

denver and the west

## Suspect in CU student death escapes from jail

**A Mexican newspaper says the man bribed a guard. The victim, David Parrish, was shot near a cruise ship port.**

**By Anna Haislip**  
*The Denver Post*

Posted: 03/30/2008 01:00:00 AM MDT

Updated: 03/31/2008 06:40:02 AM MDT

A Mexican newspaper reported Saturday that one of two suspects arrested in the Wednesday shooting of David Graeme Parrish, a University of Colorado-Boulder student vacationing in Mexico, escaped from his holding cell in Puerto Vallarta.

Parrish, who was described as well- liked by former teachers and peers, was killed during a robbery near a cruise ship port in the Mexican resort town.

Parrish was with his mother when Alfonso Ramirez Sastre and a second suspect, Daniel Vargas Castañeda, allegedly shot Parrish in the abdomen with a .38-caliber revolver, police said.

Siempre Libres, a Puerto Vallarta newspaper, reported Saturday that after police detained Sastre in a municipal prison, he conspired with fellow cellmates to devise a plan that would help him escape.

After several failed attempts to bribe a prison guard, Siempre Libres reported, the guard agreed to accept a large sum of money in exchange for Sastre's freedom. The source of the money apparently was an earlier robbery performed by one of Sastre's cellmates. Sastre was given a change of clothes by the guard and allegedly allowed to walk out of the prison unnoticed, the newspaper said.

According to Siempre Libres, a manhunt for Sastre was underway late Saturday.

In Colorado, counseling services will be offered to both family and friends of Parrish starting Monday.

"This is an absolute tragedy," said Bronson Hilliard, spokesman for CU-Boulder. "It's just a reminder to us all of our own mortality and that we live in a violent world."

Hilliard said it is hard to tell how students will react to Parrish's death when classes resume Monday, but he said CU will offer support.

Parrish came to CU in the fall of 2005 after graduating from Boulder High School. He was in his third year, studying geography.

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