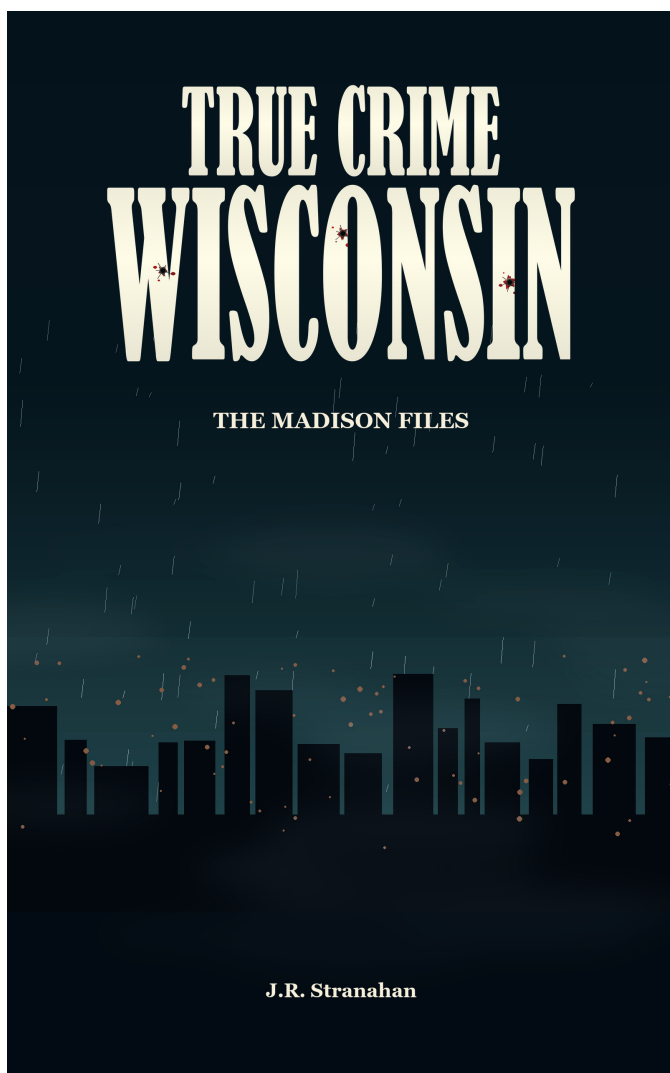


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File 1: The Sterling Hall Bombing

Place and period: Madison, 1970-1977

Present legal status: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried.

This file belongs first to Robert Fassnacht, injured researchers, students, staff, families, and the University of Wisconsin community. The public record is necessarily organized around investigation and adjudication, but a criminal case is not the measure of a life. The account uses the available record to describe what happened and how institutions responded, while avoiding invented biography where sources are silent.

The human scale

A van bomb exploded outside Sterling Hall in August 1970. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Sterling Hall Bombing. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In Madison, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried.

For Robert Fassnacht, injured researchers, students, staff, families, and the University of Wisconsin community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Researcher Robert

Fassnacht was killed and others were injured. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1970-1977 record from Madison contains a point that resists shorthand: The target was associated with opposition to military research, but the blast damaged unrelated laboratories and lives. The present legal posture is equally specific: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. Four men were charged, and their procedural outcomes diverged. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Robert Fassnacht, injured researchers, students, staff, families, and the University of Wisconsin community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Madison determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1970-1977 marks the span over which the public learned it. Leo Burt's disappearance did not become a conviction or proof of every allegation. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: A van bomb exploded outside Sterling Hall in August 1970. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Researcher Robert Fassnacht was killed and others were injured. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Robert Fassnacht, injured researchers, students, staff, families, and the University of Wisconsin community.

The first account

By the time The Sterling Hall Bombing reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Four men were charged, and their procedural outcomes diverged. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. Leo Burt's disappearance did not become a conviction or proof of every

allegation. That proposition is consequential on its own. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Madison.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: A van bomb exploded outside Sterling Hall in August 1970. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Robert Fassnacht, injured researchers, students, staff, families, and the University of Wisconsin community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Researcher Robert Fassnacht was killed and others were injured. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 1970-1977. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Consider the detail in its proper scale: The target was associated with opposition to military research, but the blast damaged unrelated laboratories and lives. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Madison. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Researcher Robert Fassnacht was killed and others were injured. In the Madison record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. The target was associated with opposition to military research, but the blast damaged unrelated laboratories and lives. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1970-1977. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried. It does not imply

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Physical evidence

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Leo Burt's disappearance did not become a conviction or proof of every allegation. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried.

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Witness evidence

Consider the detail in its proper scale: The target was associated with opposition to military research, but the blast damaged unrelated laboratories and lives. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Madison. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

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Digital and documentary trails

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Charging choices

By the time The Sterling Hall Bombing reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Four men were charged, and their procedural outcomes diverged. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried.

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The courtroom

What happened to Robert Fassnacht, injured researchers, students, staff, families, and the University of Wisconsin community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Researcher Robert Fassnacht was killed and others were injured. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. The target was associated with opposition to military research, but the blast damaged unrelated laboratories and lives. In the Madison record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

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Appeal and review

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Uncertainty

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Institutions

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After the judgment

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Four men were charged, and their procedural outcomes diverged. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Leo Burt's disappearance did not become a conviction or proof of every allegation. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Robert Fassnacht, injured researchers, students, staff, families, and the University of Wisconsin community.

By the time The Sterling Hall Bombing reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. A van bomb exploded outside Sterling Hall in August 1970. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. Researcher Robert Fassnacht was killed and others were injured. That proposition is consequential on its own. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Madison.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: The target was associated with opposition to military research, but the blast damaged unrelated laboratories and lives. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Robert Fassnacht, injured researchers, students, staff, families, and the University of Wisconsin community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Four men were charged, and their procedural outcomes diverged. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 1970-1977. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Karleton Armstrong pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and received a prison sentence. David Fine and Dwight Armstrong resolved separate charges; Leo Burt disappeared and was never tried. That sentence is deliberately narrower than a television summary. It does not merge co-defendants, convert accusations into findings, or imply that an appeal erased a human death. Later proceedings may change the legal posture, but they should not be projected backward onto the record described here.

Sources from the edition

The Sterling Hall Bombing

- University of Wisconsin Archives: <https://archives.library.wisc.edu/> -
Wisconsin Court System: <https://www.wicourts.gov/casesearch.htm>

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