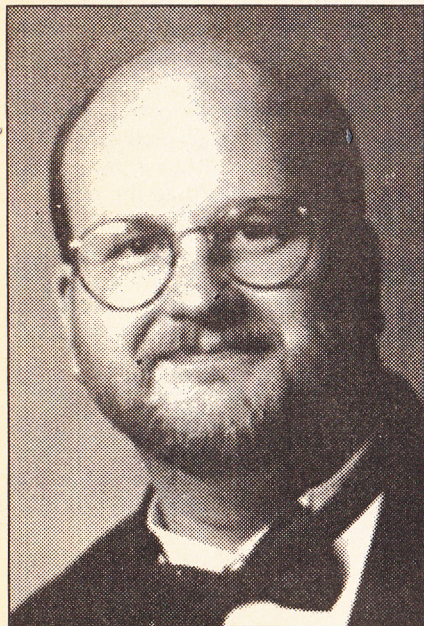


## DETROIT

# Detroit police seek tips in slaying

Victim, known to pick up strangers, found slain in home



Detroit police are looking for possible witnesses who spoke to Tim Stempniewski, above, or saw him on the night of Nov. 4 or the early morning of Nov. 5. Stempniewski was found slain in his home Nov. 6. Anyone with information may give anonymous tips to Detroit police at (313) 596-2260.

**P**olice are seeking leads in the death of a gay man who was found slain in his Detroit residence on November 6.

Tim Stempniewski, 39, was known to pick up one-night-stands in the downtown Detroit area, then bring them to his upscale home, said his niece and a close friend.

The motive in the attack is unknown, said Detroit Police Department investigator DJ McCreary, who said leads have been exhausted. She withheld details of the case.

Police are looking for possible witnesses who spoke to Stempniewski or saw him on the night of November 4 or the early morning of November 5.

McCreary said the slaying was an isolated incident.

Stempniewski, born and raised in the Detroit area, was a church organist and a home-care nurse for Henry Ford Hospital.

His niece, who did not want to be named, said Stempniewski held bachelor's degrees in teaching, art, music and nursing. He also held a master's degree in religious studies from the University of Notre Dame.

"Me and him were like girlfriends," the

niece said. "He was real open with me because I never judged him.

"He was a very very gentle man. He wouldn't hurt anyone."

That's why his violent death was such a tragedy, said Stempniewski's close friend, Kevin. "There was not a speck of violence in him," he said.

Kevin said Tim was extremely gifted.

"He played the organ and the piano," he said. "He loved to sing - he had a beautiful voice. He was a wonderful artist, able to turn simple things into masterpieces.

"One thing that everybody remembers

- he had an outrageous sense of humor. He reminded me of Robin Williams. He could imitate somebody and he would sound just like them."

Stempniewski attended Monday night Codependents Anonymous meetings at Affirmations Lesbian-Gay Community Center and attended gay Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings in Detroit, Kevin said. Stempniewski drove a red Geo Prizm.

— by Jennifer Charney

### Stempniewski attended meetings at Affirmations Community Center.

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