

# The Rockies Special investigating unit probes Alan Berg shooting

**Associated Press**  
DENVER — A special crime unit was formed to investigate the shooting death of Alan Berg, the sharp-tongued radio personality gunned down outside his home, police said.

Investigators on Tuesday reviewed late mail and an overhead thrum directed at Berg and a \$20,000 reward was posted for information leading to the capture of the killer.

Berg, 39, who reported several death threats during his decade-long tenure on Denver talk radio, was shot several times with a .45-caliber weapon as he stepped from his car about 10 p.m. Monday, police said.

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Ken Harris said and a major focus of their work was tapes of threats made on the air against Berg. Detective Division Chief Don Smith said Denver's entire 60-person major case squad is assigned to the investigation. "It's a hot fall time. We have a man who generated a lot of controversy," he said, adding that Berg's notoriety meant there were "a lot of people we want to contact" than in most other murder cases.

Police listened to tapes of Berg's broadcasts for the past three months, and were through late last night he had received recently, said Detective Jim Rock. He said that judging from the number of shots fired at Berg, "somebody is very angry."

Investigators also were interviewed witnesses Tuesday. "We have witnesses, but I am not at liberty to discuss what the witnesses have said," said Rock.

KOA Radio on Tuesday offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to Berg's killer, and Denver television station KCNC-TV followed suit. Lee Larson, vice president and general manager of KOA, said security has been increased for on-air personnel, because "I give them a certain sense of mind."

Berg's body was found sprawled beside his Volkswagen convertible, a brown paper bag containing food for his dog clutched in his right hand, police said. His apartment had just arrived at the condominium where he had lived for the past four years.



**All-female crew**  
Emily Warner, left, and Barbara Cook make final preparations before flying their Frontier flight out of Stapleton Airport Saturday in Denver. It was the first commercial flight in history with an all-woman cockpit crew. Also on board were two female and two male flight attendants.

## Wire check Banned wire services

**Denver**  
**Grocery store smoking ban nullified**

The administration of Denver Mayor Federico Peña is to introduce a proposed city ordinance setting fines for grocery stores that don't post signs banning smoking, and for smokers who ignore such signs. The proposed ordinance calls for fines of up to \$300 for stores that refuse to post such signs and for smokers who light in groceries despite the posted ban. Two previous proposed ordinances were rejected by the Denver City Council.

The past measures were opposed by the Rocky Mountain Food Dealers Association, which said they required store owners to enforce the ordinances. A majority of the city council agreed that the measures put an excessive burden on store owners.

**Protection for dam officials asked**  
Legislation should be passed to make private engineers and inspectors immune from liability suits when dams fail, a lawyer told a national organizing committee on dam safety Tuesday. "I am concerned with the interest of the public, but are inspectors asked to file a report or become another party in a liability suit?" said Gerald W. Faragher, a Washington, D.C., attorney.

**Longmont**  
**Plague-infected prairie dog found**

A prairie dog infected with plague has been found in a colony in Boulder County, county health department officials said. An official said the animal was found last week outside Longmont during a routine check by health officials. It was the third straight year plague has been found in a colony in Boulder County, he said.

He advised residents to make sure their pets are dusted with flea powder and are kept away from squirrels and prairie dogs. People also should avoid rodents so they do not come in contact with the fleas that carry the potentially deadly disease. Earlier this spring, plague was found in a ground squirrel in El Paso County.

**Oak Creek**  
**Oak Creek mine cave-in kills one**

One miner was killed and another injured when a ditch they were digging collapsed and rained in on them near here, Broom County officials said Tuesday. The man who was killed was James P. Babcock, 39, of Oak Creek. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Broom County Memorial Hospital in Steamboat Springs.

The other employee of the Edna Mine, owned by Pittsburgh-based Way Coal Co., was identified as Tom Menden of Hayden. Menden said the two men were laying pipe at the mine south of here when the walls of an eight-foot-deep ditch collapsed without warning. Babcock was buried for about 30 minutes.

## Copter service targets Denver business execs

**DENVER** — Colorado's rapidly expanding business community is about to enjoy another first for the state — one which will place Denver in an airline service league alongside New York City and Washington, D.C.

High-speed, door-to-door helicopter service for Colorado's top executives will be offered beginning Sept. 15, say officials of Washington-based Capital Helicopters, Inc.

In a story published by the Longmont Times Call, Capital executive and major stockholder Edward A. Stough said the initial red carpet service would serve Denver and Colorado Springs from Stapleton International Airport. Expansion into the Longmont area would come in 1985 if the market demands it, he said.

The shuttle service will take passengers to and from downtown Denver from the city's airport. Stough said the company, which also operates the Washington, D.C. service, said the proposal still meets with the Federal Aviation Administration, which must approve the service permit.

As proposed, the service would allow New York City-based passengers from Denver and Colorado Springs to avoid the crowd and traffic problems at Stapleton.

The Daily Sentinel (Grand Junction, Colorado) is published five weekdays afternoon and Saturday and Sunday mornings at 700 S. Seventh St., Grand Junction, CO 81505. Second Class Postage paid at Grand Junction, CO. Postmaster: send address changes to The Daily Sentinel, P.O. Box 806, Grand Junction, CO 81502.

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