

“Bill would let feds collect DNA from arrested suspects,” *Orlando Sentinel* (Florida) September 25, 2005.

Under a provision of a Senate bill to expand collection of personal data, suspects either detained or arrested by federal authorities could be forced to provide DNA samples to be stored in the national DNA database. The measure has already been approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee and has the support of the White House, but has not yet gone before the floor for a vote.

“Man Guilty Of Kidnapping, Not Rape; Verdict upsets family of missing 5-year-old,” *Columbus Dispatch* (Ohio) September 24, 2005.

Lindsey Bruce, 24, who was on trial for kidnapping and raping 5-year-old Emily Rimel, was not convicted to a life sentence after jurors discounted DNA evidence in the case. Bruce instead faces up to 10 years in prison for kidnapping.

“Jury asks death for killer of girl, 9; DNA helps to close case after 14 years,” *The San Diego Union-Tribune* September 24, 2005.

The jury in sentencing of Manuel Bracamontes, who is convicted of brutally murdering 9-year-old Laura Arroyo, has recommended that he be sentenced to be executed. Bracamontes was linked to the crime in 2003 after DNA from the murder was matched to his.

“NAPA; DNA clue a break in double slaying; Cigarette butts add details to identity of killer of 2 women,” *The San Francisco Chronicle* September 24, 2005.

Investigators have uncovered DNA evidence in the murders of two Napa women in 2004. Investigators do not have any other leads but believe that with the new DNA profile they will soon find their suspect.

“Bail denied in abuse case; Suspect in killing tied to other crimes,” *Chicago Tribune* September 23, 2005.

Shawn Thigpen, 28, would have been off the streets more than a year ago, possibly preventing the murder of a 14-year-old boy, if DNA evidence was tested sooner, according to authorities. In 2004 16-year-old youth was assaulted and DNA from the case was immediately collected but not tested because of the backlog of cases. In an effort to eliminate the backlog DNA from the 2004 case was sent to an outside lab. Thigpen was found to be a match in both cases but has not yet been charged.

“DNA links another man to rape, killing, lawyer says,” *Plain Dealer* (Cleveland) September 23, 2005.

Clarence Elkins is serving a life sentence for raping and killing his mother-in-law and raping his niece, but DNA evidence collected links another man to the crime. The case will be re-evaluated says the chief counsel for the prosecutor's office, and the DNA retested.

"Artist found naked body," *The Press* (Christchurch, New Zealand) September 23, 2005.

Jules Patrick Burns, 30, is charged with the murder of a prostitute, Suzie Sutherland. DNA tests on the skin found under Sutherland's fingernails matches Burn's DNA to a high probability.

"Longtime suspect is found guilty in 1984 rape, murder; Improved DNA testing was key to convicting a man accused in the assault and murder of a 69-year-old Minneapolis woman," *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, MN) September 23, 2005.

21 years after the murder of 69-year-old Agnes Fafrowicz, longtime suspect Billy D. Bailey was found guilty of first-degree murder. The case was reopened in 2000 when DNA evidence from the assault was subjected to new DNA testing procedures.

"Inquiry finds Indian troops did killings," *The Toronto Star* September 23, 2005.

In an investigation by India's top investigating agency, revealed that troops from New Delhi who were hunting terrorists, killed and buried Indian civilians and tried to pass them off as being Pakistani militants. The investigation also revealed that the army doctored DNA tests in order to prove that the remains were those of militants from across the border.

"DNA testing help to solve older cases," *The Advertiser* September 22, 2005.

Premier Mike Rann told Parliament yesterday that DNA testing had led the way in solving old cases and spoke on the results of expanded DNA testing. The state's DNA database from suspects and offenders has reached 22,000 samples and has aided in linking 1900 different people to DNA from crime scenes.

"Hair to be Tested for DNA in 1988 Homicide Conviction," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (Pennsylvania) September 22, 2005.

Due to the exoneration of Thomas Doswell last month using DNA testing, District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala Jr. has said that his office will not oppose DNA testing in a 1988 homicide case. Zappala said that his office would not appeal the order by Common Pleas Judge Walter Little who ordered DNA testing in the 1988 slaying of a McDonald's restaurant manager. Drew Whitley who was sentenced to life in prison for the crime, has been fighting for ten years for DNA testing which he says will prove his innocence.

“Defendant is Now Called Serial Killer; Rodney Alcala, facing a second retrial in the abduction and death of an O.C. girl, allegedly killed four L.A. County women in the late 1970s,” *Los Angeles Times* September 20, 2005.

Rodney James Alcala, 62, who is already behind bars for the murder of a 12-year-old girl, is now charged with the slaying of four women in the Los Angeles area in the 1970s. The new cases were uncovered through DNA evidence.

Metro digest St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri) **September 20, 2005.**

ILLINOIS Police get grants for **DNA** analysis Illinois State Police will receive federal grants totaling more than \$2.5 million to fund **DNA** analysis in crime investigations, Rep. John Shimkus, R-Collinsville, announced Monday. Roughly \$1.4 million of that total comes from the **DNA** capacity enhancement program, which provides funding for crime laboratories operated by states and local governments to process **DNA** samples. The rest of the funding is coming through the forensic case-work **DNA** backlog reduction program, which gives grants to labs to analyze backlogged forensic samples.

**HEADLINE:** Federal grant to bolster **DNA** work St. Petersburg Times (Florida) **September 20, 2005**

Eleven agencies throughout Florida will receive \$8.8-million in grants as part of an ongoing federal initiative to strengthen **DNA** evidence as a crime-fighting tool, officials announced Monday at the National Forensic Science Technology Center. The Largo center - a private, nonprofit organization that performs forensic research and provides training to law enforcement agencies - will receive \$3.7-million, said Regina B. Schofield, assistant attorney general for the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs. Other agencies in the state that will receive grants include sheriff's offices and two universities.

Defense rests its case in Cannon's trial St. Petersburg Times (Florida) **September 20, 2005**

Prosecutors spent last week trying to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Gary Steven Cannon took part in the rape and stabbing death of 9-year-old Sharra Ferger eight years ago. Witnesses told jurors he disappeared the night she was lured from her home. He showed up at the house he'd been staying in the next day with a bloody shirt; a knife he had borrowed from a witness was missing. Former jail inmates said he not only confessed to the crime, but said he enjoyed it. Forensic experts linked his **DNA** to her body. During her testimony Friday, the defense insinuated that **DNA** evidence could have been contaminated in the lab. Two of the six hairs recovered from Sharra's body showed mixtures of **DNA** from the victim and the defendant. "There isn't any possible way that the **DNA** sample of Gary Cannon could have contaminated the other samples prior to the submission of the **DNA** of Gary Cannon," Suddeth said.