

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Opening Activity

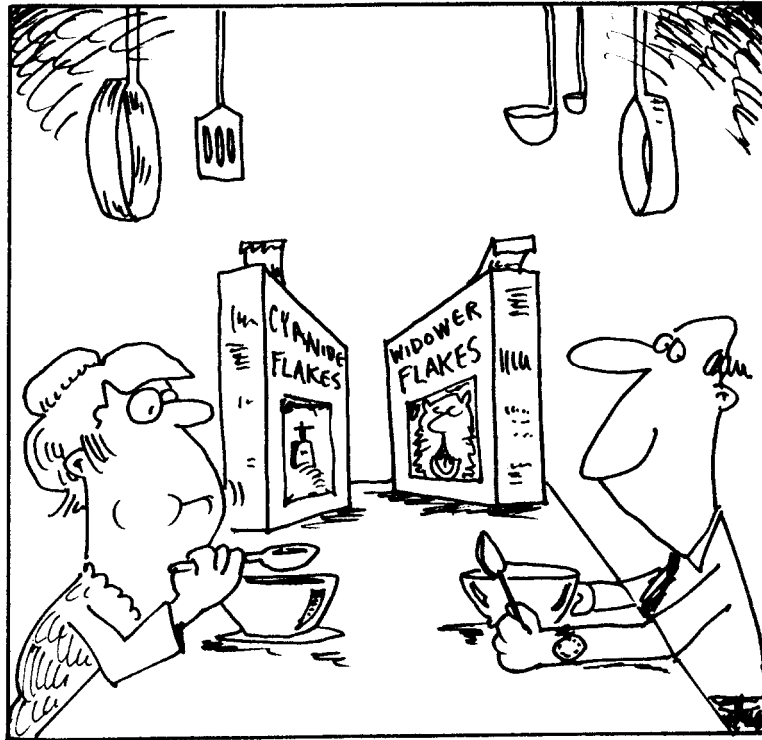
You be the Judge

Name: _____ Period: _____ Row: _____ Date: _____

You be the Judge is a legal puzzle designed to exercise your mind and reasoning power. Read the facts of this real life court case. Then put your judgment against that of the real jury or trial judge.

=====

51. Double Dose of Suspicion



John worked with valuable jewels and precious metals that included silver and gold. His profession as a goldsmith required him to store and use potassium cyanide from time to time. John's wife was found dead in their home by one of the children coming home from school one afternoon. The police were called and the autopsy revealed she died from potassium cyanide poisoning. The police arrested John for murder and during his trial the prosecutor wanted to introduce evidence to show that John's previous wife had died, three years earlier, of potassium cyanide poisoning. John was not charged in that death and John's attorney objects on the grounds that this evidence would unfairly prejudice him in the eyes of the jury. There is no direct evidence that John in fact administered the poison to either wife.

Should the evidence of the earlier poisoning be admissible? EXPLAIN
