

**DNA Evidence and Crime-Solving**

“Region & State; Defense Challenges DNA as Trial Begins in Runnion Killing; Samples taken from 5-year-old Stanton victim are scientifically valid, prosecutors say,” Los Angeles Times December 14, 2004.

The trial of a Lake Elsinore man accused of kidnapping and killing a five-year-old girl has begun with a hearing to determine if the type of DNA evidence pulled from beneath the child’s fingernails can be used. The defense has challenged the DNA testing methods used by the sheriff’s investigators, saying that mitochondrial DNA testing is unproven.

“National Roundup: Crime: New Move to Identify 'Bible John,’” The Guardian (London) December 13, 2004.

Glasgow detectives have recently tested the DNA of the suspects in the “Bible John” murder cases from the late 1960’s, in an attempt to catch the killer who has been at large for over 30 years.

“Adding to Justice’s Tool Kit,” Plain Dealer (Cleveland) December 13, 2004.

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation scientists recently linked DNA from the unsolved murder of a 23 year-old woman in California in 1972 to a convicted murderer who was already serving time in Ohio for another slaying. The “hit” was made after DNA samples from all Ohio felons convicted of serious charges were run through the National DNA Database.

“DNA Leads to Arrest over Nine brutal Rapes,” The Advertiser December 15, 2004.

A 36-year-old man has been charged with nine counts of rape and two counts of unlawful imprisonment after he was arrested on an unrelated matter and his DNA was matched to the crimes through the DNA database. The brutal crimes dated back 15 years.

“Sex Assault Culprit Sentenced to 6 Years,” The Toronto Star December 15, 2004.

Philip Barlow, who was arrested for sexual assault in 2002, has been sentenced to six years in prison. Barlow was arrested in 2002 after the Toronto police sexual-assault squad began work on unsolved cold cases, comparing them to the national DNA Databank.

**Controversies Concerning DNA Databanks and Laboratories**

“Inmate will not be Tried in 1981 Norfolk Rapes; Prosecutor Says Evidence is Lacking, Despite DNA Match that also Cleared others,” The Washington Post December 11, 2004.

Authorities in Virginia have said this week that they will not prosecute the man whose

DNA implicates him in rapes for which other innocent men served a combined time of 44 years. Authorities say that there is not enough circumstantial evidence to convict Aaron Doxie III, and that he is already serving a life sentence for a different rape, so that there is no need to get him off the streets.

“Inmate Charged in 1990 Rape after 11th-Hour DNA Match,” The Boston Globe  
December 16, 2004.

Just as the statute of limitations was about to expire, Salem police detectives asked for evidence from the rape of a woman in 1990 to be compared to the National DNA Databank. A match was made, and for the second time this year the suspect in a rape case that was about to expire under the statute of limitations, was identified through the National DNA Databank.

“DNA targets culprit in brutal 1992 rape,” The Press (Christchurch, New Zealand)  
December 16, 2004.

After 12 years, the suspect in the rape of a young woman has been arrested. Rodney Pouaka was been arrested on a separate charge, and was forced to provide a DNA sample. The sample was run through the police database of unsolved crimes, which linked Pouaka to the 12 year old crime.

“Cold Case Warms for Calgary Cops; Rape Charges after 12 Years,” The Toronto Sun  
December 16, 2004.

Over 12 years after as serial rapist terrorized Calgary, a 61 year old man who always remained a suspect has been arrested. Emile Joseph Cromwell was arrested after DNA technological advances linked the attacks, and the suspect voluntarily provided a DNA sample.

#### **DNA Database Funding and Backlog**

“Warner Plans Upgrade of State Crime Lab, New Crisis Office,” The Washington Post  
December 15, 2004.

Virginia Governor Mark Warner proposed that the state spend nearly \$3 million to hire more DNA scientists while also enhancing the ability of Virginia’s crime labs to evaluate DNA evidence more rapidly. In addition, the governor proposed creating the state’s first facility capable of testing mitochondrial DNA.

#### **Expanding the DNA Databank**

“House OKs Changes in Plan to Increase DNA Sampling; Taft also is sent bill to ease burden for families of Ohioans serving in military,” Columbus Dispatch (Ohio)

December 16, 2004.

Legislation agreed to by the Ohio House and the Senate passed yesterday widens the collection of DNA samples, while also accelerating the processing of the samples. The bill also facilitates the state's sharing of DNA information with local law enforcement officials. Governor Bob Taft is expected to sign the measure.

**DNA-based Post Conviction Challenges**

“Nonprofit Legal Group Wants New Tests in Prade Case; Says DNA might find another suspect,” Plain Dealer (Cleveland) December 15, 2004.

The Ohio Innocence Project at the University of Cincinnati is working to reverse the conviction of Douglas Prade, the Akron Police Captain who was convicted of killing his ex-wife in 1998. The Innocence Project is seeking more sophisticated DNA testing of the crime scene evidence.

**DNA Science and Technology**

“DNA Technology Advancing to Produce More Information Faster For Police,” Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania) December 12, 2004.

In the event that DNA evidence is left at a crime scene with no known match, a Florida company DNAPrint Genomics is working to provide investigators with a picture of what the suspect may look like. DNAPrint Genomics can tell the percentage of a culprit's genetic makeup through their DNA, and then compare the likely ethnicity of the culprit to that of known volunteers with similar genetic makeup. The company believes that by comparing the DNA of the unknown suspect to that of the DNA and mug shots submitted by volunteers, they can predict to a certain degree what the suspect may look like.