

Linnea Dick



The body of Linnea Dick was found inside her home following a fire on May 30, 2008.

Arrest in Fort Collins killing

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FORT COLLINS — Fort Collins police have arrested a man in the death of 20-year-old Linnea Dick.

Joseph Curl, 29, was taken into custody this afternoon and taken to the Larimer County Detention Center. No other details are available.

Dick was born and raised here, in a nice part of town near the country club. She was the type of person who embraced stray animals, and accepted all types of people.

Now, her family wonders whether Dick's trusting nature played a role in her brutal murder.

"She gave everyone the benefit of the doubt," said Linnea's sister, Andrea Gliva, barely able to speak Monday through her tears.

"She was very non-judgmental. She would trust anyone. That may be part of the reason that she is not here today."

Dick's burned body was found Friday morning in a home her parents own. The 20-year-old woman had been sexually assaulted and strangled. Police believe someone started a fire to destroy evidence of the crime.

Her family held an emotional news conference on the front lawn of Dick's parents' home in northeast Fort Collins. They said Dick had filed a police report in November about a "strange individual" who had come to her door and looked in.

Dick's father, Don, said family members assumed it was someone later picked up for peeping in women's windows and never gave it a second thought — until Friday.

Fort Collins Police Department spokeswoman Rita Davis, also at the news conference, confirmed that Dick had filed the report but said she had no further information.

Davis said police have received a few unconfirmed sightings of Dick's 1997 teal-colored Nissan Altima, which was apparently stolen after she was killed.

Federal and local investigators continued to stake out the split-level ranch house at 124 Yale Ave., where the young woman died.

Davis said Dick's boyfriend, who also lived at the home, was working as a painter at the time of the fire. She said investigators have come up with a "large suspect pool" but that nobody has risen to the top of the list.

Family members shared memories of an animal-loving girl "with a heart of gold." Dick owned three cats — one of which perished in the fire as well as fish, turtles and lizards.

"She was a vibrant, loving person with a strong family bond," said her uncle, Terry Snyder, of Fremont, Neb.

Her father recalled how his daughter traveled to Europe twice in middle school and was doing well with her part-time studies at Front Range Community College, where she intended on majoring in business. Family members said Dick had great plans for her future. Snyder said she "was as happy as she had ever been" at the time of her death.

Don Dick said the last time he saw her was Thursday evening, when she came to visit with her pet Chihuahua, Lage. As she had done so many times before, she held up Lage's paw and made the dog wave when she left in her Nissan.

Police looking for car

Police continue to look for Linnea Dick's car, a teal 1997 Nissan Altima with front and back license plate holders featuring small red skulls that look like cherries or dots from a distance.

The Colorado license plate number is 015KFH. Anyone with information about the car, fire or Dick's death should call Detective Kristy Volesky at 970-224-6116.