

**DNA Evidence and Crime-Solving**

“Lake sheriff arrests man in multiple-rape case,” Plain Dealer (Cleveland) March 24, 2005.

A man was arrested in a series of rapes that took place in Cleveland and Erie, Pa. dating back to 1996. At the time of the arrest the man was served with a warrant for the collection of a sample of his DNA. Cleveland police recently linked a single rapist to the attacks of 7 women through DNA evidence, and later linked them to the Erie Cases after 1,500 DNA samples from unsolved sexual assault cases were submitted to the state DNA database.

“Man ordered to stand trial in 1994 killing,” The San Diego Union-Tribune March 24, 2005.

Ten years after the murder of Martin Tamplin, his wife’s boyfriend is being charged with the murder. David Prozak was always suspected in the killing but there was not enough evidence to file charges at the time. Now, through new DNA testing, investigators have been able to link blood on a pair of Prozak’s pants to Tamplin’s blood.

“DNA Leads to Arrest in Slaying; Hopkins Student Was Asphyxiated,” The Washington Post March 24, 2005.

Two months after a student at John’s Hopkins University was found murdered, a former restaurant cook has been charged in her murder. Donta M. Allen, 27, was charged with first degree murder after a DNA sample he provided matched DNA found at the scene of the murder.

“Man to be sentenced in kidnap-rape case; Music writer can expect 25 years,” The San Diego Union-Tribune March 22, 2005.

A man found guilty of kidnapping and raping a 13-year-old boy in 1996 pled guilty to the charges in exchange for a prison term of 25 years. 28-year-old Rancho Bernardo was linked to the assault in 2004 after police ran DNA evidence from cold cases through the state DNA database and linked Bernardo’s DNA from previous assault case to the rape.

“Co-Workers Become Focus in Killing at Water Tank,” The New York Times March 18, 2005.

In the search for the person who may be accountable for the murder of 43-year-old Geetha Angara, Possaic County investigators have taken DNA samples from 85 people who were present at the water treatment facility where she worked at the time of her murder.

**Controversies Concerning DNA Databanks and Laboratories**

“Taskforce to oversee Tonge forensic review,” Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia) March 23, 2005.

A committee made up of stakeholders from the Premier’s, Justice, Health and Police Departments will oversee initiatives aimed at the reduction of workloads at the John Tonge Centre. The committee would oversee the outsourcing of DNA evidence. The initiatives come as a result of an independent review of the testing procedures at the Centre.

“Man in BTK sweep wants DNA sample destroyed,” Chicago Tribune March 22, 2005.

During one of the largest DNA sweeps in the U.S. in search of the Wichita B.T.K. killer, police barged into the home of Roger Valadez and forced him to provide a DNA sample, which eventually excluded him from the investigation. Now, after the man who has been charged with the crimes has been arrested, Valadez would like his DNA sample destroyed and an explanation as to why he was a suspect. A court hearing is set for April 1.

“DNA Evidence Will Be Key in Hazel Dell Murder Trial Deshan Watson Is Charged With Murder in the Death of Matthew,” The Oregonian (Portland, Oregon) March 22, 2005.

In the murder trial against Deshan A. Watson, the case will center on DNA from a neoprene mask that was worn by the killer. The defense is expected to argue that the DNA evidence from the mask contains cells from several people and cannot be strictly linked to Watson. The trial is expected to wrap up at the end of the week.

**Expanding the DNA Databank**

“Creation of DNA database is supported by Gardai,” The Irish Times March 24, 2005.

According to the Association of Garda Sergeants and Inspectors (ASTI), the Republic would benefit from the creation of a DNA database which would assist in crime fighting efforts.

**DNA-based Post Conviction Challenges**

“Lawyers debate DNA in plea for new trial in rape, murder; Innocence Project says DNA evidence doesn’t match Elkins,” Plain Dealer (Cleveland) March 24, 2005.

Ever since Clarence Elkins was convicted of murdering and raping his mother-in-law and his niece 7 years ago, he has been trying to prove his innocence. The director of the Ohio Innocence Project, Mark Godsey has been helping argue the case on Elkins behalf and filed motions as to why Elkins deserves a new trial. DNA experts also testified that new

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DNA testing methods excluded Elkins from every piece of evidence examined.