Daily Herald

Some DNA on dinner wasn't from Luna

I think this is
the only Journalist
who ever mentioned
2 DNA's on the
chicken pieces!
I was told about
having 2 suspects
DNA', in April 62,
portirming my
alibi for J. Luna
a month before
arrest. I gave
Palatine Police
swabs to validate
my alibi, and was
one of the 90
missing swabs
after testing
"NO MATCH!"

BY STACY ST. CLAIR

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What's new: A second unknown person's DNA is also on the chicken bone that prosecutors say ties Juan Luna to the murders.

What's next: More prosecution witnesses

The half-eaten chicken piece prosecutors say links Juan Luna to the Brown's Chicken murders also contains the DNA of at least <u>one other person</u>, test results show. Cecilia Doyle, a section chief at the Illinois State Police Crime Lab, testified Wednesday that she found two DNA profiles on the food in 1998.

Though authorities say Luna matches one of them, they have never publicly mentioned the existence of a second contributor. It's also possible that three or more people's DNA could be on the chicken piece, Doyle said. There were a minimum of two sources and at least one of them was male, she said. "I got a mixture of DNA profiles," she said. "(There is) more than one contributor."

Doyle used the DNA results to rule out **90** people, including the seven victims and scores of law-enforcement officials who may have come in contact with the food! She also excluded a man who admitted to the crime as well as a friend he implicated in his 1998 confession to police. All DNA swabs taken during testing, however, were later lost.

"They were sent out, but they were never received at the destination," Doyle said.

In 2002, authorities say they matched Luna's genetic code with DNA found on a half-eaten chicken piece discovered in the Palatine establishment's trash can. Prosecutors did not attempt to explain the existence of the second profile during testimony Wednesday.

Prosecutors say Luna, a former Brown's employee, and his high school pal Jim Degorski killed the restaurant's two owners and five workers in January 1993 in an attempt to "do something big."

Authorities have never said there is DNA evidence linking Degorski to the crime, presumably ruling him out as the second source on the chicken. The men, who are being tried separately, have pleaded not guilty to the crime. If convicted, both could face the death penalty.

The crime rocked the Northwest suburbs and almost immediately drew accusations of poor detective work.

With the investigation stalled in February 1994, authorities asked famed forensic scientist Henry Lee to consult on the case. Lee examined physical evidence, visited the restaurant

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