

DNA News  
Week of April 16 – April 22, 2006  
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### **DNA Evidence and Crime-Solving**

“Police arrest suspect in 1972 sex slaying; Offender database, DNA evidence lead to his capture” *The San Francisco Chronicle* April 22, 2006

San Francisco police used DNA evidence and a computer search of sex offender records in order to arrest 72-year-old John Puckett for the 1972 murder of 25-year-old nurse, Diana Sue Sylvester. Puckett was a sex offender and his DNA was stored in a DNA database.

“Riverdale man is charged in sexual attacks; Police cite DNA link in 2 of 4 assault cases” *Chicago Tribune* April 20, 2006

The town of Riverdale was alerted to a possible serial rapist after four assaults were reported. DNA linked 21-year-old Riverdale resident Wesley Toney to two of the four assaults. Police received an anonymous tip to test Toney’s DNA against the evidence collected in the assaults. Toney was convicted of burglary and his DNA was on file with the police.

“Help for rape victims. Response teams now in every city hospital.” *Daily News* (New York) April 19, 2006

New York City’s Mayor Bloomberg announced that all city hospitals now have special teams to help victims of sexual assault. Sexual Assault Response Teams have been up and running in the Bronx for two years, and Brooklyn for a year. The teams include rape counselors and forensic examiners to take evidence, including any DNA samples that can be found, within an hour of the victim arriving at the hospital.

“Inmate Charged In 1996 Rape” *The New York Times* April 19, 2006

Alex Jackson, 37, was charged with the rape of a woman in a beauty parlor in Queens, NY, ten years ago after his DNA was found on material left at the scene. Jackson is currently serving time for previous unrelated convictions. A sample of his DNA was stored in the DNA database, which helped police connect him to the 1996 assault.

“Man, 27, charged with luring girl, 13, to his car, assaulting her” *Star Tribune* (Minneapolis, MN) April 18, 2006

Ramon I. Blue, 27, was charged with the sexual assault of a 13-year-old girl he found walking home in a Minneapolis neighborhood last fall. Blue’s DNA was matched with evidence from the assault. Upon arrest, Blue admitted to the crime.

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

## **DNA Database Funding and Backlog**

### **Expanding the DNA Databank**

“Bill alters registry rules; Senate seeks to shut loopholes in law for sexual offenders”  
*Rocky Mountain News* (Denver, CO) April 21, 2006.

Colorado legislature has proposed a bill mandating that all convicted sex offenders who move to Colorado to register with local law enforcement and notify the community. This bill, Senate Bill 22, pass unanimously in the Senate on Thursday. This bill was proposed with Bill 150, which requires all convicted felons, including sex offenders, to supply a DNA sample for the Colorado DNA database.

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

“House Debates DNA Testing Policy” *Tampa Tribune* (Florida) April 21, 2006

Currently in Florida, the law states that DNA testing is only allowed up to four years after conviction. A new proposed bill would grant anyone convicted of a felony the right to a DNA test. This bill would expand convicts’ rights and allow for more post-conviction challenges to be seen in the courts.

### **DNA Evidence and Sentencing**

“Sexual predator to spend 22 years in jail” *The Daily Telegraph* (Australia) April 22, 2006

Serial rapist Wayne Anthony Trindall,44, attempted to rape an acquaintance, who led police right to Trindall. Police took his DNA which was matched to samples taken from six other rape victims, from 1995 to 2006. Trindall pled guilty to 17 offences related to the attacks and was sentenced to 22 years in prison.

“20 months for thief who stole from 2 priests Sheriff sends callous robber to prison for 'despicable' crimes” *The Herald* (Glasgow) April 20, 2006

Paul Tait, 30, stole hundreds of British pounds from the home of Father Stephen Hannah in December of 2004, and again a year later. He also threatened Father Thomas Holloran in his home in February of 2006 before taking his money as well. Tait’s DNA was found on a napkin at Father Hannah’s home and Father Holloran was able to pick him out of a police line up. Tait was sentenced to 20 months in jail for the crimes.

### **DNA Science and Technology**