

DNA News  
Week of March 26 – April 2, 2006  
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### **DNA Evidence and Crime-Solving**

“DNA evidence yields arrests in 2 assaults” *Chicago Tribune* March 30, 2006

Joseph Davis, 18, was accused of the sexual assault and kidnapping of a 19-year-old Loyola University Chicago student. After DNA evidence linked him to the crime. His DNA was taken and stored in 2001 when he was convicted of battery. Douglas Williams, 29, was also linked through DNA to the assault of a 15-year-old girl. He was being held in jail on an unrelated charge when his DNA came up as a match for the assault.

“Son busted in fatal insurance plot.” *Daily News* (New York) March 28, 2006

Jung Hwan Cha allegedly smashed his father in the head and then fatally stabbed him in the neck to collect on his dad's \$500,000 life insurance policy. Police noticed a gash on his hand and his DNA was matched to blood found at the scene of the crime.

### **Controversies Concerning DNA Databanks and Laboratories**

“Errors prompt states to watch over crime labs” *USA TODAY* March 31, 2006

After troubling reports of forensic laboratories botching DNA evidence and leading to the conviction of an innocent man for rape, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Minnesota are looking at proposals to create oversight commissions to oversee laboratory work. Such commissions already exist in Texas and Virginia. Illinois is moving to mandate that state and private crime labs to be accredited by a professional crime lab group, a requirement that has been in place in Oklahoma for the past three years.

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

“Freed by DNA Test, Texas Man Cautiously Returns to Society” *The New York Times* March 28, 2006

Arthur Mumphrey was pardoned on March 17 after a DNA test indicated that he was not responsible for the 1986 rape of a 13-year-old. Mumphrey was released after spending 18 years wrongfully imprisoned.

“Wayne County OKS \$225,000 Settlement” *Detroit Free Press* (Michigan) March 29, 2006

Wayne County is set to pay \$225,000 to the estate of Eddie Joe Lloyd, the Detroit man who spent 17 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit. The settlement is for a

lawsuit brought about against Wayne County accusing them of providing sub-standard lawyers for defendants like Lloyd who could not afford an attorney of their own.

### **DNA Evidence and Sentencing**

“Man accused of calling woman after raping her gets life sentence” *The Baltimore Sun* March 28, 2006

Thurman Spencer, Jr. was convicted of first-degree rape, armed robbery, burglary and use of a handgun in a violent crime. Judge Dana Levitz sentenced him to life in jail and added four concurrent 20-year prison terms for each of the charges. Spencer had repeatedly called his victim after the rape in order to try to concoct a defense that their sexual encounter was consensual.

“Knifepoint rapist jailed on DNA data” *Courier Mail* March 28, 2006

David James Falla, 33, was arrested for raping a Brisbane prostitute at knifepoint. He was picked up in an unrelated incident and his DNA was matched to the DNA taken from the crime scene. Falla pled guilty and was sentenced to 324 days in prison, which he had already served in pre-sentence custody.

“Rapist has 20 years to learn lesson” *Daily News* (New York) March 28, 2006

Jofre Bautista, 34, abducted a 13-year-old girl off a Woodside street last October and raped her at knifepoint in his van. After his arrest, a DNA sample taken was matched to evidence gathered in 2003 after the rape of a 15-year-old girl. Bautista was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

“Man receives 65 years in sex assault after break-in Dallas” *The Dallas Morning News* March 30, 2006

William Beane, 32, was sentenced to 65 years in prison after he broke into an apartment while armed and sexually assaulted a woman while pointing the gun at her husband and her 7-year-old son.

### **DNA Science and Technology**