

Posted on Fri, May. 16, 2008

Family asks for help in solving man's slaying

By DAVID OVALLE

The Three Js were Joanne, Julia and Jim.

"It's only the Two Js now," said Joanne Lose.

That's because Jim Bowerman, 27, was murdered in North Miami. His mother, Joanne Lose, 54, and sister Julia Bassett, 30, wear heart-shaped lockets with his photo inside to remember his spiky brown hair, blue eyes and the lone dimple on his right cheek. They wish they knew who killed the trio's youngest. So do detectives.



Police and family publicly pleaded for help Thursday in solving Bowerman's murder. Investigators won't say how Bowerman died because only the killer knows for sure.

"It was brutal," said North Miami Lt. Neal Cuevas, a spokesman. ``At this point in our investigation, we don't have a motive or the identity of the killer."

Bowerman was last seen alive on April 11 with friends at a bar.

A punctual waiter at the Aventura Chili's Grill & Bar, he failed to show up the next day to work his 3 p.m. shift.

His worried co-workers mentioned their pal's disappearance to North Miami detectives Michael Gaudio and Alonzo Rhymer, who were dining there.

The detectives suggested calling the station.

Uniformed North Miami officers were dispatched about 7 p.m. to check on Bowerman at his apartment in a one-story building, 1550 NE 130th St. His front door was locked. The rear door was ajar, slightly.

His corpse lay on the floor near the front door.

Neighbors reported no strange noises. Detectives don't believe robbery was a motive.

Bowerman had no criminal past.

"He has no enemies that we know of," Cuevas said.

In his last conversation with his mother six days before his body was discovered, Bowerman told her he hoped to leave Miami.

That did not surprise relatives. Bowerman was always on the move.

Raised in East Lansing, Mich., he, his sister and mother "raised each other. We were best buds," said Joanne Lose, a bank vice president.

"Ever since he was a kid, he wanted to be a ski bum. As he got older, he was going to be a beach bum," she remembered.

At 21, Bowerman set off to Huntington Beach, Calif., a beach bum haven south of Los Angeles. He marveled at the ocean and visited rock legend Jim Morrison's old haunts in L.A.

But Southern California proved too expensive. He left for Las Vegas. He worked in a shop at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel, Sports Chalet and later Chili's.

About a year ago, he moved cross country to Florida. The idea of year-round warmth -- and South Beach -- thrilled him.

His mother and sister flew in from Michigan to help him move.

For five days, they bathed in South Beach surf, shopped for a futon and lamp for his apartment and scouted bus routes because Bowerman still had no car in Miami-Dade.

After his death, his family returned to his apartment to collect his belongings. A friend mentioned he endlessly played a Tom Petty song called *Runnin' Down a Dream*.

It ends like this:

Yeah runnin' down a dream. That never would come to me. Workin' on a mystery. Goin' wherever it leads.

The song was played at his funeral in Michigan.

Anyone with information on Bowerman's murder can call North Miami police at 305-891-8111 or Miami-Dade CrimeStoppers at 304-471-TIPS. A website about Bowerman is also available: justiceforjim.com.

Comments

My condolences to the family. I hope you find justice in this unjust society. Unfortunately he picked the wrong seaside community to live in. Yes, multiethnic, but also multi-deathwish

Posted by: MsT303

5/16/2008 3:39 AM

44586.1 [Report as Violation](#)

No rating

I left North Miami after living there for 23 years....it was bad and getting worse. My heartfelt condolences to this man's family. Miami is not the place to live and feel "safe" any longer.

Posted by: princessmbgfox

5/16/2008 6:44 AM

44586.2 [Report as Violation](#)

No rating

May he rest in peace. I feel terrible for the family.

Posted by: lissy16

5/16/2008 7:47 AM

44586.3 [Report as Violation](#)

No rating

Jim was my awesome cousin. He was always there to help with a kind word or hug.

PLEASE help this family and police solve this horrific crime. It's the least that can be done for such a wonderful man that touched so many!

Posted by: deputydawgfl

5/16/2008 1:33 PM
44586.4 [Report as Violation](#)

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No rating

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