Ted Bundy: The Bite
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Introduction

- Ted Bundy, one of the world’s most prolific serial killers, was convicted of his heinous crimes after the successful utilization of bite mark analysis. Photo superimposition and wax molds along with precise measurements and point by point comparison served as the techniques utilized to successfully prosecute Ted Bundy (Steck-Flynn, 2013). Discrepancies seen in the impressions on the victim, that were unique to Bundy, allowed the prosecution to put a stop to the murderous spree of this prolific serial killer.

Background

- Ted Bundy was guilty of the murder of over 30 women, often leaving little to no evidence of his involvement in these actions. Cases made against Bundy were circumstantial at best and often lead to dead ends. However, while on the run from law enforcement in Aspen, Colorado, Bundy made his way to Florida. At Florida State University, Bundy murdered two female students in the Chi Omega Sorority, leaving a bite mark on the buttock and breast of victim, Lisa Levy. This piece of evidence was determined by forensic odontologists Richard Souviron and Lowell Levine to be sufficient enough evidence for investigation and the prosecution of Ted Bundy (Steck-Flynn, 2013). This was the first-time forensic odontology had been used in the courts of Florida (Hinchliffe, 2011).

Analysis and techniques

- Dutiful crime scene processing and excellent photographic evidence proved to be of utmost importance to the case against Bundy.
- The image in Figure 1. depicts the initial bite mark made on the victim and overlayed transparent sheets used to superimpose the specific detention pattern seen in the bite mark (Bowers, 2011).

![Figure 1: Superimposed transparent sheet over the bite mark (Bowers, 2011).](image)

- Figure 2. shows a wax mold that was made with Ted Bundy’s teeth. This was done so the forensic odontologist could compare Bundy’s dental pattern to the initial impression at the crime scene (Bowers, 2011).

![Figure 2: Wax molds made with Ted Bundy’s teeth (Bowers, 2011).](image)

- A pivotal occurrence in the investigation of the bite mark was the appearance of two impressions on the Buttock of the victim. This was done by the rotation of the lower teeth while the top stayed in-tact. These two impressions allowed there to be more points of comparison, which allowed the prosecution to determine that pattern to be characteristically unique to Bundy (Steck-Flynn, 2013).

![Figure 3: The photograph taken t the crime scene long with a ruler (Bowers, 2011).](image)

Discussion

- Crime scene processing is the most crucial aspect of the investigation. Rather than thinking about crime scene investigation as the mundane acts of packaging, collecting and photographing evidence, we should revere crime scene processing as the first and most pivotal point of forensic investigation. Investigations should always be conducted by investigators who are apt to recognize and document evidence that is crucial to the case, whether it be large or small (Lee et al., 2007, pg. 1). Integral to a forensic investigation is judicial collection, documentation and processing of physical evidence. Processing crimes scenes must be done in a methodical manner to ensure that no stone is left unturned.

Conclusion

- In the case of Ted Bundy, we see how forensic odontology was crucial in both investigation and conviction of a prolific killer. However, the use of this field of forensic science would not have been possible without systematic crime scene processing seen in the imaging of the initial bite mark.

References


