

Police seek witnesses in fatal mob beating

CHICAGO (AP) — With one suspect in custody and no charges filed, police and community leaders appealed Thursday for help from anyone who witnessed the slaying of two men who were dragged from a van after an accident and beaten by an angry mob.

At least 100 people watched as Anthony Stuckey, 49, and Jack Moore, 62, both of Chicago, were kicked and beaten with bricks and stones Tuesday night, according to witness accounts.

Yet police were trying to piece together who was involved in the beating, and residents of the South Side neighborhood where the accident occurred said they may have a tough time convincing

50 gather at vigil for victims who were in van that crashed into group

witnesses to contact them.

"There's going to be very few people that come forward and say anything," said 63-year-old Anita Williams, who lives in a high-rise near where the beating occurred.

On Thursday evening, about 50 people gathered at the scene for a prayer vigil. They placed white roses and candles at the site and asked for cooperation from anyone who saw the beating.

"This community needs healing," said the Rev. Bamani Obadele, who lives nearby. "In order to heal, we've got to have a confession."

Stuckey and Moore were in a

rental van that jumped a curb and crashed into people gathered on a stoop, police said. Three young women remained hospitalized Thursday.

Several people were being questioned, and at least one was considered a suspect, police said. No one had been charged Thursday night. Superintendent Terry Hillard asked for help from the public in finding those involved.

"So far the community has not responded," said Najee Ali, a civil rights activist who helped organize a door-to-door canvass for witnesses Thursday. "They're still in a state of shock. It's up to the

community leaders to provide guidance, to say it's OK to help law enforcement. It's time to break the code of silence."

The accident occurred in the close-knit Oakland neighborhood, once among Chicago's poorest. While parts of the area are still blighted, new townhouses have sprouted up, and public housing is coming down.

Police said they did not know what caused the van to veer off the street but called it an accident. They said Moore was driving the van.

Zakiyyah S. Muhammad, who lives in the neighborhood, said people there are wary of

police and may hesitate to turn in friends or relatives.

"It's going to be a hard thing for these parents to come forward and turn in their sons and grandsons, if they were involved," Muhammad said.

Activists put fliers on cars that declared: "We need your help!! We need witnesses to contact police (confidentially) to help catch the murderers of Anthony Stuckey and Jack Moore."

Autopsies revealed that Stuckey and Moore died from multiple injuries and blunt trauma, a spokeswoman for the Cook County medical examiner's office said

Wednesday. The office did not return numerous calls Thursday seeking the results of toxicology tests.

Stuckey was an unemployed day laborer and factory worker who had lived with his mother since January. He was helping Moore move furniture when the accident happened, said his mother, Virginia Stuckey.

"He didn't do any harm. He helped whenever it was asked, whenever it was possible," she said.

Carolyn Acker of Chicago, a cousin of Moore's, placed a brown teddy bear Thursday evening on the steps of the home where the accident happened. She described Moore as friendly and "very gregarious" and said he played the trumpet.

Springfield man sentenced to life for killing wife, bus driver

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Despite vigorously maintaining his innocence, a former Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety employee likely will spend the rest of his life in prison for killing his wife and a shuttle bus driver from St. Louis.

Mark Winger of Springfield was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole Thursday for murdering Donnah Winger and Roger Harrington in August 1995.

The nearly two-hour-long sentencing hearing capped a bizarre saga with Winger's lengthy appeal for mercy in front of a courtroom packed with family, friends and onlookers.

Winger, 39, chose not to testify at his trial in June, but he delivered a wide-ranging soliloquy that lasted nearly 30 minutes.

His voice tinged with emotion and cracking throughout while he read from a prepared

statement, Winger maintained Harrington murdered his wife and that he killed the bus driver in self-defense.

"Roger Harrington killed my wife," he told Sangamon County Circuit Judge Leo Zappa. "I was there. He did it."

Winger told police on the night of the crime that same story. He said Harrington had become obsessed with his wife after driving her home from the St. Louis airport six days earlier.

Winger wasn't arrested until after police reopened the case in 1999. A blood-spatter expert concluded that Winger staged the double murder, luring Harrington to the house under the guise of wanting to settle problems Donnah Winger had on that van ride.

A woman who was having an affair with Winger at the time of the murder also told police that Winger suggested she help him kill his wife.

The jury that convicted Winger agreed with prosecutors that Winger had lured Harrington to his house, shot him and then pummeled his wife with a hammer. Several jury members attended Thursday's hearing.

In his defense, Winger recounted memories of his "excellent" marriage to Donnah, despite the affair he said he deeply regretted.

Winger said he has been unfairly blamed by the victims' families, friends and local media for a crime he could not and did not commit.

"Donnah must be turning over in her grave knowing what they have done with me," Winger said.

Winger also asked for compassion because he has a wife, Rebecca, and three young children at home. He said his life changed after a conversion to Christianity.

Some state historic sites cut back hours

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Many state historic sites operated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency will reduce their hours of operation effective Sept. 1 because of funding cuts in the 2003 Illinois budget, officials said Thursday.

Most sites will close on Mondays and Tuesdays but remain open Wednesday through Sunday, said IHPA Director Maynard Crossland.

"By reducing the number of days we are open, we can avoid completely closing any of our historic sites," Crossland said. "It's important that people from Illinois, the nation, and the world be able to experience our rich and diverse heritage even during these lean economic times."

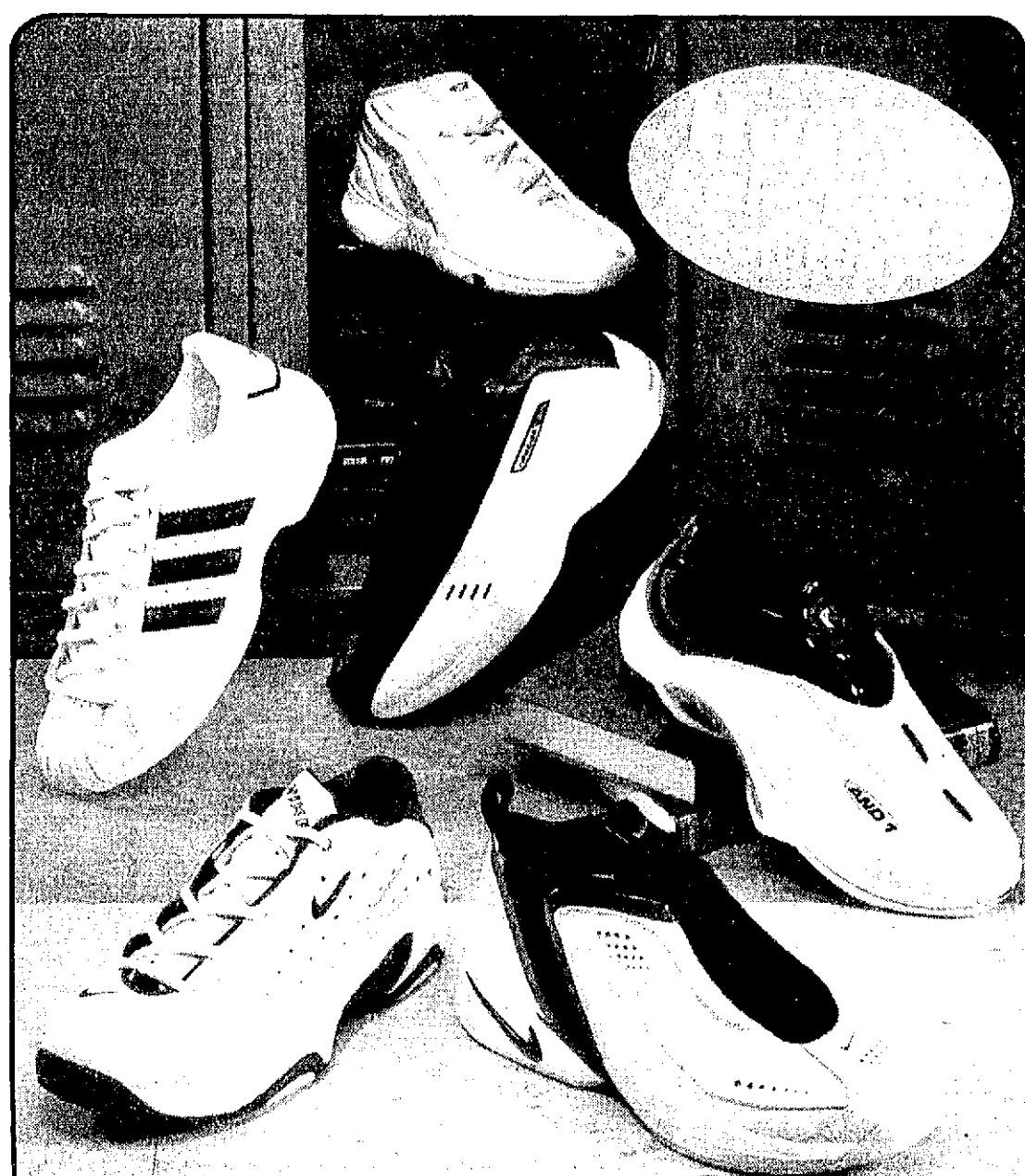
Mondays and Tuesdays are traditionally the days with the fewest number of visitors, so closing sites on those days should have the least impact,

Crossland said. The Old State Capitol and Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices in Springfield will be closed on Sundays and Mondays because those sites have the fewest visitors on those days. Sites that are now open fewer than five days per week will

retain their current schedules.

The Lincoln Tomb in Springfield will be the IHPA's only site that will remain open seven days a week.

The state historic sites receive about 3 million visitors annually.



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NOTICE OF CITIZEN MEETINGS

Madison County Community Development is seeking comments on the Annual Action Plan Update to the 2000-2004 Consolidated Plan. Madison County is a recipient of funding Community Development Block Grant, H.O.M.E., and Emergency Shelter Grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Community Development will be holding a series of public meetings to solicit input on the proposed use of funds for the Fiscal Year 2002 Community Development Block Grant, H.O.M.E. and Emergency Shelter Grants Programs

Scheduled Meetings

August 13, 2002
10:00 A.M., Alton Council Chambers, City of Alton, 101 E. Third Street, Alton, IL

August 14, 2002
10:00 A.M., Madison County Community Development, 130 Hillsboro Avenue Suite 100, Edwardsville, IL

2:00 P.M., Granite City City Hall 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 200 Edison Ave., Granite City, IL

EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE REQUEST A WRITTEN COPY OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FROM MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BY CALLING (618)692-8940. WRITTEN COMMENTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED USE OF FUNDS IDENTIFIED IN THE MADISON COUNTY ACTION PLAN FOR FY 2002 WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 4:00 P.M. AUGUST 14, 2002 AND HILLSBORO AVENUE, SUITE 100, EDWARDSVILLE, IL 62025 ATTN: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IS A DIVISION OF MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS GOVERNMENT.

RUDOLPH J. PAPA, CHAIRMAN