

# Forensic Science

03/17/2008

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- **Bell-Ringer**
- How can too much fingerprint powder destroy fingerprint evidence?
- Who was Ted Bundy?
- What was the largest piece of physical evidence to convict him of murder?
- Bell-Ringer and Journal Due at the end of the Period!

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# Forensic Science

Making Good Impressions: Shoes, Tires  
and Tools

# Introduction

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- “Watch where you step” is a good advice for criminal as it is for a farmhand.
- Many suspects have been connected to crime scenes by the tracks of their shoes.
- Even though shoes are manufactured in vast numbers, and the same shoe may be worn by a number of people, your walking pattern may give you away.

# Introduction Continued

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- Tires and tools also have impressions that usually are classified as class evidence, meaning that they may exclude certain types of shoes, tires or tools but can't absolutely identify a particular one.
- The tread pattern of a shoe or a tire may identify the size and the manufacturer of the product, and the information narrows the search for the perpetrator by focusing the investigation on sellers and buyers of the particular product.

# Stepping Out; Shoeprints as Evidence

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- When the shoe fits, criminals often find themselves walking right off to prison.
- Shoeprints and Impression are extremely useful to Forensics for many reasons.
- Not only can they show that a particular person was at the crime scene, they may also confirm or refute a suspects alibi.
- For Example:

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- A Neighbor claims that when he walked next door to borrow a cup of sugar, he found the woman who lived there lying on the kitchen floor bludgeoned to death.
  - He says the door was unlocked, so he checked for the woman's pulse and called 911, and waited for the police to arrive.
  - The neighbor said he went nowhere else in the house.

# Therefore

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- The police discover the neighbor's shoeprint on a piece of paper, lying on the floor of the women's bedroom near where her empty jewelry box is found, his story doesn't ring true.

# Prints

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- Prints can also indicate the entrance and exit points of a crime scene.
- Shoeprints in the soft soil of a flower garden beneath a pried open window and matching dirt and grime prints on the floor inside the home indicate the point of entry.
- Bloody prints pointing out through a rear door suggest an exit portal.
- Prints left on tile or wooden floors, stairs, countertops, windowsills, ladders, and even chair seats may reveal the perpetrator's movements within the crime scene.



# Shoeprints in the Crime Scene

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- Following shoeprints through the crime scene helps investigators focus their search for evidence.
- When prints are found in several rooms of a house that has been burglarized, investigators concentrate their search in those areas.
- Following an exit trail can lead investigators to where the perpetrator tossed a weapon or article of clothing, such as a mask or gloves.
- The best evidence tends to be left in the perpetrator's wake.

# Linking Shoeprints to Additional Crimes

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- Finding identical prints in several different crime scenes indicates that the same perpetrator may be involved in each crime.
- The linkage is often crucial to solving the crimes.
- Each separate scene may provide other evidence that when taken alone is of little help, but when combined with evidence from the other scene may be significant.

# For Example

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- Investigators find a dark brown hair at one crime scene, blue carpet fibers from a Chevrolet @ another, and, at a third crime scene, blood splatter patterns that suggest that the killer was left handed and ~ 6 FT. tall.
- Viewed separately, each item of evidence tells investigators little about the crimes, but when the same shoeprint links the crimes and suggest that the same person committed all of the crimes, a much clearer picture emerges.

# Therefore...

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- Multiple shoeprints can indicate whether more than one person was involved and may even help determine exactly how many.
- When investigators find three different types of prints, they can state that at least three people are involved.
- More people may have participated but failed to leave behind and shoe impressions.

# Thanks for Your Attention

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- Due @ the end of Class.
- A) Bell-Ringer
- B) Journal Entry