

# Berkowitz letter detailed murder plot

By MAURY TERRY  
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At the time of his arrest in August, 1977, David Berkowitz, who now says the Son of Sam murders were the work of a satanic cult, left a letter in his Yonkers apartment which detailed the cult's mass murder plan. The letter, which said the cult planned to slaughter 100 young men and women at random, was withheld from the public and other law enforcement agencies by New

York City police officials and the Brooklyn District Attorney, Eugene Gold.

New York authorities publicly maintained Berkowitz acted alone — despite considerable information suggesting he did not — and he was allowed to plead guilty to all six .44-caliber murders and seven wounding in May, 1978.

Berkowitz later wrote to this reporter and spelled out details of the cult's participation in the killings.

Some officials have said Berkowitz never spoke of a cult until sent to Attica prison.

The 1977 letter held by authorities shows otherwise. These newspapers have obtained the contents of the letter.

In the handwritten letter, found on August 10, 1977 by New York City police, Berkowitz wrote that a long-established cult was behind the killings. The letter says, in part:

"This is a warning to all police agencies in the tri-state area:

"For your information, a satanic cult (devil worshippers and practitioners of witchcraft), that has been established for

quite some time, has been instructed by their high command (Satan) to begin to systematically kill and slaughter young girls or people of good health and clean blood.

"They plan to kill at least 100 young women (sic) and men, but mostly women (sic), as part of a satanic ritual which involves the shedding of the victim's innocent blood.



David Berkowitz

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## THE HERALD STATESMAN

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# Governor unveils crime plan

ALBANY (AP) — If a prosecutor thinks a convicted criminal has gotten too lenient a sentence, he or she could ask higher courts to stiffen the penalty, under legislation proposed by Gov. Hugh Carey.

The proposal was one of several announced Saturday by Carey in what he said was an effort to improve the functioning of the state's criminal justice system.

Carey's proposals now go to the Legislature, where their fate is uncertain.

Current state laws allow only defendants to appeal their sentences, and appeals courts may shorten or otherwise reduce a sentence they consider too harsh.

The U.S. Supreme Court, however, recently held that it was also constitutional to allow a prosecutor to appeal a sentence he considered too lenient.

A memorandum submitted by Carey's office contended that allowing such a power to prosecutors in New York state would help reduce the sometimes significant disparities in sentences handed out by judges.

Other proposals announced by Carey on Saturday are aimed specifically at speeding up the handling of cases by

courts in the state. In recent years, many courts, particularly in the larger cities, have built up massive backlogs of cases, causing long delays in trials.

Under one proposal, judges, instead of the opposing attorneys in a trial, would do most of the questioning of prospective jurors during the jury selection process. Another measure would expand the numbers of cases which could be considered at non-jury trials in New York City.

Jury selection can become a lengthy process of several days under current procedures which allow attorneys considerable leeway in examining prospective jurors.

Attorneys would still be able to submit to a judge the questions they wanted asked, but the judge would do the actual questioning of prospective jurors and would be able to omit questions he or she considered repetitious, irrelevant or otherwise inappropriate.

Federal courts already use such a system for jury selection, and it has been found to significantly shorten the overall time devoted to trials.

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### They fled their home

A Salvadoran boy clings to his father after they fled their home, northeast of San Salvador, to escape guerrillas. They now live in the town of Cinquera, along with about 1,000 other refugees. See page C2.—AP Photo

### Critics ask: Is Indian Pt. safe enough?

By MICHAEL RODDY Staff Writer

Con Ed has spent approximately \$8 million fixing the leaks that flooded the Indian Point 2 nuclear reactor in Buchanan with 100,000 gallons of water last October, but a question lingers: Have the repairs done the job?

Con Ed, which had as many as 1,000 workers inside the nuclear plant on a single day at the peak of the repair effort in February, thinks the answer is yes.

The possibility of a recurrence of the flooding caused by numerous leaks in a cooling system is "very, very remote," Eugene McGrath, Con Ed's vice president in charge of reactor operations, said.

The plant was flooded by non-radioactive water leaking from a system of fan coolers, which are large, metal boxes containing pipes filled with Hudson River water and fans which blow air inside the containment building over the pipes.

There are five of the 40-foot-by-15-foot fan coolers spaced around the interior circumference of the circular containment building. Their purpose is to keep the interior of the building, which houses the hot nuclear reactor, at a comparatively cool 120 degrees.

"The things we're doing in terms of replacing hardware, operator information and training are all aimed toward the end of not letting something like that happen again," McGrath said.

Con Ed hopes to restart the plant before the end of this month. The repairs to the leaking cooling system were completed in early March, but the outage has extended for seven months for refueling, modifications and other maintenance.

There are many reasons Con Ed would not like a repetition. In addition to knocking the plant out of service, the flooding resulted in the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission imposing the highest fine on Con Ed in the utility's history, \$220,000.

The NRC claimed that Con Ed's management had neglected to take steps to repair repeated leaking in the cooling system and further charged that "management at all levels is not directing the proper level of attention to operation of Indian Point Unit 2."

The outage also sparked a widespread public outcry because Con Ed assessed customers extra charges to pay for the higher cost of electricity while the plant was out of service. The amount paid by customers for the two months of the outage attributable to flooding was \$38 million.

A small core of Westchester residents

Please see NUCLEAR on page A4

## Water rules: Confusion reigns

By MICHAEL RODDY Staff Writer

In most parts of Westchester, residents can use a hose to water their lawns, but if they were to turn that same hose on their car, they would risk a \$50 fine.

In White Plains, it is illegal to water a lawn or fill a pool, while just across the border in Greenburgh, residents can fill pools and sprinkle lawns to their hearts' content.

This is the confusing state of affairs that reigns as the drought emergency continues in force in Westchester and New York City.

The emergency is in effect because reservoir levels remain well below the level water engineers say is necessary for the region to weather the summer.

This week the New York City reservoir system, which supplies Westchester with approximately 80 percent of the county's needs, was filled to a shade

### Which water regulations affect you? Page A5

below 70 percent of capacity, compared to a usual level for this time of year of close to 100 percent.

March was unusually dry, April was better, but water officials have warned that unless May and June are wet months, and people continue to conserve, the summer will be parched.

"When May 1 comes the April showers are over," Jeremiah R. Dineen, Westchester County's chief water engineer, said. "Hopefully people are trying to conserve, but unfortunately when they see a shower it turns off their thoughts of conservation."

Meanwhile, the water restrictions that are in force in Westchester and New York City have had the effect of reducing consumption by as much as 15 percent.

But the regulations are confusing because there are variances between the regulations in effect in the city and the county and there are numerous variances within Westchester.

New York City at the end of last month imposed harsher restrictions than are in effect in most of Westchester, banning lawn sprinkling and imposing some restrictions on filling private swimming pools.

Westchester did not follow the city's lead, choosing instead to retain so-called "phase one" drought emergency regulations in effect all winter, Dineen said.

Those regulations are imposed throughout Westchester under a county law adopted in January. Among other things, the regulations prohibit serving water in restaurants unless the customer requests it, prohibit running a commercial car wash without recycled water.

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## Robbers strike supermarket again

By JENNIE TRITTEN Staff Writer

The A and P supermarket at 914 McLean Ave. was robbed Saturday morning, making this the fifth time in the last two months armed robbers successfully hit the Southeast Yonkers supermarket.

Police are searching for two Hispanic males, about 19-years-old, one of whom was armed, who robbed the store at 8:25 a.m. Saturday and escaped on foot with an undetermined amount of money.

The pair first entered the supermarket and purchased milk and bread, according to police who report both men weighed about 140 pounds and were about five feet five inches in height. The bandit, who was armed, had dark skin and was wearing dark glasses, a green hat and a green jacket while his accomplice wore a white hat and a black and white coat, according to police.

The supermarket was last robbed on April 14 by a lone bandit brandishing a small handgun who got away with \$913.45. Not counting Saturday's robbery, a total of \$5,788 has been lost in four previous holdups in the store situated near the Bronx-Yonkers city line.

After making their purchase, police said the two men returned to the store. The man with the dark glasses, according to police, pointed a black revolver at the assistant store manager, Art Wilder. "Let's go into the office," said the gun-

toting bandit and when they arrived in the office ordered Wilder to open the safe and put the money into an envelope, according to police.

While the robbery was in progress in the office, the police report the accomplice, who did not have a gun, stood guard at the front door of the supermarket where there were several clerks present and one customer.

Both men were last seen running north on Kimball Avenue, according to Police Officers Ray Newcomer and Thomas Lagia who responded to the call. Yonkers detectives who also responded are investigating the robbery.

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### Don't forget!

If you didn't turn your clocks ahead an hour before going to bed last night, you'll be an hour behind today. Most of the United States went on daylight-saving time today at 2 a.m., providing an extra hour of light at day's end. Daylight-saving time will remain in effect until the last Sunday of October.

### Lotteries

New York: Daily: 011. Lotto: 24, 29, 36, 31, 27, and 4. Supplementary number: 22.  
Conn: Daily: 977. Vt.: Daily: 881  
N.H.: Daily: 7453. R.I.: Daily: 1693

**Lifestyles** "Lifestyles goes to..." is a new monthly feature. Today, go with us through the development and growth of Manursing Island on the Sound, a sanctuary of serenity and privacy between Westchester and Connecticut. Page E1.

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