

DNA News
Week of March 12 – March 18, 2006
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DNA Evidence and Crime-Solving

“Mystery DNA found under Poslun’s nail; defense lawyer says it points to realtor’s real killer” *The Toronto Sun* March 15, 2006

DNA found under the fingernail of slain Yorkville realtor Lisa Poslun, 38, was not a match for the man that police had charged with her murder, Nelson DeJesus. There was no match for the DNA when police ran the sample through the DNA databank.

“Search for a killer, DNA links bouncer to slay” *The Boston Herald* March 13, 2006

Student Imette St. Guillen was recently murdered in New York City. There was a break in the case when DNA was found on plastic ties that bound St. Guillen’s hands. The DNA was matched to that of Darryl Littlejohn, 41, a bouncer with whom St. Guillen was last seen.

“10 Years After Girl’s Murder, DNA Link Results in Arrest” *The New York Times* March 17, 2006

On December 2, 1996, 11-year-old Cherie Morrisette was murdered. For almost a decade no arrests were made. Recently, DNA evidence was run through the DNA databank and matched to 43-year-old Robert Mitchell, who has since been charged with rape and murder.

“DNA ties teen to slaying” *Chicago Tribune* March 17, 2006

A West Side teen James Terry, 16, was charged as an adult for first-degree murder in the stabbing death of an 11-year-old Chicago boy after DNA evidence tied him to the crime. DNA found on the handle of the knife used in the murder was matched to Terry. A motive has not yet been found.

Controversies Concerning DNA Databanks and Laboratories

“Guaranteeing justice; Review all convictions based on tainted Houston crime lab evidence” *The Houston Chronicle* March 16, 2006

The review of thousands of DNA cases in Houston continues to turn up errors made in processing evidence used in convictions by the Houston Police Department’s crime lab. Attorney Barry Scheck, founder of The Innocence Project, says lawyers in Texas will re-examine all red-flagged cases to examine if anyone was wrongly convicted.

DNA Evidence and Sentencing

“Seven years for man who raped student” *The Herald* (Glasgow) March 18, 2006

Jamie Irvine, 21, was sentenced to jail for seven years after raping a college student in a Woodburn Park, in Glasgow. DNA evidence linked Irvine to the rape.

DNA Science and Technology

“Enzyme speeds up DNA test” *The Press* (Christchurch, New Zealand) March 14, 2006

New Zealand scientists have found a rare enzyme in Antarctica that rapidly speeds up DNA extraction. Experts say that within a year the enzyme, found in a volcanic vent on Mount Erebus, will be ready and could revolutionize the work of crime laboratories around the world, allowing them to extract DNA at crime scenes in record time.