

# Exhuming performed in '70s case

*Results may end hunt in killings*

By HUGH MCDIARMID JR.  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

RECLUSE, Wyo. — As the sun rose over a barren hilltop Tuesday, Oakland County Medical Examiner L.J. Dragovic emerged from a grave with hair, bone and tissue that investigators hope will prove David Norberg was the Oakland County child killer in the 1970s.

Dragovic, wearing orange protective gloves, spent 45 minutes below ground before putting the samples into a white Pepsi cooler and turning them over to Michigan State Police Forensic Laboratory Director Steven Lorch.

The samples will be sent to the FBI lab in Washington for analysis. Results could take weeks.

"If it matches, case closed. If it doesn't, we keep plugging away," said Berkley Detective Sgt. Ray Anger, who has been pursuing Norberg as a suspect for more than 10 years.

Anger hopes DNA in the remains will match that on a strand of hair found on the body of Timothy King, the killer's fourth and final victim.

DNA, a genetic code found in cells that are unique to each human being, can be analyzed in blood, bone, semen, saliva, skin and hair, and can survive for an indefinite amount of time.

Twenty-three years ago, DNA was science fiction to Anger, a young patrolman. He got a call on Jan. 2, 1977 that sounded routine: Take a report on a missing Berkley youngster — a girl who sat next to Anger's son in their fourth-grade classroom.

Anger is still hunting for the killer of Kristine Mihelich and three other south Oakland County



David  
Norberg

children in the late 1970s.

If the DNA test results are inconclusive on Norberg, Anger said investigators will move on to the other suspects. Larry Allen Smith, a 46-year-old convicted pedo-

phile who is serving a 40-year prison term in Arizona, surfaced when Norberg's connection was made public in 1989.

Authorities have determined that the hair found on King's body did not come from Smith.

Anger said he couldn't retire without going through Tuesday's exhumation. "I was at the point where I was going to take money from my savings" to complete the exhumation, Anger said. Instead, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson convinced Detroit businessman Anthony Soave to lend investigators his corporate jet for the trip, and Patterson will cover some expenses himself.

For Barry King, whose 11-year-old son was last seen alive on March 16, 1977, talking to a man outside a Birmingham pharmacy, the years have numbed him to developments in the case.

"If they can confirm it's him, great," King said last week, politely closing the front door on another reporter asking familiar questions. "If not, what are you going to do?"

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DETROIT FREE PRESS

# More Oakland killings alleged

## *But warrant's accuracy debated*

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The suspect in the four Oakland County child killings whose body was exhumed Tuesday in Wyoming may be linked to a fifth murder and a child who has been missing for 20 years.

According to a search warrant unsealed Wednesday in Campbell County, Wyo., Oakland County investigators believe David Norberg

was involved in the murder of a Royal Oak girl whose body was found in an Ohio river in 1976, and a Warren girl who disappeared in 1979 and was never found.

The warrant also says Norberg may have possessed three pieces of jewelry similar to those owned by three of the victims, and says Norberg sexually and physically abused his wife and sister — sometimes in ways mimicking the abuse inflicted on some murder

victims.

Bone and tissue samples from Norberg were taken during Tuesday's exhumation in hopes of linking him through DNA testing to a strand of hair found on victim Timothy King.

Two additional pieces of hair were found inside another victim's mouth, and sperm was recovered from another body, according to the warrant. But investigators said Wednesday that there was no such evidence.

"The warrant may say that, but it's not correct," said Berkley De-

tective Ray Anger, who has led the exhumation and testing.

The warrant says Jane Louise Allen, 13 at the time, disappeared in August 1976 after leaving her boyfriend's Pontiac house intending to hitchhike back to Royal Oak. Her body was found four days later in the Greater Miami River in Ohio.

Her hands were tied behind her back with torn pieces of a T-shirt in a method identical to the way Norberg occasionally bound his wife, the warrant says.

"The T-shirt was torn into

strips of cloth tied together to form a rope with knots tied every few inches along its length," states the warrant. "Sharon Norberg also said that David Norberg had, on occasion, bound her hands behind her back using a rope with knots tied every few inches. David Norberg had told Sharon Norberg it was impossible for a person tied with a knotted rope to loosen their bindings."

Norberg also sexually abused his sister and wife, according to

Please see DEAD, Page 4B



## DEAD | Murder suspect eyed in two other cases

From Page 1B

the warrant. He "would pinch their noses and cover their mouths with his hands until they almost lost consciousness," states the warrant — a method likely used to kill Kristine Mihelich, one of the child killer's victims, according to the autopsy report.

Kimberly King, a Warren 12-year-old who disappeared while walking in her neighborhood in September 1979, also could be linked to Norberg, according to the warrant. Norberg lived two streets from her.

Sharon Norberg also told investigators that Norberg quit driving his blue Opel after investigators questioned him in the child killings. The Opel, like the blue Gremlin identified by a witness as possibly belonging to the killer, is a compact car.

Norberg resumed driving the Opel after moving to sparsely populated Recluse, Wyo., in 1980. He was killed in a car wreck less than a year later.

Sharon Norberg also recalled three pieces of jewelry in his belongings that she gave away after his 1981 death:

- A silver cross inscribed "Kristine" that has been identified by Mihelich's aunt as identical to one owned by Kristine Mihelich. Police recovered the cross from Norberg's sister.

- A St. Christopher's medal similar to one owned by victim Timothy King that hasn't been seen by his family since his murder.

- A green worm pin similar to one owned by victim Jill Robinson that hasn't been seen by her family since her killing.

The ex-wife said she forgot to whom she gave the medal and the pin, the warrant said.

Reference to the sperm and additional hair samples in the warrant came directly from original investigative documents, said Jim Halushka, chief of warrants for the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office. He said if that evidence doesn't exist — as Anger contends — it's news to him.

"Either Ray was confused or in error when he told you that," Halushka said Wednesday.

The sperm reference "was directly written on the autopsy report," and transferred to the warrant request that Anger reviewed and approved, he said. Anger said he was unaware of errors in the warrant.

The hairs in one victim's mouth were eventually identified as her own, and an animal's, Anger said.

Steven Lorch, laboratory director for the State Police Northville Forensic Laboratory that is preparing the evidence to be sent to the FBI lab in Washington, said he's unaware of DNA evidence other than the one hair.

"That's all there is," he said.

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No shit

This lab blows

Lie.

