

DNA Evidence and Crime -Solving

“Christa murder investigator sweeps Truro in DNA probe,” The Boston Herald January 6, 2005.

Men from the small town of Truro are being approached by state troopers to provide voluntary DNA samples to be compared with DNA found on a murder victim Christa Worthington three years ago. 175 men agreed to provide swaps of their DNA, as police try to “narrow the field” of potential suspects.

“Three arrested in four-year hunt for Damilola's killers,” The Daily Telegraph (London) January 6, 2005.

Three people have been charged in shocking murder of a 10-year-old school boy back in 2000. The three arrestees-two youths and one juvenile-were taken into custody just after the murder, but were not charged at the time and released. Their recent arrests were a result of advances in DNA technology.

“Florida checks DNA of Missouri sex offender,” St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri) January 5, 2005.

After escaping from a Missouri sexually violent predator unit in 2001 sexual offender Thomas Ingrassia was discovered in Florida in 2003 and returned to Missouri. Missouri officials have sent a saliva sample taken from Ingrassia to authorities in Pinellas County, Fla., who want to check his DNA with two rapes and a murder in the area where Ingrassia lived after escaping the unit.

“Man who raped, murdered, sentenced to life in prison,” St. Petersburg Times (Florida) January 4, 2005.

Seven years after the unsolved rape of a woman and the murder of her husband, the attacker has been brought to Justice. Chatsiam Lioy was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison. Lioy was convicted after DNA evidence from the crime was compared with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement DNA database.

Controversies Concerning DNA Databanks and Laboratories

“Lawmakers Address Crime Lab Problems; Committee looks at reforms, says local officials have dragged their feet,” The Houston Chronicle January 05, 2005.

State lawmakers in Texas discussed enacting sweeping reforms in crime labs in Houston and statewide. Senators gave outlines of the issues that they plan to examine during the upcoming legislative session, including greater oversight of all crime labs and the creation of independent regional laboratories, not connected with law enforcement agencies.

Expanding the DNA Databank

“Police hope new DNA law cracks cases,” St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri) January 2, 2005.

A new law mandating the DNA testing of all felons went into effect Saturday. State investigators are hoping that through the new DNA they will have new leads on old crimes, solve cold cases and stop serial rapists and murders before they attack again.

DNA-based Post Conviction Challenges

“Camm evidence may be damaged; Prosecutor says it won't block retrial,” The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY) January 5, 2005.

In the murder retrial of former state trooper David Camm, Indiana state police experts are trying to determine whether DNA material from the crime scene was damaged during storage. The mis-stored evidence has been sent to state police labs so determine if the evidence was affected.

“Law signed to help right wronged cons,” The Boston Herald December 31, 2004.

After serving 10 years behind bars for a rape that DNA evidence now says he did not commit, Neil Miller plans to be one of the first exonerees to seek redress under a new state law that allows those who have spent a year or more in prison and are later exonerated to seek up to \$500,000 in compensation.

DNA Science and Technology

“Maclyn McCarty Dies at 93; Pioneer in DNA Research,” The New York Times January 6, 2005.

Dr. Maclyn McCarty the last of the Manhattan scientific team that were the first to show that genes were made of DNA, died on Sunday at the age of 93.