

Posted Online: April 08, 2000, 1:00 am

Man arrested in second hotel slaying

[Comment on this story](#)

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) -- A former maintenance chief at a suburban hotel charged in January with the slaying of a hotel guest six years ago was charged Friday with the stabbing death of a hotel maid in 1997.

Donald Piper, 38, of Des Moines was charged with first-degree murder for the death of Zurijeta Sakanovic, 21.

She was found stabbed and strangled Sept. 4, 1997, at the Budgetel Inn in Clive.

Piper was earlier charged with first-degree murder for the 1993 slaying of Patricia Lange.

Lange's body was found Aug. 16, 1993, in her room at the West Des Moines Holiday Inn, where she'd been staying for about 10 days after moving to the Des Moines area from Denver. She had been strangled.

Lange was being held in the Polk County Jail under \$500,000 cash bond.

Police said Piper has not been ruled out as a suspect in one other unsolved killing in a Des Moines area motel.

Mariana Redrovan, 15, a maid, was found stabbed at Best Western Walnut Creek in West Des Moines on Jan. 16, 1998.