

Police arrest possible suspect in McMenamain homicide case

By Mike Kluck
Staff Writer

Lincoln Police have arrested a man they say is the "prime suspect" in the 1995 slaying of UNL freshman Martina McMenamain.



Gabel

Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady said Tuesday's arrest was the end of an investigation that involved thousands of hours of work by Lincoln police officers and detectives.

"It's been a long, complex investigation and there's been a great deal of work and effort," Casady said. "A huge volume of people have been interviewed, evidence collected, analysis that's been done.

After being sexually assaulted and

beaten, McMenamain was stabbed to death in her Amberwood apartment, 4600 Briarpark Drive, on July 25. She was found lying in a pool of blood later that night by her roommate, Sarah Bognich.

Casady gave several reasons for the length of time between McMenamain's death and the arrest of the suspect.

"Contrary to what we see in the entertainment media these things generally speaking are not quickly concluded except in the cases where the suspect is immediately known to the investigators," Casady said.

Casady said Gabel was one of over 50 persons identified during the investigation as a potential suspect.

The investigation had focused on Gabel as a prime suspect during the past two months because of results of forensic examination of evidence from the crime scene and circumstantial evidence linking Gabel to the crime, Casady said.

Casady said Gabel, who currently resides at 2430 Q Street, Apt. 2, did not live in the Amberwood Apartments at the time of the murder.

Witnesses after the murder reported seeing a blonde-haired man

running near the apartment the night McMenamain was slain.

On August 3, police issued a report looking for a white man, 18- to 22-years-old, weighing 150-170 pounds with collar-length blonde hair.

Gabel, 32, is 5-feet-11, weighs 210 pounds and has blonde hair. Casady said the description provided by witnesses was helpful in identifying a suspect.

Casady said a detective interviewed Gabel at his house early Tuesday after-

Please see GABEL on 4

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<http://www.unl.edu/DailyNeb/>
 Fax Number 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publication Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publication Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 472-2588.

Subscription price is \$55 for one year.
 Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, P.O. Box 880448, Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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