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The June 18, 2004 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

A California voters initiative to expand the DNA database has garnered national attention. DNA backlogs in Ohio and North Carolina made headlines, and federal legislation to help fund DNA programs was the subject matter of several editorials. A Louisiana judge has indefinitely extended protection for volunteered DNA samples collected during the hunt for a serial killer.

Cold hits on DNA database aided investigations / prosecutions in California (burglar linked to rape), Florida (carjacking linked to rape), South Carolina (burglary), Texas (1998 robbery), Virginia (1998 murder), and Washington (1968 murder). DNA evidence also played a key role in cases in Florida (juvenile murder case), Michigan (1998 California murder; 1983 California murder), Missouri (two murders), and North Carolina (rape linked to California rape). DNA collected by investigators through a handshake helped solve a serial rape case in Colorado. A case of twin DNA led to a mistrial in a Massachusetts rape. DNA evidence exonerated suspects in California, New Mexico and Texas (after 18 months awaiting trial).

A post conviction DNA testing case in Wisconsin will not result in acquittal, and a former inmate is seeking exoneration in a Connecticut harassment case. In Illinois, post conviction testing has generated a DNA profile that matches neither man convicted of the murder.

In international news... Mexico has identified two remains of missing persons using DNA. A victim's father in England is calling for a global DNA database. DNA evidence was key in a South African rape case, a Canadian harassment case, and to spitting cases in Britain. DNA collected from a drug possession charge in England led to a robbery case being solved. Canada will be using a private lab to assist with its backlog of DNA analysis. A committee in India will be meeting to discuss forensic DNA issues and possible legislation.

NEWS ARTICLES

Forensic DNA

1. "Judge: DNA Wouldn't Have Mattered." Associated Press, June 16, 2004.
In Wisconsin, a judge ruled that post conviction DNA evidence in the "Bambi" Bembenek murder case would not have resulted in an acquittal had it been available at trial. She was sentenced to life in prison in 1982 for killing the ex-wife of her then-husband. Her attorney argued that DNA evidence taken from the victim's body proved that a male sexually assaulted her before she was murdered. But the judge ruled that he was not convinced that the DNA evidence had not been tainted in the more than 20 years since it was taken.

2. "Jury deadlocked on whether DNA evidence that of accused, or twin." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, June 16, 2004.
In Massachusetts, a mistrial was declared in a rape case when the Suffolk County Superior Court jury deadlocked on whether DNA evidence was connected with the accused, or his twin brother. The defendant is serving a 10- to 15-year sentence in state prison for a rape conviction. Before the second trial began, the defense attorney asked for a postponement so that DNA testing that can detect differences in identical twins could be carried out, a process that could take at least two years. The judge refused to delay the trial.
3. "Federal judge seals DNA samples indefinitely." The Advocate, June 15, 2004.
In Louisiana, a US District Judge indefinitely extended protection of more than 1,200 DNA samples collected during the hunt for the south Louisiana serial killer until the case against suspect has been tried. One of the men swabbed during the serial-killer investigation filed a civil suit in July, demanding the return or destruction of his DNA evidence to prevent it from being used in future investigations. At issue are 1,200 DNA swabs another task force collected while trying to solve the deaths of a group of south Louisiana women dating back to September 2001.
4. "The DNA gap; Ohio struggles with a commitment to serve justice." Akron Beacon Journal, June 15, 2004.
Editorial regarding Ohio's DNA program and related backlog. Excerpt reads: "DNA testing of most convicts is now part of Ohio law, but its effectiveness has been hampered by a lack of money to process samples and enter them into the FBI's national database. Federal funding for the program expired in 2001, and wasn't restored until March. A backlog of 6,003 blood samples was taken care of (including the Columbus case noted above), but more than 14,000 mouth swabs taken from convicted felons have not been analyzed. ... A commitment to justice is being shortchanged. The federal government should move quickly to reduce the DNA backlog. If it doesn't, legislators should be notified and alter priorities."
5. "Authorities investigate 54 state officials who may have botched Juarez killings investigations." Associated Press Worldstream, June 15, 2004.
In Mexico, forensic experts using DNA evidence identified two of the women whose bodies were discovered dumped in the desert. State agents have also begun investigating 54 of the 81 officials cited for incompetence in a federal report analyzing a decade-long string of killings against women in Ciudad Juarez. The Attorney General for Chihuahua state is considering criminal charges against 54 officials, including eight prosecutors, 12 forensic scientists and 21 state police officers. A report presented by the special prosecutor charged with investigating the slayings, reviewed the first 50 cases in the at least 307 women killed since 1993. ,
6. "Convicted rapist appeals stalking sentence." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, June 15, 2004.
In Connecticut, a rapist freed from prison after the state Supreme Court overturned his convictions in 1987 is now seeking to have other convictions for stalking and sending obscene letters thrown out. The man was sent back to prison for five years after a Superior Court jury convicted him in January 2003 of first-degree stalking and five counts of second-degree harassment. He is asking the state Appellate Court to throw out those convictions, in part because of faulty handwriting analysis and testing that showed DNA on envelopes used to send harassing letters did not belong to him.
7. "DNA matches Palmetto Bay eighth grade victim to suspect." The Associated Press State & Local Wire June 15, 2004.
In Florida, authorities said DNA evidence shows that blood on a jacket and sneaker in a 14-year-old boy's backpack came from the best friend he is charged with killing in a middle school restroom. Police also found the victim's blood on a pocket knife and latex gloves found in the suspect's backpack, and a paper towel and the handicapped stall where the victim bled to death.
8. "World DNA Database Is Needed To Catch Rapists'." The Express, June 15, 2004.
In the United Kingdom the father of a murdered girl has called for a global DNA database to identify criminals who cross borders to flee from justice. For years his daughter's murder the suspect attacked and menaced women across Europe and America. On several occasions he was released without charge or bail and offended again. The victim's father said that at present rapists and murderers could "simply disappear from one country to another in the belief that they will not be traced by DNA." He said: "We must work together to make sure these people cannot escape the justice they should face up to. The rest of the world should follow the way the UK has set up its DNA database."

9. "County orders review of ongoing DNA retests." The Houston Chronicle, June 15, 2004.
In Texas, the Harris County district attorney's office will request \$ 34,500 from Commissioners Court to hire a private laboratory to do a quality control technical review of the ongoing retesting of evidence originally processed by the Houston Police Department's DNA lab. For more than a year, the city of Houston has contracted with three labs to retest almost 400 old cases in the aftermath of the scandal that led to the closure of the HPD's DNA lab in December 2002. "We want to test a few (cases) from each of the labs," said the Assistant District Attorney. "It's just a random spot-check. Because we were floored by the HPD problem, and we don't want to find out later that there was a systemic kind of problem with any of these other labs."
10. "Michigan Inmate Is Charged in 1988 Slaying." Los Angeles Times, June 15, 2004.
In California, murder charges were filed against a Michigan inmate in a 1988 slaying. Detectives and forensic scientists linked the inmate to the murder through DNA collected at the scene more than a decade ago.
11. "Efforts to broaden the DNA database in California are discussed." NBC News Transcripts from *Today*, June 15, 2004.
Matt Lauer, co-host discusses a move to broaden the DNA database in California with the ACLU and the sponsor of the voter's initiative. California already requires DNA samples from violent offenders. If the initiative passes in November, it would be expand the DNA database to include all convicted felons, then in four years it will expand to take a DNA sample from all adult felony arrestees. The ACLU argues that such a database could lead to abuses of personal privacy.
12. "DNA Helps police close in on killer in 68 death; pregnant wife, 16, was stabbed 60 times." The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, June 15, 2004.
In Washington, Seattle police detectives are on the verge of solving a killing in 1968 thanks to a cold hit on the DNA database. The case is believed to be one of the oldest cases in the nation to be solved through the DNA database. The suspect is currently serving more than 100 years in prison for two 1969 murders. In 2002, detectives requested that the state Crime Lab examine the evidence from the slaying. A DNA profile from semen was developed, and matched to the suspect.
13. "DNA databank dispute." The Baltimore Sun, June 14, 2004.
Editorial regarding a convicted robbers challenge to Maryland's DNA database statute. Excerpt reads: "The crime-solving aspect of the databanks has proved beneficial to police, crime victims and defendants who have been wrongly convicted. Those benefits surely outweigh the physical intrusion of swabbing an inmate's cheek. But concerns about privacy cannot be overlooked. The prisoner DNA profiles should be used exclusively for law enforcement purposes - not to test paternity, research the roots of criminal behavior or determine a propensity for disease. Maryland law provides that protection by restricting its use and criminalizing the misuse of DNA profiles, which are identified by numbers, not names... As a convicted felon, Charles Raines lost the right to vote and serve on a jury. He shouldn't expect to retain sole control over his DNA fingerprint."
14. "Congress can help reduce DNA backlog." The Indianapolis Star, June 14, 2004.
Indiana letter to the editor regarding federal grants for DNA backlogs. Excerpt reads: "Unfortunately, there is currently a backlog of more than 300,000 rape kits and other crime scene evidence in our nation's crime labs. The Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act, which overwhelmingly passed the U.S. House and awaits action in the Senate, would alleviate this problem. The bill provides funding to states to clear the DNA backlogs, to fund post-conviction DNA testing and to preserve DNA evidence. This bill is important for crime victims, who want to be confident that the system accurately identifies perpetrators, and for innocent people, who might otherwise be sentenced to death. I urge our senators to work to pass this critical bill."
15. "Joburg man convicted of raping girl, six. SAPA (South African Press Association), June 14, 2004.
In South Africa, DNA was used to help convict a man who brutally raped a six-year-old in 2002. The conviction for rape and kidnapping was in spite of the man's claim of amnesia the night of the assault.
16. "Justice catches up with robber." South Wales Echo, June 14, 2004, Monday.
In the United Kingdom, a DNA sample that resulted from a possession of cannabis charge lead to the conviction of man for a subsequent robbery and an attempted robbery. The man was tracked down by his DNA two years after he robbed a pensioner. He was jailed thanks to the courage of a second victim who ripped off the mask hiding his face when he attacked her in 2002. DNA testing of the mask eventually led to the man's capture.

17. "Blood sample backlog leaves crimes unsolved; Felons' DNA that could help police sits unanalyzed at state lab." Charlotte Observer (North Carolina), June 13, 2004.
In North Carolina, a 2003 law requiring DNA samples from all felons has led to a significant backlog at the state crime lab because sufficient funding was allotted only for collection but not for analysis. The backlog grows by about 1,000 samples a week, and by the end of the year the backlog could exceed the 41,000 profiles already in the state's DNA database. The General Assembly allocated about \$1.2 million for the SBI lab to collect and preserve the projected first-year harvest of 43,500 samples. But it would take an additional \$1.3 million to pay a private lab to extract and analyze their DNA contents. A federal grant will pay for a private lab to process 8,000 samples this summer. If Congress approves another round of grants next year, the state will apply again. Otherwise there are no plans to process samples in the backlog: The state lacks the analysts and the lab space to do the work itself.
18. "DNA enabled arrest in local rape case; Charlotte police went 2 years with no leads." Charlotte Observer (North Carolina), June 13, 2004.
In North Carolina, DNA evidence collected from a rape in June 2001 has been matched to DNA evidence from a 1998 rape in California. Charlotte police shared suspect names with California authorities, and police in California found a match: a man who had received a traffic warning in the mid-'90s. Presented with a court order by Charlotte police, the suspect agreed to provide a DNA sample. Police say it matches the DNA from both rape kits.
19. "DNA eroding '90 slaying case; New tests show no link to 2 men convicted in killing." Chicago Tribune, June 13, 2004.
In Illinois, post conviction DNA tests of evidence in a 1990 sexual assault and murder in Chicago have identified the DNA profiles of two men other than the two now serving life sentences for the crime. The test results are the latest development in a case once considered solved by confessions. Defense attorneys had been suspicious of those confessions, and are now reviewing other cases in which the same detectives obtained yet other confessions from suspects. The profiles have been submitted to the DNA database, but have not yet yielded a match.
20. "Police charge man in doctor's death." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, June 13, 2004.
In South Carolina, DNA retrieved from the scene of a homicide led police to charge a man with burglary, after a cold hit on the DNA database identified the suspect. The suspect was arrested. The suspect had been released from the South Carolina Corrections Department in December after serving about seven years of a 15-year sentence for second-degree burglary, armed robbery and other charges.
21. "Technology act is needed ." Deseret Morning News, June 13, 2004.
Utah editorial supporting the Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act. Excerpt reads: "Between giving states the financial resources to conduct DNA tests and provide better legal representation, this legislation stands to make great strides in enhancing America's system of justice. The Senate Judiciary Committee needs to take the next step by endorsing the Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act and sending it to the full Senate for passage."
22. "DNA lessons of Caroline murder." The Observer, June 13, 2004.
In France, the death of a 13-year-old British girl led authorities to seek support for a national DNA database, and for improved international cooperation in criminal cases where DNA evidence is available. The suspect in the case left DNA evidence at the scene of the crime in France, but he eluded police who searched for him in several European countries before it was discovered he was being held in the United States.
23. "Convicted killer is charged in '98 slaying." The Boston Globe, June 12, 2004.
In Virginia, the statewide DNA database is credited with providing a match between the DNA of a convicted murder, already serving a life sentence for fatally stabbing a man in 1999, to the 1998 killing of a 75-year-old woman. The suspect had been compelled to enter his DNA into the state's index after he was convicted in the 1999 murder. His DNA then matched DNA from saliva found on a bite wound on the chest of the victim in the 1998 murder.
24. "DNA testing; felons' samples wait for; lack of funds leaves thousands of cases backlogged in storage." Columbus Dispatch, June 12, 2004 Saturday.
In Ohio, a backlog of about 14,000 DNA samples collected from convicted felons are sitting in storage, with no money for analysis. The recent arrest of a serial rapist after a DNA sample taken from him 2 1/2 years ago was finally entered into the database has heightened public awareness on the issue. The suspected serial rapist is believed to have been involved in at least six rapes. In a letter yesterday to the attorney general, two Democratic

state senators expressed concern about the backlog and the reported lack of funds. It is estimated that the number of offenders linked to crimes through Ohio entries in the database rose from 22 in 2001 to 54 in 2002 and 123 in 2003.

25. "DNA traps thugs for spitting on train staff; Swab kits used to trace culprits." Evening Times, June 12, 2004.
In the United Kingdom, DNA evidence has led police to fourteen suspects who spat on rail staff. Staff used new DNA swab kits to obtain samples of the culprits' saliva. The swab is given to British Transport Police, after which it is given to a forensic scientist. If a DNA profile is successfully obtained this is checked against profiles held on the DNA database which contains 1.8 million samples from anyone suspected, charged or convicted of a recordable offence.
26. "Grand jury doesn't indict former head of DNA lab." The Houston Chronicle, June 12, 2004.
In Texas, a Harris County grand jury has declined to indict the former head of the Houston Police Department's DNA laboratory, who was accused of lying in his testimony in a sexual assault trial two years ago. During a hearing, attorneys pointed out that the transcript from a sexual assault trial indicated that the laboratory head had told jurors he has a doctorate in biochemistry. He does not. Despite the grand jury's decision not to indict him, several local attorneys still hope for the creation of a court of inquiry to look at the accusations of perjury, as well as other problems that have kept the police DNA lab closed since December 2002.
27. "DNA leads investigators to suspected killer, who was already in prison." The Kansas City Star, June 12, 2004.
In Missouri, DNA collected more than ten years ago in two murder cases has linked a suspect to the scene crimes. The murders occurred in 1987 and 1990, and the suspect had previously been a suspect in the 1990 murder but was released when investigators did not find enough evidence. The man has already been convicted of a 1994 murder and has been a suspect in a six other murder cases.
28. "Arrest in rape cases; DNA helps boulder police link man to 6 assaults in 1990s." Rocky Mountain News, June 12, 2004.
In Colorado, DNA led police to a suspect in a series of rapes that occurred during the 1990s. The suspect, now a real estate agent, was arrested after his DNA matched evidence left at the scene of at least six of the rapes – four in Colorado, two in Texas. After narrowing down the list of possible suspects, a police detective posed as a homebuyer and met the agent at a house that was on the market for sale. The detective was able to secure DNA that transferred from the suspect to the detective during a handshake at that meeting. Meanwhile, other detectives were gathering DNA from the handlebars of the bicycle the man rode to the meeting. And DNA was taken from the door handles of the car parked outside the man's home and from the knob on his front door.
29. "Proposition to take DNA at arrest stirs privacy fears; Mandatory sampling on November ballot." The San Francisco Chronicle, JUNE 12, 2004.
In California, a November ballot measure would force everyone arrested for a felony in California to provide a DNA sample. The measure was put on the ballot largely due to the efforts of an attorney and developer whose brother and sister-in-law were murdered by an unknown assailant. In 2000, DNA from the murder scene was matched with evidence from eight other Southern California slayings. It also was linked to the never-identified East Area Rapist, who terrorized Northern California in the late 1970s, raping at least 40 women. The attacks stopped abruptly in 1986, leading police to conclude that the unknown killer, now dubbed the original "Night Stalker," had either died, moved or been sent to prison. The ACLU and other privacy proponents oppose the measure, citing DNA sampling as a violation of the U.S. Constitution.
30. "A new look at old cases/FBI agents say new technology offers the possibility of solving mob-related killings, including one in 1965." Buffalo News, June 11, 2004.
In New York, investigators are beginning to use advancements in DNA technology to solve cold-case murders in which the victims may have had ties to organized crime. This article reviews a few cases currently under examination, including the death of a real estate salesman in 1965.
31. "Robbery solved by cigar stub; DNA left 6 years ago helps identify culprit." The Houston Chronicle, June 11, 2004.
In Texas, a cold hit on the DNA database assisted in the conviction of a man for his role in a 1998 armed robbery. The suspect was returned to prison for a parole violation in a burglary case and in 2003 a sample of his DNA was placed in the state's DNA database. It was matched to DNA collected from the plastic tip of a cigar left by him at the scene of the armed robbery in 1998.

32. "Forensic labs feel the pressure." The Leader-Post, June 11, 2004.
Editorial regarding Canada's recent decision to send some DNA analysis out to private labs. Excerpt reads: "The need to contract out lab services raises serious concerns, both from a staffing perspective -- as employees have left for jobs in the U.S. due to conditions -- and from a judicial standpoint. People accused of serious crimes could go free if evidence isn't processed in a timely fashion and police forces could delay the arrest of a serious offender while waiting for results. Both put the public at risk and jeopardize justice. With the weight given to forensic evidence in the court system, an overworked staff could result in errors similar to those reported recently in the health-care system. These errors are serious because they could result in the release of a sexual offender or murder suspect. The contracting of private labs is one answer, but excessive handling and transportation of evidence could become a possible defense for accused offenders. The security of that evidence could also become an issue. We believe the only plausible answer to reducing the backlog and addressing the problem of lab staff who are "cynical and close to burn out" is to put more money into the system.
33. "Nationwide DNA database turns up rape suspect." Palm Beach Post, June 11, 2004.
In Florida, a cold hit on the DNA database has identified a rapist. The suspect's DNA sample was collected due to a prior carjacking conviction. Police were able to apprehend the suspect within one hour after the DNA match was made.
34. "Governor signs payday loan bill." Tulsa World, June 11, 2004.
In Oklahoma, the governor vetoed a bill that would have expanded the DNA database to include all violent offenders, including those that receive deferred judgements or suspended sentences. The Governor's veto message indicated that the bill "contained good concepts but is fraught with problems." Most notably that it placed an unfunded mandate on the Department of Corrections.
35. "Court orders rape suspect to stand trial for 1997 crime." The Argus, June 10, 2004.
In California, a DNA sample from a convicted burglar was entered into a DNA database and it matched that of a rape that occurred in 1997. The man also has been charged with possession of stolen property after a stolen purse was recovered from the vehicle he was spotted getting into at the time of his May 2003 arrest. If convicted on the charges, he would face 25 years to life in prison because it would be his third strike.
36. "DNA links Michigan man to 1983 California killing." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, June 10, 2004.
In Michigan, DNA evidence has led to the arrest of a paroled bank robber on charges of killing a man in California 21 years ago. The suspect was paroled in April 2003 after serving nine years in prison for a bank robbery in Michigan. DNA evidence linking the man to the murder includes samples lifted from beer bottles and cigarette butts. The man has confessed to the murder.
37. Albuquerque officers cleared in sex-assault case." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, June 10, 2004.
In New Mexico, DNA tests confirmed that neither of two undercover narcotics detectives were involved in an alleged sexual assault. DNA recovered in the assault case matched a person known to officers, and they will continue investigating the case.
38. "Advance justice with DNA technology." Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, June 10, 2004.
Letter to the Editor regarding federal DNA legislation. Excerpt reads: "At a time when it seems all we hear from Congress is posturing on wedge issues and partisan bickering, it's important to know that there are some truly bipartisan bills Congress could pass before the November elections. One such bill is the Innocence Protection Act (IPA), which is part of a larger bill called The Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act (S 1700). This important legislation, which already passed the House by an overwhelming vote of 357-67, would provide funds to states to test the backlog of over 300,000 rape kits and other crime scene evidence awaiting analysis in our nation's crime labs; fund post-conviction DNA testing and the preservation of DNA evidence; and to train, oversee, and improve the quality of death penalty trials and assist families of murder victims. . .It's time for all members of the Senate to do more than talk about the spirit of bipartisanship by supporting S1700 and encouraging Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) to bring the bill to the Senate floor for a vote as quickly as possible.
39. "Sexual assault: women lose faith in system." The Star Phoenix, June 10, 2004.
In Canada, the Coalition Against Sexual Assault/University of Saskatchewan proposes support for improvements in police investigations by making better use of DNA technology. Testing at one lab takes about four months, and

once case which took two years for analysis, during which time the man raped four victims and killed two people, is also cited.

40. "National Experts on DNA Testing Announced for Summer Conference Arranged by Wright State Faculty Member." AScribe Newswire, June 9, 2004.
In Ohio, national leaders on DNA testing in such noted cases as O.J. Simpson, Scott Peterson and Ted Kaczynski will gather for three days in Dayton this summer for the Third Annual Forensic Bioinformatics Conference. "DNA from Crime Scene to Court Room: An Expert Forum" is the title of the event expected to attract 350 lawyers, legal experts and forensic scientists. The conference will be held Aug. 20-22 at the University of Dayton School of Law.
41. "Expansion of DNA evidence a welcome step to make N.C. safer." The Asheville Citizen-Times, June 9, 2004.
In North Carolina, the state crime lab will increase staff from 10 to 17 this summer, which will help work the backlog of evidence in 6,000 rape cases that remains unprocessed across the state. DNA evidence from these cold cases will be compared to the state's DNA databank. The article points out that in 2001, police in Virginia solved about half of their inactive rape cases by comparing DNA evidence from new crime scenes with its DNA databank. North Carolina's databank, with less than one-fifth the samples of Virginia's 217,000, should double in size this year thanks to a December 2003 law that will require all felons -- not just those convicted of violent crimes -- to submit DNA evidence.
42. "DNA, handwriting linked to letters; man alleged to have sent nasty correspondence." The Brockville Recorder & Times, June 9, 2004.
In Canada, DNA evidence obtained when police seized a razor, toothbrush and hair comb belonging to a suspect led to criminal harassment charges against him when the evidence matched traces of bodily fluids found on letters sent to a 60 year-old woman.
43. "DNA test clears man jailed for 18 months on sexual assault charge." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, June 9, 2004.
In Texas, a DNA test exonerated a man three days before he would have gone on trial on a sexual assault charge. He spent 18 months in jail as he waited for his trial. The case was dismissed within 30 minutes of receipt of the DNA test results. A detective had requested that the Police Department crime lab test the 9-year-old victim's clothing and the man's defense attorney said she also asked prosecutors repeatedly to push for the tests.
44. "CDFD meet to thrash out DNA profiling laws." India Business Insight, June 9, 2004.
In India, the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics will be holding its first subcommittee meeting. The meeting will discuss ethical issues, quality control and assurances with genetic DNA as evidence material in the judiciary system. In addition, it will focus on drafting of a legislation to incorporate the results of biology as evidence materials for justice delivery system and ensure quality assurance in DNA profiling tests conducted by all laboratories.
45. "Rape, other charges dismissed in wake of DNA test." The Desert Sun, June 8, 2004 Tuesday.
In California, a DNA test exonerated a man charged with rape, kidnapping and other crimes arising from the carjacking of a woman in March. Evidence against the man included identification by the victim. Police are now investigating another suspect.

Genetic Research/Privacy

46. "House votes to outlaw therapeutic cloning." The Associated Press State & Local Wire, June 16, 2004.
A Louisiana House banning the cloning of human embryos for reproduction and for medical stem-cell research was defeated by lawmakers by a vote of 99-1. But the key votes - on amendments dealing with cloning research in other states - were closer and, at times, conflicting. Confusion arose in the House after a compromise amendment was adopted. The amendment stripped from the bill language that forbade bringing cloned embryos or products derived from those embryos into the state and was approved 60-40. However, another amendment failed to strip related language in another part of the bill. A follow-up amendment to strip that language failed on a 49-50 vote. The bill was then approved 99-1.
47. "Fears over 'genetic' passports." The Sunday Times (Perth, Australia), June 13, 2004.
In Australia, a proposed program that would result in the creation of a genetic passport to be given to all children

after birth has proponents and opponents. Those in favor point to the benefits of early detection of certain illnesses and diseases, while those in opposition cite privacy issues.

48. "Cash for DNA?: Former professor says researchers should pay for samples." St. John's Telegram, June 10, 2004. In Canada, a former Memorial University professor of population genetics says people should be paid an estimated \$50,000 US when commercial drug researchers come calling for samples of their DNA. He compares DNA compensation to a lawyer's fee for drawing up a contract creating a business partnership. The lawyer gets paid up front for this work, and the fee doesn't depend on the success of the venture.
49. "Experts warn that gene research could be used for warfare, terrorism." Associated Press Worldstream, June 9, 2004. In Sweden, The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, in its annual yearbook, warned that biotechnology, including advancements in mapping the human genome, could result in new biological weapons that could cause harm to a specific ethnic group or a large swath of a country's population. The report also cautions that developments in mapping the human genome, which could lead to improved medicines and vaccines for heart and neurological problems, also could be used by terrorists.

Paternity

50. "Senate Panel Advances Bill on Use of DNA Tests in Paternity Disputes." New Jersey Law Journal, June 14, 2004. The DNA provisions of a New Jersey bill will allow court-ordered genetic testing to establish or disestablish paternity. The bill, S-1232, has been passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee in a 7-3 vote along party lines. The bill would retain the 23-year time limit to bring a paternity suit. But a separate and newly added section allows an extra two years to sue where the clock has already run.
51. "Mother Finds Son by DNA Sampling." Korea Times, June 12, 2004. In South Korea, DNA sampling was used to match a mother with her "lost" son after 10 years of separation. The mother had been hospitalized for a mental disease in October 1994 when a gas explosion occurred in her house. Her husband was transferred to a hospital but died from injuries caused by the explosion four years later. The son was five-years-old at the time and was moved to a children's hospital. The child was eventually tracked down at a sanitarium and DNA testing proved paternity.