

## **DNA Evidence and Crime-Solving**

“Metropolitan area digest” St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri) May 5, 2005

Investigators linked Danny Ray Kittrell, now 48, to the 1983 murder of Elizabeth "Betsy" Cook through DNA evidence and a fingerprint on a credit card last year. St. Louis prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

“Digest” Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL) May 5, 2005

Police, using DNA evidence, arrested Joseph Michael Finch, 30, in connection with a 5-year-old rape and robbery at a Coconut Creek home.

“DNA Provides Break In Prostitute's Slaying” Tampa Tribune (Florida) May 5, 2005

Tamara Gay Lank was murdered in 2002. DNA evidence found under her fingernails had no match in the state's DNA database until Michael Theodore Dry Jr., 30, broke into a Circuit City trailer to steal digital cameras. When he was sent to prison for grand theft and burglary, he had to give a DNA sample for the state's database.

“Suspect found not guilty of '94 killing; Family members are shocked by verdict, in light of DNA results.” Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN) May 4, 2005

Milous Temple was found not guilty of the 1994 rape and murder of 78-year-old Helen Dahl. DNA from small amounts of semen on Dahl's slacks matched Temple's, but defense counsel argued that the semen came from the basement floor where Temple had previously had sex with a prostitute.

“Chilling details in Brents case; Suspected sexual predator to stand trial on 72 counts of rape, attempted murder” Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO) May 3, 2005

In a preliminary hearing Monday, Brent J. Brents, 35, was ordered to stand trial on 72 charges of rape and attempted murder in one of Denver's most vicious sexual rampages. Six women and two girls were victimized in the knifepoint assaults in three Denver neighborhoods between October and February. Investigators say the cases were linked to Brents by DNA evidence, witness accounts and Brents' admissions to police.

“Police: Ex-officer slain by son after family row” St. Petersburg Times (Florida) May 2, 2005

A 54-year-old man was being held Saturday in the Monroe County Jail in a slaying in Florida 19 years ago. George McCloud was arrested Thursday and charged with first-degree murder in the 1986 killing of Sharon McWhorter. The case was reopened three years ago after hairs at the crime scene matched a DNA sample taken from McCloud. He was indicted last week by a grand jury.

“Dogged sleuthing hunts down rape suspect” Plain Dealer (Cleveland) May 1, 2005

Nathan Ford, 37, was arraigned Tuesday on charges of rape. Detective Alan Strickler had linked eight rapes to one serial rapist, and an anonymous tip led to Ford's arrest. Ford was booked into Lake County Jail, and a DNA sample taken from his mouth matched evidence collected from the eight attacks.

"Old case puts new twist on DNA test" St. Petersburg Times (Florida) April 30, 2005

Prosecutors on Friday said they would test evidence for DNA in the case of death row inmate James Floyd. The state is asking the Florida Supreme Court to reconsider its decision last month ordering a new trial. Prosecutors believe that DNA testing, which was unavailable at the time of trial, will strengthen their case.

"DNA linked to rapes, police say" Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL) April 30, 2005

A serial rapist who is accused of sneaking into homes in the middle of the night was arrested this week after his DNA was linked to six rapes. Sedrick Williams, 30, may have attacked up to 15 victims, including a 7-year-old girl, since Christmas Day 2002. Williams was forced to give a DNA sample last year when he violated his probation stemming from a 1997 stalking conviction. The sample came back with positive matches this week.

"Man pleads guilty to sex assault of 5-year-old girl" Chicago Tribune April 29, 2005

Raul Dominguez, 57, pleaded guilty Thursday in Lake County Circuit Court to two counts of predatory criminal sexual assault for molesting a 5-year-old girl. DNA evidence linked Dominguez to the crime, Assistant State's Atty. Daniel Shanes said.

"Prosecutor Seeks to End Time Limit in Rape Cases" The New York Times April 29, 2005

The case of Fletcher A. Worrell, a rape suspect whose DNA prosecutors have linked to at least 25 rapes and sexual assaults over three decades, has focused new scrutiny on New York's five-year statute of limitations for sex crimes. Over the past five years, Manhattan prosecutors said, they have had to close 690 sexual assault cases in which they had solid leads based on DNA evidence because the crimes fell outside the statutory limit. The statute of limitations in New York is five years for first-degree sexual assault, but it can be extended by a court to 10 years if the suspect's whereabouts are not known.

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

"Grant to help state police probe 'cold' cases; Agency to get \$600,624 from U.S. Justice Dept." The Baltimore Sun April 29, 2005

The Maryland State Police will receive \$600,624 from the U.S. Department of Justice to help investigate unsolved "cold" cases through the analysis of DNA evidence. Federal officials said that \$14.2 million was awarded to 38 jurisdictions nationwide. The grants are part of a presidential initiative to supplement more than \$1 billion earmarked to eliminate backlogs in casework; improve

crime laboratory capacity; provide DNA analysis training; provide for post-conviction DNA testing; and conduct testing to identify missing persons.

“County police get money to clear cases using DNA Funds will be used to eliminate backlogs, improve crime labs” St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri) April 29, 2005

The St. Louis County Police Department was one of 38 agencies nationwide to receive money dedicated to clearing cases using DNA evidence. The \$1 billion Justice Department initiative is called Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology. Experts with the National Institute of Justice estimate that police agencies or crime labs across the country have more than 500,000 pieces of biological evidence waiting to be processed.

### **Expanding the DNA Databank**

“Panel OKs bill to curb loud music in cars; House may tweak proposed penalties” Times-Picayune (New Orleans) May 5, 2005

The Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice gave 10-1 support to HB 106 by Rep. Jane Smith, R-Bossier City, to let prosecutors seek DNA samples with search warrants that do not expire until the DNA sample is taken. The warrant would be good statewide. Now, a search warrant is good for 10 days before it must be renewed and is valid only in the parish in which it is issued.

### **DNA-based Post Conviction Challenges**

“Case dropped in killing retrial; DA abandons prosecution of former officer” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (Wisconsin) April 30, 2005

On Friday prosecutors dropped homicide charges against Evan Zimmerman in the middle of a retrial. This marks another victory for the Wisconsin Innocence Project, the University of Wisconsin Law School program that used DNA evidence to free two men from prison. DNA testing also was pivotal in Zimmerman's case, even though it did not establish who killed Kathleen Thompson, a 38-year-old Eau Claire resident.

“Metro Briefing New Jersey: Mount Holly: More DNA Testing Sought” The New York Times April 29, 2005

Prosecutors want more evidence testing to be carried out before responding to Larry Peterson's claim that DNA results have cleared him of a murder for which he has been imprisoned since 1987. Peterson won a 10-year court battle in 2003 to get DNA testing on hair, semen and fingernail scrapings from the body of the victim, Jacqueline Harrison.

### **DNA Evidence and Sentencing**

“Romney files death penalty bill; Measure sets out tight restrictions” The Boston Globe April 29, 2005

Governor Mitt Romney yesterday filed a long-awaited bill to reinstate the death penalty in Massachusetts. The bill lays out a set of hurdles for meting out capital punishment sentences. The measure calls for verifiable scientific evidence such as DNA to sentence someone to death and a tougher standard of "no doubt" of guilt for juries to sentence defendants. It also calls for a pool of certified capital case lawyers to ensure proper representation for the indigent and allowing jurors to serve in the guilt phase of the trial who do not necessarily support the death penalty.

### **DNA Science and Technology**

“Police to ‘grow’ DNA from samples to trap mother's attacker” Independent on Sunday (London)  
May 1, 2005

Forensic science experts are using innovative DNA testing techniques to help police bring to justice the knifeman who stabbed Abigail Witchalls, paralysing her. Home Office scientists have been drafted in to analyse evidence for traces of DNA. They will then 'grow' under laboratory conditions anything they find on these swabs, including fragments of skin cells or minute traces of saliva, in an attempt to produce a large enough sample or genetic fingerprint which can then be matched against a potential suspect.