

Yonkers police need 'Sam' facts

AS EACH DAY passes in the bizarre case of "Son of Sam" suspect David Berkowitz, information linking him to alleged events in Yonkers and Westchester dribbles out of the New York City Police Department of which authorities here are not aware.

Yonkers police, for example, did not know of a possible visit by Berkowitz and another man to a Mamaroneck animal shelter until they read it in the newspapers.



CHIEF POLSEN

Nor are Yonkers police privy to the contents of papers, which reportedly contain a 40-page diary of "Son of Sam" assaults, and mention the shooting of a Yonkers woman. The papers

are among items seized by New York police when Berkowitz was arrested last Wednesday outside his Yonkers apartment.

Berkowitz lived in Yonkers for 16 months and before that, in New Rochelle. He also held several jobs in the county.

Work by Yonkers police did help set the stage for Berkowitz' arrest but since then the department has been more or less shut out. As one officer here put it, "New York is happy, they got their man."

We urge Yonkers Police Chief William F. Polsen to detail Yonkers officers to join or at least set up liaison with New York police to get the facts pertaining to Berkowitz' possible activities in Yonkers and Westchester. Not to do so leaves the Yonkers police in an embarrassing as well as vulnerable position.

Classic time again

ATTENTION OF golfers and fans all over the world will again be riveted on the Westchester Country Club, where the eleventh annual Westchester Classic gets under way on Thursday. Your official program and all the fascinating background of this event is in today's special supplement of this newspaper.

With \$300,000 in prizes and a top purse of \$60,000, the Classic is at the top of the money heap in professional golfing. Under the sponsorship again of American Express, the tournament will also repeat its annual generous benefits to six Westchester hospitals.

And this year the Classic is dedicated to the memory of Fred Corcoran, co-founder of the Classic and Scarsdale resident, who died in June.

With the top golfers in competition, rich prizes, a good cause and an inspirational dedication, who could resist?

By the way...

Queen Elizabeth completed her tour of Northern Ireland with a plea for an end to "senseless violence." Trouble is, the various combatants think their violence makes sense.

Castro has agreed to let 84 Americans leave Cuba. For this he gets great praise, even though he shouldn't have been detaining them in the first place and is probably glad to get rid of them.

Prayer for today

Hasten the day dear Lord, when all hatred will be conquered by love, when all fear will give way to confidence, when the glad service of the common need will unite men and women of good will in every place in a common purpose—the advancement of this nation, this world and all the people in it. Make us ultimately one great company of friendly people, dedicated to the common welfare.

THE HERALD STATESMAN

Larkin Plaza Yonkers, N.Y. YO 5 5000

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Viewpoints

Public opinion

More on group home

This letter is in response to a recent article in The Herald Statesman concerning community opposition to the location of a group home for retarded adults in Hastings.

WE WONDER how many of your readers remember their outrage when the conditions at Willowbrook and other Mental Hygiene institutions were publicized? How many of our taxpayers reacted to the money spent to maintain the retarded in large state institutions? The Department of Mental Hygiene has much to correct — years of neglect of clients and years of money spent irresponsibly. The Willowbrook "consent decree" won by advocates for the retarded, has forced the Department of Mental Hygiene to develop more humane and more economic ways of carrying out their responsibility to the institutionalized retarded.

Small group homes are more economic, more humane, and create opportunities for the retarded to live more productive and fulfilling lives. But the reality is that these homes have to be located somewhere. Families in Hastings-on-Hudson, over the years, have had their share of retarded children who required a residential placement. These children do grow up. But they cannot be independent nor can they live with their families.

We have been asked many times if we would care to live next to such a facility. Our answer has been that it wouldn't bother us at all. Why should it? The experience with retarded adults is voluminous and conclusive. Retarded adults do not constitute a danger to public safety or morals. They are no more likely to assault children than any of the rest of us. The same goes for lying, cheating and stealing. But, they do assault the sensibilities. If not properly cared for they may assault our senses so badly that we would ask the police to intervene. Just as we have had to intervene

Letters to Public Opinion must contain the name, address and telephone number of the writer for verification. Address withheld on request. Suggested maximum length for prompt publication is 300 words. Letters should be sent to: Public Opinion, The Herald Statesman, Larkin Plaza, Yonkers, N.Y. 10702.

with our teenagers who drink too much, too noisily and too late at night.

HARD TIMES have hit Hastings, just as they have hit most of the rest of the world. Must we face this with fear and strike out at all who are different or weaker than us. The economic arguments reported in The Herald Statesman are faulty. The proposed home would take a small piece of property that is not on the tax rolls and convert it into a facility that could earn taxes. The residents would use village facilities at about the same rate as the nuns who preceded them. People who are repelled by the mixed ethnic, religious, social and economic mix of Hastings will continue to bypass us in favor of more homogenous communities.

A group home, however, will affect the value of our homes only if we allow it to — by giving the impression to people who wish to live in our community that it is not functioning well.

INEZ AND ALLEN JANGER
Hastings

Working conditions

I read with interest and some dismay your recent article on the air conditioning problems at 70 Ashburton Ave. The story was inaccurate in implying that skeleton crews were in effect each day during the heat wave. There was actually a skeleton crew only on the 104 degree day. On the other days, the public and staff suffered through the intolerable heat writing and barely able to breathe. Several people fainted. The story only skims the surface of a problem that touches the entire Yonkers community.

ANY CITIZEN who enters this building for Social Services, Family Court, Probation, Mental Health or Traffic Court business, seeks help for situations which are by nature already sensitive and emotionally charged. To this is often added the further discomfort of lack of air conditioning, lack of heat, and inadequate ventilation and air quality. This makes the job of solving these problems even more difficult for the individual citizen who is in need of services and the county or city employee who is to provide service. The loss of time and money through inefficiency, early dismissal and lack of production by staff because of these conditions, must be mounting toward the mark of hundreds of thousands of dollars per year, yet the county executive seems firm in asking us to remain in this building until a new county office building is constructed. As you know, a site has not yet been selected.

Our administration has asked us to be "responsive and responsible" in serving the public. I ask that the county executive adopt this attitude himself in his relations with his employees and the public by providing a comfortable, dignified environment in which these important services can be provided. Relocation from 70 Ashburton Ave. should be seriously considered.

ANGELA OLIVER
Employee
Department of Social Services

Potholes

I should like the answer to why, when there are more potholes in the road than can be counted in any given area in Yonkers (the condition is hazardous to cars), is such repair passed up in favor of laying yards and yards of sidewalk on which rarely is a pedestrian seen? I refer to Odell Avenue from North Broadway west to 45 Odell Ave. near Warburton Ave.

This surely should be the time for such repair since before we know it, the cold season sets in and the condition cannot be remedied.

ELEANORE C. STONE
Yonkers

Confidential These records not in the book

By GWEN HALL
City Editor

WE'RE THE ONE... Settle any argument! Dazzle your friends! Discover the world's most fascinating facts, sports feats, human endurance records, extraordinary acts and extravagant achievements... all the mind boggling wooders of man and his universe recorded in one fabulous book! The Guinness Book of World Records... but some of the longest, loudest, smallest, hottest and noisiest didn't make the latest revised edition of the spectacular book... maybe because the authors refused to believe the claims of the fourth largest city of New York State. But we know Yonker claims were not inaccurate or exaggerated or dishonest... It is fact... all of the



GWEN HALL

following took place in the chambers of the City Council and were dutifully noted and recorded: The longest water throw in legislative history.

The longest two minute recesses in legislative history.

The most insults regarding height and weight and brain matter of fellow colleagues in legislative history.

The most resolutions extending birthday, anniversary and other congratulatory greetings in legislative history.

The greatest number of resolutions tabled or sent to committee in legislative history.

The most examples of a legislative body not heeding the advice of the corporation counsel, their own lawyer.

The longest delays of starting time for City Council meetings.

The most gun permits held by members of a City Council.

The shortest prayers offered by a city clerk anywhere.

The most abstentions or excuses for not voting on vital issues anywhere.

The most cigarettes smoked under no smoking signs with firemen present at any legislative meeting.

The longest five minutes permitted a speaker at any council meeting anywhere.

The most city managers in one tenure of a mayor anywhere.

The most called for investigations by one person in any council anywhere.

The greatest number of feasibility, possibility, and impossibility studies of name it anywhere.

BROTHERHOOD... Councilman Harry Oxman, in whose 4th Ward many newcomers from Arab nations have settled, is helping with the formation of a new Arab Council umbrella organization. During a recent session with several Arab leaders, the councilman, a Jew, quipped, "Carter and Begin should watch us, we'll show them how to get along..."

BARGAINING POSITION... Mayor Angelo Martinelli has been appointed vice chairman of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Human Development Committee in which position he also serves as chairman of the Public Employee Relations Subcommittee of the Human Development Committee. The purpose of the subcommittee is to monitor city government relations with public employe unions.

NEW MAN... Former 6th Ward Councilman Tom Cleary has been working for the Community Development Agency since February. He is doing jobs connected with the Business Development Bureau.

MAGNA CUM CRAPS... If you don't know how... Blackjack, Baccarat or Roulette that is a la casino... while not yet legalized in this state you too can learn at the New York School of Gambling approved by the prestigious State Education Department. They say they're fully equipped which may mean... this first in the state has more basics than our classrooms for reading, writin', arithmetic and other vocational training.

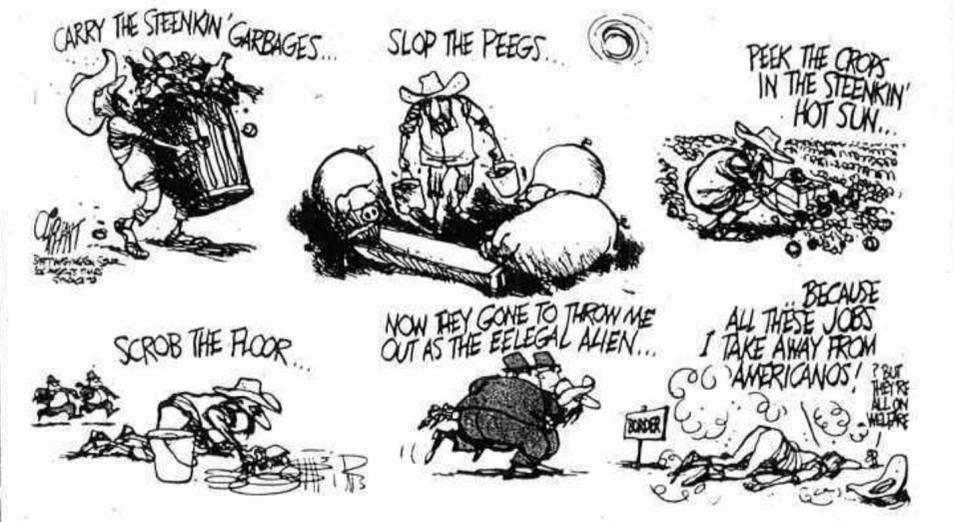
CAMPAIGN FEVER... Al Clealo, the Yonkers police officer who is also the Democratic candidate for county legislature in the 15th Legislative District, is circulating petitions for an additional line on the ballot under the "Law and Order Party." Wonder if those who consider signing will recall how much law and order he gave his city when he walked out during the Blue Flu police job action.

ENERGY FOR ALL... Rep. Dick Ottinger who played a big role in the formulation of the legislation of the President's National Energy Plan says it's a good first step but he's convinced it warrants much more drastic measures. Ottinger would have relied on controls rather than price as the government's principal conservation mechanism to protect our security and end the drain on our economy.

BLOWIN' IN THE WIND... Former League of Women Voters President Susan Am-lung was considering a run for the mayor's seat on an independent ticket... but only briefly... 5th Wards aghast at "Frauddollno"... Worldwide headlines and Yonkers became an instant tourist attraction... but notoriety like this we don't need.

And That's The Truth

Oliphant's view



Jack Anderson

Army chow 'ugh' - Here's why

By JACK ANDERSON
and LES WHITTEN

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army, never renowned for the excellence of the cuisine it serves to enlisted men, now has spent more than \$50 million bombarding food with gamma and beta rays.

This "Star Wars" treatment, known as food irradiation, was supposed to sterilize and prolong the life of the chow. Instead, it merely made the food tasteless. One report goes so far as to call it "inedible."

A confidential House report, prepared for Rep. Thomas Downey, D-N.Y., charges that the costly sterilization process has failed to produce a single edible morsel.

He has called the scandal to the attention of the General Accounting Office. According to Downey, the Army has spent more than \$50.7 million on irradiation research in a 25-year period.

The bombardment of potatoes with gamma and beta rays, he alleges, has succeeded only in ruining them. "Most people prefer their potatoes," he adds wryly, "with butter or sour cream."

He claims the project has been "a colossal assault on the federal treasury, with nothing to show for it but mutilated potatoes." The confidential House report also concludes that the irradiation experiments have been "duplicative, wasteful, unnecessary and unproductive."

Footnote: An Army spokesman

said Downey's charges were irresponsible. The experiments, he insisted, have made a valuable contribution to science.

BOOTLEG LAETRILE: The illegal drug Laetrile, labeled "hazardous" last week by Surgeon General Julius Richmond, is being bootlegged in the shadow of the Capitol dome.

It is available, along with a smorgasbord of political propaganda, from the Liberty Lobby. This is a right-wing pressure group that packages extremist literature under patriotic titles. It offers Laetrile, likewise, under the name "Amygdalin."

A Food and Drug official identified Amygdalin and Laetrile as essentially the same apricot-pit concoction. A Liberty Lobby spokesman, when pressed, also conceded that Amygdalin really was Laetrile under another name.

The Liberty Lobby features Amygdalin ads in its weekly newspaper, The Spotlight, which directs customers to an address three blocks from the Capitol Building. Responding to the ad, our reporter, Peggy Davidson, found herself at Liberty Lobby headquarters.

She laid out money for the advertised Amygdalin. But first, she was asked to sign a form declaring: "I state that none of the (drugs) are intended for use in diagnosis, cure, mitigation, alleviation, treatment or prevention of any disease and that none of the (drugs) have been represented to me as having any value for said uses by the vendor."

Such a disclaimer, a Food and Drug spokesman informed us, does not make the sale legal. Yet the Liberty Lobby, having thus acknowledged the drug may be useless, offers 50 Amygdalin tablets for \$14 or, for those wishing a high-powered dosage, 100 triple-strength tablets for \$90. For customers who might want to produce their own homemade Laetrile, a pound package of unprocessed apricot kernels is offered for \$4.75.

But the sale, befitting a bootleg transaction, cannot be completed over the counter. The customer merely hands over the money; the illegal tablets are delivered by mail.

The Liberty Lobby spokesman insisted his group does not sell the drug but acts merely as a "drop and ship" agent for the advertiser. The latter is identified by the urgent letters SOS. The spokesman would reveal only that the advertiser is based in California.

The relationship between the Liberty Lobby and its mysterious advertiser, however, appears to be close. For the Amygdalin tablets eventually reached our reporter in a package also containing a Liberty Lobby membership application and a brochure touting Liberty Lobby books.

A review of Liberty Lobby literature indicates the group, meanwhile, is pushing Amygdalin and Armageddon with the same enthusiasm.

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten are syndicated columnists.

