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Training Resources

IN THIS ISSUE

Taking DNA from All Criminals

DNA Resources

Theft and Murder Unraveled by Forensics

DNA Initiative

Financial Investigations Resources

Follow the Money

No Place to Hang Out Educational Video

Training Opportunities

Greetings!

Congratulations to the University of Alabama football team for a great year, the win over LSU and the resulting National Championship! By the way, I had a typo last month and must issue a major apology.

I mentioned in passing in the newsletter greeting last month that my daughter was a senior at AU and couldn't wait for the game against LSU. My fingers slipped, as I should have typed UA. I never realized the grief I would get from so many Bama fans who know where my daughter attends, and took offense on her behalf. I really do know the difference between UA and AU!

I would like to thank everyone associated with The Institute for Criminal Justice Education (ICJE) for a great year. In conjunction with AUM, more than 1500 individuals attended educational classes, workshops, seminars and conferences produced and conducted by ICJE.

And the number of newsletter readers is at an all-time high.

In addition, the Board members of ICJE donated more than 1047 hours necessary to operate ICJE. Thanks to everyone for the support, and as always, we welcome your comments and suggestions to make the classes, newsletter, and conferences as beneficial to you as possible.

This month's newsletter theme is "Training Resources for Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention Professionals". We hope you find it beneficial.

All of us at ICJE are grateful that you are a part of the ICJE family.

Thanks,
Jim Rechel, Newsletter Editor

Taking DNA From All Criminals Should Be Standard Procedure

Cyrus Vance, Jr. the prosecuting attorney in Manhattan wrote an interesting oped in the New York Times today pressing for the case that DNA samples should be taken on every law enforcement encounter in which a suspect is convicted, including misdemeanors. It may be a great idea, but it will take a huge financial commitment and I'm not sure where the funds will come from.

But nonetheless, it is a short and compelling opinion piece that may tweak your interest.

Read more at: [DNA for All Convictions?](#)

DNA Resources for Investigators and Decision Makers



A great resource for those wanting to learn more about DNA Education is a site developed by the National Institute of Justice.

It is titled "Forensic DNA Education for Law Enforcement Decision Makers" and provides so many resources, training links, videos, training exercises and much more that I can only give you a link to get started, then its up to you to navigate through many of the offerings.

The link is: [DNA Education for Law Enforcement](#)

Theft and Murder Unraveled by Forensic Investigation



Case Study: By Mukesh Sharma, B. S. Khajja, D. R. Godara, Girish K. Mathur
 Article Posted: June 06, 2011
 Forensic Magazine

An interesting article and a magazine with great information: [Forensic Magazine](#)

Protecting the crime scene is crucial to any investigation. Nowadays, mobile forensic science units are working at the district level in Rajasthan, India, so that forensic experts can reach the scene of the crime as early as possible. Over the years, criminals have tried many ingenious ways to hide, clean up, and remove evidence such as blood, weapons, and tools, but it's an area where criminal justice technology has always stayed one step ahead of them.

Recently, an interesting case of murder involving a young married woman was unraveled by the crime scene team. The collection of evidence and laboratory examination of exhibits provided the corroborative evidence necessary to prove the victim's in-laws were trying to mislead the Investigating Officer by fabricating a story of looting and murder.

Introduction

Blood is the most common, and perhaps most important, form of evidence in criminal justice today. There's no substitute for it, whether for medical or forensic purposes. Its presence always links a suspect and victim to one another and to the scene of the crime. Bloodstain patterns tell a lot about position and movement during the crime, who struck whom first, in what manner, and how many times.¹⁻³ In forensic cases, blood has always been considered class evidence, but the potential exists for individualized blood typing, and even today, forensic serologists can provide testimony with some strong probability estimates linking a single individual, and that individual only, to a bloodstain.⁴ Consider that identical twins may have the same DNA profile but completely different antibody profiles and you begin to see how promising the field of forensic serology really is.

The Case

The physical examination of blood at the crime scene in the present case revealed the entire story of the crime in addition to proving the inaccuracy of the story of theft and consequent murder reported by her in-laws. The mother in-law of the deceased told the investigating team that her daughter in-law died during a struggle with intruders who entered the house with the intention of robbing them. She said that her and her husband were bolted in the adjacent room during the incident. The laboratory study of blood on various articles provided evidence against the in laws of the deceased who were the real murderers.

Scene of the Crime

At the crime scene, we observed the following:

- a) Victim's Body: The victim's dead body was lying on the floor of her room. Her head was smashed by a blunt weapon. Few scratch marks were present on the neck of the deceased.
- b) Blood: Blood was also present in various places in the room. A small amount of blood was detected in the bathroom and in the soil beneath the outlet of the bathroom. A blood smeared stone was also discovered.
- c) Blood Spatter: The result of the blood stain pattern study at the scene revealed struggle by the deceased. There was also evidence of movement in the blood stains from the room where the dead body was recovered to the room where the mother in law of the deceased was allegedly kept by the intruders. The presence of blood stains in this room further confirmed the false statement of the in-laws, as blood should not have been present in this room if they were not involved in the crime.

Physical examination of the blood stains was performed to reconstruct the scene of crime. The crime scene was also documented photographically. All the questionable blood stains were chemically tested for the presence of blood using a Benzidine test.⁶ It was observed at the scene that this was not an actual case of attempted robbery and was fabricated as inferred by the unopened containers of valuables which were not taken by the intruders.

The dust on the boundary wall also proved that the intruders did not run away by crossing it, as alleged. To link the in-laws with the crime, a thorough examination of both the suspects was conducted at the Police Station. Blood was detected on the father in-law's shirt and on the mother in-law's saree. The father in-law's

blood stained pants were later recovered by the Investigating Officer. This proved the father in-law was in the house during the incident, contrary to his statement. Transfer of blood from the deceased to the in-laws, as observed by the team, could only be the result of their involvement in the crime.

Evidence Collection and Laboratory Examination

After establishing the factual position, our second responsibility was to gather evidence at the crime scene. The evidence was collected for laboratory examination included blood stained gauze pieces lifted from the scene of the crime, Tripal (Plastic cover) recovered from the scene of the crime, the victim's shawl, broken bangles, the blood covered stone, a Saria (weapon) recovered from the suspects, blood smeared soil recovered from the scene of the crime, control soil recovered from the scene of the crime, suspect's pants (Father-in-law), suspect's shirt, and a knife recovered from the suspect. All the samples, except control saliva samples, were subjected to blood tests for detection and determination of origin. These were also subjected to semen detection tests.

Laboratory Examination

Gel diffusion methods were used for detection of the origin of blood.⁴ The antisera required for the test was procured from the Serologist to the Government of India, Calcutta. Blood grouping was done by gel diffusion method as per the laboratory procedure manual of forensic serology. Human blood was detected in all the exhibits and 'A' blood group was detected in the suspect's exhibits.

Blood group could not be detected in the broken bangles recovered from the scene of the crime, blood stained gauze pieces lifted from the crime scene, blood smeared soil recovered from the scene of the crime, and the shirt of the suspect.

Results and Discussion

At the scene of the crime of a murder case, forensic scientists have to determine the nature of death (i.e. whether the death is natural or unnatural, and if the death is unnatural, whether it is homicidal, suicidal, or accidental). Another important role of forensic scientists is to verify the witnesses' statements, if available. Extra care has to be taken during investigation to rule out any manipulation. The physical evidence collected at the crime scene is used to answer one other important question: how the criminal can be linked with the crime. Many cases have been reported in which the murder is solved instantly at the crime scene. On the basis of our findings, the statement of the in-laws was found to be false, and we concluded that involvement of the mother-in-law and father-in-law in the murder was not ruled-out. Thus all the evidence which had been collected was sent to laboratory for further examination.

Conclusion

The presence of the Human 'A' group blood of the deceased on the blood stained gauze pieces lifted from various places at the crime scene, the Tripal, the stone piece, and the shawl connected the scene of the crime with the victim while the presence of "A" group blood on Bhanwar Lal's pants (Suspect) connected him to the crime. Both the weapons, one iron 'saria' recovered from the scene and a knife recovered from the accused also had "A" group blood which connected the weapon and in turn the accused with the crime. Our findings were sufficient to point out both father and mother in-laws as culprits, who confessed their crime.

References

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DNA Initiative Has Great Resources



some great information and resources at their site as well.

For more information: [DNA Initiative](#)



Training Resources for Financial Information

The *Financial Investigations Guide* produced by the Department of Justice is a little dated but it is still a great overall guide, and can be used as a resource as well as training material.

It has invaluable sources of financial information and they have annotated many of the entries, explaining their usefulness.

They have also created a quick reference tool, entitled *Financial Investigations Checklist*, to accompany the guide.

- You know from your surveillance that your subjects frequent a certain residence. Who owns the house? When did they buy it? From whom? How did they pay for it? Who pays the taxes and utilities on it? Take the *Financial Investigations Checklist* with you to the county courthouse. It will lead you to the records that should have the answers.
- You discover that the house is owned by a corporation. Is the corporation registered in your state? When and where was it formed? Who are the directors? Who are the officers? Take the *Financial Investigations Checklist* to the Secretary of State's office. It will lead you to the records that should have the answers to these questions.
- Your subject has several bank accounts and investments in stocks. Do you know which bank records you should be looking at? Can you trace transactions through a brokerage firm? The *Financial Investigations Checklist* will help you determine which records you need. You can use it to make sure you have all the records listed in your subpoena.

Once you have the records, use the annotated *Financial Investigations Guide* to help you analyze the documents and follow the money trails to their initial sources and ultimate destinations.

The link: [DOJ Financial Investigations Guide](#)

Follow the Money - by David Marshall Nissman



Although the book was published in the summer of 2005, it is still a comprehensive book with plenty of resources and information. The downside is that it is expensive, \$175.00 new, but you might be able to pick up a used copy for a lot less. It is a super training resource.

No Place to Hang Out - Educational Video Now Available



Many of you may have seen sites like the one above, and many teens use the isolated areas as a hangout. For law enforcement, it can be a challenge to keep the kids from trespassing, and in too many cases nationwide, it becomes a fatality investigation when the vapors at these sites ignite when the kids are messing around or smoking near the equipment.

An article in a Chemical Industry Journal highlighted what happened when two young Mississippi teens died after an explosion:

"It's easy to see what attracted Devon Byrd and Wade White to the rural oil production facility near their homes in Cames, Miss. The collection of large storage tanks, used to collect crude oil from a nearby well, was isolated, unmanned, and wide open for anyone to visit. A wooden stairway provided access to a catwalk on top of the tanks. It's not known what Devon and Wade were doing there, but it was common for teenagers in the area to use sites such as this one to share a pack of cigarettes or just socialize.

What's clear is what happened next: At approximately 4 a.m. on October 31, 2009, one of the tanks exploded. The explosion propelled the huge tank 75 yards through the air and blew the two young men 40 yards. Both were killed as a result of blunt force injuries they suffered when the tank exploded."

An educational video was recently made available for use in presentations by law enforcement and community groups. It features friends of the youth killed and the local Sheriff in Mississippi where the explosion occurred.

Link to the video: [No Place to Hang Out: The Danger of Oil Sites](#)

If you have someone in your office or family that is really interested in turning tragedy into a life lesson, there is an awesome article, lesson plan ,and follow up quiz about oil sites and how they work.

The site is: [Article and Instructor's Guide to Oil Sites Dangers and Chemistry](#)

AUM and ICJE Educational Opportunities for February

Title	Course #	Begins	Meets	Fee
Basic Interviewing Techniques	12CP102	02/02/12	Th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, 1 Session	0.00
Bomb Threat Response I	12CP103	02/09/12	Th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, 1 Session	0.00
Comprehensive Cyberterrorism Defense	12CP108	03/05/12	M, Tu, W, Th and F from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, 5 Sessions	0.00
Cyberterrorism First Responder Workshop	12CP107	03/05/12	M, Tu, W, Th and F from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, 5 Sessions	0.00
Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Counterterrorism Workshop (Troy, AL)	12CP101	02/29/12	W from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, 1 Session	0.00
Police Misconduct	12CP104	02/16/12	Th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, 1 Session	0.00
Statement Analysis I	12CP105	02/23/12	Th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, 1 Session	0.00

Go to: [AUM / ICJE Training Registration](#)

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