Chapter 11

An Introduction to Crime Reconstruction
FIGURE 11.1 This elderly victim of a sexual homicide was manually strangled in her home, next to her bed. Note that contents of the open dresser drawers and ransacked personal items are dumped on the body, indicating that a debilitating attack took place prior to the search for valuables. This evidence indicates a particular sequence of events in that particular room.
FIGURE 11.2 The above photo shows bloody drag marks in the back hallway of a store. They lead from the front area, to the woman's bathroom, back out again, down the hallway, and finally into the men's bathroom. The victim was a college student who died as the result of a single gunshot wound to the head; she was found mostly nude in the men's bathroom. The bloody drag marks indicate both a sequence of events (the victim was dragged down the hall and into both bathrooms after she was shot), and the direction that the body came from.
This man was found to have died from multiple sharp force injuries in a bathroom. Additionally, his jeans were unzipped, there was unflushed urine in the toilet, and there was blood spatter on the toilet. The context of this evidence combines to support the conclusion that the victim was attacked while urinating. This would be action evidence and locational evidence, at the very least.
FIGURE 11.4 This door in rear of a residence associated with a child sexual homicide was nailed shut and blocked with numerous undisturbed boxes. The condition of this door excludes it as a point of entry or exit for the offender.
FIGURE 11.5 This image is an x-ray of the abdomen of an adult female victim of a sexual homicide. A knife has been inserted into her vagina, along with a golfball, postmortem. Penetrating the vagina, or rectum, with a knife or other object is strong psychological evidence. It is an act that, in the proper context, may suggest sexually related anger, jealousy, and/or punishment.
FIGURE 11.6 Then crime scene investigator Eddie-Joe Delery, of the NOPD crime lab, is shown photographing a spent .40 caliber shell casing at the scene of a shooting in June, 2007. A man was riding his bike along a stretch of road when someone fired at least three shots at him. The cyclist was hit three times and fled the scene. When officers arrived, he kicked off his shoes in a fit of anger for having been shot. Quite by coincidence, the shell casings landed next to a dead pigeon on the side of the road. Supervisors insisted that the pigeon’s cause of death be determined, to eliminate its involvement in the crime. CSI Delery opened the pigeon up to find no bullet wounds, and its bones crushed. It was determined that bird had been hit by a car.
FIGURE 11.7 According to Brown (2006, A1), Rebeccah Huston, a 32-year-old veterinary technician from Kennewick, Washington, was carjacked at gunpoint and forced into a garbage dumpster, where she spent an entire night. She was found early the next day at Solid Waste Management of Ukiah. She was not unconscious, bound, or restrained in any way. As a result of her night in the cold, she suffered from hypothermia. She also suffered a laceration to her head from when the dumpster was picked up, emptied into a garbage truck and the garbage was compacted. She was treated at a local hospital and later released.
FIGURE 11.8 Hurricane Katrina, pictured here the day before it landed, was the most destructive hurricane in U.S. history.
FIGURE 11.9A This child victim of sexual homicide was discovered nude, beneath a blanket from her bedroom, in her backyard. She died from manual strangulation. Examiners initially believed that the injuries evident on her neck were consistent with abrasions and bruising from manual strangulation. Upon close inspection of the photograph, it becomes clear that the pronounced “abrasions” are actually post-mortem ant bites. The ants are actually visible in the photo, and have characteristically focused their attention on the tissue damaged during the attack—including her neck. The dark areas of “bruising” are actually fingerprint powder left behind from an attempt to realize latent prints.
FIGURE 11.9B This child victim of sexual homicide was discovered nude, beneath a blanket from her bedroom, in her backyard. She died from manual strangulation. Examiners initially believed that the injuries evident on her neck were consistent with abrasions and bruising from manual strangulation. Upon close inspection of the photograph, it becomes clear that the pronounced “abrasions” are actually post-mortem ant bites. The ants are actually visible in the photo, and have characteristically focused their attention on the tissue damaged during the attack—including her neck. The dark areas of “bruising” are actually fingerprint powder left behind from an attempt to realize latent prints.
FIGURE 11.10A Jamie Lynn Penich, 21-year-old anthropology major.
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FIGURE 11.11A Autopsy photos of Jamie Lynn Penich’s left shoulder reveal distinctive blunt force patterns left behind by footwear. This is action evidence consistent with stomping.
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