Police Debate Tie Between East Area Rapist, Killings

By Wayne Wilson

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.

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. Bevis, feels fairly strongly that there is a very strong possibility it is the same man.

Root said the Sacramento Sheriff's Department will maintain contacts 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 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 inexperience 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.

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.

Bevis, who could not be reached for comment, is still working on the possibility that a relationship exists, however. The Bee has learned that Bevis 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-Maning 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..."