

Abseam on TV

The FBI's Abseam tapes made their TV network debut Tuesday after a Supreme Court decision made it all possible.
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Phillies 1 up

The Phillies came up with that something extra to beat KC, 7-6, for their first World Series win in 65 years.
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The Journal-News

Wednesday,
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Clarkstown's back to school Strike ends, but feelings still run high

By JOHN CASTELLUCCI
Staff Writer

It was business as usual in the Clarkstown School District today after the early morning approval of the settlement by striking teachers and district officials.

But concern about the after-effects of the strike and bitterness over the nine-day job action persisted as students and teachers marched back to work.

Students said they were afraid that the strike had caused them to fall irreparably behind in their classwork, while teachers almost without exception declined to give their names or comment on the end of the strike.

The comments that were made were brief and to the point. "Thank God," said one teacher. "I'm very glad it's over. That's all I'm going to say."

The scene at both the district high schools was orderly and peaceful, in contrast to the first day of the strike, Oct. 1, when minor disturbances erupted among students at Clarkstown North, and

upperclassmen at Clarkstown South High School in West Nyack left early complaining of the lack of an academic program.

Roy Conklin, principal of South, said an academic program evolved for students during the strike. The students cut classes in the beginning, but "toward the end, there were many people who stayed and availed themselves of the program provided for them. We provided resources for students in all the academic areas on a tutorial basis," he said.

That statement was confirmed by Shirley Hayes, 17-year-old senior from West Nyack who reported to school every day of the strike. She said the program provided was "sufficient" but still expressed fears that she and other seniors had fallen behind.

Attendance fell off shortly during the first days of the strike but rose to half the normal level last week as parents returned their children to school amidst assurances by the school district that conditions were safe.

Congers Elementary School was the scene of several bitter confrontations between teachers on

the picket line, strike-breaking substitutes and parents, but there was much joy among pupils returning to the school this morning.

Muriel Barbari, whose two sons, Scott, 9, and Anthony, 6, attend Congers Elementary School, said both were glad to be back but expressed concern about the effect of the nine-day work stoppage on her oldest son, a pupil in a program for the above-average.

She characterized the strike as unnecessary and said both sides were at fault for it.

Mrs. Barbari, who was PTA president at the elementary school in 1978 and 1979, said she initially supported the strike but began bringing her two boys to school after she visited the school and became the target of anonymous phone calls. "One caller who did give a name, said it was wrong for me to be in school."

I was furious. I had come to school only to see what was going on. After the first two days I started sending the boys to school and that was that."

Sports start anew—B5

By LEN MANIACE
and DAVID COLTON
Staff Writers

Clarkstown teachers returned to their classrooms today for the first time since Sept. 30, following approval of a three-year contract settlement which would raise teachers' salaries by 5.5 percent each year.

Representatives of both sides hammered out the tentative settlement — hailed by most School Board members as a good deal for the district — after a grueling 31-hour negotiating session at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Nanuet.

Agreement on a three-year contract for secretaries and clerical workers, also represented by the Clarkstown Teachers Association, was also reached.

The teachers' settlement was announced at about 10:15 p.m. Tues-

day, and union President Susan Margoon rushed to the nearby Holiday Inn in Nanuet, where the agreement was overwhelmingly ratified by more than 600 teachers who jammed a hotel meeting room.

The Clarkstown School Board approved the pact today at a special meeting called 7 a.m. meeting after Superintendent Donald Van Wageningen outlined its terms and projected tax impact. The vote was 5-2, with trustees Jacqueline Bodine and Anthony Lea voting against the contract.

During the strike, the district attempted to keep classes open for its 12,000 students by hiring substitutes at \$75 per day, but district-wide student attendance never got much higher than 50 percent.

About 150 part-time teachers, secretaries, teaching assistants and clerical workers joined teachers in the job action, which dragged on for nine school days.

(Please turn to back page)

Was accountant an accomplice of Son of Sam'?

(Last of a series)
By M.J. ZUCKERMAN
and MAURY TERRY
Staff Writers

A Manhattan accountant is being investigated by Queens prosecutors as a possible accomplice in the "Son of Sam" murders.

The suspect, described by authorities as being involved in witchcraft, has been linked to the case by his associations with key figures in the probe, including David Berkowitz and John Carr, and his strong resemblance to early police sketches of "Son of Sam."

While the evidence against this suspect remains circumstantial, investigators say information tying him to key "events and situations" connected to the killings "cannot be summarily disregarded."

Authorities regard the Nassau County man as the leader of a

Queens-based Satanic cult that may be linked to a Yonkers cult suspected of being at the center of the killings.

The suspect — his name withheld here because he has not been charged with any crime — also was described as a suspect in the murders by Bronx police during their aborted, two-month probe into "Son of Sam" accomplice theories last year.

Gannett Westchester Newspapers has obtained confidential New York City police department reports from that Bronx investigation.

The reports, written between August 31, 1979 and October 22, 1979, by New York City Police Capt. John W. Flanzer, then commanding officer of the Seventh Detective Area, concluded by saying this about the suspect:

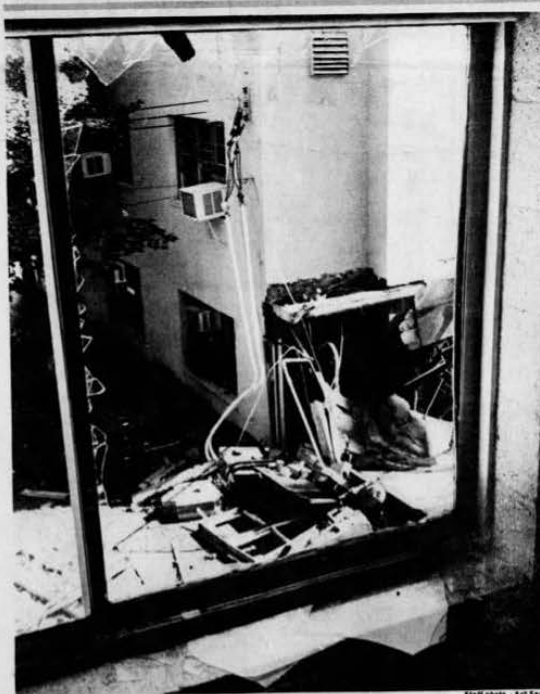
"He bears a 'remarkable resemblance' to one of the sketches of the 'Son of Sam' — a sketch 'several witnesses and potential victims identified as a suspect in the shootings.'"

"He owned a small green auto believed to be similar to the one which was observed near the site of the Christina Freund shooting in Forest Hills."

"He lived near the scene of two of the shootings."

"His photograph has been identified by individuals associated with the late John Carr as being a friend who visited Carr in North Dakota on a number of occasions. Carr, who is also suspected of having been involved in the killings, kept a picture of the suspect

(Please turn to back page)



Wreckage at Mesquita Beth Shraga High School and Rabbinical College in Monsey after blast.

No injuries in blast at school

By MIKE BARLOW
Staff Writer

Fifteen students at a Monsey religious academy miraculously escaped injury Tuesday morning when a boiler explosion demolished a building adjacent to their classroom, sending chunks of metal and concrete hurtling through the air.

A 15-by-20 foot cinder block structure housing the boiler was "blown to smithereens" by the force of the blast, said Gordon Wren, the Ramapo Town fire inspector.

Rabbi Shmuel Mendowitz, director of the Mesquita Beth Shraga High School and Rabbinical College, said the students were studying Hebrew in a classroom which shares a wall with the ruined auxiliary structure.

"It was only a miracle, an act of God," that prevented anyone from being hurt, said one eyewitness as he sifted through the twisted wreckage.

Investigators at the scene for Orange and Rockland Utilities said the explosion probably was caused by excessive water pressure inside the boiler. That excess pressure eventually caused the boiler to rupture and explode, said ORL spokesman John P. Murphy.

Although the explosion is not considered suspicious in origin, an investigation will be conducted to determine the precise cause of the blast, said Ramapo police Lt. John Von Oelsen.

The force of the detonation ripped a six-foot, 100-pound steel fire door from its hinges and hurled it more than 75 feet from the boiler housing.

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County executive proposal's pros and cons debated

CSEA backs proposal—B3

By KEVIN MCCOY
Staff Writer

The first of three debates on the 1980 county executive referendum got off to a quiet start Tuesday night as two Rockland legislators from opposing political camps and viewpoints reiterated familiar views on the question.

A group of about 40 watched at Spring Valley High School as the partisans debated the practical and political necessity and cost of adopting a county charter and creating an elected head of county government, an idea

previously rejected five times by Rockland voters.

On one side was Ramapo Democrat Sanford Rubenstein, equipped with statistics, tables and prepared statements to support the proposal he successfully shepherded from the County Legislature to the ballot.

In opposition was Clarkstown Republican Eugene Grogan, his confidence in a sixth voter rejection accentuated by the single sheet of scribbled notes he carried.

Responding to questions prepared by the Editorial Board of The Journal-News, which sponsored the forum with the League of Women Voters, Rubenstein contended an elected county executive would bring "accountability" to county departments by over-

seeing day-to-day operations "that can't be properly administered by 18 part-time legislators."

"The way it is right now there is one minding the store. We spend too much time asking how much it's going to cost when what we should address is how much it's going to cost not to have a county executive," he said in an emotional plea for approval of the referendum.

While agreeing Rockland government could be better administered, Grogan held up the idea of appointing a county manager as a cheaper, more viable solution. "When someone lights a match you don't have to call the fire department to put it out," he said. "We

don't have to go all the way to a county executive."

He added that a manager would handle day-to-day county government operation without building the political power base a county executive would need to launch re-election bids.

Rubenstein countered that a county manager, dependent on the Legislature for re-appointment, would bow to the wishes of the political party in power. Citing the "checks and balances" built into the proposed law, he claimed a county executive would be both directly responsible to voters and politically independent of the County Legislature.

Recalling the recent walkout by county corrections officers, Rubenstein argued that

an appointed county manager would lack the authority to handle similar day-to-day problems.

"That was a perfect example of the need for a county executive," he said. "It took five hours to round up a quorum of county legislators to meet with the guards. A county executive could have met with them right away."

On the issue of cost, Rubenstein contended the existing staff of the Legislature chairman's office could be shifted to serve a county executive, thereby eliminating a need for creating additional county jobs.

He backed his argument with a section from the proposed county executive law stating no new positions were "intended."

(Please turn to A8)

How school talks nearly broke down during marathon

By DAVID COLTON and LEN MANIACE Staff Writers

The Clarkstown teachers settlement almost didn't happen.

The emotion-packed talks nearly broke down twice during the round-the-clock marathon at the Sheraton Motor Inn in Nanuet, at one point after both sides had announced a tentative settlement at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

It wasn't until six hours later that an agreement, in the form of a handwritten four-page memorandum of understanding, actually was signed by the two sides. In all, it took a full 31 hours to forge the document and end the nine-day walkout in Rockland's second largest school district.

Finding the right language to match the announced verbal agreement caused the last-minute stalemate, which sent union and district negotiators scurrying back to separate rooms for caucuses.

"Some people don't remember what they agreed to," grumbled one teacher involved in the negotiations as the talks extended into the night.

"Serious problems," warned New York State United Teachers negotiator Anthony Wildman after district negotiator Roger Hildebrand and his staff had returned to their

room at 8 p.m. "But this is common when you have a verbal agreement."

The logjam was resolved by 10:15 p.m., time enough for Clarkstown Teachers Association President Susan Margison to wear a weary Ms. Margison said later that the talks, which stalled Tuesday morning and again that night.

The potential breakdowns came after considerable progress had been made Monday night, caused partly by the appearances of Clarkstown School Board President William Griffin and Vice President Ruth Hulwinkal at the talks, which began at 3 p.m. Monday.

But negotiations continued until all issues were resolved. "There's a real psychology of closure when you're committed to settle," said Wildman.

Also at work was a conflict over all teachers return to work by Tuesday, growing community unhappiness over the length of the strike, stiff Taylor Law penalties building against the strikers, and even the psychology of the setting itself.

"I don't want to go back in there," said several participants when the final round began Tuesday night.

Negotiators had taken over seven rooms at the motel,

meeting in private before returning to Room 311, the "Rockland Suite," for face-to-face bargaining.

At times, the scene on the third floor resembled a Marx Brothers movie, with state mediators and negotiators for both sides popping in and out of rooms along the narrow hall. Few words were passed in the halls.

"Nothing's given to the other side," participants said tersely to reporters pressing for details.

Food brought to the rooms could be used as a measure of the progress, and hopes dropped at about 8 p.m. Tuesday, four hours after a settlement already had been announced, when a waitress showed up with steaks and coffee at the main negotiating room.

In addition, six hourly security guards roamed the halls silently and sat in district negotiators' rooms throughout Monday night and Tuesday morning, drawing protests from union officials.

"I've been in negotiations before but I've never seen anything like this," Ms. Margison said. "It was like an armed camp."

As the talks wore on, participants sometimes emerged wearily and leaned against the walls or returned to their rooms to watch the "Phil Donahue Show" Tuesday morning or a game of the World Series that night.

Half-filled coffee cups, overflowing ash trays and ac-

tered papers were strewn along the negotiating tables, where state mediators sat between the two sides.

At 8:30 p.m., state mediator Homer LaFlue knocked on Hildebrand's door, eager to settle things before the scheduled teachers' meeting at 10 p.m. "Are you guys ready? We're running against their timetable," he said.

"Too bad," a voice answered, adding that the district would not be rushed into an agreement without reviewing the final package.

"When did I think we had an agreement? About one mile-

livered before we had it, and that's the truth," Wildman said.

The talks themselves were described as emotional and at times angry, saved only by a desire by both sides to settle the issue.

"It's the ups and downs that throw you, knowing how to handle the emotional highs and lows," said Thomas Peterson, an unpaid district observer of the talks. "Occasionally there was shouting, but it was nothing personal. Sometimes it was meant. Sometimes it was for show."

One hotel guest in only an orange bathrobe surveyed the milling negotiators warily when he ventured near the main suite to fetch ice from a machine.

"Must be a meeting, huh?" he asked and then returned quickly to his room without looking back.

Pact to give teachers 6.5% hike over 3 years

It disrupted the county's second largest school system, bred hostility between some parents and teachers and resulted in lost wages for striking employees. But in the end, the nine-day Clarkstown teachers strike produced a contract settlement which both sides hailed as fair.

Clarkstown teachers overwhelmingly approved the new three-year contract in a voice vote Tuesday night, while School Board members hailed it as possibly setting a pattern for other local municipalities and school systems.

Terms of the pact, contained in a six-page memorandum of agreement, were released this morning after sources close to the talks provided most details Tuesday night.

The Clarkstown Teachers Association wound up with an agreement that gives its members across the board salary increases somewhat smaller than those achieved in two

other Rockland school districts this year. To start off, Clarkstown will raise teachers' salaries 5.5 percent in each of the three years of the contract.

In both South Orangetown and Hampago Central, three-year pacts approved in September gave teachers annual pay hikes of 6 percent. In addition, they received cost-of-living adjustments that would add special salary payments amounting to as much as 1 percent in South Orangetown and 1.25 percent in Hampago Central.

Those increases will hike the current starting teacher's salary from \$13,197 to about \$15,493 in Clarkstown, from \$11,206 in South Orangetown, and from \$11,481 to \$16,060 in Hampago Central, over the life of the contracts.

For those teachers at the top of the scale in each district the increase will raise salaries from \$35-

150 to \$41,270 in Clarkstown; from \$33,310 to \$39,722 in South Orangetown; and from \$36,060 to \$42,570 in Hampago Central.

The union had been seeking an 11 to 12 percent pay raise for one year but union President Susan Margison said before a settlement was reached that the union would consider a contract similar to others ratified the month.

The district had offered teachers three 11.300 raises that would hike the average teacher's salary of \$25,790 by about 6 percent. However, that proposal also called for either a freeze or drastic reduction of the teachers salary index, which provides teachers with automatic pay hikes as they gain experience or to increase their own education levels. That move was vigorously opposed by teachers.

The new Clarkstown contract, one line of the index — for teachers with bachelor's degrees

and 40 credits or master's degrees and 15 credits — has been eliminated. The elimination of that line, which more than 180 teachers are fast approaching, means that teachers will have to wait until they accumulate additional credits before receiving another pay hike based solely on educational accomplishment.

Because the index remains for the most part intact, teachers will average 2 percent pay hikes each year through the salary index in addition to the 5.5 percent pay increase.

The South Orangetown contract called for the removal of three lines from the contract. The Hampago Central contract did not call for any significant rollback in salary or benefits.

But the Clarkstown School District has won additional rollbacks in benefits from the teachers under the new contract.

next two years.

Other terms of the contract include:

- Teachers have won the right for an agency shop, which allows the union to collect fees rather than dues from non-union members.
- A lengthening of the school year from 180 to 182 days.
- An end to the 80-day bank of sick leave benefits that becomes available after a teacher has used up 296 accumulated sick days.
- The district gains the right to hire new personnel at salaries less than that which had previously been required by the salary index.
- Mileage is increased from 14 to 20 cents per mile.
- Increased preparatory time for special education teachers.
- Elimination of a 10 percent cash differential paid to school psychologists and guidance counselors.

—LEN MANIACE and RICHARD WOLF

Clarkstown teachers, board OK contract

(Continued from A1)

Most of them were back in the district's 15 schools this morning — along with teachers, students and administrators — as the School Board took the final step in the bargaining process.

"We have ensured the financial integrity of this district for the next three years," said an enthusiastic board President William Griffin.

"Now we have to go through a healing process, and we want that process to begin immediately."

Behind the 5.5 percent annual salary increase, teachers will retain their two percent increments based on longevity and educational achievement. But a portion of that increase — one percent in each of the next two years — will be funneled into a welfare fund to pay any future increases in the cost of life, health and dental insurance benefits. Up until now, the district was required to cover the cost of increases.

Secretaries will receive annual increases ranging from 7.1 to 8.3 percent, including increments in each year of their contract, with similar contributions to the welfare fund.

Van Wagenen estimated the contract would increase taxes by slightly more than 1/2 percent the next year if all other factors remained unchanged. He said the contract terms compare favorably to those signed earlier this year in South Orangetown and Hampago.

For the most part, School Board members said Tuesday night that they were pleased with the settlement.

"I believe the contract is one of the finest in the history of the Clarkstown school district," board President Griffin said.

The settlement would not only save tax dollars for the district but would enable it to expand educational programs, he said.

But Mrs. Bodine said the district gives teachers too much. "It's too rich for the contract," she said, adding that she would back up her statement with figures once the settlement is finalized.

Ms. Bodine said district residents should be allowed to express their views about the contract in an advisory referendum, but she said that idea was voted down by the majority of the board.

Ms. Margison refused to characterize the contract Tuesday, saying she would wait until it had been approved by the School Board this morning. But she said she believes the strike was necessary for teachers to receive the settlement they felt.

"We don't think we would have had any agreement without a strike. It is an unfortunate commentary on this School Board and its attitude toward its employees."

The final settlement was roused out more than six hours after both sides had announced that a settlement had been reached at 4 p.m. Shortly after that announcement, however, both sides returned to their separate meeting rooms and the talks appeared to have stalemated over language in the tentative agreement.

They were glad the strike is finally over.

"I'm glad the strike is finally over," said one teacher. "They were in me every day on the picket line."

An exhausted Gail Collins, the union vice president, said she was pleased with the contract and the vote.

"It's a relief. None of us wanted to face a future as a professional picketer," she said. Ms. Collins, like officials on both sides of the dispute, caught only a few hours of sleep during the final days of the talks.

"We certainly didn't break the strike as Mr. Cox had said," she said, referring to the earlier criticism of the settlement by board member Anthony Cox.

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But they later convened a joint session, apparently in an effort to meet the teachers' 10 p.m. deadline for a ratification meeting.

Anthony Wildman, an official of the New York State United Teachers who had been negotiating on behalf of the local union, said the marathon session was "absolutely the worst I've ever seen. A very emotional situation."

The tentative settlement provides for the lowest increase in salaries awarded so far this school year — 5.5 percent in the county, South Orangetown and Hampago Central. Teachers recently were awarded contracts for annual salary increases of 6 percent, in addition to annual cost-of-living raises.

Snack teachers still have not ratified a tentative contract, calling for renewed negotiations over some items in the pact. East Hampago teachers still are negotiating over the fourth year of an existing contract, and teachers for the Board of

Cooperative Educational Services still are negotiating.

The tentative pact, said sources, calls for annual salary increases of about 5.5 percent. In addition to those hikes, teachers would continue to receive automatic pay raises averaging about 2 percent a year, according to an existing salary index.

Under the teachers' previous contract, salaries ranged from \$11,197 for a starting teacher with a bachelor's degree to \$35,135 for a teacher with a doctorate and 25 years experience in the county. The average salary in the district was \$25,790.

Earlier in the contract talks, the district had sought to freeze the salary index. But sources said the district did win several roll-backs in teacher benefits, which had been awarded to the union in previous contracts.

Those roll-backs include a modification of the salary index, and a cap on district payments toward health, life and medical insurance for teachers.

Americans take 7 of 10 Nobels

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Lawrence R. Klein of the University of Pennsylvania won the 1980 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics today for creating computer-aided models for the study of events as skyrocketing oil prices affected world economic trends.

The announcement completed a near sweep of the 1980 Nobel Prizes by Americans, who won seven out of the 10 awards.

Klein, who was an economic adviser to Jimmy Carter during his 1976 presidential campaign, was honored by the Swedish Academy of Sciences "for the creation of econometric models and their application to the analysis of economic fluctuations and economic policies."

The awarding body cited as one example a study of how an increase in the price of oil influences inflation, employment and trade balances in different countries.

Other winners were American physicist Leon Lederman, who won the physics prize for his work during the last three decades has proved to be the leading researcher within the field of analysis of business fluctuations, the awarding body said.

Was NYC accountant accomplice to 'Son of Sam'?

(Continued from A1)

In his wallet, his associates say, is a picture, missing from the wallet when Carr was found dead in 1978, police say.

He worked in the same building in lower Manhattan as Christian Freund, who was killed in the fourth "Son of Sam" shooting on Jan. 30, 1977.

The information contained in the reports not only pinpoints a possible accomplice, but also raises the possibility that some of the "Son of Sam" victims may not have been selected at random, as Berkowitz said in confessing to the six murders, but rather were carefully chosen targets.

In addition to the accountant possibly being acquainted with at least one of the victims (Freund) and living near the scene of two shootings, the Bronx report states, "We have a statement that John Carr knew some of the victims."

That statement has not been substantiated, according to a source close to the investigation.

Prompted by reports from Det. Henry Ciotti, a 17-year-old police veteran who began investigating

the accountant's ties to the "Son of Sam" murders on his own time in August 1979, Capt. Plancker wrote to his superiors, telling them that Ciotti's original source — who had identified the suspect as being in contact with Berkowitz on Aug. 8, 1977, two days before Berkowitz's arrest — lacked credibility.

However, Plancker emphasized that the probe had borne fruit independent of the tainted source and should continue.

"Despite this reversal, we have developed information and circumstances that almost demand resolution. I believe that the investigation should be continued if only for the sake of being able to say the Department has never ignored or overlooked any information connected with the 'Son of Sam' killings."

To date, we have no hard evidence to support the claims of Carr's friends and associates and I am not completely comfortable with statements obtained by police officers in North Dakota. However, I do believe that a thorough investigation by members of this department could either prove or disprove the possibility that the suspect, John Carr and Berkowitz

were associates, in the "Son of Sam" case.

Despite his urgings, Capt. Plancker's last request was denied. The officially sanctioned investigation was terminated after eight weeks.

Det. Ciotti was shortly brought up on disciplinary charges stemming from his refusal to divulge the name of his original source and for working with a newspaper reporter during the investigation.

Ciotti has been ordered by a department trial officer this past August. At the hearing, Ciotti's original source, identified as Veronica Levanak of Queens, was described as a religious fanatic.

Ciotti said he retained revenge for her name to his superiors for fear of discrediting the probe. And, he said, he worked with the newspaper reporter because the reporter was a source of valuable information.

Plancker has said he can not comment on the probe at least until a final determination is reached in the case. A ruling is expected within a week, according to a police department spokesman.

At almost the same time that

the Bronx investigation was being terminated, the Queens District Attorney's office re-opened a probe of the "Son of Sam" case. In beginning the probe, spokesman for Queens District Attorney John Santucci cited a series of articles by Gannett Westchester Newspapers that detailed the probability that Berkowitz was not the lone "Son of Sam" killer.

Queens authorities have limited their official comments to saying "the case remains open and active."

However, sources close to the investigation have confirmed that among the major subjects of that probe are: the possible involvement of the Manhattan accountant and as many as 10 other people in the murders; the possibility that the victims were specifically targeted for death; and the claim that Berkowitz may have been set up to appear as a lone killer.

Most significantly, although the investigation is active, there has been a final determination established to empanel a grand jury.

Investigators believe they have found as many as 10 other people who information they've uncovered to

date and now are involved in what amounts to a waging game, hoping a witness interviewed and interviewed substantiating their theories about accomplices.

Immediately after re-opening his investigation, Santucci appointed two assistant district attorneys and six investigators to work full-time on the probe. During their first few months, investigators concentrated their efforts in Yonkers, where Berkowitz has lived, but the probe quickly spread throughout the country.

Towns of little notoriety, such as Minot, N.D. and Beaumont, Texas — where Carr's ex-wife lives, several miles from where Berkowitz obtained his .44-caliber revolver — have come under close examination.

Having compiled hundreds of reports, interviews and re-interviewed suspects and the families of suspects, the probe is now being directed by an assistant district attorney, who is carrying the probe as a high priority in his caseload.

Four investigators continue to work on the case full-time, following up new leads as they develop.