

DNA Evidence and Crime-Solving

“DNA crucial to conviction of man’s killer,” St. Petersburg Times (Florida) October 21, 2004.

The tissue found beneath the fingernails of a murder victim has matched the DNA of a man suspected in a series of violent crimes, leading to his conviction

“Man feared to be serial killer on trial in woman’s death; Defense lawyers say he strangled her but deny all else,” The Houston Chronicle October 20, 2004.

A man is on trial for four counts of sexual assault and murder after his DNA was linked in the DNA Database. The man’s involvement was never suspected.

“Va. Prisoner Charged in 20-Year-Old Waldorf Rape Case,” The Washington Post October 17, 2004.

After 20 years, a 49-year-old man serving time in a Virginia prison has been charged with the rape of a Waldorf woman. DNA evidence from the crime was routinely submitted to the CODIS system, and no hits were made until this past April when they found a match and reopened the case.

“DNA tests for city’s police,” The Guardian (London) October 16, 2004.

Argentina--After one of 32 victims of a serial rapist claimed that she was raped by a police officer, the entire police force of Argentina’s second largest city Cordoba, 14,000 officers, will undergo DNA testing.

Controversies Concerning the DNA Databanks and Laboratories

“San Francisco; Accused cop killer’s DNA on gun, authorities say,” The San Francisco Chronicle October 15, 2004.

DNA from the man accused of shooting a San Francisco police officer has been found on the rifle used during the killing. The defendant’s attorneys said they would challenge the DNA results based on possible problems at the Police Departments Crime Laboratory.

DNA Database Funding and Backlog

“Grants expected to boost Hub cops’ DNA analysis rate,” The Boston Herald October 20, 2004.

“The Boston Police Department is getting more than \$58,000 in federal grants to speed up DNA analysis in criminal investigations.”

“Congress Showers Benefits on Ohio; Lawmakers secure land for VA clinic, funds for DNA tests,” Columbus Dispatch (Ohio) October 15, 2004.

A crime bill headed for the White House will increase the amount that Congress can spend to help eliminate the DNA backlog from \$ 100 million a year to \$ 176 million.

Expanding the DNA Databank

“Do more with DNA: Fantino,” The Toronto Star October 19, 2004.

Toronto Police Chief, Julian Fantino, believes that Canada is lagging behind other countries with regard to the use of DNA as a crime fighting tool. He believes that like England, Canada should pass legislation to authorize police officials to take DNA samples upon arrest, any arrest. This comes a week after the Federal Government introduced legislation that would authorize collection of DNA from more convicted criminals.

DNA-based Post Conviction Challenges

“Local inmates seek testing,” Plain Dealer (Cleveland) October 18, 2004.

According to the Ohio Innocence Project and the attorneys generals office, 143 inmates have applied for DNA testing in hopes that their convictions will be overturned.

DNA Science and Technology

“GM helps nab bad guys through DNA evidence; Automaker's solution used to clear away 10-year lab backlog,” The Detroit News October 17, 2004.

The FBI has committed \$2 million to a program that uses the business approach of GM to stream line the DNA analysis and handling of forensic scientists.