

Victims Show Relief and Bitterness

For Joanne Lomino and Robert Violante, the arrest late Wednesday night of the man called "Son of Sam" brought back bitter and painful memories of those terrible moments when gunshots crackled and changed their lives forever.

"After all the things he did to me, to all of us," Miss Lomino said yesterday, "he should be punished—he should be punished in a way that he would suffer a lot and then he should die."

Miss Lomino, who is 18 years old, has been paralyzed from the waist down by a bullet that crashed into her spine on a wintry night last November as she sat with her friend, Donna DiMasi, 17, on the porch of the Lomino family home in Bellerose, Queens. Miss DiMasi, too, was shot by the assailant suspected to be the Son of Sam, but she has fully recovered from her neck wound.

"I'm very bitter toward him," Miss Lomino said. "Jail is too good for him."

"I'm glad he's not able to get out and hurt other people," Mr. Violante said in his room at Kings County Hospital.

The 20-year-old Brooklyn man was shot in the head July 31 as he sat in a parked car with Stacy Moscovitz, also 20, in a lover's lane near Dyker Beach Park in Brooklyn. Miss Moscovitz was killed, and Mr. Violante was blinded in one eye and is in danger of losing the other.

The families of victims who died, such as Miss Moscovitz, also articulated sentiments of relief that were laced with bitterness.

"I'm grateful that he was caught—God knows what he might have done," said Jerome Moscovitz, Stacy's father.

He paused, then continued: "I'm happy he was caught. It will not bring my kid back—it's not an equal score, 60 or a 100 like him could never equal her. I'd

like to have a piece of him. I don't want to kill him—I would like to throw a few for five minutes.

"I'd tear him apart. I'd have to look at him first. If he looked pathetic, I don't know what I'd do. I still think I'd tear him apart."

His emotions were echoed by his wife, Neysa.

"I'd like to just ask him, 'Why'" she said, straining to keep from sobbing. "As far as I'm concerned, his name is snake. I can't stand snakes. I abhor them and I fear them. The only thing that was missing when I looked at him [on television] was the skin."

Robert Violante's father, Patrick, seemed more reserved about his feelings.

"I don't want to think about bitterness," he said. "Any human, any father, can feel bitter for his son if he thinks about it long enough. This man who did it. What can I say about him? A very sick human being."

Mr. Violante was asked if like Mr. and Mrs. Moscovitz, he had any desire to confront the suspect, David Berkowitz.

"No," he replied.

Then he quickly added: "I might lose my composure and say or do something I might regret. I want young kids today to feel more love instead of hatred."

He was asked how his son was bearing up.

"I promise you he won't be bitter for himself," Mr. Violante said. "He'll be bitter that this guy has been caught only after little Stacy lost her life."

It was early in the morning yesterday, Mr. Violante said, that he traveled to the hospital to transmit the news of the arrest to his son: It was almost 10 days after his son's date, Stacy Moscovitz of Brooklyn, had died.