

# Police examine another fatal shooting

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Cox News Service

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Police were investigating a fatal shooting Monday night in northern Virginia for possible connection to the sniper shootings that have left eight dead and two injured in the Washington area.

A woman was shot in the head in a parking garage of a Home Depot in Fairfax County shortly after 9 p.m., according to police. Investigators looking into the sniper shootings were immediately dispatched to the scene and police began blocking nearby highways

and searching for a white van similar to the one that had been spotted at a previous shooting. Previous attacks have also occurred at shopping centers near major highways.

A customer in nearby Barnes & Noble bookstore reported hearing a single shot, according to CNN.

The Home Depot is in the Seven Corners Shopping Center, a strip shopping center with a parking garage, in Falls Church. It is near Interstates 66 and I-95.

Also Monday, Baltimore Police were questioning a 38-year-old for-

mer Marine with apparent similarities to the sniper being sought in the shooting spree.

Montgomery County Police said, however, that they did not believe "at this time" that the man is related to the sniper shootings.

Police said he was driving a white Astro van, the same type and color of vehicle seen at the most recent shooting in northern Virginia.

In the search of the man's apartment, police found an A-R 15 rifle, shell casings, ammunition and a book about snipers, news reports said.

Meanwhile, law enforcement officials in areas just outside Washington beefed up security at shopping malls and other facilities during the Columbus Day holiday weekend.

Montgomery County Police Chief Charles Moose said that police have been responding to many calls that turned out to be false alarms, such as trucks back-firing.

"Everyone is edgy," he said. "Things that may normally be overlooked and routine are certainly getting a higher response."

Also Monday, two groups set up

funds to collect money for victims of the shooter.

The Victims' Rights Foundation joined a coalition of business groups who hope to raise at least \$250,000 to pay for medical bills for surviving victims, the education of slain victims' children and other expenses.

In addition, the United Way has set up a fund to support the immediate and long-term needs of the victims and their families.

Authorities are offering a reward of \$500,000 for information leading to the killer's arrest and indictment.

## News briefs

### U.S.-French split on Iraq deepens

UNITED NATIONS — The impasse between the United States and France over military action in Iraq has deepened in recent days after an effort to reach a compromise stalled, with the French insisting that the Americans must come back to the U.N. Security Council before they can use force, diplomats said Monday.

President Bush on Monday spoke in conciliatory terms of the United Nations, insisting that the negotiations are still moving forward. "We are working with all the parties to get a resolution done," he said at the White House on Monday as he departed for Michigan.

"Anything we do must make it very clear that Saddam must disarm, or there will be consequences," he added.

But Bush stressed, "The use of

the military is my last choice, is my last desire."

As part of their effort to explore all options short of war, senior administration officials said that they are trying to foment an uprising in Iraq, a strategy they had dismissed as recently as last spring.

Congressional officials said that the Central Intelligence Agency had already begun covert operations in the Kurdish area of northern Iraq. And military officials said the Pentagon planned broadcasts and leaflet-drops in coming weeks urging Iraqi military leaders to defect or rise up against Saddam.

The United States and Britain want one Security Council resolution that includes tough new conditions for weapons inspectors in Iraq and an authorization to use force should the Iraqis refuse to disarm. France wants any authorization to use force in a second resolution. Russia and China have leaned to the French view.

— Julia Preston and Eric Schmitt, *New York Times*

### Al-Qaida likely behind attack in Bali, officials say

BALI, Indonesia — With the grim task of identifying charred and mangled bodies barely underway, Indonesia's defense minister on Monday blamed Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network for this weekend's bombing that killed more than 180 people, including two Americans, and injured more than 300.

"The Bali bomb blast is linked to al-Qaida, with the cooperation of local terrorists," Matori Abdul Djilil told reporters after a cabinet meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital. Three Americans are also listed among the injured in the attack. U.S. officials have not released identities of the Americans.

Djalil offered no evidence that al-Qaida was behind the car bombing Saturday night that turned a crowded Kuta Beach nightclub into an inferno in the world's most populous Muslim nation. Most of the dead are foreigners.

In Washington, President Bush also fingered al-Qaida.

"I think we have to assume it's al-Qaida," he told reporters at the White House.

— Michael Dorgan and Jonathan S. Landay, *Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)*

### Bali bombing may raise questions on Bush's targeting Iraq

WASHINGTON — While the White House prefers to focus on Iraq and the clear threat the Bush administration insists that Saddam Hussein poses, the accelerating series of worldwide terrorist attacks is wrenching the administration's emphasis back to the unfinished and amorphous war against al-Qaida.

The weekend bombing outside a nightclub in Indonesia and other recent attacks, presumed to be the work of al-Qaida, are adding new credence to administration critics who contend that the White House has been imperiling the war

against al-Qaida terror cells by shifting the world's attention and the nation's resources to a potential war against Iraq.

"Al-Qaida is proving that their capacity is unlimited and they can go anywhere, yet we have our president focused completely on Iraq, which is almost a sideshow to what al-Qaida is doing," said Youssef Ibrahim, an expert on Iraq at the Council on Foreign Relations. "If al-Qaida has proved anything in the past three days, it is that we are very far away from having won the war on terror."

President Bush agreed with at least part of that sentiment Monday, saying that "It's going to take a while to succeed," but he also warned that Hussein might use al-Qaida to "do his dirty work," and that ridding Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction is just as integral a part of the war on terrorism as pursuing al-Qaida.

— Howard Witt, *Chicago Tribune (KRT)*

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## Stuff the Duck Celebration Today

3:30 - 4:30 in the Amphitheater

- Free Prize give aways
- Political Speakers
- Last chance to register!

## Why you should register to vote:

- You can have an effect on the higher education budget and your tuition.
- You can send a message to legislators that students have a voice in state and local elections.

## Where you should vote:

- ASUO Office
- Volunteers on 13th and at the Amphitheater from 11-4:30 TODAY!
- All ballots must be into the ASUO office by 4:30 pm.

