

DETROIT: GUNMAN SHOOTS COUPLE AT HOME - WIFE, 37, DIES; FAMILY WONDERS WHY

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, August 17, 2007

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David Alston Jr. clutched the photo of his smiling sister, hung his head and wept uncontrollably.

"Why?" he asked through tears. "**Barbara**, why?"

Just before 7 a.m. Thursday, a gunman shot and killed 37-year-old **Barbara Udics** in her Detroit home after forcing her 59-year-old husband, Donald **Udics**, from the driveway back inside their brick bungalow.

Police said the suspect shot **Barbara Udics** in the head and foot and shot her husband in the hand and neck. He was in critical condition Thursday at an undisclosed hospital.

The gunman took off in Donald **Udics** ' 2007 silver Chevrolet Impala, which police spotted several hours later. Police waited until a man got into the car, then chased him until he crashed and tried to flee. He was being held for questioning Thursday night but had not been charged with a crime.

Earlier Thursday, Alston of Detroit sat in the driveway of the home in the 12000 block of Grandmont, in a quiet neighborhood between the Southfield Freeway and Greenfield, and wanted answers. About 30 family members and friends milled around the front yard and sidewalk, crying and hugging one another.

"They were a hardworking, happy couple," Alston said. "There's no making sense of this."

The motive appeared to be robbery, although family members noted that only the car had been taken.

"We have no other motive than robbery right now," said Detroit Police Cmdr. James Tolbert. "But we need to know a little more before we say it was just a random attack."

Cheryl Lowry, 52, has lived in the neighborhood for 34 years.

"We don't get crimes like this over here," she said. "This block sticks together, and we're all in shock right now."

She wondered about a motive.

"Was this over a car?" she asked. "It doesn't seem to make sense. Why force someone back inside the house?"

Lowry said **Barbara Udics** moved into the neighborhood about four years ago and quickly made friends with her neighbors.

"She was a very friendly, outgoing woman," Lowry said.

Udics worked at a nail salon, and her husband worked in construction. They married about two years ago.

"They really loved each other," said **Barbara Udics'** mother, Doris Knight. "They had everything going for them."

Anyone with information on the shootings is asked to call Detroit police at 313-596-2260 or Crimestoppers at 800-773-2587. Contact BEN SCHMITT at 313-223-4296 or bschmitt@freepress.com.

ILLUSTRATION: Map KOFI MYLER Detroit Free Press;Map source: Detroit Police Department;Photo

CAPTION: Donald and **Barbara Udics** "had everything going for them," her mom said. Now he's in critical condition, and she is dead.

CAPTIONWRITER: Family photo

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Edition: METRO EDITION

Section: NWS; NEWS

Page: 1B

Index Terms: shooting; homicide; Detroit; multiple

Record Number: dfp0000466802

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