



Odontology Section – 2005

F23 “Non-Sexual” Biting During Sexual Assault – A Comparison of Two Cases

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The purpose of this paper is to show the comparison of what is traditionally considered non-sexual biting in two separate sexual assault cases.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating an interesting and possibly helpful project to accumulate more cases of this type to evaluate the perpetrators and the details of the crimes committed.

“Sexual” biting is usually categorized as those bite marks, which are found on the breasts, buttocks, and/or genitals. In the following two sexual assault cases the bite marks were of a more “nonsexual” nature in their location.

In October 1996 a party was held on the campus of Northwestern University in Powell, Wyoming. Many of the students admitted to the consumption of alcoholic beverages prior to the commencement of the dance. According to witnesses, Levi Collen and his date were no exception. They were both seen leaving the dance shortly after it began.

Levi Collen returned to his dormitory room, reportedly spattered with blood, at approximately 1:00 a.m. Following several fabricated alibis, Collen admitted that he had taken his date to Polecat bench on the outskirts of Powell. The area is reported to be a popular hangout for underage partying and other lascivious behavior.

Mr. Collen initially reported that following consensual sex in the passenger seat of his Pontiac Grand Prix, his date got out of the vehicle to urinate. He decided to do the same on the driver's side of the car. While he was relieving himself he claimed that this 115-pound female rushed toward him and hit him on the head with a Coor's Lite bottle. She then allegedly started “pinching” him on the neck to the point that he reportedly feared for his life. He said that he then returned to his vehicle, retrieved a knife from the glove compartment, and stabbed her in self-defense.

According to the autopsy report, during Collen's period of “defending himself” the victim was apparently stripped of her clothing, sexually assaulted, bitten at least six times on the face, left arm, and inner right thigh, and stabbed about the face and neck approximately 20 times.

In July 2004 the victim of the second case was allegedly drinking at a bar in Cody, Wyoming. Prior to the closing of the bar for the night, she struck up a conversation with one of three men who were partying together. Apparently, she liked one of the men and gave him her address and phone number. She proceeded to her home in hopes that the one young man would follow. He did go to her house, but also brought his two friends. The man with whom she was enamored had what was reported by all parties as consensual sex. The details of what followed were apparently somewhat blurred by the effects of the alcohol.

The lady states that one of the other three started to have intercourse with her and she told him that she wanted him to stop. During that period he allegedly bit her above her left breast on her chest. He then moved his head to a position between her legs and bit her severely just below the umbilicus. He then bit her several times on the inside of her left thigh hard enough to cause extensive bruising. She claims that she continued to yell at him to stop, but her pleas went unanswered.

Both victims were sexually assaulted but all of the bite marks were observed to be on “non-sexual” areas of the body. No bite marks were found on either of the women on the breasts, buttocks, or genital areas. Mr. Collen was known to have a history of biting women in previous cases. The perpetrator in the latest incident apparently has no history of sexual assault or battery. However, one of his friends said that the biter was “always shy around women” and was surprised that he bit her that hard.

Bite Marks, Sexual Assault, Homicide