

Police Report Adam Falk Murder Case

Status: Unsolved

Victim

Our primary information about the victim is from residential staff, since his family has disappeared. Inconveniently, they all get Thursdays off, so they know nothing about the time of the murder. Of further inconvenience, since Falk has only been president for six weeks, they aren't entirely familiar with his behavior and habits yet. Several commented that they thought he had been spending a little more time in his study and in the basement than usual, but that they couldn't swear to anything. Overall, though, none of them noticed anything particular strange before they left the residence on Wednesday.

Suspects

Since the killing occurred at night and most of the campus was purportedly asleep, any of a number of people might have had the opportunity to kill Falk. Card access records show that several dozen students swiped into a building on campus between 4:15 AM and 6:00 AM Friday morning, so certainly a variety of students had the opportunity. There were no direct witnesses to the killing.

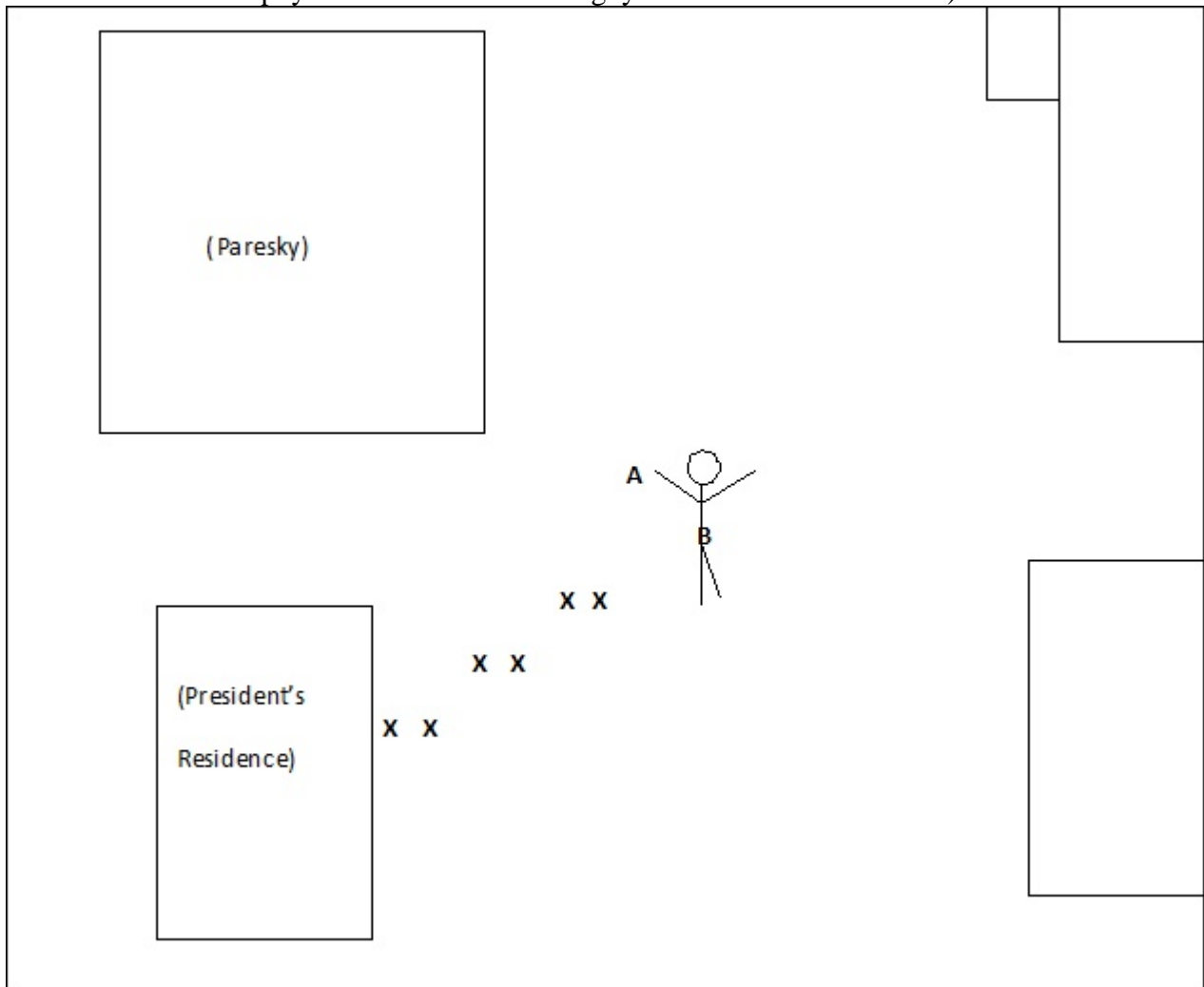
1. The Falk family: As far as anyone knows, there are currently no serious conflicts between members of the family, but their sudden disappearance from the house, not to mention the lack of any electronic record over the past 24 hours, is mysterious and puzzling. Until and unless we get something better to go on, a private family disturbance is probably the safest bet for the motive now.
2. Thief: According to the house staff, a number of electronic devices are missing from the presidential mansion, so theft is a possible motive. However, since the missing items are largely portable electronic devices, it is just as likely that these are with the rest of the Falks, wherever they are.
3. Ella Simpson and Johanna Watson (Dining Services): Both set to be laid off for next semester. Berkshire reporters interviewing them when reporting the move quote them saying, respectively, "I'd really like to get up to whoever decided this and give him something to think about," and "This sort of thing makes you want to crush something real hard, or somebody." Probably just letting off steam, but should be investigated.
4. The Anti-Neighborhood Underground: Hard to see something this violent coming out of something as trivial as a housing debate, but hey, weirder things have happened, especially involving Williams students. Some very aggressive language, certainly, coming out in the flyers and the vandalism. Something at least to keep on the radar.

Crime Scene: Exterior

Victim found face-up on the quad to the east of Paresky. Position of arms and legs as depicted below. Head is bruised. Two bullet wounds: one in the stomach, fired at close range from the

front, and one in the back of the left shoulder, fired from further away. Both bullets lodged in body, from .22 caliber handgun. A third, similar bullet was found in the ground near the victim's body, and a fourth was found thirty yards north, close to Chapin Hall. A trail of Falk's blood, as well as footprints matching his feet (marked **X X**), have been traced out between the residence's side entrance and the body. Tracks are only visible because it briefly rained between 2:00 AM and 4:00 AM; no other footprints discernible because the area is so heavily trafficked with students throughout the day.

Victim is wearing a pair of khaki slacks with a black belt, and a polo shirt, not tucked in. No coat, nothing in his pockets. Black socks, but no shoes. Household staff confirm that all clothing owned by the victim. Victim carrying a satchel around his neck, which contains a variety of books, pens, notepads, and Williams-related promotional material; also a Swiss Army knife, a lighter, a flashlight, and a can of purple spray paint. Just beyond fingertips of the victim's right hand is a compass (marked **A**), confirmed as belonging to him. On victim's chest is a copy of the 2010-2011 Williams College Course Catalog (marked **B**), stained with victim's blood, opened to the middle of the section listing the language courses the Classics department. (If he was trying to tell us something, this is just the most cockamamie way of doing it. But he's an academic—and a physicist—and a Williams guy—so who the hell knows.)



Crime Scene: Interior

Trail of blood from Falk's body leads inside through the side entrance, beginning at the top of the staircase down from the main floor. No forcible signs of entry to the house—locks all intact, and windows are unbroken. No signs of a physical struggle beyond the trail of blood from the stairs to the door. Only sign of the brief rain shower is a muddy imprint against the wall near the front entrance that appears to be the shape of a tall umbrella. The staff claims that none of the Falks own an umbrella of that dimension.

According to the staff, Falk and his family are compulsively neat. Falk's study is impeccably organized, as is his bedroom, except for a pair of crumpled pajamas and a stack of magazines lying on the floor next to his closet. The only other thing that is remotely out of place in the house is a small bowling ball from the ninepins alley, which was found at the base of the flight of stairs leading up to the main floor. No signs of the rest of the family, either: the household staff, all of whom had Thursday off, had had no suggestion that they would be going anywhere. Staff investigation of rooms of the missing Falks reveals that toiletries, personal electronic items, and several days' worth of cold weather clothing (jeans, sweaters, long underwear, etc.) are gone.

Email

Victim's primary email address is mister.adam.falk@gmail.com. We haven't been able to access it. There might not be much point, though, since the staff claims he kept a tidy inbox—apparently deleted everything incoming as soon as he read it and cleaned out his sent-mail once a week. No need to waste time charging through every possible 8+ character password in existence.