

DNA Evidence and Crime-Solving

Controversies Concerning DNA Databanks and Laboratories

DNA Database Funding and Backlog

Expanding the DNA Databank

DNA-based Post Conviction Challenges

DNA Evidence and Sentencing

DNA Science and Technology

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia) **October 25, 2005**

HEADLINE: Sneaky sample review; **DNA** crackdown

THE Bracks Government is preparing a crackdown on police secretly taking the **DNA** of Victorians. Concerns about corruption and police improperly using or releasing **DNA** details has prompted the Government to move to protect those whose **DNA** has been seized without their knowledge. The Herald Sun understands a panel of legal experts has been established to set up controls on how police take, use and store **DNA** samples collected covertly from genetic material left on items such as clothing and cigarettes. "The Government is examining what measures are required to regulate the collection and use of **DNA** samples that are gathered covertly," Police Minister Tim Holding said. There are no laws in Victoria to govern the secret practice.

The Dominion Post (Wellington, New Zealand) **October 29, 2005,**

HEADLINE: Police union calls for wider **dna** sampling **DNA DATA**

THE POLICE Association is renewing its call for police to be able to take **dna** samples from anyone they arrest, after an incident where Wellington officers spent six months chasing a convicted rapist who stole \$ 2.69 of milk and cream. The man -- described by police as a career criminal and who has more than 50 serious convictions spanning 30 years, including rape, violence, arson and escaping custody -- was arrested late last year for taking the dairy products from a Wellington store. Since most of his previous convictions were before the Criminal Investigations (Bodily Samples) Act was introduced last year, police did not have a sample of his **dna**. Under the act, police can obtain **dna** samples from those suspected of certain crimes, including burglary. However, police must wait till the suspect is convicted, when they serve them with a compulsion notice. The sample can be taken by force if the offender refuses. Wellington police had to wait till the shoplifter was convicted of the charge early this year, when they tried to serve him with a notice compelling him to provide a **dna** sample. However, the man -- who did not receive a custodial sentence -- vanished and police were unable to find him for six months. Detective Senior Sergeant Mike Arnerich said the delay could have been avoided by a simple rewording of the law, which would enable police to obtain a **dna** sample on arrest rather than on conviction.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri) **October 27, 2005 HEADLINE:** Prosecutors object to **DNA** tests for convict in '82 killing

St. Louis prosecutors have filed legal papers seeking to block **DNA** testing for a man convicted in 1983 of killing a woman and attacking her two young daughters. Rodney Lincoln's attorney filed a motion earlier this year asking for **DNA** testing of blood, fingerprints and a pubic hair from the crime scene, claiming Lincoln was misidentified and wrongly convicted. Lincoln is serving two life terms in prison plus 15 years after a jury convicted him in 1983 of manslaughter and two counts of first-degree assault. Prosecutors say that in 1982, Lincoln stabbed Tate in the chest with a steak knife, kicked her, sodomized her with a broomstick and then attacked her daughters Melissa and Renee, 4, with a knife, causing grievous wounds. Lincoln's case has already been reviewed by the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's office, which decided that **DNA** testing cannot confirm or deny his guilt. Assistant Circuit Attorney Ed Postawko filed a motion in court late Tuesday in response to Gibson's request, re-stating that opinion. Scrapings from under Tate's fingernails could not be located in the prosecutor's office or at the St. Louis Police Department and may have been destroyed years ago, Postawko wrote, so they are unavailable for **DNA** testing of what may have been her killer's skin. Postawko is head of the prosecutor's sex crimes and child abuse unit, and the person in charge of post-conviction **DNA** issues.

Plain Dealer (Cleveland) **October 29, 2005**

HEADLINE: **DNA** should free inmate, attorney general says

Clarence Elkins, serving a life sentence for killing his mother-in-law and raping his niece, is innocent and should be freed, Attorney General Jim Petro told Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh on Friday. Petro wrote to Walsh that **DNA** tests conducted by a private company and confirmed by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation conclude Elkins could not have committed the crimes and another man is the likely suspect. Petro wrote that he is prepared to oppose any efforts by prosecutors to keep Elkins in prison. The prosecutors office received Petros letter late Friday, said Mary Ann Kovach, chief counsel of the criminal division. Kovach said she wants to review the **DNA** results with the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and talk to Petros office to make sure it understands the case never centered on **DNA** evidence but on the testimony of the niece. Elkins family then focused on a man they said was attracted to Johnson. That man, 31, denied involvement and provided a **DNA** sample. Elkins supporters raised more than \$20,000 to have **DNA** from the girls underwear and a vaginal swab from Johnson tested and compared to Elkins and the other man. Results excluded both as suspects, but in July, Summit County Common Pleas Judge Judith Hunter denied a new trial. Last month, Godsey and Melinda Elkins held a news conference to announce they would seek a new trial because the **DNA** from the evidence matched that of Earl Mann, who was having a relationship with a woman who lived two doors from Johnson when she was killed. Mann, 32, is serving seven years in prison after being convicted in 2002 for raping and molesting three young girls.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri) **October 26, 2005**

HEADLINE: Crucial evidence from 1977 murder missing, police say

Evidence that may have helped solve the murder of a 17-year-old girl almost 28 years ago has disappeared. But relatives of the victim, Sharrey Lynn Case of Cahokia, have begun a fundraising effort to pay for an exhumation that could produce more evidence. Case's sister, Shirley Greathouse of Belton, Mo., said the cost of an exhumation could run to \$5,000. St. Clair County sheriff's investigators had hoped to find two hairs taken from under a fingernail of Case, and subject the evidence to **DNA** tests unavailable at the time of the killing. Case was found strangled on Dec. 19, 1977, on a rural road south of Belleville. The technology that Johnson envisions using matches **DNA** from a suspect to a data base that keeps **DNA** taken from criminals nationwide.

Newsday (New York) **October 28, 2005 HEADLINE: 'Mafia Cops' lawyer eye DNA tests**

Ex-detectives Louis Eppolito and Stephen Caracappa, accused of being hit men for the mob, are seeking to have **DNA** tests run on a watch found at the scene of one of their alleged gangland murders, sources familiar with the case told Newsday. Legal and law enforcement sources said the defense believes the tests might help to show that Eppolito and Caracappa had nothing to do with the murder and thus cast doubt about other elements of the prosecution's case. In a letter sent to federal prosecutors Tuesday, Hayes said he wanted to examine the watch and any diagrams, photos and test results related to it. Hayes noted in his letter that only fingerprint tests had been done on the watch and asked that "complete testing" be done. Though the Hayes letter didn't mention **DNA** tests, sources familiar with the case said defense attorneys believe **DNA** testing might show the hair strands were not from Caracappa or Eppolito. A law enforcement source, who also asked not to be identified, said it was unclear if the **DNA** that may be discovered from testing would be definitive about anything related to the case.

Plain Dealer (Cleveland) **October 30, 2005 HEADLINE: Ohio DNA law that freed man expires quietly**

a tool of justice for wrongly convicted Ohio prison inmates has expired. A two-year-old statute that allowed inmates to request a **DNA** test at the states expense ended Saturday, even though the provision had proven worthy, clearing a man convicted of rape. Donte Booker, of Cleveland, was exonerated this year after more than 16 years in prison for a 1986 Beachwood rape. He has since been awarded \$618,000 by Ohio for wrongful imprisonment. Without the law, Booker likely would still be waiting to have his case reviewed. Now, inmates who believe they are innocent must again try to persuade local prosecutors and judges to reopen their cases without the nudging of the law on their side.

The Scotsman **October 27, 2005, HEADLINE: RAPE ACCUSED BLAMES TWIN BROTHER FOR ROSSLYN SEX ATTACK ON STUDENT**

A MAN accused of raping a Dutch student near Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian has said his identical twin brother committed the crime, a court heard yesterday. Lawyers for Robert Greens lodged a special defence of incrimination, naming Richard Greens as the attacker. His defence team said it would contest the prosecution's claim that samples recovered from the student's clothing matched

the **DNA** of Robert Greens. "He says he was not there at the time. Another explanation for the **DNA** may be that it is his identical twin brother because, of course, twin brothers share the same **DNA**," Jane Farquharson, defending, told Lord Abernethy, the judge. Greens, 28, of Mayfield, Dalkeith, is alleged to have assaulted the student, 19, to the danger of her life on 15 May on the Roslin-to-Rosewell road.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri) **October 27, 2005**

HEADLINE: Officer is cleared of sex charges

DNA evidence revealed no sexual contact with the woman.

ST. CHARLES * Charges have been dropped against a St. Charles police officer who was accused of sexually abusing an 18-year-old woman during a traffic stop in July last year. Officer Richard Fischer, 38, was indicted by a grand jury in May on one felony count of sexual abuse and three misdemeanor counts of sexual misconduct. The woman alleged that the abuse took place when Fischer asked her to drive to another location so he could question her further about a potential drunken-driving offense, officials said. Attorney Neil Bruntrager, who along with James Carmichael represents Fischer, said results of **DNA** evidence in the case, which were just returned, revealed that Fischer did not have sexual contact with the woman. dismissing the case and said we'd like you to reinstate him," he said.

Los Angeles Times **October 31, 2005**

HEADLINE: Serial-Murder Trial Hinges on **DNA** Evidence; Genetic markers have already freed a man once linked to 12 Southside killings. Today it will be used to prosecute another.

When the first **DNA** hits began rolling in on a string of South Los Angeles strangulation murders, investigators imagined their killer as a Jack the Ripper type with a rap sheet to match. But as detectives pursued the suspect, now believed to be one of the most prolific serial killers in the city's history, they evidence pointing to Chester D. Turner, a quiet man with a Had it not been for genetic links to the rape and killing of a dozen women between 1987 and 1998, Los Angeles Police Det.." Turner, 38, was in state prison for a 2002 rape conviction when he pleaded not guilty to charges in 10 of the 12 strangulation killings. Turner faces a preliminary hearing in Los Angeles Superior Court today on the charges. Prosecutors say they have not decided whether to seek the death penalty. Police said he may have been involved in as many as 20 homicides, but there is no specific **DNA** evidence to link him to that many. "There also are no witnesses to tie him to the murders," Tyre said. "Their case is based on 20-year-old **DNA**, and there's going to be issues about whether it's been properly stored and analyzed."The defense also could be aided by the case of David Allen Jones, wrongly convicted in 1995 of three murders, according to police and court records. Jones, 45, who has the mental capacity of an 8-year-old, served nearly nine years in prison before he was released in March 2004 after **DNA** tests run in 2003 by Shepard's cold-case unit exonerated him in two of the cases and appeared to implicate Turner. Prosecutors, however, declined to charge Turner with those deaths.

Chicago Tribune **October 28, 2005**

HEADLINE: \$400,000 bail set in '99 sex assault

A Chicago man was ordered held in lieu of \$400,000 bail Thursday after **DNA** evidence linked him to the sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl who was held in an abandoned building over four days in 1999. Prosecutors said Johnny Harris, 23, was one of four men who forced the girl into a car and sexually assaulted her over the Thanksgiving holiday in 1999. The girl eventually was left in an alley, officials said, and was taken to a hospital, where **DNA** evidence was collected. Prosecutors said that evidence matched Harris' when he left state prison after serving time for a drug conviction.

The Courier-Journal (Louisville, Kentucky) **October 27, 2005**

HEADLINE: New **DNA** sought in Camm case; Defense eyes friend of Boney

In an unexpected development, lawyers for former Indiana state trooper David Camm filed a motion yesterday asking that another person be required to produce fingerprints and **DNA** as evidence in the triple murder case. According to the motion, lawyers want to know whether unidentified fingerprints and **DNA** found at the crime scene could be linked to Victor Ernest Nugent, a former neighbor and co-worker of Camm's alleged co-conspirator, Charles Boney. The request for Nugent to provide hair samples, fingerprints, handprints and **DNA** was filed yesterday in Warrick County Superior Court, where Camm faces trial in January for the murders of his wife, Kimberly, 35, and their children, Bradley, 7, and Jill, 5. Camm, 41, was convicted of the murders in 2002, but his convictions were overturned last year by the state Court of Appeals. Last February investigators determined that a previously unidentified sweat shirt found at the murder scene belonged to Boney, 36, a felon who had been released from prison about three months before the murders. The motion also said that unidentified **DNA** had been found on Boney's sweat shirt and on Bradley Camm's pants. Moreover, hair discovered on a sweater Kimberly Camm was wearing has not been identified, it said.

San Antonio Express-News **October 29, 2005**

HEADLINE: Jourdanton man wants confession gone

JOURDANTON -- A man accused of killing his elderly neighbor wants a judge to throw out his written confession to police, arguing this town's former mayor coerced him into taking the blame. James Franklin Reece's new attorney said Friday that his client didn't beat Bernice Evans to death with a hammer Nov. 14, as Reece previously stated in his confession. "He did not take part in the violence," said William Baskette of San Antonio. "But he did take part in the disposal of the body." Reece, 38, has since implicated former Jourdanton Mayor Tammy Clark in the crime, and police are investigating. No charges have been filed against Clark. Clark, who was pressured to resign her post this month, has said she is innocent and that **DNA** evidence will prove she was not involved in Evans' death. She has told police that she was asleep when the incident occurred and that it wasn't until after she found blood on her porch that she learned what had occurred.

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS **October 29, 2005**

Cold case is now a hot chase Fort Worth: Science,TV revive interest in old, unsolved crimes

FORT WORTH - For years, Rosa Maria Clarke wondered if police would ever find the person who raped and killed her daughter. Vanessa Villa, 11, was found beaten in her North Side bedroom on Aug. 3, 1986, after someone opened a bedroom window, removed a fan and entered the family's home. Her slaying was a true cold case. But thanks to Manny Reyes, the Fort Worth Police Department's only detective exclusively assigned to investigate cold cases, an arrest was made using a **DNA** sample from a family acquaintance who was one of the first mourners at the girl's funeral.

Ex-convict Juan Ramon Segundo, 42, is awaiting trial on a capital murder charge in Vanessa's death. It is one of 19 cases the Police Department credits Detective Reyes with solving.

"It felt good to call the family and say, 'We got him,'" Detective Reyes said.

The growing number of arrests in cases 20, 30 or even 40 years old can be attributed to science and the willingness of police departments like Fort Worth to focus efforts on them, experts say.

Science and television shows about cold cases also have driven interest in these special units, said Tory Caeti, associate professor of criminal justice at the University of North Texas.

"There's been a lot of media attention to those kind of units," Mr. Caeti said. "Once A&E started that Cold Case Files show and solved some old murder, everyone else became interested, and that's a good thing because a lot of these crimes are getting solved."

"The other thing is science and technology has caught up with the crimes," he said. "In the '50s and '60s, they didn't have the **DNA**, so with these reopened cases, they're able to do some testing."

Most large cities have departments that review unsolved homicides, he said.

Dallas, Arlington and Collin County all have detectives working cold cases. There is also a unit operated by the Texas Rangers.

A haunting case

The files in Detective Reyes' office are filled with photos, newspaper clippings and witness statements.

Nineteen years ago, Detective Reyes attended Vanessa's funeral, and when he began investigating, he learned that Mr. Segundo also had attended.

"He was one of the first ones to sign the register," said Detective Reyes, leafing through files to retrieve the book.

"I was also at the funeral. I shook that guy's hand," Detective Reyes said. "The mom introduced me to all of the people who were there. He doesn't remember me, but I was there."

Detective Reyes said the case haunted him because the girl was alone for only about a half-hour. The killer, he said, apparently knew the girl's family was out running errands.

Mr. Segundo, who has convictions for burglary and DWI, was arrested in Johnson County after a national **DNA** database linked him to the girl.

Fort Worth began its crackdown on cold cases in 2002, asking homicide and major case officers to add those investigations to their workloads, said Police Chief Ralph Mendoza.

"It allows, for most of these families, closure where they didn't have that in the past," Chief Mendoza said. "From my perspective, it adds additional hope to other families. When you gain the trust of the public, there is a greater tendency for people to report things."

Hefty workload

The city has a backlog of 760 unsolved homicides, officials said.

Among the cases that plagued the department was a 20-year-old crime spree that left several women dead across parts of Fort Worth and Arlington.

In June, police got a big break in the serial killings when career criminal Curtis Don Brown was arrested and charged in the 1986 death of Jewel Woods and the 1985 death of Terece Gregory, 29.

Mr. Brown is a suspect in the deaths of 23 other women, but those investigations will run well into next year, Detective Reyes said.

Cold cases, he said, require a good deal of time and patience.

"This is nothing like television where they solve the case in less than an hour," Detective Reyes said.

He talks often with families about the last days of their loved ones, always pushing for a clue or a tip that may seem innocuous but could provide a big lead. Often, nicknames are one of the best clues because they show up in police reports from other cases, Detective Reyes said.

It was science that led officers to Mr. Segundo. A **DNA** profile obtained from Mr. Segundo during his imprisonment matched evidence left at the crime scene.

The arrest, Mrs. Clarke said, ended the mystery about her daughter's slaying.

"I cried for about 10 years," said Mrs. Clarke, who found her daughter barely alive when she returned home after running errands. "I see Vanessa, and there is no movement. I put the lights on, and, oh, it was terrible. Her heart was still beating."

Vanessa lived for a couple of more hours before dying at a local hospital, Mrs. Clarke said.

"I was so happy when Manny called me," she said. "I thought the police had forgot. For sure, God don't forget nothing, and he didn't let them forget."

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GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): 1. (TOM FOX/Staff Fort Worth police Detective Manny Reyes has solved 19 cases, but the city still has a backlog of 760 unsolved homicides. 2. (LAWRENCE JENKINS/Special Contributor) Rosa Maria Clarke, reflected in a portrait of daughter Vanessa Villa, says she no longer has to wonder about the 11-year-old's death. **DNA** technology helped Fort Worth police track down a suspect, who awaits trial nearly 20 years after the girl was killed.

LOAD-DATE: October 31, 2005

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October 27, 2005 Thursday
ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 005

LENGTH: 268 words

HEADLINE: ME's Office has history of misplaced body parts

BYLINE: By Jessica Fargen

BODY:

The state Medical Examiner's Office has a history of careless treatment of body parts including eyeballs and skull fragments and lax attention to criminal evidence such as bullets from mob burials, according to audits and former employees.

A firefighter's widow said this week that the state Office of the Chief Medical Examiner told her they did not put her late husband's heart back in his body after he died in August last year. The office maintains they intentionally kept the heart for further testing.

Following years of allegations of misconduct inside the office, Gov. Mitt Romney in October 2003 empaneled the 16-member Medico-Legal Commission to advise the ME's office and replace its embattled chief, Dr. Richard F. Evans.

Evans later stepped down and in April this year Mark Flomenbaum, a former New York medical examiner, took over.

The Herald has reported that under Evans, organs from autopsies went unaccounted for and a half-dozen veteran pathologists resigned in frustration over mistreatment and poor pay.

Among some of the gaffes:

- 2001: Bullet fragments from a mob burial pit went unaccounted for in the office for several months causing a potential breach in the chain of evidence.

- 2003: Attorney General Tom Reilly launched a criminal investigation into wrongdoing amid reports that a set of eyeballs had been mishandled during an infant's autopsy.

- 2003: It is revealed that a piece of a skull belonging to a 9-year-old murder victim sat for 21 months in a desk drawer inside the office at a time when **DNA** testing could have identified the remains.

Tom Mashberg contributed to this report.

LOAD-DATE: October 27, 2005

Mom recalls identifying girl; 2nd man on trial in '02 rape, slaying

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October 26, 2005 Wednesday
West Final Edition

SECTION: METRO ; ZONE W; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 603 words

HEADLINE: Mom recalls identifying girl;
2nd man on trial in '02 rape, slaying of Carol Stream teen

BYLINE: By Angela Rozas, Tribune staff reporter.

BODY:

When Juanita Davoodi came home to find police officers sitting in her Carol Stream living room in 2002, the frustration and pain of waiting a week for news of her missing 14-year-old daughter came to a head.

"I was angry. They were just sitting there, and I wanted them to go and bring her back to me," Davoodi said.

But the officers were there to tell Davoodi that her daughter, Nassim, had been found dead in a shallow grave in Lake County.

"I said, `That's not my daughter. There has to be some mistake,'" Davoodi recalled tearfully Tuesday while testifying in the trial of Turner Reeves III of Hanover Park, accused of the slaying.

But when she visited the coroner's office, she said, "There was my daughter. My baby was there. She was dead."

It was the second time Davoodi has had to take the stand at the Rolling Meadows branch of Cook County Circuit Court to tell the story of her daughter's death. She also testified at the trial of Skyler Chambers of California, who was convicted in April of raping and murdering Nassim.

Reeves, 25, is accused of driving Nassim to his home and suffocating her with pillows after both men raped her in the back seat of Reeves' car, authorities said.

Prosecutors said Tuesday that Reeves and Chambers picked up Nassim, a freshman, in front of Bartlett High School, after Chambers lured her to Reeves' gold Toyota Camry with promises of a trip to the mall.

The girl agreed to go with the two men and Reeves' 16-year-old cousin, but the group went to Reeves' home, said Assistant State's Atty. Tom Byrne.

Reeves and Chambers, who had met on the Internet, took her body to rural Lake County and buried her in a shallow grave, Byrne said.

Nassim's body was found after Reeves took police to the site, Byrne said, adding that prosecutors will present **DNA** evidence tying Reeves and Chambers to the rape.

But Reeves' defense attorneys argued that although he was present for many of the events on May 31, 2002, it was Chambers--not Reeves--who killed Nassim.

Defense attorney Leland Shalgos called Chambers a "beast" who had an agenda and said that Reeves knew nothing of the man's plans. Though Reeves helped to bury Nassim's body, the attorney said it was only because he was in a panic after finding out Chambers had killed her.

"He knew police would not believe he had nothing to do with it," Shalgos said. "He tried to cover up his complicity in this whole thing."

Prosecutors called several witnesses Tuesday, including Reeves' cousin Jarrett Curtis, who testified that after he got out of Reeves' car in Hanover Park, he never saw Nassim again.

He testified that at one point that day, he went to the garage after he heard noises and saw a parked car running inside.

Curtis testified that when he saw Reeves and Chambers later that afternoon, Reeves told him if anyone asked, he should say Nassim got into a car with two Mexicans.

When he asked why he should say that, Reeves said he would tell him in two years, Curtis said.

Outside the courtroom, Davoodi said she and her family think about how her daughter would have graduated this year, and that she would have bought her daughter a prom dress in the spring.

She said she just wants the trial to be over, wants punishment for the accused and won't return to the area from Arizona where she has moved.

"This is just opening up old wounds," she said.

Shalgos moved for a mistrial at the end of the day Tuesday, arguing that an article about the trial in Tuesday's Tribune could cause prejudice against his client. Cook County Judge Joseph Urso said he would conduct a hearing on the motion when the trial resumes Wednesday morning.

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GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Juanita Davoodi (left), whose daughter Nassim was slain in May 2002, is escorted by a friend during a trial break. She said she thinks about how Nassim would have graduated this year. Tribune photo by John Dziekan.

PHOTO

LOAD-DATE: October 26, 2005

DNA leads to rape suspect in '99 attack on 12-year-old Chicago Sun

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Chicago Sun Times

October 28, 2005 Friday
Final Edition

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 26

LENGTH: 211 words

HEADLINE: DNA leads to rape suspect in '99 attack on 12-year-old

BYLINE: Stefano Esposito, The Chicago Sun-Times

BODY:

The girl was only 12 when she was snatched off a West Side street and repeatedly raped for three days in an abandoned building, Cook County prosecutors said in court Thursday.

About six years after the November 1999 incident, one of the girl's alleged attackers finally appeared in a Cook County courtroom Thursday. Johnny Harris, 23, is charged with predatory criminal sexual assault. A judge set his bail at \$400,000.

Prosecutors say Harris' **DNA** was collected in 2003 after a conviction and sentencing for an unrelated drug charge. That **DNA** was later connected to the 1999 sexual assault, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Suzi Collins said.

Prosecutors said Harris was one of four people who grabbed the girl and shoved her in a car near 4900 W. Augusta. She was sexually assaulted inside the car and then taken to an abandoned building, where she was assaulted again, Collins said.

The girl didn't remember the location of the building, prosecutors said. The girl was kept in the building, sexually assaulted and at one point locked in a closet, prosecutors said.

Several days later, the girl was dropped off in an alley, wearing only a bra, and rescued by a good samaritan, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors had no information about the three other suspects Thursday.

LOAD-DATE: November 4, 2005

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The Denver Post

October 26, 2005 Wednesday
FINAL EDITION

SECTION: DENVER & THE WEST; Pg. B-01

LENGTH: 545 words

HEADLINE: Police launch manhunt for rape suspect Cops search house-to-house near University Hospital after a man fitting the description of a serial rapist tried to attack a woman.

BYLINE: Manny Gonzales Denver Post Staff Writer

BODY:

Police cordoned off an east Denver neighborhood and began house-to-house searches after a man fitting the description of a serial rapist linked to at least nine Denver-area rapes attacked a woman outside her home.

The intensive search began about 7:45 p.m. when a man wearing all black attacked the woman as she got out of her vehicle in front of a home in the 600 block of Jersey Street.

The woman screamed loudly, alerting a neighbor who is a police officer. He ran to help the woman, but the man had already fled on foot, said police spokesman Sonny Jackson.

The attacker was described as similar to the man linked to at least nine sexual assaults in Denver and Aurora over the past year.

"We're definitely looking at the similarities between these cases," Jackson said, but he could not confirm whether police believed it was the same man.

A police helicopter with night-vision capabilities was circling the area within minutes of Tuesday's attack as officers set up a perimeter between Jasmine and Holly streets and 6th and 8th Avenues, an area of roughly 12 blocks near University Hospital. The area was closed for more than three hours as police searched houses, bushes and cars and offered escorts to frightened residents just returning home.

The victim was working with detectives to get a more detailed description of the attacker, Jackson said. Police would not comment on the extent of the woman's injuries but said she had been taken to a nearby hospital.

Jackson said investigators were confident of the suspect's motive.

"We feel like this was an attempted sexual assault," he said.

Area resident Suzanne Mariner said she was surprised the attacker would choose her neighborhood, which she described as tightknit.

"You can say we've been on heightened alert lately," she said, as officers searched her neighbor's bushes. "We're a neighborhood watch neighborhood and we really look out for each other. This guy really picked the wrong place."

The serial rapist is wanted in nine confirmed sex assaults, dating to November. He has been described as a muscular black man, weighing 170 to 200 pounds, 6 foot to 6 foot 3 and bald, with a mark or a scar on his nose.

Last month, **DNA** analysis linked three sexual assaults that occurred during evening hours in residential areas in Aurora to the suspect. He also has attacked at least six women in Denver.

He is also suspected in three other attempted rapes, most recently of a 16-year-old girl in Denver. The victim was walking home Oct. 14 when she was approached by the suspect about 10:30 p.m., in the 900 block of South Quince Street, near Fairmount Cemetery, police said. The victim said the man pulled her into bushes and attempted to sexually assault her, but she escaped. She ran to her home and reported the incident.

Last month, a man believed to be the serial rapist narrowly escaped injury when a would-be victim fired a shot at him as he stood in her bedroom doorway, Aurora police said.

That occurred just a few blocks from where another break-in took place eight days earlier.

In that case, another young woman heard a strange rattling noise. Then she noticed the blinds on her sliding glass door began to move and saw a tall, athletic-looking man dressed in black walk into her apartment. He fled when she screamed.

LOAD-DATE: October 26, 2005

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October 30, 2005 Sunday
Final Edition

SECTION: Metro; C01

LENGTH: 1337 words

HEADLINE: Potomac Killing Casts Spotlight on Son's Love

BYLINE: Ernesto Londono, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

It started off as a high school romance.

Mark K. Makki and Aramis Mizani were in their mid-teens when they met, both the offspring of Iranian immigrants who chose Montgomery County to escape the revolution that swept through their homeland in the late 1970s.

They were average students, relatives said. Neither was class president. Neither was class clown. Their tempered personalities clicked, and the relationship -- much to the chagrin of the boy's mother -- endured five years of highs and lows.

Now, that relationship has emerged as a possible motive in the Oct. 6 fatal beating and strangulation of Makki's mother, Shohreh Seyed-Makki, according to Montgomery police. Makki, 23, is charged with killing Seyed-Makki in their Potomac home. At the time of the arrest, police noted that Makki and his mother often clashed over his girlfriend, whom she disliked.

The killing, which authorities have declined to describe in detail, has thrust into the limelight a private feud between two families now united by intense public scrutiny and a high-profile criminal investigation.

Makki's family members say they believe he is innocent. Police say they still believe they charged the right man, despite **DNA** evidence from the crime scene that a law enforcement source said shows an unidentified man came into contact with Seyed-Makki shortly before she was killed.

Through his attorney, Makki declined to comment. Mizani could not be reached.

Makki's supporters acknowledge that the relationship was a sour issue for the 54-year-old victim, but they say it certainly was not one to kill over.

"Mark would choose his mom over his girlfriend, and that was clear to both parties," said Amirreza Vaziri, 24, a close friend of Makki's. "So there was never a situation where he had to choose."

Mizani, 21, met Makki a few years after her mother drowned in Ocean City in 1995. As the relationship progressed, her problems grew, her half brother Cory Levy said.

Mizani developed chronic back pain, which worsened after what Levy described as a botched surgery. The ailment became unbearable, affecting her studies and making her dependent on powerful painkillers that sometimes cloud her judgment, according to Levy, 31.

In the late 1990s, her family's finances deteriorated, Levy said. Her father, Ahmad "Eddie" Mizani, a carpet salesman, was convicted of tax evasion, court records show. Deportation proceedings subsequently were initiated against him. The government often deports green card holders who have been convicted of felonies.

Greg Gagne, a spokesman for the Executive Office for Immigration Review, the judicial immigration agency, said court docket records show that immigration officials were seeking to deport Ahmad Mizani after the conviction. Gagne said the status of the immigration case could not be determined from the records he has access to. A spokeswoman for the prosecuting agency, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, declined to comment.

Ahmad Mizani also declined to comment, as did David Rothwell, his attorney in the immigration case.

"Aramis has been through a lot," Levy said. "Having had everything and then everything taken away."

After graduating from high school, neither Makki nor Mizani embarked on a solid career path.

Makki, whose father is a well-known ear, nose and throat surgeon and whose sister recently graduated from law school, attended Montgomery College sporadically during the past five years. He has received 62 credits and has not declared a major.

Makki is passionate about tennis and the stock market, two interests in which his parents indulged him. His father, Khosrow S. Makki, once gave him \$600,000 to invest in stocks, according to a close relative. Khosrow Makki has declined to comment.

Mark Makki made smart investments, which he tracked closely online, often with his mother by his side, said the relative, who asked not to be identified because he fears police retaliation.

"He has a knack for picking good companies," Makki's friend Vaziri said, and he entertained the idea of getting into real estate.

But relatives feared that the youth was not reaching his full potential.

According to Makki's friends and relatives, Seyed-Makki saw her son's girlfriend as the main cause. Over the years, her distaste for the girl intensified. She wanted a college-educated bride for her son, people close to the family said. She disliked the fact that Mizani took legal narcotics to numb her back. And she felt disgraced by Ahmad Mizani's criminal record.

According to the Makkis' relative, the victim unloaded her anger on the girl's father a few times at his Derwood store, Shaaheen Oriental Rug Co., where she demanded that he forbid his daughter to see her son. He never did.

"She thought that Mark was not successful, that he was being denied a good education because of the girl," Makki's relative said. "She does [legal] narcotics. Being from a Persian family, we are very cautious about the bride."

Some deemed Seyed-Makki's staunch opposition to the relationship as absurd, oddly Shakespearean in this day and age, even in a close-knit immigrant community in which many parents still try to influence their children's love lives.

"Her life mission was to keep them apart," Levy said. "My sister is not a bad person. Was Aramis going to be a lawyer or doctor? No. Nobody was concerned about the relationship other than her," he said, referring to Seyed-Makki. He paused, then said, "She should have been more worried about what Mark was doing with his life."

Efforts to separate Makki and Mizani were futile.

Last year, Makki went to Shenandoah University, in Winchester, Va., more than 70 miles away from home. Mizani visited him at the university. This year, he spent some time in Miami, where he coached and played tennis.

"She would still fly down to Florida. They would just find a way to see each other," Levy said. "I think it's that first-love thing. Sometimes people can't get away from it."

Mizani's statements to homicide detectives hours after the killing -- which police say disproved Makki's alibi -- in part led authorities to charge him with first-degree murder and robbery.

Prosecutors have said that at police headquarters before his arrest, Makki urged Mizani to tell police they had been together at the time of the crime, a move described in court as an apparent attempt to tamper with a witness.

When police confronted him with the contradictory versions of his whereabouts on the day of the killing, Makki told detectives that his girlfriend's memory might have been blurred by the drugs she takes, according to a charging document.

Mizani attended Makki's bond hearing Oct. 11 with her father. She wept as she left the courtroom after a judge declined to release her boyfriend on bail. Ahmad Mizani, furious at photographers who took pictures of him and his daughter as they walked down the court steps, smacked a photojournalist in the face in front of numerous witnesses.

Makki was released on \$250,000 bond two days later, after prosecutors acknowledged that DNA tests conducted in the case did not link him to his mother's body at the time she was killed.

A judge ordered that he surrender his passport and forbade him to leave the state, except to attend his mother's funeral, which was in Virginia on Oct. 15.

Makki wore a dark suit to the funeral. Mizani attended with a mutual friend; her father was not there. The weather was splendid -- in sharp contrast to the mood of a family doubly bruised in the space of a week by a slaying and arrest.

"In a weird way, I wish the cameramen were there," said Vaziri, who was present. "Because Mark was so good-looking that day, not like the [mug shot] that was posted on every paper. And he was crying, and you could see his pain and his innocence."

When the service ended, Mizani walked toward Makki, Vaziri said. Makki's relatives huddled around him before she reached him and whisked him to a car waiting nearby.

LOAD-DATE: October 30, 2005

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October 29, 2005 Saturday
Chicagoland Final Edition

SECTION: METRO ; ZONE C; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 124 words

HEADLINE: Prosecution rests in killing of girl, 14

DATELINE: COOK COUNTY

BODY:

Cook County prosecutors completed their case Friday against Turner Reeves III by linking his DNA to the May 31, 2002, rape and killing of Nassim Davoodi, 14, of Carol Stream.

A state expert testified Friday the match between Reeves' **DNA** and that taken from the victim's body is a 1 out of 33 billion match. Reeves, 24, of Hanover Park, who is accused of kidnapping, raping and killing Davoodi, is expected to testify Monday in Rolling Meadows.

Reeves blames the crime on Skyler Chambers, 23, his co-defendant from California who was convicted in April. The pair are accused of kidnapping Davoodi from outside Bartlett High School, raping her in Reeves' garage, strangling and suffocating her, and then burying her in a shallow grave in Lake County.

LOAD-DATE: October 29, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Denver Publishing Company
Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO)

October 27, 2005 Thursday
Final Edition

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5A

LENGTH: 661 words

HEADLINE: POLICE NEARLY NAB METRO RAPE SUSPECT;
WITH TUESDAY ATTACK, COPS 'WITHIN MINUTES' OF ARRESTING MASKED MAN

BYLINE: Bianca Prieto And Felix Doligosa Jr., Rocky Mountain News\ Staff writer Sarah Langbein contributed to this report.

BODY:

Denver police came "within minutes" of catching a masked man wanted for sexually assaulting a woman - and possibly responsible for as many as 14 other attacks within the last year. The woman's screams for help Tuesday night alerted a neighbor, a 19-year veteran of the Denver Police Department, who ran to her aid. The officer didn't catch a glimpse of the attacker but radioed immediately for back-up, bringing dozens of police flooding into the neighborhood.

The officer who lives on the block told fellow police to be on the lookout for a black man wearing a ski mask.

But by the time other officers reached the 600 block of Jersey Street, the police helicopter was launched, and search dogs brought in for a door-to-door search, there was no sign of the attacker.

Police on Wednesday said the suspect in Tuesday's attack is a black man between 6 feet and 6 feet 3 inches tall, and between 180 and 200 pounds.

POLICE NEARLY NAB METRO RAPE SUSPECT; WITH TUESDAY ATTACK, COPS '

Police in Denver, Aurora and unincorporated Arapahoe County have been looking for a man brazenly preying on women near their homes since last November.

DNA evidence has linked the same man to five rapes in Aurora, three in Denver and one in unincorporated Arapahoe County over a nine-month span. Similarities in six other assaults, counting Tuesday's, have supported suspicion the same man is behind them.

Police don't know how he got away, but Jersey Street intersects with East Sixth Avenue Parkway, a busy traffic route.

Police initially called the attack an attempted sexual assault. But after interviewing the victim at length, police upgraded the case to a sex assault. They would not say what the woman reported that changed their characterization of the case.

The woman told police that a man approached her around 7:45 p.m., as she was getting out of her car and going into her home. He pulled her to a less visible area and assaulted her, police said of her account.

Police took her to a hospital to be examined. The extensive police presence rattled neighbors, who described the victim as a quiet working woman.

Wendy Neuberger was working from home Tuesday night when she heard the helicopter circling. That was the first sign that something was wrong, she said.

Then, moments later, a friend called to check on her safety, saying television stations were reporting an attack in her neighborhood.

It scared Neuberger so much that she and her husband, Karl Decker, slept with the lights on. They're also looking into buying some pepper spray.

"None of us is immune," said a Jersey Street resident who declined to give his name because he is still fearful of the attacker still at large. "I'm not surprised this would happen in Denver."

Another neighbor said the area is still safe and "a good place for children to be reared."

The suspect, known as John Doe to the task force of investigators in Denver, Aurora and Arapahoe County, has come close to being caught before, but it does not appear to slow him down.

On Sept. 18, an Aurora woman living alone heard a noise in her home. She crouched down in her room, cradling a gun, and fired when she saw a man's silhouette approaching her doorway. She missed but scared off the man, believed to be John Doe. When a teenager was attacked Oct. 13, it was hoped that a security camera at a nearby Walgreens store captured his image, but, Denver police spokesman Sonny Jackson said Wednesday, it did not.

In March, Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey took the unusual step of filing charges against him through his **DNA** to speed up the legal process once he is caught.

The task force has followed up on hundreds of leads, dragged potential suspects in for questioning and stumbled upon other crimes, but has fallen short of finding its man.

On Wednesday, Detective Virginia Lopez urged women to be alert as it begins to get darker earlier. She also asked residents to be cognizant of their "false sense of security."

Anyone with information about the attack or the assailant should call Crimestoppers at 720-913-STOP.

POLICE NEARLY NAB METRO RAPE SUSPECT; WITH TUESDAY ATTACK, COPS '

NOTES: prietob@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-892-5219; Headline p.1A - FEARS RISE OVER SERIAL RAPIST / Latest assault might be linked to 14 others.; Related color photo p.1A

GRAPHIC: Photo (2), Map, Wendy Neuberger says she is "nervous and scared" after a neighbor was attacked Tuesday evening in east Denver. The sexual assault was thwarted by an off-duty Denver police officer who lives in the neighborhood and heard the victim's screams. Through **DNA** testing, the attacker fits the description of a serial rapist. Charges against the rapist have been filed by District Attorney Mitch Morrissey. DENNIS SCHROEDER / ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, CAPTION: NEW CASE MAY BE LINKED TO 14 OTHERS / Veronica Giron and her daughter, Angel Hernandez, 13, listen as Detective Virginia Lopez talks to reporters outside Denver police headquarters about a string of rapes in the metro area. "I worry for my daughter's safety," Giron said. A masked man who sexually assaulted a woman Tuesday night was nearly caught and may be responsible for the earlier attacks. (Ran on p. 1A of regional edition) DENNIS SCHROEDER / ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, CAPTION: Serial attacks. See graphic archive. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

LOAD-DATE: November 1, 2005

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Copyright 2005 Chicago Tribune Company
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October 28, 2005 Friday
West Final Edition

SECTION: METRO ; ZONE W; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 458 words

HEADLINE: Jury visits site where slain girl's body was buried;
Bartlett High teen was killed in 2002

BYLINE: By Art Barnum, Tribune staff reporter.

BODY:

The Cook County jury hearing evidence against Turner Reeves III in the 2002 kidnapping, murder and rape of 14-year-old Nassim Davoodi visited the girl's shallow grave Thursday, a move similar to one by the jury that convicted co-defendant Skyler Chambers this year.

On the third day of the Rolling Meadows trial, the jury viewed the site in a wooded area of Long Grove, where the Bartlett High School freshman's body was discovered several days after her mur-

der on May 31, 2002. The site contained the grave, which was 45 inches long by 25 inches wide and 12 inches at its deepest point.

The jury that convicted Chambers in April had been taken to the same site and had heard the same testimony that DuPage County sheriff's Lt. Paul Dunklau gave about finding the body under several inches of dirt, with her pants down to her thighs.

Reeves' jury also heard identical testimony Thursday as did the earlier jury from Dr. Nancy Jones, a forensic pathologist, who conducted the girl's autopsy and ruled that she had been strangled.

The major difference in this trial is that Reeves' is pointing the finger at Chambers, who is already convicted of the rape and murder of the Carol Stream girl.

DuPage County Assistant State's Atty. Jeffrey Kendall said that when he questioned Reeves about the missing girl and her death, "he claimed he never had sex with her, that he was never in the back seat of his car with the girl and that he saw Chambers place a choke-hold on her until she was unconscious."

Kendall said that at Reeves' command, Chambers got two pillows from his Hanover Park home and when Chambers felt a pulse from the girl, he suffocated her with the pillows.

"Reeves said he told Chambers 'Don't be doing this,' but he did nothing to stop it because he was afraid of Chambers," said Kendall.

Chambers claimed during his trial that he never raped the girl, but was present when Reeves did. Chambers admitted that he helped hold the girl down, but that Reeves was the one who killed her.

Chambers' jury heard evidence that his **DNA** was linked to the murder, and Reeves' jury is to be told Friday that Reeves' **DNA** ties him to the crime.

Reeves, 24, of Hanover Park and Chambers, 23, of California had been e-mail friends for several months before meeting for the first time just days before Davoodi's death.

The trial may end Friday, depending on the length of the defense's testimony. Reeves' lawyer hasn't indicated if he will testify on his own behalf.

Prosecutors will seek the death penalty for Chambers at his sentencing next month and they have indicated that if Reeves is convicted, they would also seek the death penalty.

In both cases, Cook County Judge Joseph Urso, who presided over both trials, would determine the sentence.

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LOAD-DATE: October 28, 2005