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## Police issue warning in wake of Calgary woman's death: Avoid deserted areas, don't let down your guard

By [MICHAEL PLATT](#)

Marlyn Hori can barely speak between sobs, so she hands her brother the phone.

"I'm sorry, it's too hard to speak right now," Marlyn apologizes, struggling to finish her sentence.

Oswald Sombrito, her brother, takes the phone, and then fights back his own tears.

He confirms they've heard the bitter news.

Their sister, 40-year-old Arcelie Laoagan, may have been murdered at random, her body dumped by an arbitrary killer who only attacked Arcelie because she was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

"It doesn't make sense," says Oswald, his voice hoarse with grief.

The chilling bulletin, issued by police yesterday morning, is almost unheard of in Calgary: All women should beware a killer on the prowl.

Police say the possibility that Arcelie was attacked by a random murderer means no female in Calgary should relax their guard.

Deserted areas -- including transit platforms and bus stops -- should be avoided.

"If you are suspicious of someone, trust your instincts. Scream or use a personal emergency alarm to attract attention," reads the bulletin.

The warning comes before Arcelie's two sisters and brother, flown in from Toronto, have seen their sister's body, confronting what some person, possibly a stranger, did to her.

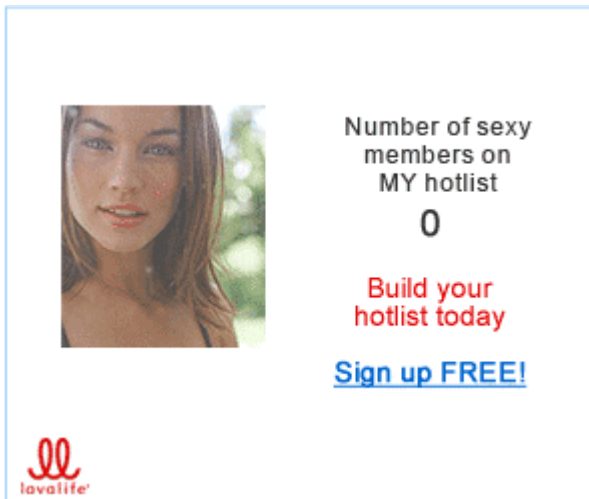
"We're waiting for the phone call. Then we have to identify the body," Oswald says.

Calgary's medical examiner has determined what killed the victim of last Thursday's murderous attack, but can't release details of the death, in order to protect the police investigation.

Despite church services and a grieving family, Arcelie isn't officially dead until her siblings do what every family dreads: identifies the body. They've been asked to submit DNA to help confirm what they know in their hearts.

Until then, she is Jane Doe, lying alone in the cold, stainless-steel surrounds of Calgary's morgue.

Since arriving in Calgary with his grieving sisters, 31-year-old Oswald has suspected Arcelie



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may have fallen victim to a random attack, her missing purse pointing to a possible robbery.

Oswald says he couldn't fathom why anyone would plan to kill his sister, a devout Christian and loving mother.

"I haven't got a clue why anyone would hurt her," he says.

Security videos show Arcelie leaving the Franklin LRT station before she died. Oswald says he worries the killer may strike again, and he issues his own warning to Calgary women: avoid taking transit or walking alone at night.

"Just be careful -- if you go home by yourself, take a cab," says Oswald.

Pastor Denzel Fenn, patriarch preacher at the Calgary Full Gospel Church where Arcelie prayed, says the police warning of a random killer will make it all the harder to comfort the many single women in his congregation.

"I agree they need to use extreme caution, and to do everything they can to protect themselves -- you don't know who is around," Fenn says, while preparing for tomorrow night's memorial service for Arcelie.

Fenn says he is especially concerned about young parishioners taking transit at night.

"They're young and alone, and people have a place to hide, and there's no way to see someone coming," he says.

Worries over C-Train safety have been raised again and again over the past few weeks, with city council ordering a full safety review of the system.

Before Christmas, two women were assaulted in separate attacks at the university after leaving the C-Train station.

One man was arrested and charged with sexual assault, while the second assailant escaped.

While the transit safety review mainly targets rowdy teens, annoying drunks and petty thieves, aldermen want police to add C-Trains to their night and downtown patrols, in a bid to stop more serious crimes.

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart, one of the aldermen spearheading the safety review, says the city must do everything possible to protect passengers and women in general.

"It's so sad -- Arcelie probably travelled this path many times going home from work," says Colley-Urquhart.

"We can never let our guard down and must do all we can to limit the opportunity these criminals have.

"It's such a tragic loss of a mother and one of our newer citizens, who was just working hard and minding her own business."