

New Patterns, New Victims

It was small comfort, but because for a year the .44-caliber shootings have followed a pattern, most New Yorkers assumed they were safe from attack. Last week, the pattern was disrupted, and throughout the city and its nearby suburbs, frightened young people, particularly women, changed their hairstyles, took new routes home, cancelled dates — all to reduce the odds they might be the next target.

The psychopath who calls himself "Son of Sam" found his 12th and 13th victims, killing a young woman and wounding—possibly blinding — her male companion. For the first time, he struck outside Queens or the Bronx, in Brooklyn. For the first time, his female victim did not have dark hair; Stacy Moskowitz was a blonde. Otherwise, the details were grimly familiar: Miss Moskowitz and Robert Violante were in a car parked in isolated area when the killer came up from behind and fired four shots.

It was as if Son of Sam were taunting the police. "What will you have for July 29?" he wrote recently in a note

to a newspaper columnist, referring to the date of his first murder last year. The latest attack came two days after the anniversary, in defiance of intensified patrols.

A brooding police force threw still more manpower into the chase — 75 detectives and 225 patrol officers in all. Unavailingly, they have tried almost everything, from tedious door-to-door legwork to consultations with hypnotists and astrologers. They have had to work with widely varying descriptions of the killer by the few available eyewitnesses. They have developed, then redeveloped theories and "psychological profiles." They even have had a number of men under constant watch; now they must find new suspects.

"It's like looking for a needle in a haystack," said Police Commissioner Michael J. Codd. "Except when you look through a haystack you know what the needle looks like." (See story, page 6.)