



The tale of old 'Teeter Bill'

Suburbia Today, The Journal-News' new color magazine supplement today features the story of "Teeter Bill" Conklin, the former Sloatsburg police chief who came out of retirement at 92 to investigate a 28-year-old murder mystery. Suburbia Today is just one of many changes in your Sunday newspaper. To find your favorite sections and features, check this outline of the new Sunday Journal-News:

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B Business — Financial news along with complete weekly stock tables.	F Travel/Laisure — An expanded section including features on travel and leisure activities and — this week — a special update on foreign cars.
C Local — The latest news and features on Rockland County by the local staff of The Journal-News.	G People — A complete People section with special emphasis on people in entertainment and the arts.
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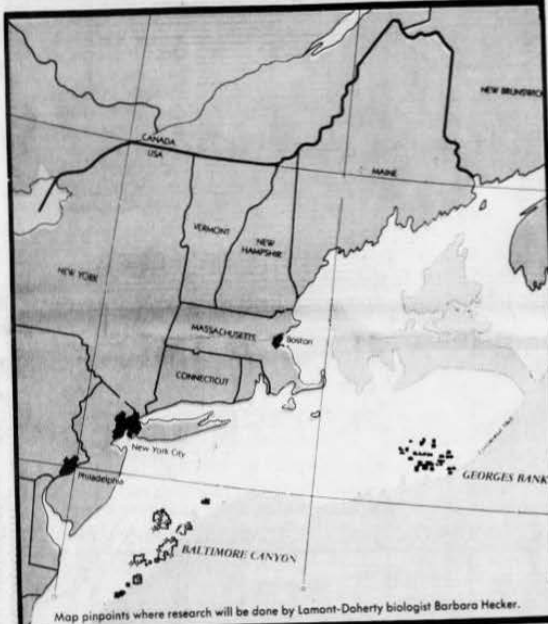
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Journal-News

Sunday, April 26, 1981 With TODAY'S Sports Peach and Business Peach 50 cents



Offshore drilling sparks study of underwater world

By KATHRYN KAHLER Staff Writer

It's been three years since the dull drone of the floating oil rig Alaskan Star pierced the muted tones of the deep Baltimore Canyon. With chilling winds from the cobalt blue Atlantic Ocean blistering their faces, oil prospectors from some of the nation's energy giants have been disappointed — only five discoveries and 10 dry, and expensive, holes in the ocean floor. Unpromising, it says the least.

But for the nation's oil companies, what lies beneath the high seas on the continental shelf and slope remains what may be the last untapped frontier in oil exploration.

Their quest for this energy treasure trove has piqued the curiosity of marine biologists who wonder whether

man's invasion of potentially beautiful oil reserves will harm the virtually unknown life of the sea.

"There's not a prayer in the world that there's no environmental impact" from resource development," said Barbara Hecker, a deep sea marine biologist at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory in Palisades. "But at this point we have no way of determining to what extent. It is the scientist's job to determine the extent and find out ways of mitigating the impact."

As oil companies bounce sound waves off the sea floor in search of oil-bearing rock, Ms. Hecker examines sandy sediments for clues to help her unravel the complex communities that live in the loamy ocean.

Next month, she and a team of underwater researchers will take their floating laboratory to the Baltimore

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Feeling 'just fine,' Reagan takes trip

Daughter weds — A14
By MICHAEL PUTZEL Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan flew to the presidential retreat at Camp David on Saturday for a weekend in the country. It was his first trip away from the White House since he had been hospitalized for a bullet wound suffered during an assassination attempt.

Later in the evening, speaking by telephone to the White House correspondents annual dinner by telephone, Reagan said he is "well on the road" to recovery and feeling "just fine."

The president, accompanied by his wife, Nancy, carried a thin albatross case in his left hand and waved repeatedly with his right as he walked the 40 yards or so from the White House diplomatic entrance to the presidential helicopter waiting on the South Lawn.

A spokesman said the president would spend his weekend relaxing at Camp David and working on a speech in which he intends to tell Congress "now is the time to act" on his economic plan.

Wearing a white cable knit sweater and dark pants, Reagan smiled broadly at several dozen spectators and reporters who watched his departure for Camp David, the presidential retreat atop Maryland's Catoctin Mountain, 25 minutes away by helicopter.

The rope restricting the press was placed about 15 or 20 feet further away from Reagan's path than usual, and the president didn't pause to talk on his way out the door shortly after 1 p.m.

A photographer who saw Reagan's helicopter arrive at the mountain-top landing zone said the president appeared to walk with a slight limp on the left side as he left the helicopter and entered a waiting car to take him the few hundred yards to Aspen Lodge, the presidential cottage in the woods.

Doctors have said the president continues to recover well from the bullet wound he suffered at the hand of a would-be assassin on March 30, but he has not yet returned to a regular work schedule.

Reagan is expected to return to the White House on Monday afternoon and is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress on Tuesday.

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said Reagan was going to

Camp David "to get out among the dogwoods and fresh air on the mountainside" but that he also would work on his speech, the latest draft of which was being sent to him by teletype Saturday afternoon.

Speakes said the theme of the address, for which Reagan sketched an introduction shortly after being released from the hospital, will be that "it is now decision day: the economy demands it, and the public is demanding it."

Time is running out as far as the economy is concerned, the spokesman said, but he predicted the president would temper his remarks with a spirit of cooperation and would specifically endorse the substitute budget proposal that White House officials have called the Reagan-bipartisan bill.

Son of Sam had mass murder plan

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 — he did not — and he was allowed to plead guilty to all six 44-caliber murders and seven warnings shown 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: "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.

"In this ritual, the victims are chosen at random and their blood is spilled. At this time, demons in the spirit (cannot be seen by humans) gather around the slain victim like a flock of vultures to suck and drink the blood that has been spilled.

"Warning: the streets shall be run with blood.

"I, David Berkowitz, have been chosen, chosen since birth, to be one of the executioners for the cult.

"He who hath eyes, let him see the dead victims.

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Frisky 'Physty' returns to sea

BABYLON, N.Y. (AP) — To cheers of "Go Physty, go" and "You can do it" from some 10,000 whale-wishers, a sperm whale recovered from a near-fatal bout with pneumonia was released to the open sea Saturday.

Biologists who nursed the 23-foot, 25,000-pound baby mammal back to health felt he had "recovered enough to have a good chance for survival at sea," said Jack Peters, a spokesman for the Jamestown-based Okeanos Research Foundation.

Physty — a play on the Latin name for his species and pronounced "feisty" — was believed to be the first sperm whale ever kept alive in captivity. Rockland veterinarian Dr. Jay Hyman, part of the medical team that treated the whale, was said to be celebrating Physty's return to the sea Saturday night.

Earlier in the day, Peters said that the whale, which suffered from a strain of pneumonia also common

to humans, would not be released until today because of rough seas and high winds.

However, by early Saturday afternoon Peters said "things calmed down significantly" and shortly before 2 p.m. Physty was herded out of a marina while operators lined up 10 deep at Robert Moses State Park urged him on.

Early in the day, Peters had said the whale was "getting real frisky" and tried to "nudge the net fence" put up to keep it in the marina. "He certainly looks like he wants to get out of here."

But when the moment of truth came Physty hesitated. "When we opened the net he didn't head right for the sea," Peters said. "He hesitated and then made a slow left turn towards the inlet."

He said five Coast Guard boats and about six others were on hand to help Physty on his way.

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Did you take time to change time?

WASHINGTON (AP) — With some exceptions, the United States changed over to daylight-saving time today.

At 2 this morning, clocks in most states were to be moved ahead one hour to 3 a.m., providing an extra hour of light at day's end.

There were exceptions. State officials in Arizona, Hawaii and most of Indiana decided to keep standard time throughout the year.

But for the rest of the nation, daylight-saving time will remain in effect until the last Sunday of October.

Carey seeks stiffer state crime legislation

By MARY FLEISS
Associated Press Writer

ALBANY, N.Y. (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.

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 con-

tended 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.

Lawyers would continue to have their existing powers to reject up to a certain number of prospective jurors, and to request the dismissal of others they don't like. The number of jurors a lawyer can reject out of hand varies with the seriousness of the crime.

To increase the number of non-jury trials, Carey proposed putting more minor crimes in the category of misdemeanors punishable by no more than six months in jail. Included in the new category would be thefts of prop-

erty valued at up to \$150 and possession of stolen property valued at up to \$150. Currently, those offenses can be punished by more than six months in jail, although the imposition of more than six months is very rare.

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that a jury trial is not constitutionally mandated for a crime which carries a jail term of no more than six months.

Carey's office estimated that the new class of misdemeanors might cover as many as 25 percent of the misdemeanor cases filed in the New York City criminal courts, all of which could be tried by a judge without a jury.

"This would result in great savings of court time, since the trial of a misdemeanor case before a jury often takes several days, while a trial before a judge can usually be completed in a few hours," said a memorandum from Carey's office.



Staff photo - Ted Newirth

Deep sea marine biologist Barbara Hecker works in Palisades laboratory.

Palisades marine biologist studies fragile sea world

(Continued from A1)

Canyon off the New Jersey coast and opposite Maryland's eastern shore, as part of a three-year, \$4.5 million federally-funded study of the physical and biological processes on the eastern seacoast.

It is the first comprehensive examination to be made of the dynamic relationship between biological communities and deep ocean currents seaward of the continental shelf.

In particular, Ms. Hecker will be looking at some of her favorite sea creatures—corals—and the effects of currents in carrying materials throughout the sea.

Information from the 35-year-old researcher's study, funded by the Federal Bureau of Land Management, will be used in writing environmental impact statements and in making policy decisions about future offshore oil and gas development. The bureau, a division of the Department of the Interior, is responsible for the stewardship of submerged lands on the continental slope and shelf.

Drilling began in the Atlantic when Exxon drilled its first well on March 29, 1978, just 95 miles east of Atlantic City in the Baltimore Canyon area on the outer continental shelf. Nine months later, the oil company announced it had a dry hole.

That disappointment has been followed by 18 others in the area. Only five wells have been labeled "potential discoveries" in the region of oil explorers. One well currently is being drilled. In all, more than \$1.6 billion has been spent in the search for oil and natural gas, a search that has yielded no commercial production and has left many oil entrepreneurs skeptical about the area's potential petroleum wealth.

Although oil rigs have dotted the outer continental shelf, which extends from the coastline out about 100 miles, the sparse "fins" have been near the border between the shelf and slope, where depths drop abruptly from 200 to 2,000 meters. Scientists and oil tycoons remain optimistic that rich caches of oil and natural gas will be discovered there, although no areas on the continental slope have been leased by the Bureau of Land Management.

When the freckled sea veteran and her crew leave Lamont in May, they will be embarking on a giant treasure hunt that will cover a 20 by 7 mile swath of the Baltimore Canyon.

Huge cameras will be towed behind the research vessel, Eastward, to photograph the area. The film will be reeled in and developed on ship, offering a rare glimpse of a sea world still shrouded in mystery. If more shots are needed, or an unusual area is discovered, the ship can return.

Dredging will follow the photographic analysis. "We can't see the details of the microscopic animals, but you can extrapolate from the organisms we bring up," she said, comparing the dredging to throwing a bucket off the Empire State Building in hopes of finding a red raincoat at night. It's impossible at best.

Later in the year, they will sail north to the Lydonia Canyon, which cuts into the southern flank of the Georges Bank off Cape Cod.

On other sea missions, Ms. Hecker will clamber into a tiny submarine, or submersible, to see for herself what lies on the ocean floor.

"This is not a study of the effect of drilling. We must find out what is out there and identify fragile or unique areas where the possible impact might be mitigated," said Ms. Hecker, one of a handful of female deep sea marine biologists in this country.

Throughout the three-year study, her mission in the Lydonia and Baltimore canyon areas will be to:

- Identify unique and fragile biological communities,

including coral, in the canyons and along the slopes.

- Determine the abundance and distribution of these bottom organisms.

- Determine the physical and biological dynamics that affect the abundance and distribution of these organisms.

- Describe the flow of currents in and out of the canyons and along the continental slope.

- Describe the exchange of sediments and nutrients between the shelf, canyons and slope.

- Identify measures that could alleviate or eliminate the impact of offshore drilling and production on bottom organisms.

Of particular interest to officials at the Bureau of Land Management is the potential effect of drilling muds and other pollutants on ocean life.

Scientists have hypothesized that the ocean canyons funnel materials from the shelf to the deep sea. So the consequences of dumping pollutants into the ocean could be more far reaching than the immediate area.

What scientists like Ms. Hecker hope to do is suggest ways to allow drillers to dump some pollutants without harming delicate sea creatures, such as coral, an endangered species protected by law, which feed on particles in water rather than on animals in the mud.

The role ocean currents play in transporting materials is also of special interest to the researchers. By discovering the flow patterns of the currents, scientists may be able to extrapolate which biological communities would be affected as currents laden with pollutants travel through them.

Ms. Hecker also will be examining communities of fungus, finding out what exists in the sea and how they survive. Population studies will be done and grain sizes examined to see what controls an organism's environment.

"If, for example, we find that a species is in a particular area only during a certain time of the year, we could mitigate operation at that time. It could help us determine when and where the discharges could occur, and it could be decided on a case-by-case basis," said Eiji Imamura, who directs studies for the Bureau of Land Management in New York.

While drilling in the Baltimore Canyon area began before the myriad of environmental studies like Ms. Hecker's were funded, the Georges Bank, off the Massachusetts coast, is still virgin territory, its waters unmarked by semi-submersible drilling rigs like the Alaskan Star. Exxon's giant floating ship with claw-like anchors, or the Ocean Victory, a similar drilling vessel used by Tenaco and Teneco.

But drilling could begin there later this spring or summer.

Exxon has filed for the necessary federal permits to begin exploration of submerged lands leased in December 1979. The company is expected to move the Alaskan Star from its drilling site in the Baltimore Canyon to the Georges Bank for its first well there.

'Sam' had mass murder plan

(Continued from A1)

"He who bath ears, let him listen to what I say." Various police officials in the metropolitan area have said their departments were never advised of the letter's existence.

Official sources say New York authorities may have dismissed Berkowitz's 1977 letter as a bizarre rambling. But by not pursuing an investigation they failed to discover evidence that points to the actual existence of a later connection, later unearthed by these newspapers and by Queens District Attorney John Santucci, who reopened the Son of Sam case in late 1979.

The case remains open in Queens.

Physical evidence — as well as Berkowitz's statements and other eyewitness reports — points to Untermyer Park in northwest Yonkers as a meeting place of the cult. That site is near Berkowitz's home, and near the home of his neighbor, Sam Carr.

Carr's son, John, has been named by Berkowitz as a fellow cult member and accomplice in the killings. Carr had admitted his association with Berkowitz to his therapist and to friends in North Dakota, where he was found dead, a possible suicide, six months after Berkowitz's arrest.

Frisky 'Physty' returns to sea

(Continued from A1)

Peters said a motor boat followed directly behind the whale "to keep him moving" while others kept him from going in the wrong direction. The researcher said Physty moved at a slow but steady pace during his first 500 yards.

Peters said several boats would follow him about 70 to 100 miles off shore to make sure he gets safely out to waters frequented by his species.

Sam Sadove, who headed the research team which overran Physty's nine-day treatment, stood on the edge of the marina and hugged his wife, Jill, as Physty took off. "They must have stood there about 5 minutes just hugging each other and laughing," Peters said.

The whale, believed to be between 3 and 5 years old, was towed to the state park marina by a Coast Guard vessel April 18 after it tried to beach itself twice near Jones Beach.

Over the next week, a medical team from Okanogan and the National Marine Fisheries watched the mammal's condition see-saw while they treated him with 1 1/2 pounds of antibiotics daily and fed him squid. It appeared near death Thursday and that "was a pretty grim day around here," Peters said.

But Friday, he said, "the medicine suddenly started working" and Physty made a "remarkable turnaround."

Physty's species is on the endangered list. Thus, in addition to getting the satisfaction of watching him regain his health, the scientists have gained valuable information about the animal.

"It was bittersweet," Peters said of the whale's departure. "We didn't want him to go, but at least we know he'll make it."

Carr's friends there said he was a member of satanic cults both in North Dakota and Yonkers. And Carr told a North Dakota sheriff's investigator that he drank urine at a ritual.

Carr's nickname, "Whistles," also was listed as an alias of Son of Sam in a letter sent to a newspaper columnist before Berkowitz's arrest. Other letters contained numerous occult references.

The Berkowitz letter published here today has been in the possession of Brooklyn District Attorney Eugene Gold since 1977. Gold was also the recipient of police reports from North Dakota and Westchester County, which alleged John Carr's connection to Berkowitz and his involvement in cults.

Gold received these reports, police officials say, months before Berkowitz pleaded guilty to the killings, but never contacted North Dakota police to pursue an investigation of John Carr.

Further, the star witness to the Son of Sam murder in Gold's jurisdiction, Cecilia David, says she told Gold's office and Brooklyn police that Berkowitz left the murder scene in pursuit of a police car before the shots were fired. Brooklyn police and Steven Wax, a former assistant district attorney, have confirmed they were advised of Mrs. David's sighting of Berkowitz.

Her account exposes a major contradiction in Berkowitz's confession, in which he said he never left the scene before the shootings. Mrs. David's report, which had also been withheld by Gold's office and Brooklyn police officials, effectively puts Berkowitz in two places at once, suggesting he lied in his confession and apparently was not the gunman at that particular shooting.

Gold, who had dismissed as "wild hypothesis" the early reports in these newspapers that pointed to a Son of Sam conspiracy, had a new statement last month. Following publication here of a series of letters to this reporter from Berkowitz, the district attorney said, "There were pieces of a puzzle concerning a cult but we were never able to come up with the requisite evidence to reopen the case."

Unlike Santucci, Gold has still not reopened an investigation.

Salvadoran rebels ready to negotiate

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A spokesman for one of the leftist guerrilla groups fighting to topple El Salvador's ruling military-civilian junta said Saturday the rebels are ready to begin talks with the government aimed at putting an end to political violence in the Central American nation.

Salvadoran guerrilla leaders were "unanimously agreed to begin a process of mediation" with the junta, said Jose Napoleon Rodriguez Ruiz, a representative in Mexico of the Armed Forces of National Resistance. He spoke in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

The FARJ is one of five guerrilla groups that make up the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front. Representatives of the other groups were not immediately available for comment.

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