

# Woman shoots at police, then commits suicide

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STAFF WRITER

A Santa Cruz woman shot herself to death Saturday night shortly after firing three shots at a Santa Cruz police detective who went to talk to her about the May 1984 murder of a popular Santa Cruz priest, police said.

Detective Ron Truhitte, who has been investigating the bludgeoning death of Greek Orthodox priest John Karastamatis, went to see Anna Bowman at 416 River St. Saturday night at 6:30 p.m.

Lt. Mike Dunbaugh said today Truhitte had developed a rapport with Bowman, and went to see Bowman about the Father John case. He knocked on the door and announced who he was so as to not frighten the woman, Dunbaugh said. He said police

knew she was alone at the time.

Police said Truhitte heard a shot from inside the house after he knocked on the door. He backed away and three more shots were fired, some coming through the wall near where he had been standing, police said.

"There is no question Anna Bowman was shooting at Officer Truhitte," Dunbaugh said today.

Several hours later, deputies from the Santa Cruz County sheriff's special weapons and tactical team stormed the house and found Mrs. Bowman,

43, in a back bedroom, dead of a gunshot wound.

According to members of the Greek Orthodox congregation, Mrs. Bowman was a volunteer at the Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church where Father

John was found severely beaten early on May 19.

The murder has not been solved and police had not named any suspects despite one of the department's most intense investigations.

Police were to hold a press conference at 2 p.m. today where further information on Mrs. Bowman's death was to be released.

Dunbaugh said more than anything the press conference was called to quell rumors.

According to a one-time church official, Mrs. Bowman had been questioned before about the killing.

Dunbaugh said Mrs. Bowman was not a suspect in the case. He said the case is still open and no arrests have been made since Mrs. Bowman's suicide.

Her death "does very little to change the scope of the investigation," Dunbaugh said.

After the initial gunshots were fired Saturday night, police surrounded the River Street house and evacuated residents from the adjacent area.

The sheriff's SWAT team was called at about 8 p.m. after attempts to reach Ms. Bowman by telephone and loudspeaker were unsuccessful.



Chip Scheuer

Police officer climbs through Anna Bowman's window.