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By Edward V. Byrne of the

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Mérida, Yucatán – For the second time in six months, a member of the city’s American expatriate community has been murdered.

Sam Woodruff, 63, originally from Boonville, North Carolina, was stabbed to death in his Colonia Itzimina home over the weekend.

Sources tell *The Yucatan Times* that Woodruff may have had a visitor shortly before his death. The crime scene allegedly yielded evidence of alcohol and marijuana consumption. A person of interest has been questioned by police.

Family members in North Carolina told MGRR Monday afternoon (Nov. 12) that they had been contacted by Mexican authorities and were advised not to discuss the case, since a homicide investigation has been opened.

According to his [Facebook page](#), Woodruff was born in 1949 and graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1972. *TYT* could not verify how long Woodruff had lived in Mérida.

In mid-May former Pennsylvania resident Robert Leon Wickard, 67, was found dead in his rented residence just blocks southwest of the city’s main plaza. His decaying corpse had been wrapped in a blanket and was buried in a shallow grave in an interior garden. Forensic experts believe he was killed about 15 days earlier. Several men were living in the house, gradually pawing off his possessions. The gruesome discovery was made by a police unit on patrol at 4:00 a.m.

Four suspects were taken into custody in the [Wickard case](#). One told the court that he was a prostitute, and another described himself as a transvestite. The men told prosecutors that Wickard was stabbed during a sudden domestic quarrel. Charges were dismissed against two of them for lack of evidence, but the other men remain in jail facing charges of robbery and murder. Authorities are still searching for a fifth suspect, said to be Wickard’s lover, whom he met in Campeche some weeks before the murder.

MGRR and *The Yucatan Times* collaborated on this story. Updates will follow as information becomes available.

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Buck Angel · Owner/ President at Buck Angel Entertainment · 448 subscribers

I know this man! I am so sad right now. We need to investigate this. I think there is some homophobia going on there and they are targeting the gay men.

Reply · 2 · Like · November 14 at 9:24am



Lane Gallagher · Mérida, Yucatan

It looks like that to me too. And why is it not being mentioned that Sam was viciously attacked before and seriously injured?

Reply · 2 · Like · November 18 at 2:49pm



Barry Zahn · Nova Southeastern University

No legitimate source has mentioned alcohol or marijuana. What is your source?

Reply · 2 · Like · November 14 at 3:40am



Carol Zahn Eberle

Did you know this man?

Reply · Like · November 14 at 4:46am



Steve Pouliot · Southern Connecticut State University

Barry, what are the real facts regarding this case?

Reply · Like · November 14 at 7:14am



Michael Erb · Progreso, Yucatan

This is very sad indeed. The community has lost a sweet soul. I will mention however I doubt Homophobia has anything to do with this event.

Reply · 1 · Like · November 16 at 9:09am



Steve Kennedy · Elkin High

I know this man very well.

Reply · 1 · Like · November 15 at 2:14pm