

Deadlock in Iowa
Poll puts Dean and Gephardt in the lead here, **Caucus Notes**, 8B

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CORRIDOR

WASHINGTON, IOWA

1 injured in Saturday apartment fire

One person was taken to Washington County Hospital and then airlifted to University Hospitals in Iowa City after an early morning fire here Saturday.

A fire at an apartment building at 314 S. Marion Ave. was called in to the Washington County Public Safety Center at 7:25 a.m., according to Washington County officials.

Fire officials did not release further information. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

CEDAR RAPIDS

Six new firefighters hired for department

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department has hired six new firefighters to fill vacancies. They will begin work Oct. 20.

The new firefighters are Paul Bagby of Monticello, Angela Cross of Coggon, Scott Donohoe of Tipton, Cheme Fairlie of Lebanon, Ill., Janeen Justice of North Liberty and Brent Smith of Coralville, according to the Fire Department.

The department will have 140 firefighters. Firefighters' starting salary for a 53-hour work week is \$36,296, fire officials said.

Police body armor vests to get free upgrade

Police officers here will receive a free upgrade to their body armor vests after the company that manufactures the vests determined they wear out quicker than expected.

"We issued this upgrade so they are certified through their five-year warranty," said Gregg Smith, spokesman for the company Second Chance of Central Lake, Mich.

Cedar Rapids police have about 200 vests, many of which are two to three years old, said police Sgt. Joe Cerruto.

Motorcycle crash victim in fair condition

Ronda Deneui, 36, of 1708 Ninth St. NW, was in fair condition last night at University Hospitals in Iowa City, where she is recovering from injuries suffered when the motorcycle she was driving was struck by a car on Interstate 380 in Cedar Rapids on Wednesday night.

Deneui's motorcycle tipped over and slid 150 feet after it was bumped by a car driven by Courtney Meyer, 18, of 30 66th Ave. SW, No. 4. Meyer was cited for an unsafe lane change.

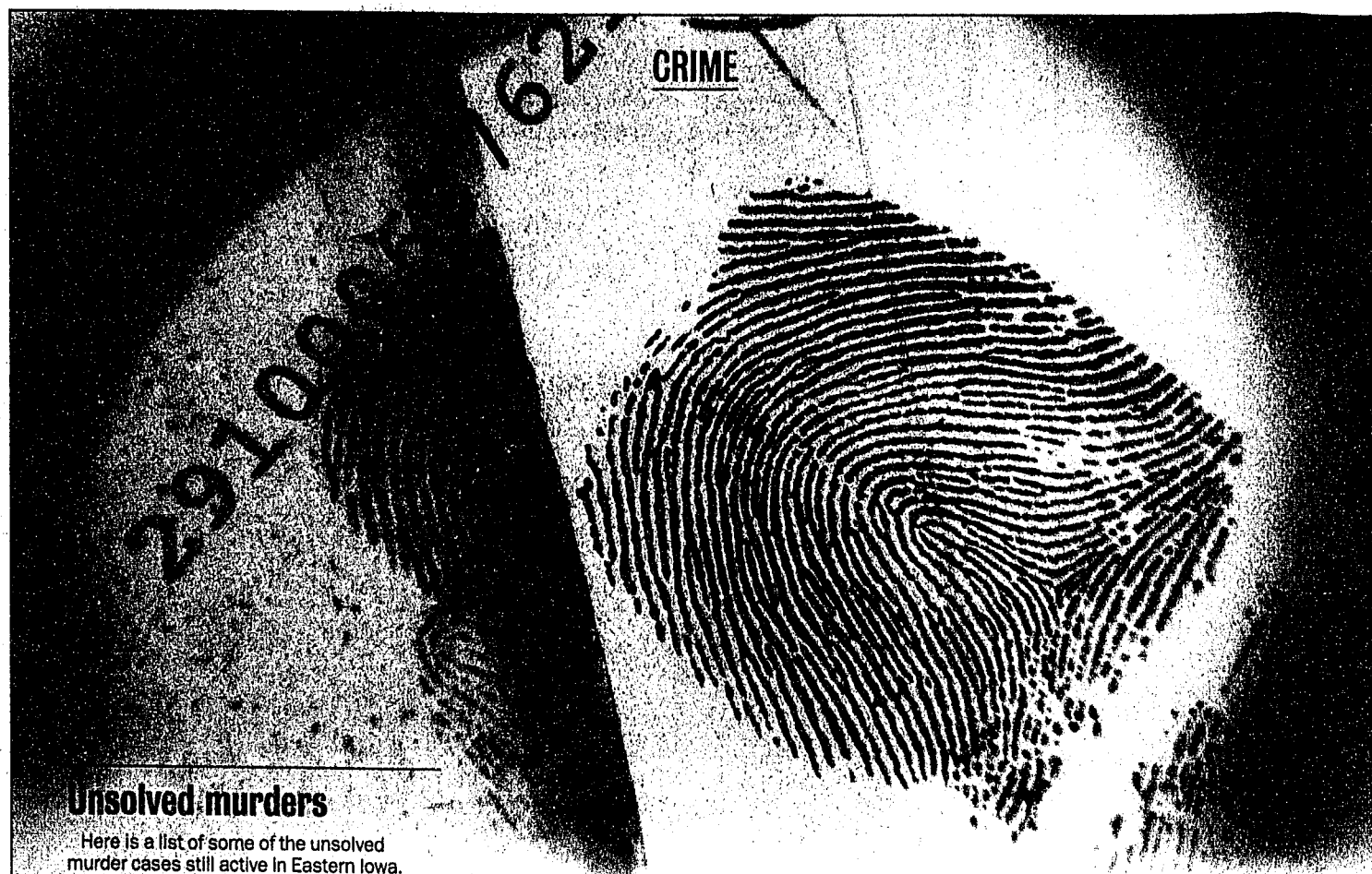
HIAWATHA

Police officer honored for saving man's life

Police Officer Charles Allaire last week received a lifesaving award, the first in the department in about a decade, for saving a man's life during Hog Wild Days.

Assistant Hiawatha Police Chief Mark Tope said Allaire was working at the event on June 22 when he noticed Deric Oshel of Hiawatha choking on some food. Allaire, a Hiawatha officer since April 1997, saved the man's life by administering the Heimlich maneuver, Tope said.

The last lifesaving award given to Hiawatha officers was about 12 years ago when Tope and Sgt. Gary Manhart kicked in the door of a burning apartment and rescued an unresponsive person, Tope said.



Laura Segall photos/The Gazette

ABOVE: Fingerprints are viewed through a magnifying glass in the ID department of the Cedar Rapids Police Department. The partial fingerprint on the left is from a crime scene and is compared with the full fingerprint to the right from a possible suspect. BELOW: Cedar Rapids Police ID officer Ron Johnson compares fingerprints found at a crime scene with fingerprints of a suspect.

COLD CASES



Technology, tips help clear old homicides, but time takes toll on investigations

By Christoph Trappe
The Gazette

Stacey Delsing knows what it feels like to live with an unsolved murder.

Delsing, 34, of Iowa City, is the sister of John Helble, 28, of North Liberty, who was fatally shot in February 1999. The man who killed her brother wasn't charged in the death until about two years later.

Area police said real-life homicides are not like the flood of current "cold case file" television shows. Murders rarely get solved in an hour. Cases can take years.

Sometimes new technology, like DNA testing, helps.

Just this month, Coralville police saw a 22-year-old murder case solved by new DNA technology when Richard Dodd, 46, was found guilty of the 1981 murder of Vicki Klotzbach.

Klotzbach, 22, was found raped and shot to death on a dirt road near

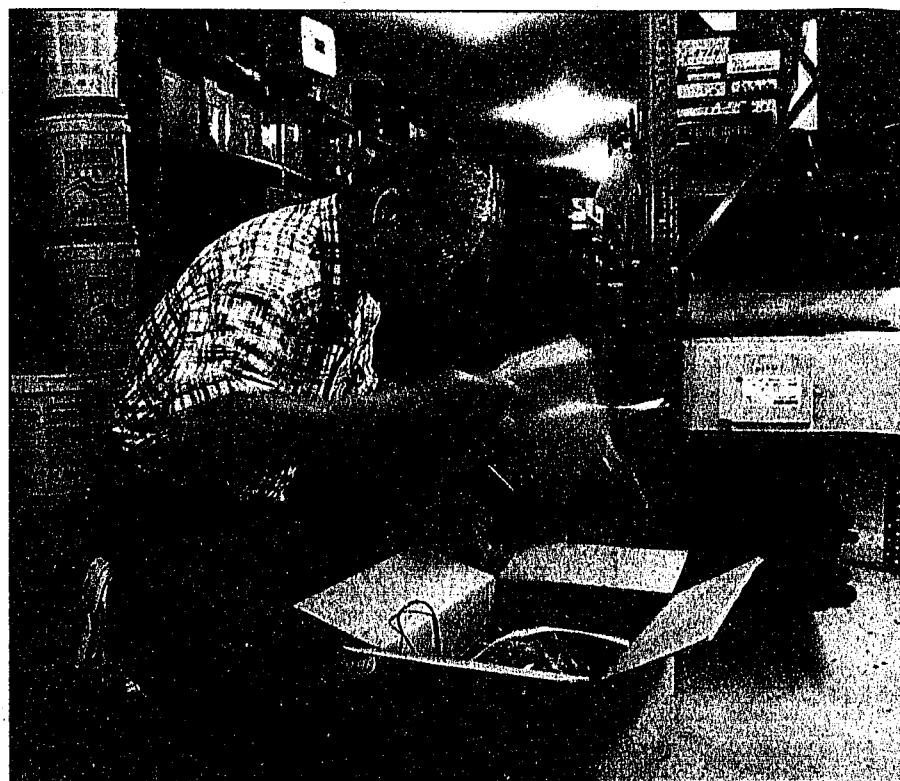
her Coralville apartment on Oct. 23, 1981. In 1996, technology provided a match to semen taken from Klotzbach, who is serving a life term in prison for another murder.

The improved technology allowed a scientist, testifying at Dodd's trial, to say the chances of finding another person with the same DNA was "one in 100 billion." It was enough to convince the jury and clear an unsolved murder.

In Delsing's case, she had to wait until August 2001 when Andrew Rich, 46, of Grey-bull, Wyo., was charged in her brother's slaying. Rich later pleaded guilty to first-degree robbery and voluntary manslaughter in connection with the death and sentenced to 35 years in prison.

In that case, DNA from Kisha, Helble's dog, was found in a stolen

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Buzz Orr/The Gazette

Iowa City Police evidence custodian Dave Harris prepares evidence for an upcoming trial in an evidence room.

Plenty of help labeling

First of all, thanks to everybody who offered suggestions on how to tell a liberal from a

conservative. If I didn't use yours, it was because of too little space, too little appreciation on my part or because it was either too erudite or too nasty.

So without further ado, except for remembering that these aren't necessarily original, accurate or fair:

- Conservatives see society as a collection of individuals. Liberals see society as a collection of groups.

- The liberal is sorry World War II ended with atomic attacks on Japan. The conservative is sorry it didn't end with Patton in Moscow.

- A conservative who sees a black helicopter sees the United Nations plot. A liberal who sees a black helicopter sees ... a black helicopter.

- Liberals make decisions based on emotion. Conservatives make decisions based on logic.

- Conservatives think liberals are people with bad ideas. Liberals think conservatives are bad people.

- Liberals think fairness is more important than rules. Conservatives think there can't be fairness without rules.

- Conservatives reason. Liberals rationalize.

- When a liberal cheats on his wife, it's an impeachable offense. When a conservative cheats on his wife, it's a career move.

- A conservative hates Castro but loves Cuban cigars. A liberal loves Castro, but don't even think about offering him a cigar.

- Conservatives with a problem see government as a last resort. Liberals with a problem look to government first.

- Conservatives think government should do what individuals are unable to do. Liberals think government should do what individuals are unwilling to do.

- A liberal who sees a minority person in a position of authority credits affirmative action. A conservative who sees a minority person in a position of authority blames quotas.

- Conservatives believe the Bill of Rights means what it says. Liberals believe that's true about the First Amendment but not the Second.

- The liberal cites Grantland Rice: "It's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game." The conservative cites Vince Lombardi: "Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing."

- Conservatives believe in fiscal responsibility except when it comes to the national deficit. So do liberals.

- Finally, the most insightful of the bunch came in response to the comment that if you see a Volvo with a Linn County license plate, it's driven by a conservative, while a Volvo with a Johnson County license plate is driven by a liberal.

"We live in Linn County and we are liberals," wrote a reader. "We don't own a Volvo, but we used to. We owned a Volvo not because we are liberal or conservative, but because my wife is a Swede! So much for labels."

So much for labels, indeed.

■ Mike Deupree's column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. He can be reached at (319) 398-8452 or mike.deupree@gazettecommunications.com (Previous columns at www.gazetteonline.com)

Cases/At least 26 murder cases currently open

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B ammunition box in Texas. That helped tie Rich to the murder.

Delsing said it was hard to trust sheriff's investigators, who were working on the case, when months passed without an arrest.

"There was a time when you feel like nothing is going on. There's stuff they can't tell you," Delsing said. "It's frustrating. The best thing to do is stay in contact with the investigators who are working on it and move forward. There's nothing you can do about it."

Right now, police in Johnson and Linn counties have at least 26 open murder cases dating from 1959, police and Gazette records show.

Johnson County Sheriff Bob Carpenter said his department's two open cases — the 2001 death of Timothy Becker, 42; and the 1995 slaying of Susan Kersten, 38, who was found in a burned-out

car south of Iowa City — "are actively being worked on."

"They are difficult, but our guys are reinterviewing, and I think we are close (to filing charges) on one or both of them," he said.

Cedar Rapids police have at least 13 unsolved murders.

"As time permits, we pull these case files," said Cedar Rapids police Capt. Jim Noonan, head of the investigative division. "We look at the evidence and see if there's anything you can do now that you couldn't do then."

For example, if enough DNA evidence was taken at

"You'd be surprised by people calling. They will say, 'This has been bothering me.' It's not unusual for people to call."

Jim Noonan

Cedar Rapids police captain

the crime scene, it could lead to an arrest today or in the future, as technology advances, police said.

"You never close a homicide until you make an arrest," Noonan said. "They are the highest priority. We want to solve it."

Every so often, as new technology is introduced, police will re-send evidence to the state's crime lab and can pursue an arrest.

Sometimes a killer turns himself in to police.

Other times, people who know who the murderer is

change their minds about keeping quiet and talk to police.

And, on occasion, people will call with something new, Noonan said.

"You'd be surprised by people calling," he said. "They will say, 'This has been bothering me.' It's not unusual for people to call."

But more often than not, cases get harder to solve as time goes on, police said.

Witnesses, suspects and others close to the case move out of the area, said Iowa City police Lt. Jim Steffen, head of the department's in-

vestigative unit.

In the really old cases, people with ties to the case might have died. Witnesses' memories fade.

Sometimes the original investigator could have retired or died, Steffen said.

Iowa City police have six open murder cases, with investigators actively working on two of them, Steffen said.

He declined to say which two.

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Fingerprint system keeps track of people

By Christoph Trappe

The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Police officers here have entered about 3,000 fingerprints into the state's computer system in the last three years.

They hope an unknown print will sooner or later match with someone in the system. Crimes, including murders, are sometimes solved that way.

Every time police officers arrest someone and take a set of fingerprints, those prints are entered into the system. When officers go to a scene of a crime, they also collect prints, possibly of the person who committed the crime.

The system, called Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), checks the prints against the state's collection of people arrested and the prints taken at other crime scenes.

The database dates back to the 1950s.

The Dec. 30, 1994, murder of Elonda Lacey, 21, of Cedar Rapids, was solved that way, when David Field's fingerprints matched those found on a knife blade.

"Unlike on television where (the prints) go back and forth and lock in on (a name), we have to do actual comparisons," Cedar Rapids police identification officer Dennis Murphy said.

Officers, he said, need to do their own comparisons because the computer is not foolproof.

Other area agencies also submit their fingerprints to Cedar Rapids police, the only department in the area with AFIS.

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Childers, Huisinga head Xavier drive

CEDAR RAPIDS — Dan Childers, attorney with Elderkin and Pirnie, has been named as the general chairman of the Xavier Foundation's 2003 Parish Appeal.

Wes Huisinga, attorney with Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, will serve as associate chairman.

Childers and Huisinga will lead hundreds of volunteers in the communitywide effort to raise \$310,000 to support Xavier High School.

The appeal will begin on Sept. 27 and 28 and will involve thousands of parishioners from 12 supporting parishes across the Cedar Rapids metro area.

Funds will be used to support the school, the bond repayment program and provide scholarship assistance. During the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the foundation contributed more than \$800,000 to Xavier High School.

A meeting and training session for all volunteers will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the band room at Xavier.

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