

## Not Exactly Twins

Donna Ellis has her hands full taking care of babies. She and her husband, Harmon, became parents for the first time Feb. 19, when their daughter Wendy-Rachael was born. Ten days later, the family added an-

other offspring, Blue Boy's Treasure. The Rio Linda couple also became parents to the colt, whose mother died March 10. Now they're keeping up with a feeding schedule — every four hours — for each newborn.

# Police Debate Tie Between East Area Rapist, Killings

By Wayne Wilson  
Bee Staff Writer

There is a difference of opinion among detectives investigating the possibility that a double homicide in Santa Barbara County was committed by Sacramento's East Area Rapist.

Santa Barbara Sheriff's Sgt. William Baker said Wednesday he does not believe the Dec. 30 killings of a Goleta Valley orthopedic surgeon and his psychologist girlfriend were committed by the same man believed to be responsible for 44 sexual assaults in Northern California.

Baker's opinion is shared by Sacramento Sheriff's Lt. Ray Root, but Root said Wednesday that the detective assigned to the case in Sacramento, Sgt. James D. Bevins, feels fairly strongly that there's a very strong possibility it is the same man.

Root said the Sacramento Sheriff's Department will maintain contact with authorities in Santa Barbara as the investigation continues.

Baker said more dissimilarities seem to be developing since the two agencies began investigating the possibility of a connection between the crimes.

"The more we go into it, the less and less there seems to be a possibility of a connection," Baker said.

Root said the factor that convinced him there was no connection was the apparent ineptitude exhibited by the killer in Santa Barbara, in the double homicide and in another crime, a residential robbery, tied to the killings.

"In both of the incidents down there, it is obvious the guy lost control of the situation, lost control of the people, and eventually had to kill somebody," Root said.

The homicide victims, Drs. Robert J. Offerman, 44, and Debra A. Manning, 35, were found shot to death in the bedroom of Offerman's Goleta Valley condominium.

"It appears the male victim had actually gotten his hands untied and was attacking whomever killed him," Root said.

"In the residential robbery, the female victim actually got out of the house screaming and he had to run out and grab her and drag her back in. Then the male got out of the house and was hiding in the backyard shrubbery when the robber split."

Root said that scenario does not fit the East Area rapist, who never lost control of a situation.

"It just doesn't seem reasonable to me that the guy could go through 40 or so rapes and maintain absolute control and then go to Santa Barbara and suddenly lose control of three different people in two different situations, back to back."

Root conceded there were similarities that bear investigating: the method of entry into the residences; the method of tying the victims; the conversations reported.

But he indicated there were not enough points of similarity to make a positive determination one way or another and said it was his gut feeling that the Sacramento and Santa Barbara incidents are not related.

Bevins, who could not be reached for comment, is still working on the possibility that a relationship exists, however. The Bee has learned that Bevins has been circulating in Sacramento the photo of a sole-print, identified as a size 9½ Adidas running shoe, apparently found at the scene of the Offerman-Manning homicides.



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## Bet A Bunch On A Hunch

raising jargon and turned out charts and graphs and, she says, a bagel-shaped curve dealing with "the luck vs. greed quotient."

I write down her quote that the hole in this bagel curve "is absolutely impenetrable; walking on water is easier." From across the street I hear my voice saying, "What are you doing, Michaels?"

Bunny says that she began talking to winners (not habitues but just casual keno players) to see why they won. "Exceptionally happy people

into the sun, that I didn't see how you could relax your shoulders and keep your head high simultaneously without pulling a muscle in your neck. "Ballet dancers do it all the time," she says. And the young man who didn't speak nodded in agreement. I glanced across the street to make sure I was still glancing at my glancing.

I wondered if Bunny had tried to make herself exceptionally happy with relaxed shoulders and head held high in order to make a million bucks playing keno. No, she says. "I didn't try to be-