

# BERKOWITZ

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One avenue the investigators from John Santucci's office are exploring is that Berkowitz' apartment was deliberately defaced to create the impression that Berkowitz was a lone, demented killer.

Gannett Westchester Newspapers has recently been in contact with a source who claims Berkowitz was set-up as the "fall-guy" in an elaborate scheme to deceive authorities into believing he acted alone.

The source, who has demonstrated intimate knowledge of the "Son of Sam" killings, claims to have been a member of a Satanic cult that was apparently at the center of the "Son of Sam" murders.

The source has told these newspapers that days before his arrest, Berkowitz and other cult members stripped Berkowitz' apartment of all its good furniture, defaced the walls with bizarre ravings and left the Yonkers studio in total disarray in a deliberate plan to portray Berkowitz as a lone, deranged assassin who murdered at the command of barking dogs.

When they arrested Berkowitz police discovered the chaotic scene and immediately labeled Berkowitz as insane.

Berkowitz then recited a rehearsed story about dogs and demons to feign insanity in order to convince authorities that he was alone in the killings, the source said.

Those in the cult fear for their lives and those of their families if they divulge any of the cult's secrets, the source said.

It was this intimidation, combined with the knowledge that he was likely to face life in prison in any case because he had taken part in some of the "Son of Sam" murders, that convinced Berkowitz to take blame for all the murders, the source said.

The source said he fears reprisals and has

asked not to be identified. He has been cautious in his revelations, providing previously unknown details about the cult and leads to other aspects of the case. However, his fears of reprisal have caused him to be sparing with his information.

The following account, is based largely on information provided by the source, whose purpose in assisting the investigation, he says, is to explain Berkowitz' limited role in the cult and its murders.

After the final "Son of Sam" attack — in Brooklyn on July 31, 1977 — cult members feared that police might seek Berkowitz for questioning and link him to the shootings as a result of his car being ticketed two blocks from the site where Stacy Moskowitz was fatally wounded and Robert Violante blinded.

Cult members and Berkowitz decided to create an elaborate scenario to present Berkowitz in a way that would convince police he was a lone, insane, psychopathic killer with no accomplices.

First, the source says, a small van was rented from an agency in the Bronx for \$38, plus a \$50 safety deposit. Then, in the dead of night, the "several good pieces" of furniture that Berkowitz owned were loaded into the van and taken away from the Pine Street studio apartment.

It has recently been established, according to persons close to the Queens' investigation, that furniture Berkowitz is known to have owned, including a large bureau, was not in his apartment when he was arrested.

The furniture was driven to the Salvation Army warehouse on South Third Avenue in Mount Vernon and left in front of the building where it could be discovered when the facility opened in the morning, the source says.

Berkowitz' apartment, minus the furniture, was then defaced, the source says. A large hole was punched in one wall and some of the smaller plaster chips inadvertently were not cleaned up. Significantly, blow-ups

of unreleased police photos of the apartment show some plaster chips still on the rug below the hole.

Bizarre ravings, all written at the same time, in the same style and with the same red magic marker, were scrawled on the apartment walls, the source says.

Unreleased police photos, in color, show the writing to be in the same style and all done in red. Official sources close to the Queens probe say the ink was not faded and may have been applied a short time before Berkowitz' arrest.

Berkowitz' personal address book, found in the apartment, contains a number of irrational entries, such as "Sam's Secret Satanic Service," "FALN Secret Meeting Place," and "the Master."

Those entries are haphazardly written in the first nine pages of an otherwise neat, correctly alphabetized book, and are interspersed with previously-written, orderly, routine entries. Moreover, the bizarre writings — and only those — are all done with the same green felt pen.

"There's no question they were all done at the same time and were added to an address book that had been well-organized, neat and normal before," said an official source close to the Queens investigation.

And while Queens' investigators have not been able to confirm the veracity of the sources' claim that "Son of Sam" accomplices set up Berkowitz to take a "fall," neither have they been able to dismiss the account, which includes several details never publicized by authorities.

Rather, investigators have added the information to the growing list of evidence, circumstances and contradictions supporting the theory that Berkowitz was not alone in his homicidal rampage.

Next: Have investigators identified the leader of the Satanic cult that apparently played a central role in the "Son of Sam" killings?



David Berkowitz sits in his jail cell in Attica Prison



Citizens Party candidate Barry Commoner

## Commoner scorns three major candidates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Environmentalist Barry Commoner has coined a word to explain as well as anything why he is running for president: "Cartereaganderson."

His point is that the three major candidates for president — Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and John Anderson — "are pretty much indistinguishable from one another. They offer nothing new, just four more years of the same or worse."

"But now," Commoner tells his would-be supporters, "you can vote for none of the above and make your vote count."

He doesn't expect to win. His goal is to get 5 percent of the vote.

That would be enough to qualify the newborn Citizens Party for retroactive federal payments to help cover its campaign costs in 1980 and to assure the new party automatic ballot access and public financing in 1984.

His running mate is LaDonna Harris, a Comanche Indian and the wife of Fred Harris, a former Democratic senator from Oklahoma who ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1972 as a populist.

If Commoner, 53, a biologist and director of the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems at St. Louis' Washington University, does as well as he hopes he will be only the seventh third-party presidential candidate in this century to have won more than 3 per cent of the vote.

He argues that unlike John Anderson, the independent candidate, he is laying the foundation for a party which can take power in the future.

Says Commoner: "The Citizens Party is a broad-based coalition of all the millions of American who feel disenfranchised by the backwardness, timidity and corporate control of the present political establishment."

Commoner's chief rival in the quest for a 5 per cent showing is a candidate whose views are the nearly opposite of his — Ed Clark, candidate of the Libertarian Party, which advocates individual rights, minimal government and next-to-zero taxes.

The Libertarians oppose government intervention in the lives of citizens; they even oppose government-run schools.

Commoner believes in government intervention to achieve "democratic governance of the economy."

Clark is better financed and managed to get on the ballots of all 50 states. Commoner had to settle for 31 states.

"And that was incredibly difficult," says Citizens Party spokesman Phil Evans. "We had to collect 500,000 signatures. We put so much effort into it that we just were able to begin campaigning on the issues two weeks ago. The party has raised \$500,000 and 90 per cent of it went into the ballot access drive."

Commoner's nemesis is the American corporation. He thinks corporations, "guided solely by their search for higher profits," are incapable of acting in any way except to further their short-term interests.

His solution: public input in corporate decision-making.

"In our mature, complex economy we can no longer rely on a few, huge corporations to decide what we produce and how we produce it, what we can buy and what we must pay for it, how we must live," he says. "These are social decisions that must be made in the interest of society, democratically — in unions, farm and community organizations, in neighborhood and city councils, in the state and national legislatures, in the voting booth."

The other day in Detroit he made a speech to show how his ideas would work. He proposed creation of a Public Auto Worker Corporation to take over closed-down auto plants.

The factories would be converted to producing such things as alcohol stills to enable farmers to produce alcohol which could replace gasoline as fuel for automobiles; cogenerators to allow industrial utilities to make electricity more efficiently; improved refinery equipment to eliminate waste in oilfields; and new railroad cars.

Commoner is best known as a champion of solar energy and an opponent of nuclear energy. His books on the environment have made him something of a hero on college campuses.

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