

**DNA Evidence and Crime-Solving**

“Farmer's grisly record,” Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia) December 22, 2004.

Canada's worst serial killer may now be tried for the murders of as many as 31 women, most of them prostitutes. After Robert Pickton's arrest in 2002, police searched Pickton's pig farm where they discovered DNA and belongings from some of 69 prostitutes missing from the area. In a hearing yesterday, prosecutors said that they were investigating nine more deaths in the case. If charges are brought in the murders of these additional nine women, Pickton will stand accused of 31 killings.

“Pickton murder trial delayed again,” The Toronto Star December 21, 2004.

The judge in the case of accused serial murderer Robert W. Pickton has delayed the start of the trial again. Pickton is charged with 15 counts of first degree murder on connection with a list of 69 missing women. Prosecutors say that Pickton will face at least 7 additional counts before trial. DNA from 9 more women have since been recovered but no charges have yet been brought for them.

“Not guilty; Jury acquits handyman in Shakira murder trial; Slain girl's family aghast; Hines heads back to jail,” Plain Dealer (Cleveland) December 20, 2004.

Despite DNA evidence appearing to point to the contrary, a jury acquitted Daniel Hines of kidnapping and murdering an 11-year-old girl in 2003.

“Bank Robbers Posed as Police to Trick Family Traceable,” December 23, 2004 The Independent (London).

A well organized armed gang pulled off one of Britain's largest bank heists, kidnapping and threatening 2 bank employees with harm if they did not comply with orders. The gang fled with 22 million pounds in cash. The robbers were careful not to leave behind any DNA evidence.

“Charges finally filed in killing, dismemberment; Milwaukee man's corpse found in Illinois last year,” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Wisconsin) December 23, 2004.

A year ago, a badly charred body missing its head and hands was found by authorities. A DNA profile was logged in the national database for unidentified remains. The body turned out to be 22-year-old Matthew Crockett's. Milwaukee authorities have charged a 26-year-old man in connection with the mutilation and murder.

**DNA Database Funding and Backlog**

“New funding for crime lab could help solve old cases,” The Courier-Journal

December 20, 2004.

Kentucky state police and crime investigators are hoping to get more information necessary to solve old crimes that date back to the 1960's through new Federal grant money to boost crime lab testing. Investigators are hoping that long forgotten cases will finally be able to be solved thanks to the \$455,000 grant.

**DNA-based Post Conviction Challenges**

"Inmate goes free 17 years after false rape conviction," Chicago Tribune December 22, 2004.

After nearly 17 years in prison for a rape DNA evidence now says that he did not commit, Brandon Moon, 43, has been freed.

**DNA Science and Technology**

"Cecil Co. allowing 'Jane Doe' rape data; Women can submit evidence anonymously without formal report," The Baltimore Sun December 20, 2004.

Cecil County has joined with a few other localities nationwide in encouraging rape victims to provide police with physical evidence and details of the offense without filing a formal report. This "Jane Doe" reporting prohibits police from analyzing the evidence without the victim's authorization. The evidence is destroyed after 3 months if the victim does not authorize an investigation.