

Local news

'Son of Sam' case tied to satanic cult?

Television show offers new info

By Will David
Staff Writer

New information concerning a satanic cult believed to be involved in the infamous "Son of Sam" killings will be aired tonight on a nationally syndicated news magazine show.

In an interview on "Now It Can Be Told," a 45-year-old former Yonkers resident tells how he and other teen-agers were recruited from city high schools by devil worshippers.

The show, hosted by Geraldo Rivera, airs on WNBC television at 7 p.m.

The ex-cult member — identified in the segment as "John" — said the cult members shot a Sacred Heart High School Latin teacher, Karen Wahlstrom, 27, on April 24, 1965, in Van Cortlandt Park with a rifle that was found lying beside her body in woods. Her death was ruled a suicide by New York City police.

"John" is interviewed by investigative reporter Maury Terry, who is also author of "The Ultimate Evil," a 1987 book which linked confessed Son of Sam killer, David Berkowitz, to the nationwide satanic cult.

Between 1976-1977, six young people were shot and seven others wounded in lovers' lane areas in New York City by a nighttime killer using a .44-caliber revolver. Although Berkowitz was prosecuted as the lone gunman, there has been speculation that others were involved.

Berkowitz was arrested Aug. 10, 1977. He is in a New York state prison.

"John" said he was recruited into the cult in 1961 by another Yonkers resident and alleged cult member, John Carr, who was mysteriously shot to death in Minot, N.D., in February 1978.

"John," who now is a street minister, said he was initiated into the cult during a "traumatic, drug-soaked" ritual in which animals were slain and he and others were sexually assaulted in Untermyer Park on North Broadway in Yonkers.

Yonkers GOP to hold dinner

Former Yonkers Republican City Committee Chairman Frank Coppola and the party's former vice chairman, Ellie Kleine, will be honored tonight at the city GOP's annual Gold Key Dinner at Alex & Henry's Restaurant in Eastchester.

Tickets are \$150 a person. Cocktails are at 6:30 p.m., with dinner to follow at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call the city GOP committee headquarters at 963-0136.



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