

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

CB # 7580 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7580

Telephone 9199662253

REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

DECEDENT

Document Identifier B200800406

Autopsy Type ME Autopsy

Name Latrese Matral Curtis

Age 21 yrs

Race Black

Sex F

AUTHORIZATION

Authorized By Steven D. Dubner MD

Received From Wake

ENVIRONMENT

Date of Exam 01/31/2008

Time of Exam 9:00

Autopsy Facility Office of the Chief Medical Examiner **Persons Present** Dr. Maryanne Gaffney-Kraft, Dr. Deborah Radisch, Ms. Molly Hupp, Ms. Tracey Gurnsey, Mr. Kevin Gerity, Mr. Bill Holloman, representatives of the Wake County Sheriff's Department and CCBI

CERTIFICATION

Cause of Death

Multiple sharp force injuries

The facts stated herein are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Digitally signed by

Steven D. Dubner MD 29 April 2008 14:32

Maryanne Gaffney-Kraft DO 22 May 2008 13:48

DIAGNOSES

Sharp Force Injuries:

Incised-stab wounds (2) to the right ear, lateral neck and anterior neck

Penetrating and perforating the skin, musculature, cartilage, right carotid artery, left jugular vein, and larynx

Associated stab, puncture and incised wounds

Stab wounds (6) to the left side of the face and left lateral and posterior neck

Penetrating and perforating the skin and musculature

Associated incised wounds

Stab wounds (14) to the anterior chest

Penetrating and perforating the skin, musculature, right ribs #2-3 and left ribs #1-3 anteriorly, right and left lungs, left hilum, trachea, right intercostal muscles #4-7 and left intercostal muscles #5-7 posteriorly and musculature and skin of the left back

Associated bilateral hemothoraces and puncture wound

Stab wounds (3) to the left anterior and posterior shoulder

Penetrating and perforating the skin and musculature

Stab wounds (3) to the left axilla and flank

Penetrating and perforating the skin, musculature and left intercostal muscle #7

Stab wounds (2) to the anterior abdomen

Penetrating and perforating the skin, musculature and the small bowel mesentery

Incised wounds of the hands (6)

Blunt Force Injuries:

Subgaleal hemorrhage, right parietal and occipital bones

Abraded contusions, bilateral back

Abraded contusion, right upper chest/shoulder

Broken fingernails, left hand

IDENTIFICATION

Body Identified By

Papers/ID Tag

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

Length 64.5 inches

Weight 145 pounds

Body Condition Intact

Rigor 1+

Livor Posterior

Hair Black with highlights

Eyes Brown irides, tache noire

Teeth Upper and lower - natural in good repair

The body is that of an adult female. The body is clad in a pair of wet, unbuttoned and unzipped blue jeans with rolled cuffs. The jeans are present at the level of the decedent's hips. Removal of the jeans reveals blue underwear which is in-place and intact. A polka dot shirt is present on the torso, which is present at bra level. Beneath the shirt is a blood-soaked bra which covers the right breast and leaves the left breast exposed. The decedent is also wearing a blood-soaked white jacket which is folded-up against the decedent's back and rests at the level of the shoulder blades. Within the white coat pockets are a white button, two cents, a piece of paper with an advertisement for international hair, and kleenex. The decedent's hands are covered with brown paper bags which are taped at the wrists; removal of the bags reveals evidence of injury but no definitive foreign body material; fingernail clippings are obtained. A wristwatch composed of gray metal is present on the right wrist. Small faint scar-like marks are present beneath both nipples. No other identifying marks are present. No evidence of medical or surgical intervention is noted.

INJURIES

Sharp Force Injuries

Right ear, lateral neck and anterior neck:

On the right ear, lateral neck and anterior neck, extending from 3.5" to 10.5" down from the top of the head is an incised-stab wound which measures 8.5" in length x up to 1.5" in width x up to 1.2" in depth. The wound incises the right ear and right lateral neck then deepens as it extends anteriorly becoming a gaping wound composed of the incised wound with several interconnected/overlapping stab wounds. On the anterior neck, 7.5" to 8.5" down from the top of the head just superior to the previously noted wound is a second incised-stab wound which measures 2.7" in length x up to 1.8" in width x up to 0.9" in depth. Together the wound tracks penetrate and perforate the skin, musculature and cartilage of the right ear, right lateral neck and anterior neck, the right carotid artery, the left jugular vein and the larynx at the level of the vocal cords. Associated injuries consist of five stab wounds of the right ear, jaw, neck and anterior neck measuring 0.3 to 0.9" in length x 0.3 to 1.0" in depth, some of which have blunt and tapered edges, and scattered superficial puncture-like stab wounds and linear incised wounds measuring 0.2 to 1.0" in length; these wounds penetrate and perforate skin and musculature.

Left side of the face and left lateral and posterior neck:

On the left side of the face and left lateral and posterior neck, ranging from 5.25" to 8.5" down from the top of the head are six stab wounds, one of the temple, one of the cheek, one of the lateral neck and three of the posterior lateral neck. The wounds range from 0.4 to 1.1" in length x 0.2 to 0.5" in width x 0.4 to 1.2" in depth and have blunt and tapered edges. The wound tracks penetrate and perforate the skin and musculature of the left face and left lateral and posterior neck. Associated injuries consist of scattered superficial incised wounds measuring 0.3 to 0.8" in length.

Anterior chest:

On the anterior chest, extending from 11" to 15.5" down from the top of the head and from 1.5" to the right of and 4.5" to the left of the anterior midline, is a group of fourteen stab wounds, some of which show overlapping, which range from 0.4 to 1.6" in length x 0.3 to 1.3" in width x 0.4 to 5.5" in depth. Some of the stab wounds have blunt and tapered edges while others are irregular in shape. The wound tracks penetrate and perforate the skin and musculature of the anterior chest, right ribs #2-3 and left ribs #1-3 anteriorly, the upper and lower lobes of the right and left lungs, the hilum of the left lung, the trachea, right intercostal muscles #4-7 and left intercostal muscles #5-7 posteriorly with two stab wounds exiting the musculature and skin of the left mid back. Associated injuries consist of bilateral hemothoraces measuring

approximately 250 ml each and a superficial puncture wound.

Left anterior and posterior shoulder:

On the left anterior and posterior shoulder, ranging from 7" to 9" down from the top of the head are three superficial stab wounds, two of the anterior shoulder and one of the posterior shoulder. The wounds range from 0.5 to 2" in length x 0.1 to 0.3" in width x 0.1 to 0.4" in depth. The wound tracks penetrate and perforate the skin and musculature of the left anterior and posterior shoulder.

Left axilla and flank:

On the left axilla and flank, ranging from 10.5" to 19.5" down from the top of the head are three stab wounds, two of which are superficial. The wounds range from 1 to 1.2" in length, 0.3 to 0.8" in width and 0.4 to 1.5" in depth and have blunt and tapered edges. The two upper wound tracks penetrate and perforate the skin and musculature of the chest and the lower wound track penetrates and perforates the skin and musculature of the chest and left intercostal muscle #7 laterally.

Anterior abdomen:

On the upper anterior abdomen, 17.5" below the top of the head at the midline is a superficial stab wound which measures 1.5" in length x 0.5" in width x 0.5" in depth and penetrates and perforates the skin and musculature of the upper anterior abdomen. On the mid anterior abdomen, 23.5" below the top of the head and just left of the umbilicus is an incised-stab wound which measures 3.4" in length x up to 0.3" in width x up to 1.6" in depth and penetrates and perforates the skin and musculature of the mid anterior abdomen and the small bowel mesentery.

Hands:

On the right hand, a 0.2" incised wound is present on the palmar aspect of the second finger. On the left hand, a 0.3" incised wound is present on the palmar aspect of the third finger and a 0.2" incised wound is present on the palmar aspect of the fourth finger. On the left hand, two 0.4" incised wounds are present on the dorsal aspect of the second finger and a 0.8" incised wound is present on the dorsal aspect of the third finger.

Examination of the decedent's shirt, bra, and jacket reveals numerous perforations consistent with the above noted sharp force injuries. The jacket also displays numerous superficial perforations on the posterior aspect, which do not penetrate through the inner-lining of the jacket.

Blunt Force Injuries

A 1.3 x 0.7" subgaleal hemorrhage is present over the posterior aspect of the right parietal bone and adjacent occipital bone.

On the bilateral mid back, two areas of abraded contusion are present which measure 5 x 4" on the left and 4 x 3.5" on the right.

On the right upper chest/shoulder, an area of abraded contusion is present which measures 1.5 x 2".

The left third and fifth fingernails are broken.

DISPOSITION OF CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

The following items are released with the body

Nothing.

The following items are preserved as evidence

Blood card, fingernail clippings, sexual assault kit, evidence bag #1 - clothing (jacket, shirt, bra), evidence bag #2 - clothing (jeans), condom from vagina, hair from vaginal wall; these items are received by Tammy Malinowski of the CCBI on January 31, 2008. Also preserved as evidence are valuables (two cents, button, paper with advertisement, kleenex, and wristwatch); these items are received by C. Lilyquist of the Wake County Sheriff's Department on January 31, 2008.

PROCEDURES

Special Evidence Collection

A sexual assault kit is performed. Fingernail clippings are taken from the decedent's hands. During the autopsy a condom is found within the deep posterior aspect of the vaginal vault which is preserved as evidence along with a hair which was present on the vaginal wall.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

Body Cavities

The peritoneal cavity contains no significant fluid. No adhesions are noted. All body organs are present.

Cardiovascular System

Heart Weight 200 grams

The coronary arteries arise normally, follow the usual distribution, and the left coronary artery is dominant. The coronary arteries are widely patent and show no evidence of thrombosis or atherosclerosis. The chambers and valves bear the usual size-position relationships and are unremarkable. The myocardium shows no evidence of scarring or focal lesion. The aorta and its major branches show no evidence of atherosclerosis.

Respiratory System

Right Lung Weight 170 grams

Left Lung Weight 140 grams

The left and right lung both have two lobes. The parenchyma has a mottled appearance. The pulmonary arteries are free of thrombi or emboli.

Gastrointestinal System

The GI tract is intact throughout. The appendix is present. The stomach contains no identifiable food.

Liver

Liver Weight 870 grams

The capsule is intact and the parenchyma is unremarkable. The gallbladder contains approximately 15 ml of brown bile and the extrahepatic biliary tree is patent.

Spleen

Spleen Weight 80 grams

The spleen is normally formed and is without focal lesions.

Pancreas

The pancreas is normal in size, shape, and consistency. It is without focal lesions.

Urinary

Right Kidney Weight 90 grams

Left Kidney Weight 80 grams

The kidneys are of normal size and shape. The capsules strip with ease from the underlying smooth cortical surfaces. The renal architecture is pale-tan and without focal lesions. The ureters are intact. The bladder contains no identifiable urine.

Reproductive

The bilateral ovaries are cystic and the left ovary is hemorrhagic. The fallopian tubes, uterus and the cervix are unremarkable. There is no evidence of injury of the external or internal genitalia.

Endocrine

The thyroid is grossly unremarkable. The adrenal glands are grossly unremarkable.

Neurologic

Brain Weight 1190 grams

The leptomeninges are thin, delicate, and congested. The cerebral cortex shows no evidence of atrophy, edema, herniation, or hemorrhage. Coronal sections reveal no focal lesions. The brainstem and cerebellum are grossly unremarkable. The vasculature at the base of the brain is intact and without evidence of atherosclerosis.

Skin

Please see the Evidence of Injury section of this report. No additional findings are noted.

Immunologic System

No adenopathy is identified.

Musculoskeletal System

Please see the Evidence of Injury section of this report. No additional findings are noted.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Cardiovascular

A section of myocardium shows intact myocytes with no increased inflammatory infiltrate, fibrosis, or myocyte necrosis.

Respiratory

A section of the lung shows patchy areas of alveolar hemorrhage and atelectasis. No evidence of pneumonia or other focal lesions is seen.

Liver

A section of the liver shows congestion. The portal triads contain the usual elements and no increased fibrosis is seen. No steatosis is seen.

Genitourinary

A section of kidney is histologically unremarkable.

Neurologic

A section of the cerebellum shows no evidence of hypoxia, infarct, or other focal lesions.

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION

The decedent is a 21 year old female who was found deceased in a grassy area adjacent to the interstate.

The significant findings at autopsy are multiple sharp force injuries to the head, neck, chest, abdomen and upper extremities with injuries to the skin, musculature, cartilage, ribs, right carotid artery, left jugular vein, larynx, right and left lungs, left hilum and small bowel mesentery. Blunt force injuries consisting of a subgaleal hemorrhage, abraded contusions of the chest and back and broken fingernails are also present.

Postmortem toxicology results on aortic blood revealed no evidence of ethanol (alcohol).

Given the investigative and autopsy findings, it is our opinion that the cause of death of Latrese Matral Curtis is multiple sharp force injuries.

DIAGRAMS

1. Adult (front/back)
2. Head (left/right)
3. Neck & shoulders

State of North Carolina

Name of Decedent: Curtis

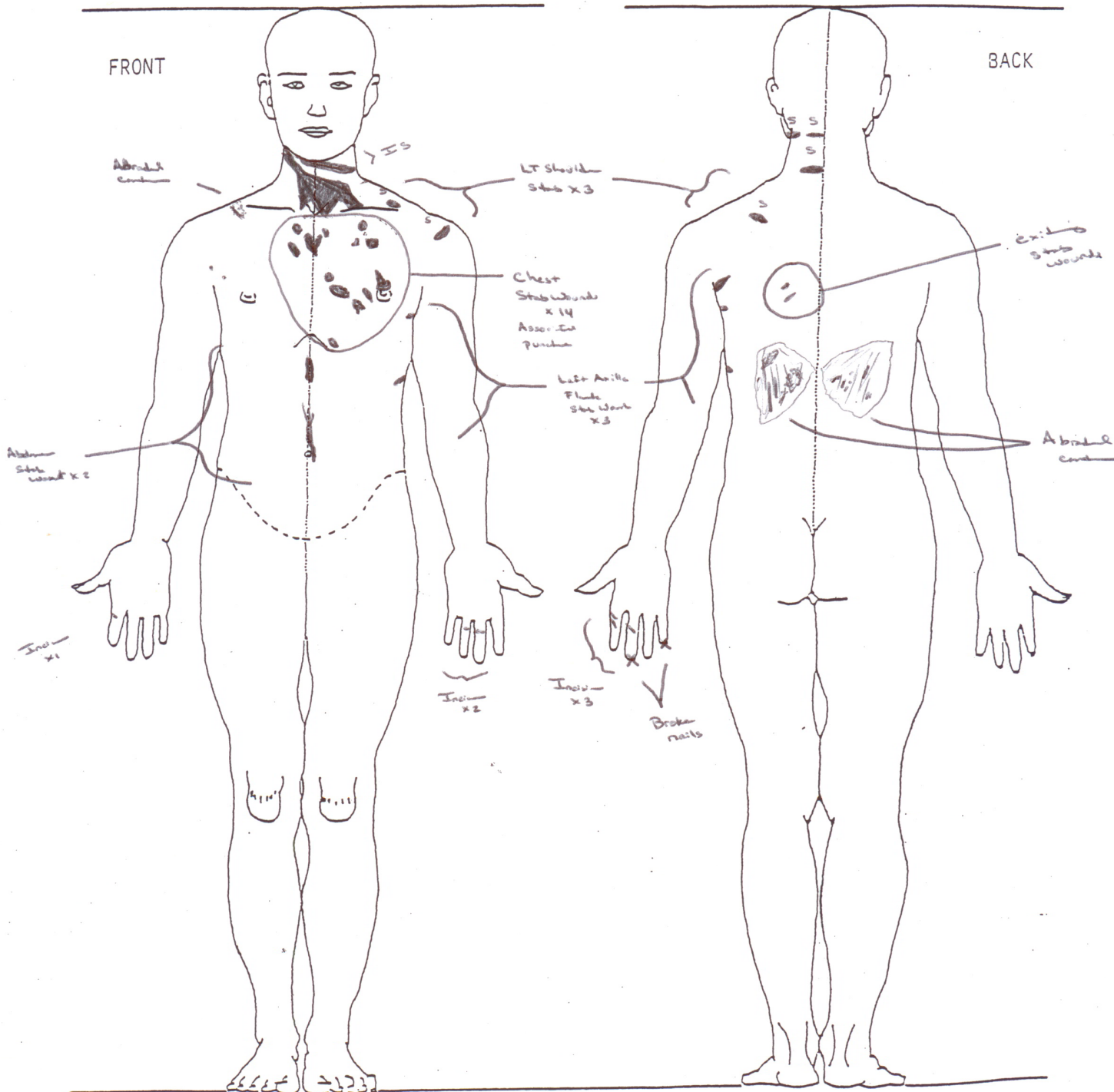
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Autopsy # B08-0406

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580

Examined By: Uck / SD Date: 01/31/08

BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (Front/Back)



DEHN 1917 (4/97)
Medical Examiner

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State of North Carolina

Name of Decedent: Curtis

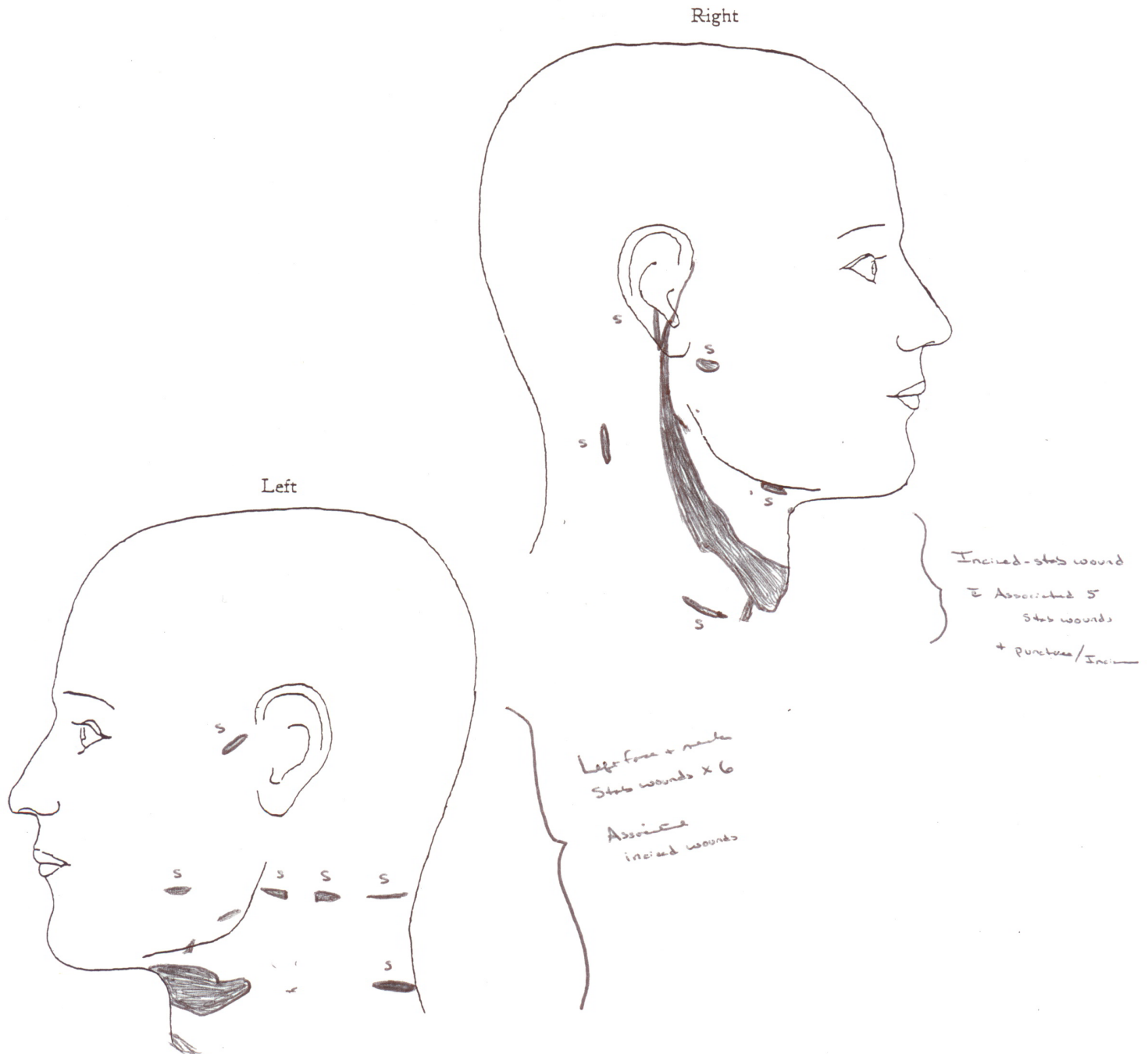
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Autopsy # B08-0406

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580

Examined By: Mok / SP Date: 01/31/08

BODY DIAGRAM: HEAD (left/right)



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Medical Examiner

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State of North Carolina

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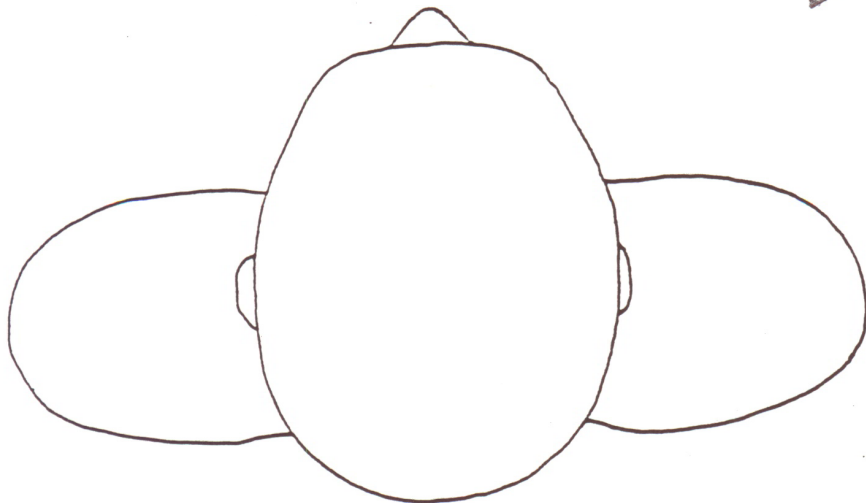
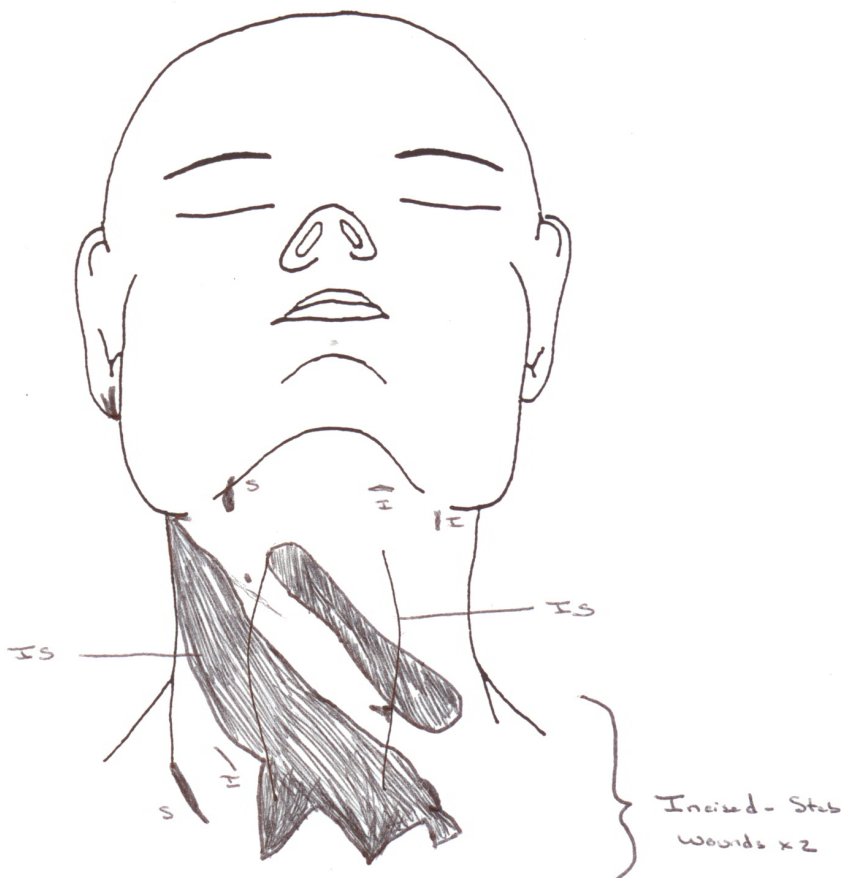
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580

Name of Decedent: Curtis

Autopsy # B08-0406

Examined By: MGE/SD Date: 01/31/08

BODY DIAGRAM: NECK & SHOULDERS



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