

ANCHOR 1:

GOOD EVENING. I'M JENNIFER SANCHEZ AND WELCOME TO U-T-V's LEGAL BEAT BRINGING YOU THE LATEST BREAKING STORIES FROM OUR COURTS.

AND TONIGHT, IN THE SLAYING OF THE POPULAR TEJANO MUSIC STAR SELENA. THE JURY DISCOUNTED CLAIMS BY SELENA'S BUSINESS MANAGER, A FORMER FAN CLUB LEADER, THAT THE SHOOTING LAST MARCH WAS ACCIDENTAL. DELIBERATIONS TOOK LESS THAN THREE HOURS. OUTSIDE, FANS CHEERED. SALDIVAR COULD FACE PROBATION OR LIFE IN PRISON.

AFTER 24 YEARS AS A SUPREME COURT JUDGE, JUDGE HARRY BLACKMAN OFFICIALLY TOLD PRESIDENT CLINTON YESTERDAY THAT HE PLANS TO RETIRE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. BLACKMAN TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT HIS LEGACY ON THE SUPREME COURT REFLECTS HIS GROWTH AS A HUMAN BEING OVER THE LAST 24 YEARS, ADDING, 85 IS OLD.

NOW HERE'S A STORY YOU WILL ONLY SEE ON COURT TV HIGHLIGHTS; THEY ARE HIGHLY PAID PROFESSIONALS WHO SPENT MONTHS WORKING FOR OJ SIMPSON AND NOW THEY'RE ON A MISSION THAT PUTS THEM ON THE FRONT LINES IN A WAR ZONE. THEY WERE OJ SIMPSON'S FORENSIC DREAM TEAM. PATHOLOGIST, DR. HENRY LEE AND DR. MICHAEL BOTTON.

LAST WEEK, DR. BOTTON AND DR. LEE, WENT TO WAR TORN CROATIA. THEY FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO THE FRONT TO IDENTIFY THE REMAINS OF MASSACRES, TO HELP FAMILIES KNOW IF THEIR LOVED ONES WERE ALIVE OR DEAD. THE DOCTORS IDENTIFIED 20 BODIES FROM DENTAL RECORDS AND X-RAYS AND SEVERAL DOZEN MORE WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY DNA TAKEN FROM THE BONES OF THE VICTIMS, USING THE SAME SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE USED IN THE SIMPSON TRIAL. ACCORDING TO THE DOCTORS THIS IS THE FIRST TIME

**DNA IDENTIFICATION TECHNIQUES
WERE APPLIED TO A MASS GRACE IN
WARTIME.**

**IT IS EXPECTED THAT A JUDGE MAY
DECIDE NEXT WEEK ON A SUIT TO
HALT THE PROPOSED 25 CENT FARE
HIKE FOR NEW YORK'S SUBWAYS AS
DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST MINORITIES.
THE MTA HAS PROPOSED A NEW TOKEN,
WITH A HOLE IN THE MIDDLE, BUT
MANY STRAPHANGERS ARE BETTING
THE TRANSIT AUTHORITY WILL NOT
MAKE THE SWITCH.**

**ONE OF THE LOS ANGELES POLICE
OFFICERS SENTENCED IN THE BEATING
OF RODNEY KING IS OUT OF JAIL
TONIGHT, AND THAT TOPS OUR NEWS
FROM AROUND THE NATION. FORMER
POLICE SARGENT STACY KON WILL
SERVE THE REMAINDER OF HIS THIRTY
MONTH PRISON TERM IN A HALFWAY
HOUSE. THE ACQUITTAL OF FOUR
OFFICERS IN THE ORIGINAL RODNEY
KING TRIAL SPARKED DEADLY RIOTS.**

**AND FINALLY TONIGHT, A WOMAN IN
FLORIDA TOLD POLICE LAST WEEK
THAT AN INTRUDER HAD ENTERED
HER HOME THREE TIMES, EACH
TIME DUMPING THE GARBAGE AND
EMPTYING ASH TRAYS. IT APPEARS
THAT THIS MAY BE THE FIRST CASE ON
RECORD OF A SERIAL HOUSEKEEPER.**

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THAT'S ALL FOR TONIGHT'S NEWS. I'M DAVID CHAN AND I'LL BE BACK WITH YOU TOMORROW NIGHT FOR ANOTHER EDITION OF U-T-V's LEGAL BEAT HIGHLIGHTS. GOOD NIGHT.

ANCHOR 1:

**GOOD EVENING. I'M
CHRISTINA HARDWICK FOR U-T-V'S
LEGAL BEAT. IN A TIME WHEN CRIMES
ONCE HIDDEN ARE MAKING NATIONAL
HEADLINES, A FAMILY IS CONVICTED OF
MOLESTING YOUNG CHILDREN IN THEIR
DAYCARE CENTER.**

**FOR MORE THAN A DECADE THEY'VE
CRIED OUT THAT THEY ARE INNOCENT.
VICTIMS OF A MODERN-DAY WITCH
HUNT FOR IMAGINED CHILD ABUSERS.
THE PROSECUTORS SAY THIS CASE IS
DIFFERENT—THEY'RE GUILTY.**

**TONIGHT ON "CRIME STORIES,"
REPORTER AGNES COLUMBO LOOKS AT
THE CONNOTY FAMILY OF MINNESOTA.**

**JUDIE CONNOTY, HER MOTHER
JENNIFER AND BROTHER BRYAN SAY
THEIR CASE IS JUST ONE OF DOZENS
THAT SENT INNOCENT PEOPLE TO
PRISON IN THE 1980s. THEIR CRIME?
MOLESTING YOUNGSTERS AT THEIR
FAMILY-OWNED DAYCARE CENTER.**

**MORE THAN A DOZEN DAYCARE
WORKERS WERE CONVICTED BACK
THEN AND MANY HAVE LONG SINCE
BEEN ACQUITTED OR RELEASED FROM
PRISON. AMID GRAVE QUESTIONS
ABOUT WHETHER THE CHILDREN HAD
HOLD THE TRUTH.**

**THE FIRST CHARGE OF CHILD ABUSE
WAS MADE AGAINST BRYAN CONNOTY IN
1994.**

**BY THEN, HE AND JUDIE HAD WORKED
SEVERAL YEARS AT THE LUKES DAY
SCHOOL WHICH JENNIFER HAD NAMED
AFTER A CLOSE FAMILY FRIEND.**

**JUDIE AND JENNIFER WERE INDICTED IN
1995.**

ANCHOR 1:

JASON MURPHY SAYS IT WAS THE PRESS THAT HELPED PUT HIM AND HIS FAMILY IN PRISON FOR ABUSING CHILDREN. NOW IT MAY JUST WIN HIS RELEASE.

IN 2001, AFTER RECEIVING A LETTER FROM JASON, SARAH MCADAMS TOOK UP HIS CAUSE.

MCADAMS SITS ON THE PRESTIGIOUS AND CONSERVATIVE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE “WALL STREET JOURNAL.”

SHE’S WRITTEN ABOUT DAYCARE CASES FOR MORE THAN A DECADE. IN 2003, SHE NARROWLY MISSED WINNING THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR HER EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF WRONGLY CONVICTED CHILD MOLESTERS—INCLUDING THE MURPHYS.

THE COUNTY’S TWO TOP PROSECUTORS RAN SUCCESSFULLY FOR HIGHER OFFICE AFTER WINNING THE MCADAMS CASE. MCADAMS SAYS THEY’RE WILLING TO KEEP INNOCENT PEOPLE

**IN PRISON TO AVOID ADMITTING THEY
MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE.**

**MCADAMS SAYS THE REPORTERS WHO
COVERED THE MURPHY STORY NEVER
BELIEVED THE DEFENSE BUT ALWAYS
TRUSTED THE PROSECUTOR.**

**THAT PROSECUTOR WAS THOMAS
BROOKS. HE SAYS SOME OF THE MANY
LEGENDS ABOUT THIS CASE BEGAN IN
THE COURTROOM.**

**ACCORDING TO BROOKS, THE
CHILD TESTIFIED THAT HE'D BEEN
PENETRATED BUT DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT WAS USED. LATER, ON CROSS-
EXAMINATION, A DEFENSE ATTORNEY—
AND NOT THE CHILD—SUGGESTED IT
MIGHT HAVE BEEN A KNIFE.**

**ONE CHILD TOLD INVESTIGATORS
HE'D BEEN TIED TO A TREE EVERY
DAY AND THAT A ROBOT TALKED TO
HIM IN THE MAGIC ROOM. ANOTHER
SAID THE MURPHYS PULLED THE LEGS**

OFF A SQUIRREL AND KILLED A BIRD TO FRIGHTEN THEIR VICTIMS. BUT EXPERTS BELIEVE THESE BIZARRE STORIES COULD ACTUALLY BE TRUE. AND BROOKS SAYS THE CASE WAS BASED ON DETAILED, BELIEVABLE AND UNSOLICITED REPORTS OF ABUSE.

BROOKS AND MURPHY AGREE THE MEDIA HAVE NOT ALWAYS PLAYED FAIR WITH THE MURPHY STORY.

A MONTH AND A HALF LATER THE PAPER PRINTED A DISCRETE NOTICE ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF A LEGAL DEFENSE FUND FOR THE MURPHYS.

BROOKS WROTE HER FIRST STORY ON THE MURPHY CASE AND BY THEN, COURTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAD QUESTIONED THE RELIABILITY OF CHILDRENS TESTIMONIES.

CAN A CHILD REALLY BE MADE TO BELIEVE EVENTS THAT NEVER TOOK PLACE? NEXT ON U-T-V.

ANCHOR 1:

NO TWO PEOPLE EXCEPT IDENTICAL TWINS HAVE THE SAME GENETIC MATERIAL. BUT WHAT IS DNA?

DNA IS THE BLUEPRINT MOLECULE, THE CHEMICALLY CODED INFORMATION THAT CARRIES A PERSON'S HEREDITARY INFORMATION; WHAT THEY ARE; WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE THEIR INDIVIDUALITY.

MORE THAN 99% OF THE DNA IS THE SAME FOR EVERYONE. BUT THERE ARE AREAS BETWEEN THE KNOWN GENES CALLED POLYMORPHIC REGIONS OR JUNK GENES. THE DNA PATTERNS VARY DRAMATICALLY BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS. IT IS THESE GENES THAT ARE TESTED.

THERE ARE TWO BASIC KINDS OF DNA TESTS. PCR THREE LETTER THAT STAND FOR POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION. BIG WORD. PRETTY EASY. IT'S A COPYING PROCESS WHERE A RELATIVELY SMALL PIECE OF DNA

**IS COPIED MULTIPLE TIMES. REPLY,
RESTRICTIVE FRAGMENT LENGTH
POLYMORPHISM ANALYSIS IS DONE
WITH SPECIAL ENZYMES WHICH WE
CALL RESTRICTION ENDONUCLEOSES
WHICH ACT LIKE MOLECULAR
SCISSORS. THEY WILL CLIP OUT, IF
YOU LIKE, A PIECE OF DNA THAT WE'RE
INTERESTED IN SO THAT WE CAN
ANALYZE IT.**

**IT DOES NOT SEEM POSSIBLE THAT
SOMEONE COULD BE CONVICTED
MERELY ON DNA EVIDENCE AS IT
IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE
TO BE CONVICTED MERELY ON A
FINGERPRINT.**

**DR. GREEN, PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR
OF FORENSICS SCIENCE PROGRAM AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS IN AUSTIN,
COMPARES FINGERPRINTING WITH DNA
TESTING.**

**SO CAN YOU REALLY COMPARE
IDENTICAL TWINS?**

FINGERPRINTING HAS BEEN AROUND FOR NEARLY A CENTURY AND IS VIRTUALLY THE DEFINITIVE MEANS OF CLASSIFYING AND IDENTIFYING PEOPLE BUT IT'S USES ARE LIMITED. STRAIGHT TESTING NOT ONLY HELPS IDENTIFY CRIMINAL SUSPECTS, BUT WAS USED IN THE PERSIAN GULF WAR TO IDENTIFY AMERICAN WAR DEATHS AND IS USED TO DETECT GENETIC DISEASE. IN FACT IT'S CHANGED THE WAY WE THINK ABOUT DIAGNOSTIC MEDICINE.

THIS IS NO VOODOO SCIENCE. IT'S HARD RELIABLE SCIENCE. IT IS A SCIENCE THAT IS SO FASCINATING THAT IT ALMOST ALLOWS YOU TO PEEK INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

IS DNA TESTING AS FOOLPROOF AS FINGERPRINTING? IS IT INDEED GENETIC FINGERPRINTING? THE JURY IS STILL OUT.