

GRAD STUDENTS, BABY FOUND SLAIN DEAD WOMAN'S FATHER IS TOP PRODUCER

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Two Detroit graduate students and their nine-month-old daughter were found stabbed to death near Wayne State University, police said Tuesday.

Police identified the victims as David Saul Berkley, 26; his wife, Aline Elizabeth, 25, and their daughter, Jessica. Mrs. Berkley was the daughter of award-winning TV and film producer Norman Felton.

The bodies of Mrs. Berkley and her daughter were found in a bed in their apartment at 98 W. Hancock about midnight Monday.

Police first believed David Berkley might be a suspect. Then they realized he was the previously unidentified man who was found Sunday afternoon, stabbed to death in an alley beside a vacant apartment building at 253 E. Forest, several blocks away.

POLICE BELIEVE all three were killed late Saturday night or early Sunday.

They theorized the **killer** or **killers** may have taken Berkley's identification and house keys, leading them to his apartment, where his wife and baby were killed.

They said the couple's apartment, in an attractive, rehabilitated building near Wayne State, appeared to have been "somewhat" ransacked and some things appeared to be missing.

But the brutality of all three murders, which involved massive stabbing assaults, left unanswered questions.

"At this time, robbery appears to have been the motive," said Sgt. Roy Awe of the police homicide section's Squad Seven, who was coordinating the investigation. "But we don't have all the answers yet."

"Whoever did it likes to kill people," said homicide Inspector Gilbert Hill. "This is a case of massive overkill."

SGT. CHALMERS SANDERS of the Detroit Police homicide section, assigned early Tuesday to investigate the murders of the mother and daughter, was able to identify David Berkley by a description of his clothing given by other tenants.

"I was looking for a description of the husband and father because this was a brutal set of murders and daddy was missing, so we had to consider him a suspect," Sanders said

"But the description of the clothing he was last seen wearing sounded just like the clothes the unidentified man found on Forest was wearing," he said.

That included an expensive blue down-filled Sierra jacket, blue jeans, two pair of sweat socks and expensive walking boots with red and **black** laces.

These matched the description for Berkley's clothes, which also included a **black** T-shirt with red letters that spelled out: "Jessica's Daddy."

THAT CONNECTED the two murder scenes. The similarity of the attacks also led police to believe the same person or persons killed all three.

Mrs. Berkley and her daughter were found after Mr. Berkley's father, in Bethesda, Md., telephoned Monday to ask the apartment manager to check on them because he had been unable to reach them for two days to make holiday arrangements.

When the manager checked, he found the bodies of the mother and daughter. He called Wayne State University's Public Safety Department detectives two buildings away, and they called Detroit police.

The 13th (Vernor) Precinct is about a block away, on the corner of Woodward and Hancock.

Berkley was working for a doctorate in physical anthropology in the anatomy department at Wayne State.

His colleagues and professors at the University Medical Center considered him brilliant and well-loved.

Those sentiments were echoed by Mrs. Berkley's fellow students and professors at the University of Detroit Law School, where she was an honor student in her senior year.

Mrs. Berkley, who was in the top 10 percent of her class, was case and comment editor of the University of Detroit Law Review.

"This is a prestigious position, an honor given only the brightest law students," said Nancy Kassem, publications editor at U-D.

Berkley's father, an attorney, and Felton were flying to Detroit Tuesday night to make funeral arrangements.

Felton, 69, is president of Arena Productions in Malibu, Calif. An Emmy-award winning television producer and director, he was responsible for developing the series "Dr. Kildare," "The Lieutenant," "The Man From U.N.C.L.E.," and "Jericho," as well as such TV specials as "Babe" and "Executive Suite."

Police asked Tuesday that anyone with information about the murders call the Homicide Section at 224-4280 anytime.

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