

Smith *Governmental*
Affairs
Alling *Attorneys at Law*
Lane

Sponsored By



Smith Alling Lane, P.S. provides governmental affairs services to Applied Biosystems. As part of this representation, the firm generates weekly reports on state and federal legislation and news articles. Applied Biosystems has authorized Smith Alling Lane to make these reports publicly available through this website. The information presented in these reports does not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of Applied Biosystems or Smith Alling Lane, P.S.

The November 14, 2003 DNA Resource Report is listed below.

These reports are prepared by Tim Schellberg and Lisa Hurst of Smith Alling Lane (253) 627-1091, on behalf of Applied Biosystems.

SUMMARY

The US House of Representatives has passed HR 3214, which authorizes approximately \$1 billion in federal grants for forensic DNA programs. The US Senate has yet to act on the proposal. Federal grants are helping Albuquerque, New Mexico clear its backlog of cases. Wisconsin intends to hire more personnel as part of its plans to address the backlog of DNA cases.

A New York court will allow DNA evidence collected from a suspect's discarded straw. DNA evidence helped to identify suspects for crimes in Alabama (cigar linked to a murderer), Florida (multiple rapes; murder), Maryland (cigarette butt linked to Michigan (abduction linked to a rape), Ohio offender), New York (hair linked to a murderer; rape verified through fetus testing), and Pennsylvania (murder). The Green River Killer, who was finally positively identified through DNA, has pled guilty to 48 murders. Five serial killings have been linked to a known offender in California. DNA evidence is also central in to high-profile murder cases in the US – the Washington area sniper shootings (DNA found on a rifle), and the Laci Peterson murder case (DNA found on a boat).

A New Jersey man is pushing forward with a challenge to the new state statute requiring DNA from all convicted felons, including those on probation or parole. The ACLU has filed an amicus brief in support of his suit.

Post conviction DNA cases made headlines in a Florida case (resulting in a release but not exoneration). And DNA evidence needed for testing in cases under question at the Houston crime lab is missing, which may result in pardons.

In International news...the Canadian Supreme Court has upheld requirements for DNA samples in investigations. A political party in an Australian state is calling for DNA testing of all inmates, and DNA evidence is central in two Australian murder cases... Thailand is considering a DNA database, and DNA evidence has convicted a Thai doctor of murder. Northern Ireland is also considering expanded DNA sampling authority. DNA tests link a man in South Africa to 21 assaults, and have linked to Germans to the murder of two children. Two jewel store thieves in England have been identified with the help of DNA testing on discarded masks worn during the raid.

STATE LEGISLATION

Genetic Privacy / Research

1. Florida SB 506 (Prefiled) -- Creates the "Genetic Counseling Practice Act.". Requires licensure to practice genetic counseling. Creates the Board of Genetic Counselors and provides for the appointment and staggering of terms of its members.
2. New Hampshire HB 1243 -- Prohibits the state from collecting, obtaining, or retaining any biometric data in connection with motor vehicle registration or operation, or in connection with driver licensing. Defines

“biometric” data to include DNA or RNA.

NEWS ARTICLES

Forensic DNA

1. “Code provisions on DNA searches upheld in unanimous SCC ruling.” The Lawyers Weekly, November 14, 2003. A unanimous Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that police have the right to force suspected criminals to give up samples of blood, hair and saliva for DNA analysis for investigative purposes. In upholding a judgment by the Alberta Court of Appeal, the court held that the provisions of the Criminal Code do not infringe upon protections from unreasonable searches and seizures. The court ruled that the implied reasonable expectation of privacy requires assessing whether the public's interest in being left alone must give way to the government's interest in advancing its goals -in this case, law enforcement.
2. “Many prepare to testify.” Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia), November 12, 2003. In Victoria, Australia, the trial has begun for a man accused of killing a toddler. Female DNA found on the toddler's bib was found to match the DNA of a rape victim, raising questions about contamination. Police insist the rape victim has no connection to toddler's disappearance.
3. “The Falconio Murder; Arrested.” Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia), November 11, 2003. In Australia, a man was arrested for the murder of a British tourist who disappeared in the Outback two years ago. The suspect was arrested outside an Adelaide court minutes after he was acquitted of raping a 12-year-old girl. It was only after the suspect, a mechanic and truck driver, was arrested in South Australia on sex charges that police, citing DNA evidence, alleged he was linked with the murder case. Northern Territory police issued the warrant after DNA testing allegedly matched a blood spot found on the T-shirt of the victim's companion (who survived the attack by hiding in the bush) to the suspect's DNA.
4. “Libs push for DNA test extension.” Hill Shire Times (Australia), November 11, 2003. In New South Wales, Australia, the State Opposition is calling for offender DNA testing to include all prison inmates. In addition, the State Opposition has called for a public debate on extending DNA profiling to include anyone convicted of a serious offence even if they are serving in-home detention, weekend detention or suspended sentences. Since January 2001, legislation has allowed police to take DNA samples from serious offenders serving jail time.
5. “Hair Link in Manolis Trial.” Newsday (New York), November 11, 2003. In a New York murder trial, a forensic scientist has testified that a tiny, dyed hair - less than a half-inch long - found on the victim's T-shirt linked her body to the family of the suspect who lived next door. The hair was identified using mitochondrial DNA; the mitochondrial DNA found in this hair fragment is consistent with 1 in 67 white people. That means more than 30,000 Long Islanders were the possible sources of that hair. The prosecution has proposed that said the hair probably belonged to the mother of the defendant, who lived with his parents. He then left it on the victim in the course of strangling her and dragging her body down the street in 1996. But the defense suggested the hair meant practically nothing. If it came from the suspect's mother, he said it could have been picked up when the victim was dragged by the killer across the suspect's front lawn.
6. “DNA Evidence Seals Killer's 'Guilty' Verdict.” Orlando Sentinel (Florida), November 11, 2003. In Florida, an Orange County jury has found a man guilty of rape and first-degree murder in the stabbing death of 13-year-old in 1986. Investigators in 2001 matched the suspect's DNA with that of sperm found on a vaginal swab from the time of the killing. That DNA match was the only evidence linking him to the girl's rape and, by association, her murder. No fingerprints were found on the murder weapon. No other evidence placed him directly at the crime scene that night. The man, a neighbor and occasional visitor to the girl's home, contended he spent that night with another woman, who was never identified.
7. “Motorcycling Thieves Roared Off With £1m Jewellery Haul.” Press Association, November 11, 2003. In England, suspects have been identified in two commercial robberies in which more than £1.2 million in jewels were stolen. Although no evidence was left behind after the first break-in, the thieves were not so fortunate when they returned for a repeat performance 30 days later. First of all a couple of passing photographers took a string of dramatic pictures as the raid unfolded on astonished passers-by. Then, the balaclavas found abandoned nearby

allegedly provided DNA matches to both suspects, "inextricably" linking them to the heist. Counsel claimed that considering the carbon copy modus operandi on each occasion it would be an "affront to common-sense" to suggest different sets of raiders were responsible.

8. "Thai doctor sentenced to death in high-profile murder case." Agence France Presse, November 10, 2003.
In Thailand, a doctor has been sentenced to death for murdering his wife and chopping her body into pieces in a case that shocked the kingdom when it was revealed two years ago. The doctor allegedly disposed of the dismembered body by flushing it down two hotel toilets. Tests on body parts found in the septic tanks of the two buildings visited by the doctor matched the DNA of his wife, who was head of obstetrics at a local hospital. However, her skeleton and other remains were never found. Prosecutors initially refused to try the doctor saying it could not be confirmed that the woman had died as her body had not been found, but a public outcry pushed prosecutors to again take up the case. The victim's father filed a suit against the doctor, and in 2001 the courts said that circumstantial evidence, including the DNA tests, established she had died.
9. "Forensic snare." Albuquerque Tribune, November 10, 2003.
Federal grants have helped decimate a backlog of cases, particularly lower priority ones, at the Metropolitan Forensic Science Center in Albuquerque. The cases stacked up because of a lack of manpower to process evidence in search of identifying DNA. Those cases can now be contracted out to private labs with money from the Department of Justice, which provided more than \$650,000 and was split between the Albuquerque crime lab and the lab operated by the state Department of Public Safety. The funding was part of the federal No Suspect Casework DNA Backlog Reduction Program.
10. "DNA test prompts Dade deal to free man jailed 20 years." Broward Daily Business Review, November 10, 2003.
Based on new DNA tests that did not confirm his guilt, the Miami-Dade state attorney's office has struck a deal to free - but not exonerate - a man who has spent 20 years in prison after being convicted of raping an 11-year-old girl. The man has agreed to plead no contest to a count of attempted sexual battery on a child under 12 in exchange for his release. If the deal is approved, McKinley would be one of the longest-serving prisoners ever set free because of DNA evidence. The prosecutor's office previously dismissed the DNA evidence as irrelevant. The state argued that the fact that another person's DNA turned up on the victim's vaginal swabs does not establish that the convicted man did not rape her, only that the victim had sex with someone else prior to the sexual battery. The defense revealed that the man whose DNA matched the semen recovered from the victim, died in a shootout 19 years ago.
11. "Serial Rape Case: 21 DNA Matches With Khumalo." SAPA (South African Press Association), November 10, 2003.
In South Africa, the Johannesburg High Court heard that a chef's DNA matches that of a previously unidentified child serial rapist suspected of twenty-one rapes. The chef is alleged to have raped schoolgirls over a period of years and faces 132 charges. Forty-three children have testified that they were raped by a man who took them to a secluded spot after claiming that he was a policeman. However, the suspect has denied all the charges, saying it was a case of mistaken identity.
12. "Hung jury forces mistrial in Calcasieu Parish murder case." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, November 9, 2003.
In Louisiana, a hung jury forced a mistrial in the trial of a man accused of kidnapping, raping and fatally stabbing a 4-year-old girl. The judge said one of the jurors refused to find the man guilty of anything but the lesser charge of second-degree murder, which carries a mandatory life sentence. An expert witness said DNA found on the girl was a perfect match to the suspect's DNA. The defense said the DNA collection processed was botched, and also questioned why no blood was found on the suspect or in his car, considering it was such a bloody crime.
13. "Police link Ohio man to unsolved sex assault." The Detroit News, November 9, 2003.
DNA has linked a 1997 unsolved sex assault in Michigan to a registered sex offender who spent two years in an Ohio prison for a 2000 abduction. The Ohio abduction was similar to the Michigan case, but in the Ohio case the woman was able to fight off her attacker. While in a county jail in Ohio, the suspect confessed to the 1997 assault.
14. "U.S. lawmakers want killings on Binational Commission agenda." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, November 8, 2003.
U.S. Democratic lawmakers are urging Secretary of State Colin Powell to put a decade-long stretch of murders in Ciudad Juarez on the agenda during the U.S-Mexico Binational Commission meetings in Washington. In a letter

released late Friday, 63 members of Congress urged Powell to encourage the Mexican government to exert "political will in solving the crimes"; to investigate threats against family members of some of the victims; to offer U.S. help in setting up a DNA database to help identify victims' bodies and give families of the disappeared closure; and to condemn the use of torture as a means of investigation.

15. "DNA Testing;Approval of funding is important step for justice." Detroit Free Press, November 8, 2003.
Editorial regarding Congressional legislation to fund DNA testing. Excerpt: "The U.S. House did the right thing by authorizing more than \$1 billion to expand the use of DNA evidence in criminal cases, including helping states determine the guilt or innocence of death row inmates... The House bill is no cure-all. It doesn't provide money for post-conviction DNA testing in states without a death penalty. That makes little sense. Neither justice nor public safety is served by keeping innocent people locked up for life... That said, the House bill is rightfully regarded as a milestone by many reformers. A bipartisan consensus has finally emerged that the nation must fix serious flaws in how criminal justice works, before public confidence in the system erodes."
16. "New charges for suspect held in rape." The Miami Herald, November 8, 2003.
Miami-Dade police have arrested a man they suspect is a serial rapist -- the 17th person they have charged with repeated attacks in the past three years. The suspect, in custody since last month after being charged with a 2001 rape, is linked by DNA to the rape of a 13-year-old girl in May. Police are still investigating whether the man committed any other attacks, including a 2000 rape on the same block as the 2001 case. The suspect was arrested Rodriguez in October, a day after he was picked out of a photo lineup by a woman who was raped at knifepoint in April 2001. Police had identified the man as a suspect when a DNA sample from the 2001 rape was matched to a sample taken from a North Miami doughnut shop that was burglarized in April. Fingerprints lifted from the shop were matched to Rodriguez's prints on file from previous arrests, which include burglary and fleeing police.
17. "DNA on blood stain prompts arrest in 1993 killing." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, November 7, 2003.
In Pennsylvania, DNA from a bloodstained truck helped police make an arrest for the killing of a man found dead of stab wounds 10 years ago. The suspect is already serving time in state prison for another murder.
18. "Man sentence to life in prison for killing juvenile detention officer." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, November 7, 2003.
In Alabama, a judge sentenced a man convicted of killing a juvenile detention officer to life in prison without parole. Cigars containing the suspect's DNA were found at the scene of the shooting and in the victim's stolen truck which was later recovered. The prosecution said the DNA, the victim's description and the identification of the suspect by an officer were critical to the case because there were no eyewitnesses to the shooting.
19. "Deadline on post-conviction DNA tests argued today;state supreme court." Broward Daily Business Review, November 7, 2003.
In Florida, lawyers from across the state have urged the Florida Supreme Court to extend the deadline by at least one year to allow an estimated 600 convicted felons to request DNA tests that could prove their innocence. They have also requested that the justices issue an order preventing law enforcement agencies throughout the state from destroying any biological evidence that could be used in DNA tests. The state is not opposing the request for an extension of time, but the Florida Attorney General is opposing any effort to require the state's law enforcement agencies to preserve biological evidence indefinitely, claiming it would be too burdensome. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association did not respond to the Supreme Court's request for comment on the deadline extension or preservation of evidence issues.
20. "Suit Seeks Limits on DNA Sampling." New Jersey Law Journal, November 7, 2003.
In New Jersey, a man has filed a pro se habeas corpus petition in U.S. District Court in Camden. He is challenging the constitutionality of the law on the basis that it requires an invasive search without probable cause and wrongly applies retroactively to those who made plea deals in which DNA was never discussed. The man's rap sheet includes more than 30 arrests - and his list of self-generated press cuttings (he calls himself NJWeedman) is even longer. He is currently in the Intensive Supervision Program after being released from a 16-month jail spell on a marijuana-dealing conviction. The ACLU has filed an amicus brief in the case, Forchione v. Bartlett, Civ. A. No. 02-4942. "Mr. Forchione is seeking only a preliminary injunction, and it's clearly reasonably likely that he will succeed on his challenge to the DNA law as the Ninth Circuit has already come to that conclusion," says the ACLU's legal director. Dates have not been set for oral arguments.

21. "Rifle in Muhammad's car tied to all but 2 killings." *The Record* (Bergen County, NJ), November 7, 2003.
In the Washington area sniper case, an FBI scientist has confirmed that Muhammad's DNA was found on a sight detached from the Bushmaster rifle found in his car, and there was a high likelihood, but not a certainty, that his DNA was on the rifle itself. The scientist said there was a 1-in-46 billion chance that an African-American other than Muhammad was the contributor of the DNA on the detached Bushmaster sight. He said there was a 1-in-210 chance a randomly selected African-American would have the same DNA as that found on the rifle stock, and a 1-in-21 chance for DNA on another spot on the weapon. The DNA of fellow sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo also was found on the rifle. The killings have been linked to the rifle through bullet markings.
22. "Row hits DNA move on crime." *Belfast Telegraph*, November 6, 2003.
The Northern Ireland Office and the PSNI are considering requiring DNA samples from arrested criminal suspects in an effort to aid detections. A proviso for Northern Irish matching legislation is contained in the Criminal Justice Bill being piloted through Parliament by the Home Office. Ministers believe it would increase detection rates and help prevent miscarriages of justice. Ms Winter, a human rights lawyer, said she did not dispute that DNA evidence was a useful tool for obtaining prosecutions but felt that maintaining records on individuals who were innocent or not charged with the crime could not be justified.
23. "RAINN Praises House for Passing DNA Bill." *Business Wire*, November 6, 2003.
The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), America's largest anti-sexual assault organization, praised the vote by the U.S. House of Representatives to pass H.R. 3214, "The Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act." The bill, fashioned after President Bush's \$1 billion "Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology" initiative, will provide \$1 billion in funding to analyze DNA from the national backlog of 350,000 untested rape evidence kits.
24. "New DNA evidence linked to L.A. slayings." *The Gazette* (Montreal, Quebec), November 6, 2003.
In Los Angeles, based on new DNA evidence, a man who has spent nearly his entire adult life in prison has been charged with murdering five women a decade ago when he was free between sentences. The man is believed to be the so-called "60 Freeway Slayer" who left bodies in communities around the Pomona Freeway east of Los Angeles in late 1993 and early 1994. The man has been serving a prison sentence for a series of armed robberies, and had been due to be released in February. A match to the crimes was made through the state's DNA database. The bodies were found between Nov. 1, 1993, and Jan. 12, 1994. The man had been freed from prison in early 1993 and was arrested again in February 1994. That was the only period of his adult life when he was not locked up -- he was sent to prison at 18 on a murder and robbery conviction.
25. "Trace of DNA played key role in cracking case." *The News Tribune*, November 6, 2003.
The Seattle-area Green River Serial Killer, who over the last year has led investigators to 51 sites where he claimed to have dumped bodies, said in an interview with a forensic psychiatrist after his arrest, "What got me caught was technology." Ridgeway had long been a primary suspect in the case, but police did not have sufficient evidence for an arrest until new DNA testing on old evidence was linked to Ridgeway. Some of the sites were where remains had already been found. But he also led detectives to four sets of previously undiscovered remains - and apparently took pleasure in knowing that investigators could not solve the vast majority of the crimes without his help. He has pleaded guilty in court to 48 deaths in the jurisdiction.
26. "Protests as suspected German child killers come to trial." *Agence France Press*, November 5, 2003.
The trial of two men accused of murdering two siblings began in western Germany, setting off tears in the courtroom and fierce protests by neo-Nazis outside. The two men are accused of strangling an 11-year-old boy and his nine-year-old sister after sexually assaulting her in March. DNA evidence, found on the bodies, was matched to the two suspects, police said. Police had planned to administer DNA tests to 2,000 local men as the two accused were captured in Switzerland in mid-April.
27. "DNA test on aborted fetus leads to rape conviction." *The Associated Press State & Local Wire*, November 5, 2003.
In New York, a man has been convicted of raping his cousin -- 12 years old at the time -- after DNA tests on the girl's aborted fetus indicated he was the father. The prosecutor said he doubted there would have been a conviction without the DNA evidence. The girl, now 14, initially told no one about the incident. Nearly four months later, she complained of feeling unwell and doctors discovered she was pregnant.
28. "Police use DNA to charge homeless man with rape." *The Baltimore Sun*, November 5, 2003

In Maryland, a homeless man is being held on charges of rape and assault after police said he gave them the DNA evidence used to connect him to the attack of a Baltimore County woman in January. When the homeless man was questioned earlier this year by police looking for information about a recent robbery and a rape, he smoked a cigarette and left the butt. The suspect had not offered any useful information, but police were suspicious of him and picked up the butt and had it tested on the chance that saliva was left on the cigarette and that it might match DNA from an unsolved crime. The DNA matched that in cells collected after a woman was raped at knifepoint in her home in January. The man was located by police after a television viewer who saw his photo on a newscast called police to say he had seen a man. According to court records, the suspect was charged in 1997 with rape and burglary and was sentenced to nine years in prison. He was released in May 2001 and was placed on parole until March 2005.

29. "Call To Collect DNA Samples Of Prisoners." Bangkok Post, November 5, 2003.
Thailand's Central Institute of Forensic Science director has floated the idea that DNA samples be collected from prisoners nationwide to enhance criminal investigation efficiency. His institute was making a feasibility study about collecting DNA data. In the first phase the institute would like to collect DNA samples from inmates nationwide. However, the institute had yet to discuss the idea with human rights commissioners and legal experts to ensure it would not go against any legal or human rights principles. The head of the Corrections Department, said he agreed with the idea. He did not think taking inmates' DNA samples would violate any human rights principles.
30. "Faster action needed on DNA evidence." Green Bay Press-Gazette, November 5, 2003.
Demand for DNA testing in Wisconsin is outpacing the ability of crime labs to keep up as law enforcement relies more on genetic fingerprinting to solve crimes. In Wisconsin, evidence in more than 500 cases sits on crime lab shelves waiting for DNA tests. The Attorney General hopes to clear up the backlog by hiring 13 additional criminal analysts. There could also be help on the way from Congress, which should approve a five-year, \$775-million plan to help crime labs speed up the testing of DNA evidence.
31. "DNA evidence destroyed; pardons called possible." The Houston Chronicle, November 5, 2003.
Evidence from a capital murder case and seven others tested for DNA by the Houston Police Department's beleaguered crime lab have been destroyed, said the District Attorney Chuck, adding that he may have to ask for pardons if any of the defendants were convicted largely on the weight of DNA evidence. The eight cases are among 21 feared missing by prosecutors and police who are attempting to retest nearly 400 cases originally analyzed by the HPD crime lab's DNA division, which was shuttered last year amid concerns about the accuracy of its work.
32. "Supreme Court Gets The DNA Ruling Right." Winnipeg Sun (Manitoba, Canada), November 5, 2003.
Editorial regarding the Canadian Supreme Court's recent decision upholding the constitutionality of requiring DNA samples in investigations. Excerpt reads: Finally, some good news for fed-up Canadians, many of whom believe the justice system is skewed in favor of the rights of lawbreakers. In a unanimous ruling, the Supreme Court of Canada declared last week that it is constitutional to seize DNA samples from people suspected of serious crimes. It's just too bad we can't name the guy who so strenuously objected to giving up his DNA. Of course, he didn't want to co-operate. And it had nothing to do with principled notions of privacy and the right to life and liberty. He just didn't want to go to jail for raping a 14-year-old Alberta girl. But DNA doesn't lie.
33. "Expert Says DNA Test Unreliable Prosecution, Witness Bicker Over Biology During Tense Moments." Modesto Bee, November 4, 2003.
In the California murder trial of Scott Peterson, a defense expert has blasted a DNA test that the FBI used on a hair found in Scott Peterson's boat, saying the technique can produce false results that are then compared against a flawed database. In a day of testimony marked by sharp exchanges with a prosecutor, the defense expert also said mitochondrial DNA testing was susceptible to contamination because of the small sample amounts and the procedures used. An expert for the defense testified that FBI techniques do not sufficiently take into account evolving genetic science and could wrongly conclude that a DNA sample could not have come from a specific individual. He also testified that mitochondrial DNA results can be thrown off if a sample is contaminated by a person somewhere along the line touching the sample or a test tube. Under questioning by the prosecution, the expert acknowledged that he had never personally extracted DNA to do a mitochondrial DNA test. He also refused to testify as to whether mitochondrial DNA was "generally accepted" among the scientific community -- calling that a legal term.
34. "Suspect's DNA Can Be Used In Probe." The Post-Standard, November 1, 2003.

A New York county judge has ruled that Onondaga County prosecutors can use DNA taken from saliva in a soda straw that a suspect threw away in February to link him to the slaying of a college student 28 years ago. The judge also rejected the argument that the suspect never surrendered his privacy rights to the saliva, which police found after they seized the straw from the trash at a Wendy's restaurant. Even if the suspect did have an expectation of privacy, he gave it up when he threw away the soda cup, the judge said.

Paternity

35. "Mae Ai villagers have citizenship restored after DNA testing." The Nation (Thailand), November 12, 2003.
In Thailand, four residents of Chiang Mai who earlier had their citizenship revoked have had their Thai nationality restored following DNA tests to prove their case. DNA samples from the four Mae Ai district residents were compared with those of a relative who is a Thai national and they were found to match. Earlier this year, seven other Mae Ai residents had their Thai nationality restored after DNA testing established their biological relationship with an elderly woman registered as a Thai national.
36. "Ghana; The Provita Controversy Continues." Africa News, November 11, 2003.
In Ghana, authorities at the Provita Hospital at Tema have agreed to bear all expenses for a DNA test to be conducted on the body of a baby delivered at the Centre. After a baby died shortly after birth, the father began to claim that his baby had been exchanged by the hospital for a dead one. The hospital has elected to pay for the DNA tests since the couple was unable to raise the money.
37. "Hundreds take paternity tests in Charlotte." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, November 11, 2003.
In what they described as an unprecedented move, the Mecklenburg County Child Support Enforcement Office summoned some 1,000 people to its downtown headquarters for DNA tests to prove paternity. The crowds showed up after a mass mailing from the enforcement office, which was targeting about 4,000 cases in which children were born out of wedlock and paternity hasn't been legally established. The tests cost participants about \$43 each under the county's DNA project. Medicaid benefits will pay some of the state's costs.
38. "MOD Insist That Wife Of Major Killed In Iraq Takes DNA Test." The Express, November 7, 2003.
England's Ministry of Defense is requiring a DNA test in the case of a Norwegian woman who claims to have given birth to the child of a member of Britain's military who was killed in the confrontation with Iraq. The Ministry wants proof of parentage prior to awarding the mother and child death benefits due to the surviving family.
39. "Adoption under scrutiny: Canada has suspended adoption of Guatemalan children because of alleged baby trafficking; U.S. denies there's a problem." The Gazette (Montreal, Quebec), November 6, 2003.
Canada, Spain, Ireland and the Netherlands have suspended adoptions from Guatemala in recent years. The United States has resisted calls to do the same, although it has suspended adoptions from Cambodia since 2001 and from Vietnam since January because of alleged baby trafficking in those countries. The U.S. government has implemented DNA testing and other procedures to ensure Guatemalan babies bound for the United States have not been stolen. Critics say those measures are insufficient.

Agriculture

40. Maple Leaf Foods in Canada has successfully completed testing of their new DNA-based pork tracking system, making it possible to trace the meat from any Canadian-born hog, marketed anywhere in the world, right back to the farm of its birth.