

The University of Idaho Murders

By Bethany Blockus, '23



On November 13th, 2022 a group of college students attending the University of Idaho were murdered in their home in Moscow. The victims consisted of Ethan Chapin, Xana Kernodle, Kaylee Goncalves, and Madison Mogen.

They would be found about 12 hours after their deaths by the surviving roommates, Dylan and Bethany. In light of the recently posted affidavit, we now know more about the story of what happened that night.

Ethan and Xana were at a party held at the nearby Sigma Chi house. Maddie and Kaylee were at a local bar and then at a grub truck before coming home.

Both parties were home by 2 am and asleep by 4 with the exception of Xana who was on her phone and ordering doordash around 4:12 am.

Dylan was woken up at 4 am to the sound of Kaylee's dog, Murphy barking. She soon after heard a voice that she stated was Kaylee but also could have been Xana saying, "There's someone here."

Dylan looked outside of her bedroom but saw nothing until she heard a voice crying in Xana's room, then a voice responding with, "It's okay, I'm going to help you." She checked the hallway a second time not seeing anything.

Opening the door a third time she is met with a man walking towards the sliding glass door in the back of the house. He is described as wearing something covering his nose and mouth, with bushy eyebrows, and being tall but not extremely muscular.

Dylan did not recognize the man and locked herself in her room until the bodies were found the next afternoon. Through a sheath left next to Maddie and Kaylee's bodies, they found a male piece of DNA.

They also found that a White Elantra that was made around 2013, and later the cell phone record of the suspect showing him at the house at least 12 times prior to this between 2 and 4 am. The police after viewing footage of a White Elantra going from the WSU campus to Moscow through cameras along the road.

With all of the evidence, they found Bryan Kohberger a Ph.D. student at Washington State University. While gathering evidence against him the police were told to perform two traffic stops on him within 10 minutes on his way back to his home in Pennsylvania, looking for any scratches or marks on his hands.

Once back at his home in Albrightsville PA, he was seen putting his trash into the neighbor's garbage cans late at night.

On December 27th, they found his father's DNA on one of these items and used said DNA to get a match to what was left on the sheath. At 3 am on December 30th, Bryan Kohberger was woken up by the sound of officers coming into his home and arresting him for the murders.

He was extradited on January 5th, 2023 to Idaho, where he currently sits in prison until he is tried.

MSU Tragedy

By Isabella Ermert, '25

On Monday, February 13, 2023 Michigan State University had a mass shooting killing three and leaving five in critical condition.

The gunman, who eventually turned fire onto himself, had been previously arrested on a weapons charge and was carrying a threatening note.

Police identified the suspect as Anthony Dwayne McRae, a 43-year-old who was not affiliated with MSU. Police do not know a motive. "This truly has been a nightmare we are living tonight," said Chris Rozman of the MSU police.

The chaos following the latest mass shooting was all too familiar to Michigan mom Andrea Ferguson, whose daughter survived the 2021 massacre at Oxford High School and now attends Michigan State.

"It was like reliving Oxford all over again," Ferguson said, referring to the high school massacre that left four students dead. "The phone call, the word shooting, shooter, it was surreal."

All three victims were from the Detroit suburbs, university police said: Alexandria Verner, a junior from Clawson, Brian Fraser, a sophomore from Grosse Pointe, and junior Arielle Anderson, also from Grosse Pointe.

Monday's massacre was the second school shooting this year, and coincidentally occurred on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the Parkland school shooting in Florida that left 14 students and three staff dead.

Police have not determined a motive yet. The suspected gunman's father, Michael McRae, told police that his son turned out to be "evil and mean" and became a recluse following his mother's death two years ago.

The five who have wounded are being treated at E.W. Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. "Four of those individuals did require surgical intervention," said Dr. Denny Martin, the hospital's chief medical officer.

The first report of gunfire came at 8:18 p.m. Monday at Berkey Hall, on the northern edge of the 50,000-student campus. Immediately, urgent alerts were sent out and, for hours, frightened students and faculty on the campus sheltered in place.

Shortly after police responded to that academic building, they were called to MSU Union, where another shooting was reported. Of the three students who were killed, two were found at Berkey Hall and one was at the Union building, university police said.

After the shooting, Michigan State canceled all campus activities, including athletics and classes for two days. As students and faculty recover from the shooting, police are still looking and investigating the scene.

An iconic fixture on the MSU campus known as "The Rock" was painted black on Tuesday in response to the mass shooting. Written in red on the rock's face were the words "How many more?" followed by "Stay Safe MSU."

