

The Rockies Cops 'at loose ends' in Berg death probe

DENVER — Denver police still have no firm leads and no definite suspects in the investigation of the slaying of radio talk-show host Alan Berg, said Detective Division Chief Don Madis, who says the probe is "a loose end."

"That just means we do not have a specific direction we're going in at this time," Madis said yesterday. It does not mean, he added, that police have doubts of ever finding Berg's killer.

Madis conceded that the first few days are considered crucial in solving a murder. The year of solved slayings goes down significantly if a suspect isn't arrested fairly quickly — within 72 hours, say some veteran officers.

"Statistically, the arrest rate goes down as time goes on," said Madis. "But to say we give up hope after 72 hours would be ridiculous. Any detective in this department can tell you of cases that have gone on for years and finally been solved. Complicated cases take more time than others, and this one is complicated."

Although Berg had no shortage of enemies because of his sometimes-abrasive radio demeanor, police say the way he died suggests a carefully planned, even "professional" killing, rather than a violent outburst by a deranged person or irate caller.

In the first four days after Berg, 30, was killed outside his home in east Denver Monday night, a special task force of 60 detectives interviewed between 200 and 300 people. They reviewed tapes of Berg's KOA Radio show in a futile attempt to identify people who called in death threats to the controversial Berg, who sometimes

killed himself as "the man you have to be."

They traveled to Berg's native Chicago to check on his alleged associations with underworld figures, which also proved unfruitful.

So much information has been gathered that a computer is needed to keep track of it all.

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He was ambushed by someone who apparently waited for him to return home, and he died of numerous shots from a 45-caliber automatic weapon. Meanwhile, police have turned to the FBI for a psychological profile of Berg's killer, which they hope will provide a clue in the case. A memorial service for Berg was scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday at Temple Emanuel in Denver.

Wire check

Denver

Homeowners sue construction firms

Nearly two dozen homeowners in a southern Jefferson County subdivision have joined others who are suing construction companies who built their homes. The suits all claim the firms knowingly sold homes which were built on unstable ground.

Residents of the Williamsburg subdivision near Littleton filed suit Friday in U.S. District Court here against Medina Homes Inc., claiming the company failed to warn buyers that soil conditions may cause homes to shift, crack walls and foundations. The suit seeks \$7 million in damages. Three other lawsuits with the same allegations were brought against Medina during the past year by Williamsburg residents. Medina has denied all the claims.

Fort Collins

Fort Collins motorcyclist killed

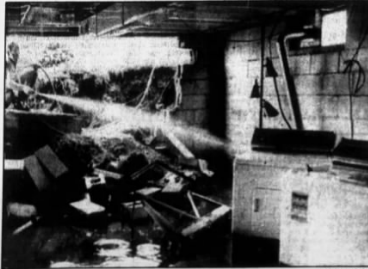
A Fort Collins man was killed early Friday when his motorcycle crashed near Horsetooth Reservoir. The State Patrol said Charles A. Anonick, 36, died of head injuries and a broken neck when his motorcycle ran off Larimer County Road 38 East, down an embankment and into a boghole.

Golden

Court upholds state's death penalty

Colorado's death penalty law has been upheld by District Court Judge Anthony Volack, giving prosecutors the opportunity to seek the death penalty against a man accused of strangling a waitress in a motel in 1981. Volack rejected arguments by lawyers for Stephen P. Moran that state-sanctioned execution is "cruel and unusual punishment."

Moran is charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of Sheila Whalen, 23, whose nude body was found Nov. 7, 1981, in a room at the Mountain View Motel in Jefferson County. Volack is scheduled to preside over Moran's trial beginning July 10.



Water on the water

Although it appears he's making matters worse, Mark Olson of Sioux Falls washes mud off the walls and appliances in the basement of Edward an Harriet Lovett's home. High water filled the basement and spilled into the first floor, causing in the basement wall through which Olson worked. Despite the high water, the Lovetts remained in the house.

Holding company buys C.S. bank

DENVER — United Banks of Colorado Inc. announced Friday it has completed negotiations to acquire Golden of the C.S. Bank in Colorado Springs.

Terms of the purchase have not been released, and the acquisition is contingent on Federal Reserve Board approval. "We are pleased to add this banking institution to the United organization," said N. Berne Hart, president and chairman of United Banks. "The new bank along with United's existing Colorado Springs bank will continue to help us serve the growing Colorado Springs community."

United Banks of Colorado, the largest bank holding company in Colorado, is a \$1.9 billion Rocky Mountain region. Financial institutions that operate 28 banks.

Officials say professor's fate in doubt

Announcements

DENVER — University of Colorado professor Nicholas Schrock vanished in the scrubby hills on Mexico's west coast two years ago, and officials concede that although the Schrock case remains open, the trail is cold.

"We may never know who killed professor Schrock," U.S. Embassy spokesman Tom Johnson told the Rocky Mountain News' Mexico City bureau.

There are some who say Schrock, who was 42 when he disappeared,

People have claimed to have seen him several times during the past two years. The " sightings " increased after a \$10,000 reward was offered for information, but none of the leads has checked out, U.S. officials say.

Schrock, on his way to teach at a summer program in Guadalajara, was last seen late in May 1982 near the small Mexican town of Iguala, about 80 miles north of Mexico City.

The police chief of San Ignacio and six of his deputies were jailed in the disappearance after they were found driving Schrock's pickup truck and wearing his clothing.

They claimed they had found the empty truck along coastal Highway 15 and never saw Schrock. Murder charges were dropped because the body never was found.

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