

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

IOWA TODAY[®]

LOCAL ■ REGIONAL ■ STATE

B The Gazette
Sunday
September 21, 2003

www.gazetteonline.com

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.

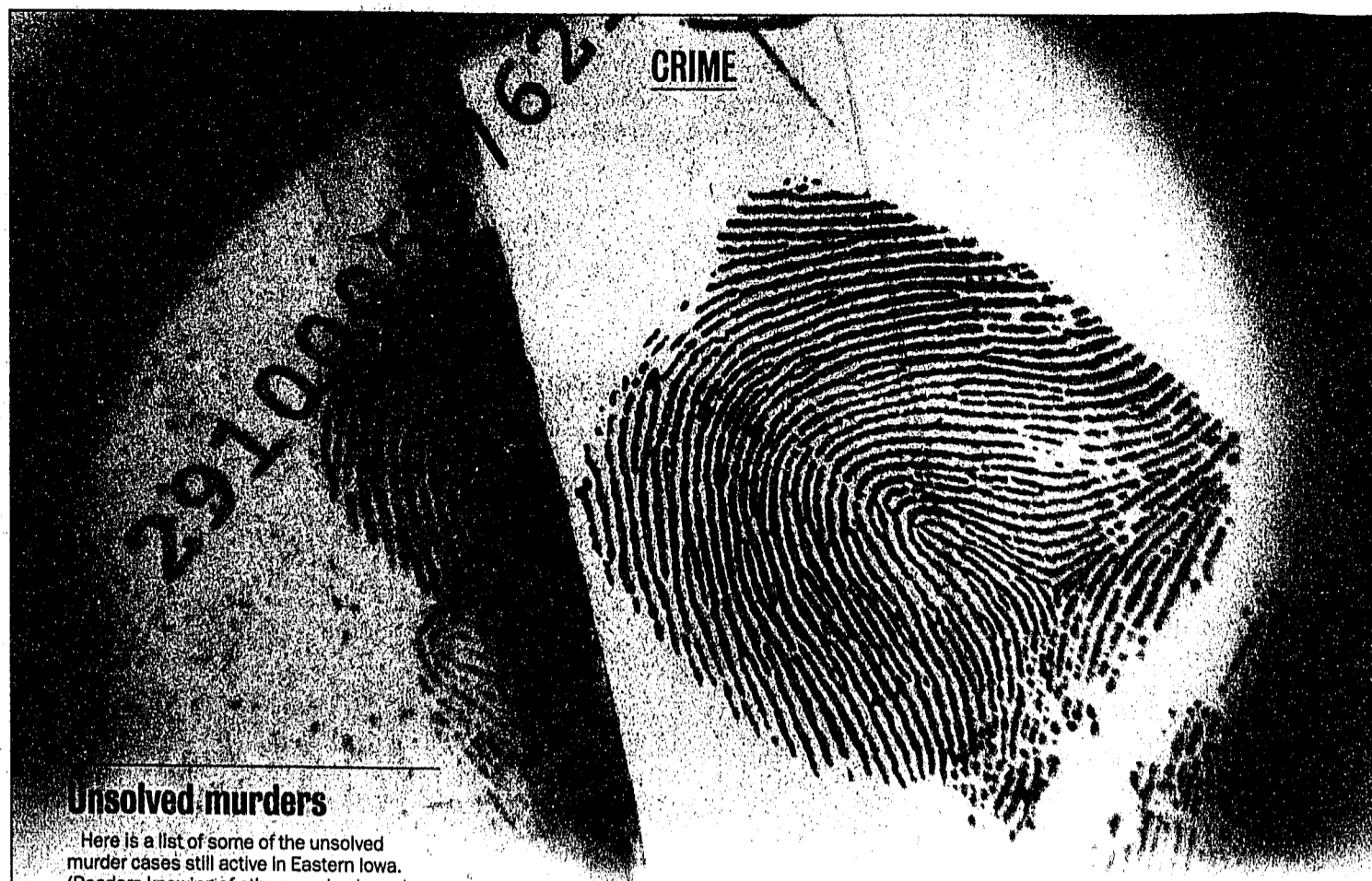
HIAWATHA

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.



Unsolved murders

Here is a list of some of the unsolved murder cases still active in Eastern Iowa. (Readers knowing of other unsolved murder cases in Eastern Iowa are asked to call reporter Christoph Trappe at (319) 398-8488 or 1-(800) 397-8212.)

■ **Timothy Becker**, 42, of rural Iowa City. Found at rural mobile home, 4494 Taft Ave. SE, dead of multiple blunt-force injuries to the head, on July 1, 2001.

■ **Tyrone Gilbert**, 21, of Cedar Rapids. Found fatally shot in the abdomen on front porch at 412 15th St. SE, Cedar Rapids, on June 21, 2001.

■ **Kurtus Miller**, 20, died in an arson fire in Iowa City at 845 Cross Park Ave. on March 6, 2000.

■ **Willie Junior Brocks**, 49, of Cedar Rapids. Found fatally shot in the head in the 400 block of 15th Street SE, Cedar Rapids, on Nov. 27, 1999.

■ **Judith Weeks**, 44, of Cedar Rapids. Partially clothed body found in the 1300 block of Second Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, with a wound to her forehead, on April 5, 1999.

■ **Jamar Magett**, 19, of Chicago. Shot in the head and chest while standing in the 1400 block of Fifth Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, on May 10, 1999. A Linn County jury acquitted Paul Gilbert, 18, of Cedar Rapids, in the slaying.

■ **Traci Evenson**, 22, of Cedar Rapids. Found suffocated in her apartment at 438 Ninth Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, on June 22, 1997.

■ **Frances Bloomfield**, 57, of Iowa City. Believed strangled and killed in her home at 38 Wakefield Ct. Her body was found, bound with pantyhose and wrapped in plastic bound with duct tape, in a ditch about a half-mile south of Rockford, Ill., on Sept. 25, 1997.

■ **Laura Van Wyhe**, 21, of Iowa City. Found barely alive along northeast Missouri highway but died in an Illinois hospital on Oct. 26, 1996.

■ **Donna Lee Marshall**, 37, of Iowa City. Died on Jan. 9, 1996, the day after she was found shot in the head at her Iowa City mobile home.

■ **Susan Kersten**, 38, of Iowa City. Badly burned body found south of Iowa City in the charred remains of her car on Sept. 24, 1995.

■ **Unidentified baby**. Found by Iowa City landfill workers on Dec. 21, 1991.

■ **Brian Schappert**, 22, of Cedar Rapids. Fatally stabbed as he worked at the Kum & Go store, 2743 Mount Vernon Rd. SE, Cedar Rapids in 1989.

■ **Matt Pusateri**, 26, of Cedar Rapids. Cab driver shot while in his parked cab in 1988.

■ **Lance DeWoody**, 22, of North Liberty. Shot Aug. 13, 1985, at a picnic shelter on the Oakdale campus in Coralville.

■ **Dennis Chaffee**. Shot at a house in Cedar Rapids in 1983.

■ **Denise Fraley**, 30, of Cedar Rapids. Thought to have been murdered in 1982; body was never found.

■ **Michelle Martinko**, 18, of Cedar Rapids. Found stabbed to death in her car at Westdale Mall, Cedar Rapids, on Dec. 19, 1979.

■ **Dennis Stastny**, 30, of Cedar Rapids. Body found stabbed Aug. 11, 1977, in the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids. Bloody knife was found in nearby apartment; some believe the death was a suicide, others think murder.

■ **Jane Wakefield**, 26, of Iowa City. Presumed murdered in 1975, but body was never found.

■ **Lynn Schuller**, 26, of Cedar Rapids. Presumed murdered in 1972, but body was never found.

■ **Maureen Farley**, 17, of Cedar Rapids. Found Sept. 25, 1971, in the trunk of a car in southwest Cedar Rapids. She had a skull fracture. She'd moved to Cedar Rapids to be closer to her husband, David Farley, an inmate at the Iowa Men's Reformatory in Anamosa.

■ **Paula Oberbrockling**, 18, of Cedar Rapids. It's unknown how she died in July 1970.

■ **Charles Gearhart**, 89, of Cedar Rapids. Stabbed to death in Cedar Rapids in 1970.

■ **Ronald Lipsius**, 30. Shot by a robber in Iowa City in 1966.

■ **Fred Coste**, 48, of Cedar Rapids. Killed in Cedar Rapids in October 1959.

Source: Gazette files and police records

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

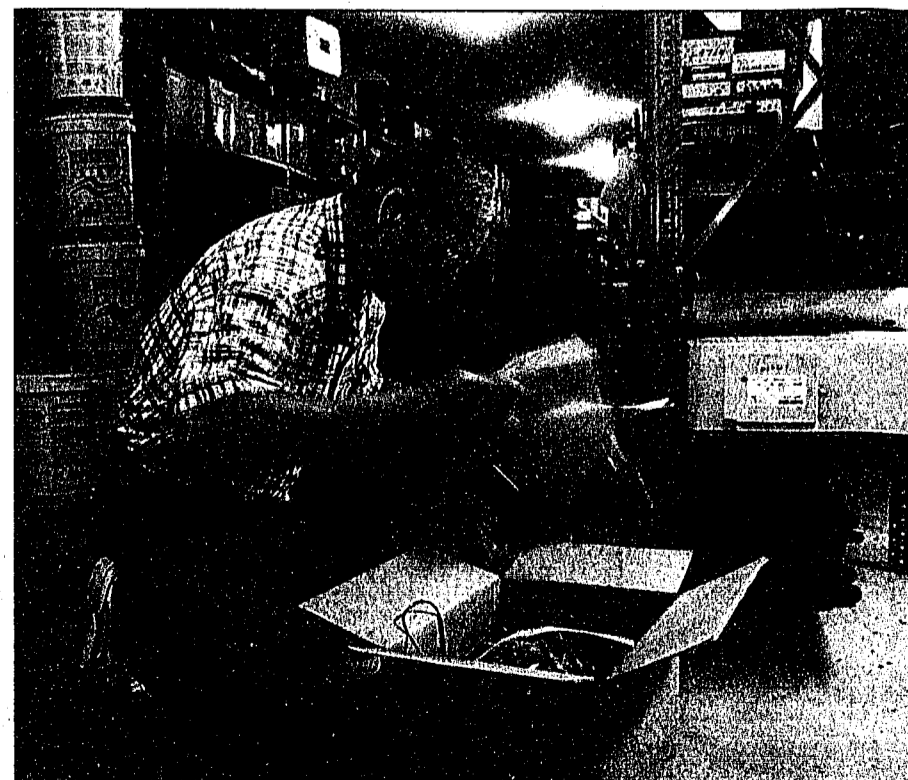
her Coralville apartment on Oct. 23, 1981. In 1996, technology provided a match to semen taken from Klotzbach, who is serving a life term in prison for another murder.

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

► CASES, PAGE 12B



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)