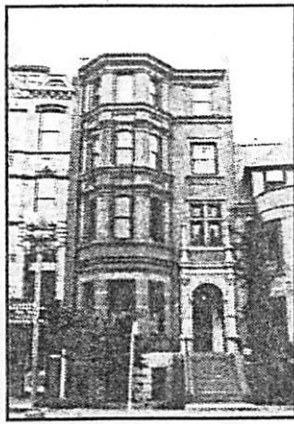


The

Washington Blade

THE GAY WEEKLY OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL



by Clint Steib

Ralph Stone was found stabbed to death in his second-floor apartment at 7 Logan Circle.

Logan Circle man killed in his home

No signs of forced entry in victim's apartment

by Lou Chibbaro Jr.

D.C. Police detectives appeared to raise more questions than answers at a Logan Circle community meeting Wednesday night when they discussed the murder of a 39-year-old Gay man whose body was found two days earlier in his condominium apartment at 7 Logan Circle.

Ralph Stone, the director of training for an international development organization that does work for the U.S. government, was found stabbed to death in his second-floor apartment about 4:15 p.m. Monday, July 14, according to a statement released by police. Police sources

Continued on page 10

Local News

Logan Circle man killed

Continued from page 1

familiar with the case said there were no signs of a forced entry into Stone's second floor apartment.

One of Stone's neighbors said the deadbolt on the door to Stone's apartment was locked at the time police arrived Monday afternoon. This meant that someone — most likely the person who killed Stone — had to use a key to lock the door after leaving the apartment.

Friends and co-workers called police on Monday after Stone failed to show up for work for two consecutive work days. Police found his body in a pool of blood when a neighbor unlocked the door, residents of the building said.

At a July 16 meeting of Logan Circle neighborhood activists, Third District Police Homicide Detective Lamont Baxter said police are looking for a man named Terry Alan, whom they said may have lived with Stone in the recent past. But Baxter declined to say whether Alan is a suspect in the murder and did not provide a description of Alan's appearance. Baxter also declined to say whether anything was stolen from Stone's apartment.

Several people who attended the meeting, including D.C. Mayor Marion Barry (D) and D.C. Councilmember Jack Evans (D-Ward 2), said they are hopeful that investigators will soon make an arrest in the case. But others attending the meeting, including at least two people who knew Stone, said they were puzzled about why police had not released more information.

Barry and Evans said they decided to attend the meeting to lend their support for police efforts to solve the second of two troubling murder cases in upscale neighborhoods in the space of one week. Three employees of the Starbucks coffee shop on Wisconsin Avenue, NW, just north of Georgetown were found shot to death July 7. One of the Starbucks victims, Mary Caitrin "Caity" Mahoney, was a Lesbian activist, although police say they have no evidence to indicate that her murder was related to her sexual orientation.

Anthony Vitelli, who lives in an apartment above Stone's apartment, described Stone as a quiet and cordial person who kept to himself but who occasionally invited homeless men into his apartment to provide them with food and money. Vitelli said some of the residents in the 15-unit apartment building at 7 Logan Circle became concerned when homeless people occasionally came to the building at night and shouted for Stone from the sidewalk.

Baxter, of the police homicide squad, told the Logan Circle community meeting on Wednesday that investigators believe Stone knew his killer. However, Baxter declined to say whether investigators know when or under what circumstances Stone and his assailant met.

Third District Homicide Detective Bob Vacin told the *Blade* on Tuesday that investigators can't rule out the possibility



D.C. Councilmember Jack Evans said he is hopeful that investigators will soon make an arrest in the case.

that Stone's murder is linked to several other unsolved murders of Gay men in D.C.

Stone worked for the Dupont Circle-based Centre for Development and Population Activities. Friends said he frequently traveled on business to such places as China, Russia, and Africa. Friends said he was enrolled in a Ph.D. program in human resources development at George Washington University.

Jo Ricks, Stone's real estate agent, said she frequently saw Stone on Sundays when the two attended services at Foundry United Methodist Church on 16th Street, NW.

Luis Colmenares, a friend of Stone's, said Stone rarely went to Gay bars. But Colmenares said Stone did frequent the bar and restaurant called the Stage Door which Colmenares and his partner, Steve Mowbray, operated until they sold it earlier this year. Colmenares said on two occasions in the spring, Stone asked him to escort him on his walk home from the Stage Door because he feared he was being "stalked" by someone.

"He wouldn't tell me who he was afraid of," said Colmenares, who lives around the corner from the apartment building where Stone lived.

Police said that anyone with information that may help with the investigation into Stone's murder should call the Third District police homicide office at (202) 673-6920. ▼

Anti-Gay Violence

Gay Men and Lesbians opposing Violence is a group that monitors anti-Gay violence in the D.C. area. To report an incident of verbal or physical harassment, call GLOV at

202/ 452-7448