

Berkowitz says he'll help find killer cult

Weather FORECAST



Nation Snow was predicted later in the day over most of the western third of the nation with rain showers along the southern Pacific coast. Snow was forecast from the northern plains across the northern half of the Mississippi valley.

Area Considerable cloudiness this afternoon into Thursday with a chance of snow developing Thursday afternoon, making with freezing rain at times. High today in the low 50s. Outlook for Friday: Snow or rain during the morning.

State A strong arctic high centered northwest. Lake Superior will build rapidly southeast today and will bring clearing skies this afternoon and tonight. Temperatures will slide below zero in much of upstate eastern New York tonight.

National temperatures

CITY	TEMP.	CITY	TEMP.
Albany	11	San Jose	55
Albany	11	San Francisco	42
Albany	11	Seattle	34
Albany	11	Portland	30
Albany	11	Los Angeles	55
Albany	11	San Diego	58
Albany	11	Phoenix	62
Albany	11	Las Vegas	55
Albany	11	Denver	30
Albany	11	Chicago	35
Albany	11	St. Louis	32
Albany	11	Indianapolis	35
Albany	11	Pittsburgh	30
Albany	11	Philadelphia	32
Albany	11	Baltimore	30
Albany	11	New York	25
Albany	11	Washington	35
Albany	11	Houston	45
Albany	11	San Antonio	50
Albany	11	Dallas	55
Albany	11	Miami	65
Albany	11	Honolulu	75

World temperatures

CITY	TEMP.	CITY	TEMP.
London	42	Tokyo	35
Hong Kong	58	Beijing	3
Manila	85	Singapore	28
Mumbai	78	Delhi	10
Colombo	75	Yokohama	38
Cebu	78	Osaka	45
Batavia	75	Kobe	40
Manila	75	San Francisco	42
London	42	Los Angeles	55
Hong Kong	58	San Diego	58
Manila	85	Phoenix	62
Mumbai	78	Las Vegas	55
Colombo	75	Denver	30
Cebu	78	Chicago	35
Batavia	75	St. Louis	32
Manila	75	Indianapolis	35
London	42	Pittsburgh	30
Hong Kong	58	Philadelphia	32
Manila	85	Baltimore	30
Mumbai	78	New York	25
Colombo	75	Washington	35
Cebu	78	Houston	45
Batavia	75	San Antonio	50
Manila	75	Dallas	55
London	42	Miami	65
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Tides

High	Low
1:28	5:58
1:55	5:45
2:22	5:25
2:50	5:05
3:18	4:45
3:45	4:25
4:15	4:05
4:45	3:45
5:15	3:25
5:45	3:05
6:15	2:45
6:45	2:25
7:15	2:05
7:45	1:45
8:15	1:25
8:45	1:05
9:15	0:45
9:45	0:25
10:15	0:05

For the record

Albany	11	San Jose	55
Albany	11	San Francisco	42
Albany	11	Seattle	34
Albany	11	Portland	30
Albany	11	Los Angeles	55
Albany	11	San Diego	58
Albany	11	Phoenix	62
Albany	11	Las Vegas	55
Albany	11	Denver	30
Albany	11	Chicago	35
Albany	11	St. Louis	32
Albany	11	Indianapolis	35
Albany	11	Pittsburgh	30
Albany	11	Philadelphia	32
Albany	11	Baltimore	30
Albany	11	New York	25
Albany	11	Washington	35
Albany	11	Houston	45
Albany	11	San Antonio	50
Albany	11	Dallas	55
Albany	11	Miami	65
Albany	11	Honolulu	75

DANMORA (AP) — David R. Berkowitz, the convicted killer who has said he was the "Son of Sam" for a killer cult, now says he might help investigators look into his assertions if his father can be protected from reprisals.

In a court-authorized deposition given Tuesday at Clinton state prison here in connection with a multi-million dollar civil liability case, Berkowitz said that about half of the cult's 20 members were dead, either by suicide or by violent means.

He said that as far as he knew the other 10 remained alive and at large, but he did not know where they were.

Berkowitz is serving a 30-year-to-life prison term for six murder convictions.

His claim that he was a member of a cult was first brought to light nearly a year ago in an article in Gannett Westchester Rockland Newspapers. That article was based on letters from Berkowitz to the writer Maury Terry.

Berkowitz did not disclose any information Tuesday that could be used to corroborate or disprove his claims. The claims have been discredited by the New York City Police Department, which maintains that Berkowitz acted alone as the Son of Sam slayer.

Berkowitz said he might cooperate with investigators if he could be assured that his father in Florida would be protected.

Because of Berkowitz' fear of reprisal, attorney Harry Liping said, getting information about the cult from Berkowitz was like "trying to dig a ditch in frozen ground."

Berkowitz stated in the court deposition that:

—The group's membership was evenly split, male-female.

—Among the least members of the cult are John and Michael Carr, literally the sons of Sam Carr; Berkowitz' former neighbor in Yonkers. Berkowitz was arrested Aug. 10, 1977, so he left his apartment in a building which overlooks the Carr family's private home.

—The cult members were predominantly white and predominantly white-collar workers, with about 75 percent of the membership in the New York City area. The cult had three officers: one a woman, and wore special costumes.

—Berkowitz said he obtained sexual favors from female members of the cult.

—The cult members killed animals as well as humans, Berkowitz said. It was his "understanding" that other members of the group had killed in cases not related to the Son of Sam killings.

—Members used hallucinogenic drugs.

—Although he bought the gun and ammunition, the cult kept the ammunition and dispensed it to him for the Son of Sam killings.

Liping called on Gov. Hugh Carey and the district

attorneys involved in the cases to reopen their investigations. Queens District Attorney John Sautter reopened his investigation of case in 1979 following a series of stories in Gannett Westchester Rockland Newspapers.

Berkowitz emphasized that he was the lone triggerman in the Son of Sam attacks, to which he pleaded guilty, but maintained that other members of the cult — usually three or four at a time — accompanied him on his hunts for victims and served as lookouts.

In his letters to Terry, he had said he was not the lone gunman.

While the victims were picked randomly, Berkowitz said Tuesday, cult members assisted him in the selection process.

During one exchange with Liping, Berkowitz said that the group was dedicated to violence, depravity and "the opposite of everything that is good."

"Right now we only have his statement," said Liping. Among his clients are Robert Vignone and Salvatore Lago, who were injured in separate attacks during the summer of 1975. He added, "But the clearest possibility of truth in this matter must be followed through."

Reporters were barred from the prison where the proceedings took place, but Irwin H. Benjamin, a court stenographer, provided a transcript.

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BANKRUPT
Q: I sent away for some exercise equipment from the General Mail Corp. in Connecticut a very long time ago. It arrived but it was worthless and I returned it. I never received a refund despite numerous letters to this company. What can I do?
—MS. D.A. SCARSDALE

A: HELP is sorry to report to you that the General Mail Corp. has been in involuntary bankruptcy since June 30, 1980. We have sent you information on submitting proof-of-claim information to the Bankruptcy Court in Bridgeport.

IN CASH
Q: I paid the Parking Violations Bureau in cash for some back parking tickets. Two months after I did this, I received a letter from a collection agency stating that I still owed the amount that I had already paid. I think this situation has been caused by some sort of computer error. Please clear this up as soon as possible.
—MRS. S.L. LARCHMONT

A: The results of your efforts are very gratifying. Mrs. S. L. writes after receiving official confirmation that her account with the PVB is cleared.

RECIPES BY MAIL
Q: I sent a check to Chicago for some recipes that were offered on "The Richard Simmons Show." Will you please see that they are sent to me?
—MRS. T.D. YONKERS

A: After she got the recipes, Mrs. T. D. wrote, "I know that if it wasn't for you, I would still be waiting!"

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