

D. Berkowitz
78A1976
AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO
BOX 149
ATTICA, NY 14011



MAURY TERRY

The broken wall of my apartment was only knocked in several days before I got arrested. I'm quite certain that any police plaster chips on my rug below the hole.
As for the scrawls on the walls, if I recall correctly, they were done in red magic marker. But if you notice, all those markings were very much alike. Why? Because they were only written on the walls within several days before my arrest.
The apartment was the same way in general. The books, magazines, pornographic literature, etc., was left scattered topsy-turvy about my floor only days before my arrest.
I never had very much furniture. But within a week before I was arrested I threw out the several good pieces I had. The furniture was loaded into a small van and deposited in front of the Salvation Army warehouse on Columbus Avenue (Route 22) in Mount Vernon. Early one morning and a few hours before the building opened, the furniture was placed near the front of the building.

All this may seem unimportant to many and maybe unimportant to you. However, this clearly points to advance planning and, of course, to a sane and rational person, then those articles you continue to write would amount to nothing. Everytime you quote me, everytime you write "Berkowitz said this," Berkowitz said that..." it would mean very little and have no credibility.

My recommendation would be to prove to the general public that I was always sane. How to do this I don't really know. But surely this would be helpful to you. Furthermore, I would kindly ask you not to inform anybody (except your close associates) that we are corresponding. If you mention anything from the above, say it came from another source and not from me. This would be beneficial to both of us.

P.S. If you would like to, send back the form which I mailed separately.

Sincerely,
David Berkowitz
David Berkowitz

Letter from Berkowitz received by reporter Maury Terry, telling how his apartment was defaced

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Does the evidence support Berkowitz?

The tangled web that is the Son of Sam case began to unravel slowly a short time after David Berkowitz's arrest on June 10, 1977, after the biggest and most massive manhunt in New York history, involving more than 300 detectives and costing millions of taxpayer dollars.

Looking back to that period, Berkowitz says, "Everybody wanted me dead. Berkowitz, die they all said. Nobody wanted to look for the truth. But now, things are different, although surely it's covered up and dumped then. Now police in New York are back where they started in 1977. . . . The evidence (of a conspiracy) is so strong and overwhelming that only an idiot could ignore it or walk away from it now."

At the time of his arrest, in 1977, Berkowitz said he commanded all the demons at the command of demons, who were allegedly headed by his imaginary "aster" - his elderly Yonkers neighbor, Sam Carr.

But after interviews with the prosecution psychiatrist, David Abrahamson, Berkowitz abandoned a planned insanity defense. Abrahamson pronounced the demon story a fake and said Berkowitz was competent to stand trial. Berkowitz then admitted he had concocted the demon story, and subsequently pleaded guilty to the shootings and avoided a trial.

He was sentenced to a total of 315 years in prison on June 12, 1978.

Since then, evidence has surfaced to support Berkowitz's current statements that he did not act alone. Much of this evidence was developed before Berkowitz ever wrote any of the prison letters in which he speaks of accomplices.

Some of the evidence concerns the scenes of the .44 caliber killings, and other elements focus on Berkowitz's friends, apartment and activities in Westchester. Each is examined below.

The case of John Carr

The first indication that Berkowitz acted alone came from a letter dated in June, 1977, by the newspaper columnist Jimmy Breslin. That letter, titled "Son of Sam," used the phrase "Wheaties, rapist and suffocator of young girls," as an alias for the killer. Several newspapers learned that the alias was the nickname of a real person - John Carr, son of Sam Carr.

These facts have emerged about John Carr:

-In Minot, N.D., where in 1976 he finished a 12-year hitch in the Air Force, Carr told his therapist and friends was acquainted with Berkowitz, had intimate knowledge of the "Son of Sam" murders and would be "fried in the electric chair" if New York authorities caught up with him. He told several people he was hiding out to avoid being stoned in the case.

-Carr bore a close resemblance to a long-haired man depicted in police sketches of Son of Sam and he was known to be in New York at the time of at least three shootings, including the one where the man's description matched his Carr.

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-Police and other sources say Carr is known to have driven a yellow Volkswagen similar to the one chased by a news at one of the New York City murder scenes. Another source says Carr was not registered to Carr. Berkowitz, in 1976, drove a yellow or beige Volkswagen for two months, although his registered vehicle was a Ford Galaxie.

-Carr also told North Dakota acquaintances of belonging to a satanic cult in Yonkers, and his Dakota friends provided explicit details of his cult activities, including the sacrifice of animals and the drinking of blood and urine during rituals. Carr himself had admitted his cult involvement to a police officer.

One friend, Phil Falcon, said Carr told him he belonged to a large, violent cult in Yonkers whose sacrifices "went all the way." Falcon said Carr told him they met indoors and outdoors near the Carr home. In a North Dakota ritual that Carr said he witnessed, Carr and another man had cut the throat of an animal and

were drinking its blood and drawing "magic circles" on the floor. Falcon also said Carr would put "satanic curses" on his enemies by burying excrement on their lawns.

-Carr left his family home in Yonkers in August, 1977, just days before Berkowitz's arrest and returned to Minot. Carr was watching television with his girlfriend when the news of Berkowitz's arrest was broadcast. She said he appeared unsurprised and resigned to that development.

-A North Dakota friend says that after Berkowitz's arrest, Carr repeatedly drew an occult symbol - one used in the Son of Sam letters - on the back of a phone directory.

-Carr's girlfriend says that in a letter he wrote in North Dakota, Carr used phrases that were nearly identical to ones later found in a Son of Sam note found in Berkowitz's apartment. And his therapist said Carr described Berkowitz's apartment in detail, according to a police report.

-A dead German shepherd dog was found in Yonkers near the Berkowitz and Carr home with its ear sliced off. In North Dakota, a friend of John Carr had a shepherd's ear mounted by a taxidermist; police have a receipt of the transaction. Although the ear was not from the same dog, investigators see a link in practices of the Minot and Yonkers cults.

-Berkowitz admits to knowing Carr personally, and says he "hated Carr."

On Jan. 31, 1978, Carr surprised his friends by announcing he was returning to Yonkers; he said he would not be back in Minot for six months. Back in New York, he spoke by phone with his girlfriend, telling her at one point that "the cops were hot on his trail and he had to get out of town." He flew back to Minot Feb. 14.

On Feb. 16, John Carr was found dead in Minot, N.D., his skull demolished by a rifle slug. His death, originally termed an apparent suicide, was later acknowledged to be a possible homicide, and is still under investigation.

"There are a lot of unanswered questions," says Terry Gardner, a lieutenant in the Ward County, N.D., sheriff's department.

Please see CARR on page A8

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