

# Police Appeal to Killer of Women to Seek Their Help

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The police appealed yesterday to "Son of Sam," the .44-caliber killer, to let them help him. "We know you are not a woman-hater—and we know how you have suffered," the police said in their reply to the killer's note, which was left at the site of his last murders April 17.

The police had not previously released or given any indication of the contents of the killer's note, other than to say that was "rambling, incoherent and ghoulish." No details had been given either on an earlier note left in March, when three persons had been killed.

Some of the contents of the second note, however, came out indirectly yesterday in the police reply.

The killer apparently has a parent figure named Sam at whose hands he has suffered a great deal. He told the police that he is not a woman-hater, that he does not want to kill but that he is appar-

ently under some compulsion to do so.

"We wish to help you and it is not too late," said the police reply. "Please let us help you. Call Captain Borelli or Inspector Dowd at 844-0999 or write them at the 109th Precinct, Flushing, N.Y."

Capt. Joseph Borelli is the Queens homicide detective who is handling the investigation of the murders in Queens, while Deputy Inspector Timothy Dowd is coordinating a team of 30 Bronx and Queens detectives.

The killer has murdered five people in the last nine months—four young women and a young man who was with one of them—and has wounded three others. The weapon in each case was a .44-caliber pistol, a relatively unusual size.

"How do you know he's not a woman-hater?" asked one reporter at the police news conference.

"He said he wasn't," replied John Keenan, chief of detectives.

"Then why have all his victims been women?"

"That's something we would like to find out," Chief Keenan answered.

He said "Sam" might be a parent who had mistreated the killer. "He may be symbolic, or he may be an hallucination," the chief said. In response to a question, Chief Keenan said there was a possibility that Sam was Uncle Sam.

The police again appealed to the general public to pass on any information or suspicions about the killer. They appealed to members of the killer's family who may suspect something.

"We have some feeling that he is reaching out," Chief Keenan said. "He's suffering, he's had some serious pain or incident in his life. We want to reach him before something tragic happens. We are going on the assumption that he will kill again. He doesn't want to, but he is acting under a compulsion."