

Book Reviews

Probe of 'Son of Sam' terror cult documents satanic underground

by Ira Liebowitz

The Ultimate Evil, An Investigation of America's Most Dangerous Satanic Cult
by Maury Terry
Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1987
512 pages, illustrated, hard cover, \$17.95

In the opening days of what would prove to be the bizarre presidency of James Earl Carter, New York mass media focused in on a series of brutal shootings that occurred between July 1976 and July 1977. They appeared at first to be random: The only "signature" linking them being the use of a .44-caliber "Bulldog" handgun. Most of the victims, young Italian and Jewish couples, were shot while parked at various "lovers' lanes" in the boroughs of Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. At the height of hysteria in this period, many white families with young sons and daughters were in sustained fear that "My child might be next."

This was, Terry documents, the first recent instance of a "California-style" blind-terrorism scenario in the New York area. In early 1977, a taunting "signal piece" letter from the ".44 caliber killer" was sent to *New York Daily News* columnist Jimmy Breslin, signed "Son of Sam." It referred to "John Wheaties," and "King Wicker." The murders were soon dubbed "Son of Sam."

David Berkowitz surrendered to Brooklyn police in Yonkers, New York, in August 1977, a move that this book suggests was prompted by his co-conspirators, in order to stop a Brooklyn police investigation from widening. Berkowitz himself indicates in various prison interviews published here, that he agreed to be arrested as a "patsy," under the threat of the murder of his still-living father. According to Terry's evidence, the decision "to terminate" the series of killings this way, followed a blunder during the shooting of the last victims, Stacey Moskowitz and Robert Violante in Brooklyn, on July 30, 1977: Berkowitz's car was ticketed during the shooting, in which he was functioning as a lookout for another "shooter." The ticket led police to his name and address. The scenario had to be "damage controlled."

In early August 1977, following the Moskowitz shooting,

two Berkowitz associates in Westchester, Sam Carr of Yonkers and Jack Cassara of New Rochelle, went to the police, apparently to file cover stories about their connections to Berkowitz. Sam Carr's daughter, Wheat, an employee of the Yonkers Police Department, functioned as liaison to the Brooklyn Police, when they followed Berkowitz's ticket to his address in Yonkers.

By the time of a decision to halt the murders, with 13 young men and women shot (six dead, seven wounded), New York residents were deeply shaken.

A warning to police

One item that fired author Terry's resolve to pursue his investigation, and eventually convinced Queens District Attorney John Santucci to re-open his case, was a letter which Berkowitz arranged for police to find upon his arrest. Terry saw it in 1981:

"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 wemon [sic] and men, but mostly wemon [sic], as part of a satanic ritual which involves the shedding of the victim's blood. . . .

"Warning: the streets shall be run with blood. I, David Berkowitz, have been chosen since birth, to be one of the executioners for the cult. . . ."

As the Son of Sam case wound down, Rosalynn Carter was photographed associating with the People's Temple cult of Rev. Jim Jones in San Francisco. Jones had run the 1976 Democratic Party "Get Out The Vote" operation there. She was also photographed with Chicago's William Gacy, a homosexual pederast eventually tried for murdering over 30 young men who were buried in his basement. A satanic murder cult in Atlanta was eventually identified in the murder of over 29 young black boys between 1979 and 1981.

These events involved cults spawned from the "New Age" counterculture's drug-running underground. In each case, investigations by *EIR* and others have shown that, behind the

"lone killers" charged with responsibility in mass media accounts, there were organized satanic cults.

Unfortunately, 11 years passed after the Son of Sam killings before this definitive investigation by a former IBM computer specialist and Gannett reporter was released. Terry has produced a series of documentaries for Gannett Press and WOR-TV, which leveraged the break-out on this story.

Terry documents that the killings attributed to Berkowitz were the work of a satanic cult to which he belonged. The cult ran one branch of 22 members in Westchester, New York, another in New York City, and a third of about 20 in Minot and Bismarck, North Dakota. Berkowitz appears to have been primed for his role in the murders when he first moved into the home of Jack Cassara, and then to an apartment off Wicker Street, next to the home of Sam Carr. The cult-network, stretching to California and British Columbia in Canada, is still operative within the broad satanic and theosophical "underground."

As far as it goes, Terry's investigation ranks as a companion work to former Los Angeles District Attorney Vincent Bugliosi's excellent study of the Charles Manson satanic cult, *Helter Skelter*. One difference of course is that Bugliosi successfully prosecuted Manson's conspiracy, while Terry had to wait 11 years for publication. By 1982, Terry had demonstrated that the still-active Son of Sam cult network was a regroupment of the networks involved in the Manson murders.

The Process Church

An entire chapter is devoted to "The Process Church," a satanic cult founded in London in 1963-64 by Robert Moore and Mary Anne MacLean and transferred to Los Angeles, where it is connected even today to Theosophy and Gnostic Church networks. In Los Angeles, Moore has operated under the name "Robert Moore DeGrimston" and spread the cult across the United States. Both DeGrimston and Charles Manson were originally trained in the Church of Scientology (Manson while in prison), and are reported to have been associated during the "Helter Skelter" killings.

Terry got onto the Process-Scientology connection by comparing Bugliosi and others' accounts of Manson's ties to Process, with evidence that Berkowitz knew Sam Carr's son Michael, a low-level official in the New York Church of Scientology. Michael Carr was killed in New York shortly after Berkowitz was arrested. Brother John Carr died shortly before at an apartment on the Minot Air Force base, in Minot, North Dakota.

Terry reprints interviews with Berkowitz, along with his own research, which document a cult modeled on the satanic belief structure of Aleister Crowley and Eliphas Levi's "Children of the Dawn" and "Golden Dawn" cults. Terry's evidence includes:

- Court-admissible interviews with Berkowitz by Terry, Felix Gilroy of the Staten Island Legal Aid Society, and New York "tort" lawyer, Harry Lipsig, indicating that Berkow-

itz's lower-controllers included Michael and John "Wheat" Carr (sons of Sam Carr). Lipsig, an official with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, was at the time seeking information about Berkowitz's connections with Scientologist Michael Carr that would allow suing Scientology for damages, on behalf of survivors of the victims.

- Evidence that Berkowitz was associated with another New Rochelle mass killer, Fred Cowan, who was tied to the man in whose house Berkowitz lived in New Rochelle, Jack Cassara.

• The Westchester-New York-North Dakota cult which involved Berkowitz, John, and possibly Michael Carr, was linked to the ritual killing in 1974 of a young woman originally from Bismarck, Arlis Perry. This occurred in the University Chapel in Palo Alto, California. And Berkowitz originally produced surprising evidence on this killing to both Maury Terry, and Lt. Terry Gardner of Minot, N.D., while imprisoned in New York State. Gardner had investigated the 20-member satanic cult in Minot which was apparently run by John "Wheaties" Carr. According to an unnamed informant, Berkowitz pointed investigators to this case because the leader of the Bismarck satanic cult-branch who did the killing, whom Terry identifies as "Manson II," was at that time planning to kill Berkowitz. According to Terry, "Manson II" had originally been a member of the Manson cult who was deployed to found the Bismarck cult.

Lucis Trust

Oddly, there is one lead which author Terry does not pursue. Terry makes repeated references to reports he received that the Berkowitz cult was created by a higher-level cult, operating in New York for decades. The lead would seem to take Terry's investigation to a higher level of control, yet it is omitted from his book.

During the period of the Son of Sam cult's activation (1975-76), the strange Carr family ran a telephone answering service from their Yonkers home. One of the clients was a very interesting private psychological clinic in Westchester called the "Hudson River Counseling Service." It involved several Jungian psychologists tied to a center in Rye, New York called the "Guild for Spiritual Awareness," which operates from the former home of Colonel Wainwright.

Called the "Wainwright House," this center promotes Jungian studies of pagan and satanic religions for a major Theosophy Lodge based at the United Nations in New York City, the "Lucis Trust." This nexus is connected to a network of bizarre Episcopalian clergy up and down the East Coast working with Canon Edward West and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. Wainwright House was the location of several Lucis meetings of influential persons in the late 1950s and 1960s who founded "Ecumenical associations" that shaped the entire development of the New Age counterculture.

Pursuit of this network's possible involvement in the mass-terror operation may prove fruitful.