

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

“Rapist gets up to 15 years in prison” Buffalo News (New York) April 14, 2005

David Oliveri, 51, was ordered to spend up to 15 years in state prison for rape. Oliveri was arrested in July 2004 after DNA linked him to the July 1995 attack on a 14-year-old girl.

“Freed jailbird netted in rape” Daily News (New York) April 14, 2005

Victor Cruz, 34, was arraigned yesterday on charges of rape, only one day after being released from prison. DNA evidence had linked him to a 1995 rape on Staten Island. DNA collected from the victim matched Cruz’s sample that was placed on file with the New York State’s DNA database after a 1999 armed robbery conviction.

“Mask hides face, reveals DNA” Newsday (New York) April 14, 2005

A mask used to rob a deli in 2002 had DNA that matched that of Lloyd Dumpson, 23, who had given a DNA sample to a probation officer earlier this year. Dumpson was arrested on Monday.

“Police take serial-rape suspect by surprise; Man nabbed at Akron job misjudged magnitude” Plain Dealer (Cleveland) April 14, 2005

DNA evidence helped Cleveland police link seven of nearly 1500 unsolved rapes to one man. Investigators did not know who he was until an anonymous tip responding to police warnings of a serial rapist included a copy of Nathan Ford’s police record for indecent exposure. Ford, 37, was indicted before a grand jury on Wednesday.

“DNA 'links' 7-year trail of rape cases” The Advertiser April 13, 2005

A 33-year-old man who allegedly preyed on Adelaide women over a seven-year period has been arrested and charged with five rapes. Detectives made the breakthrough in the long-running case after the man's DNA was taken in connection with another matter. Once on the Forensic Science Centre database, his profile was linked to five unsolved rape cases between 1997 and 2004 - all committed by the same offender.

“Families seek cold-case squads; A spokesman for victims' relatives says there are 1,000 unsolved homicides in the state. Denver's DA says cases are being reviewed.” The Denver Post April 13, 2005

Howard Morton, a spokesman for Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons, made a plea to the Colorado legislature to organize and fund state-level cold-case squads to solve a backlog of 1,000 homicides in the state. Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey said that authorities have reviewed over 2,000 cases, of which 460 involved requests for DNA testing. Of those requests, there have been 56 “hits,” which means there has been a match with a DNA profile in the national database.

“Avila's Family Supports Him on the Stand; Mother and three sisters of Samantha Runnion's

alleged molester and killer say they never saw signs he was a sexual abuser.” Los Angeles Times April 13, 2005

Lawyers for Alejandro Avila, the man accused of molesting and killing Samantha Runnion, questioned the Orange County crime lab’s quality control practices. A forensic scientist from the crime lab acknowledged that some items were not in compliance with FBI standards, but that these minor deviations would not affect the results of the DNA testing.

“Man is charged in stabbing death after DNA link found” Chicago Tribune April 11, 2005

Antonio Dehoyos, a suspect in the stabbing death of a Far South Side woman in March 2004, was arrested after police allegedly matched him to DNA evidence taken from a beer can left at the crime scene. The 50-year-old man was one of three people who allegedly robbed Suzanne Evans in her home on March 28.

“Old bones may yield new clues in deaths; federal grant lets sheriff’s office explore cold cases with DNA testing.” Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL) April 10, 2005

The bones of about 50 unidentified people found dead throughout the county since the early 1970s will be sent to a Texas lab for DNA analysis. Once testing is completed, results will be compared against a nationwide FBI database to see if they match the DNA provided by family members of missing people.

“DNA puts man in dock 21 years after Murrell death” The Daily Telegraph (London) April 09, 2005

The murder of Hilda Murrell, the anti-nuclear activist, a fertile source of conspiracy theories for 20 years, was finally solved by advances in DNA profiling. Scientists had stored a piece of Miss Murrell’s clothing bearing a semen stain with the killer’s DNA. In 2003 a match was made with Andrew George, then 16. Fingerprints taken from Miss Murrell’s house were re-examined and found to be consistent with George.

“DNA ENDS 18-YEAR SEARCH FOR A KILLER” The Oregonian (Portland, Oregon) April 9, 2005

The 1986 slaying of Sara Zirbes was finally solved by DNA evidence that was obtained as a result of legislation passed in 2000 that required certain felons to submit to DNA testing. Leon Lamont Phillips, 55, had already been convicted for rape and robbery and was swabbed for cells. His DNA was a match with DNA taken from samples from the victim’s body.

“Lab solves wildlife crimes; Experts in Wyoming use DNA testing to hunt down poachers” Rocky Mountain News (Denver, CO) April 9, 2005

DNA fingerprinting is being used to seal a conviction or lock in a plea bargain in game violations. When confronted with DNA evidence, Shane Baker, 26, and his cousin, Seth Campbell, 26, confessed to the illegal shooting of a ram. DNA evidence also led to charges

against six men in association with the unlawful killing of eight deer, including three majestic bucks.

“Man charged with molesting slain girl; DNA match cited in Katie Collman case” The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY) April 8, 2005

The case involving the abduction and murder of 10-year-old Katlyn "Katie" Collman took an unexpected turn yesterday when police announced that they had charged Anthony Stockelman with molesting her shortly before or after her death. Indiana State Police said DNA taken from Katie's body matched a recent sample given by Stockelman.

“Guilty pleas in 2 attacks he admits rape, beating” Daily News (New York) April 8, 2005

A homeless ex-con who was arrested when he attacked an artist on Sept. 2, 2003, had DNA that matched samples taken from an elderly woman who had been raped just two weeks before. Bernie Hogan, 46, pleaded guilty to one count of first degree rape for the first incident and also pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted first-degree rape for the second attack.

“Thirsty burglar left DNA samples on bottles; Consistent offender who raided six offices is jailed for five years after police match saliva on soft drinks left at the scene of the crime” South China Morning Post April 8, 2005

A burglar was arrested after police matched his DNA to saliva samples collected from bottles he had drunk from and dropped at the crime scene. Woo Chi-fu, 32, was sentenced to five years in jail after he pleaded guilty to six counts of burglary committed between February 14, 2003, and August 24 last year.

“Around the state” The Houston Chronicle April 09, 2005

A man who authorities say beat, raped and choked to death a mother of six in 1996 has been arrested. Police had been looking for Albert Martinez Jr., 36, since 2003 after matching DNA from the slaying with a national database. He was in the Lubbock County Jail after his arrest in mid-March on a parole violation charge.

### **Expanding the DNA Databank**

“All felons soon to give DNA; New state law requires that samples be taken for nationwide database” Columbus Dispatch (Ohio) April 13, 2005

A new Ohio law, effective May 18, requires DNA samples from all people convicted of felonies. Ohio is the 37<sup>th</sup> state to enact such a law, which will add over 100,000 samples to the 60,555 now on file. The ACLU of Ohio is considering a court challenge to the new law, saying its provisions violate constitutional rights.

“Research bonding is OK'd; House supports university funds” The Courier-Journal (Louisville, KY) April 12, 2005

A bill passed yesterday in the Indiana House would require the Department of Correction or a sheriff to obtain a DNA sample from anyone convicted of a felony or conspiracy to commit a felony. Approved 82-14 in the House, the bill returns to the Senate, which approved a slightly different version.

“DNA collection bill advances” Star Tribune (Minneapolis, MN) April 8, 2005

A bill currently in the Minnesota Senate would add testing upon arrest of 4500 violent and predatory criminal suspects a year, beginning in July. Currently, the state has about 31,000 DNA profiles in a database started in 1989 for convicted sex offenders, but the program has not been fully funded by the Legislature. The growing backlog stands at 19,700 swabs of convicts’ saliva awaiting DNA analysis.

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

“Lake County judge orders new DNA tests in '86 rape case” Chicago Tribune April 14, 2005

Bennie Starks, 45, has spent more than 18 years in prison after being convicted of sexually assaulting a woman in 1986. Vaginal swabs once thought to be lost were found nearly a year ago, and a Lake County circuit judge reversed himself and ordered DNA tests to be conducted on the new evidence.

“In N.Y., Lawmakers Vote Not to Reinstate Capital Punishment; Accidental Execution of the Innocent Cited” The Washington Post April 13, 2005

A legislative committee in New York tossed out a bill Tuesday aimed at reinstating the state's death penalty, which a court had suspended last year. Assemblyman Joseph R. Lentol (D), who once strongly supported the death penalty, led the fight to end it, in part because of DNA evidence revealing that innocent men have been sentenced to die.

“DNA undercuts verdict in infamous Iowa case; Key fact disproved in chilling 1975 ‘Cain-Abel’ massacre of family, yet circumstantial evidence remains strong” Chicago Tribune April 11, 2005 Monday

Jerry Mark was convicted for the murder of his brother’s family in 1975. After years of failed appeals, his fight received a huge boost when the state crime lab reported recent DNA test results. They exclude him from saliva found on cigarette butts recovered from several rooms in the farmhouse--the only physical evidence the state had to link Jerry Mark to the crime scene.