted of extortion twice in relation to his business and is known for using unethical tactics to get ahead in the industry. In fact, he is often referred to as ‘The King of Ice.’

I found compelling evidence suggesting that Bryant hired the masked individual seen by eyewitnesses because he believed that eliminating his two biggest rivals—Ben Jerry and Marco Neapolitan—was the key to becoming the industry leader. While no legitimate money transactions have been linked to Ben, the state cannot prove extortion because there was no direct communication between the alleged extortionist and the defendant. Exhibit Two has not been directly linked to Ben Jerry’s account; instead, the sender is listed as anonymous. To my knowledge, the state’s investigator has not examined Bryant’s email history.

My client has fully cooperated with authorities, yet hardly any evidence has been found against him. What does that tell you? It tells you that the state has no case—no evidence, no proof, nothing.”

STATE OF NILLA v. BEN JERRY

VERDICT FORM

Elements of Each Charge

COUNT 1: CONSPIRACY

To find the defendant guilty of conspiracy, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that:

1. The defendant agreed with at least one other person to commit a crime.
2. The defendant knowingly and voluntarily joined the agreement.
3. At least one overt act was committed in furtherance of the conspiracy.

- ☐ Guilty
☐ Not Guilty

COUNT 2: EXTORTION

To find the defendant guilty of extortion, the prosecution must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that:

1. The defendant made a threat to harm, accuse of a crime, or expose secrets about the victim.
2. The threat was made with the intent to obtain money, property, or something of value.
3. The victim reasonably feared harm and was coerced into compliance.

- ☐ Guilty
☐ Not Guilty

JUROR CERTIFICATION

We, the jury, duly empaneled and sworn in the above-entitled case, unanimously find the defendant, Ben Jerry, as indicated above on each count.

Foreperson Signature: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit 1

NILLA STATE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL INCIDENT REPORT

Case Number:	2024-1101-547
Date of Incident:	November 1, 2024
Location:	Scoops Ahoy Ice Cream Shop, Nilla
Reporting Officer:	Detective Michael T. Lawson

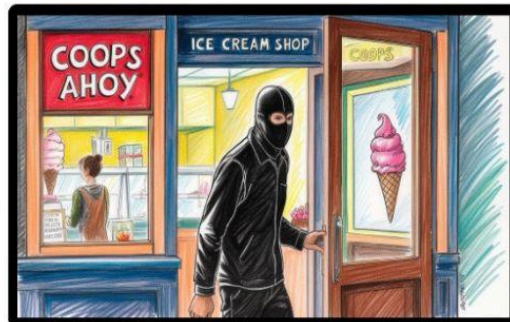
Incident Summary:

On November 1, 2024, at approximately 9:47 PM, an armed robbery occurred at Scoops Ahoy, an ice cream shop in Nilla. A masked individual in black entered the establishment and held employee Nicole Rodriguez at gunpoint, demanding money before fleeing the scene.

An eyewitness provided a detailed description to a forensic artist, resulting in the attached image.

Suspect Description:

- Sex: Unknown
- Height: Estimated 5'9" - 6'1"
- Build: Slim to medium
- Clothing: Black tactical jacket, gloves
- Facial Covering: Black ski mask, eyes visible
- Weapon: Handgun (model unknown)



Investigation Status:

The suspect is still at large. Authorities are reviewing surveillance footage and speaking with additional witnesses. Anyone with information should contact the Nilla State Police Tip Line at (555) 019-2745.

[OFFICIAL POLICE SEAL]

Detective Michael T. Lawson

Signed: 

Date: November 2, 2024

Exhibit 2

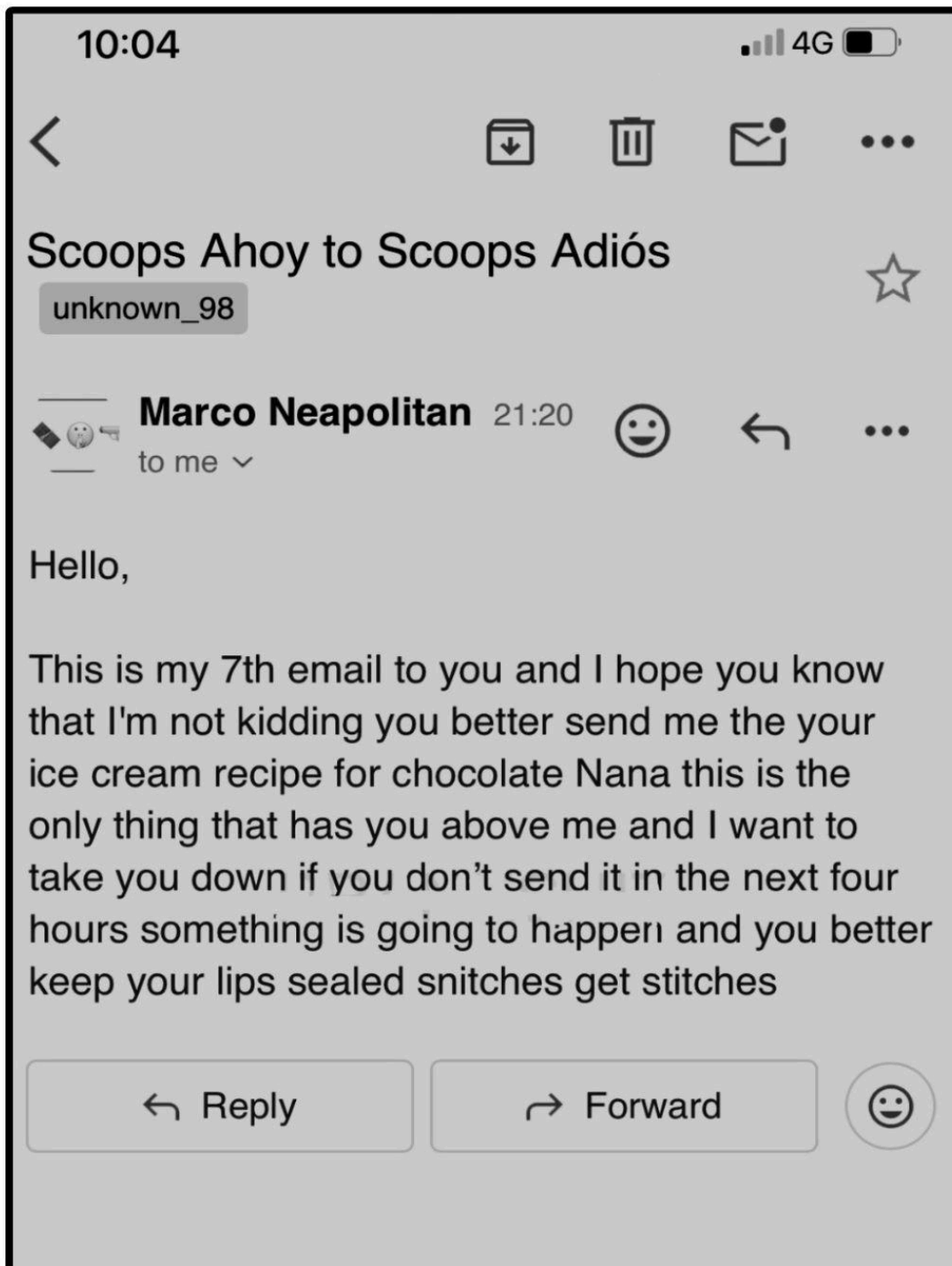


Exhibit 3

