

Callers say they know killer's pal

By BILLY BOWLES
Free Press Staff Writer

A Detroit radio station appealed to its listeners Wednesday to help identify the voice of a man claiming to be the roommate and male lover of the Oakland County child killer.

State police said they received several calls from persons claiming to recognize the voice after it was broadcast shortly after 2 p.m. by WXYZ Radio.

The station played a 90-second tape segment from an April 10, 1977, telephone conversation between Detroit psychiatrist Bruce L. Danto and an unidentified man who called him claiming to know the Oakland County killer and to have Polaroid pictures to prove it.

State Police Lt. Robert Robertson, who headed a task force investigating the crimes, said there is no way to know whether the unidentified man on the tape actually knew the killer.

"I just don't think anybody knows the answer to that, whether it's legitimate or not," Robertson said. "We spent a lot of time working on it early in the investigation."

ROBERTSON SAID that the telephone call to Danto "is really old hat" but that when WXYZ proposed playing it for listeners he made the tape available.

He said his feeling was that

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Sonya Friedman plays the mysterious tape.

Transcript of tape

Here is a transcript of the 90-second tape played by Detroit radio station WXYZ Wednesday:

Caller: "I want (unintelligible). I want it by tomorrow night. I mean tomorrow, 9 o'clock. You be at Seven Mile and Woodward. You know where Gas Station Bar?"

Danto: (unintelligible).

Caller: "This is the last time I'm telling you. (unintelligible). You want to hang up, you hang up, but this is what I'm telling (unintelligible). You be Gas Station Bar tomorrow night 9 o'clock with letter from governor of Michigan giving me total (unintelligible) and in return, I give you Polaroid pictures proving he killed (unintelligible). That's all I'm going to say. You be there."

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CALLERS SAY SO

Killer tape voice known?

TAPE, from Page 3A

"we're at rock bottom, and if something else is tried that might work, let's try it."

Robertson said that during the investigation "we got seven or eight calls from people claiming to confess to the crime."

But he said the call to Danto was the only one he knows of in which someone claimed to know the killer.

The Oakland County killings were never solved. In a 14-month period, from Feb. 15, 1976, to March 22, 1977, four children were abducted and killed. Police said they think all four died at the hands of the same person or persons.

Danto assisted police in the investigation, and he said the telephone conversation he had with the mystery caller resulted from an open letter

he wrote to the killer and had published in the Detroit News.

DANTO SAID that about a week prior to the telephone call he received a typewritten letter from the same man, who identified himself as Allen.

Danto said Wednesday that the call and the one letter are the only contact he has had with Allen but that he believes Allen knew the killer, as he claimed.

"I do believe that," Danto said. "I've been in this business since 1952. This man was sincerely upset. He cried. I believed his letter, and I believed his statements over the telephone . . . You get to know what's phony and what's hoaxey and what's clear."

During the murder wave, Danto had offered his theories of the kind of man who killed the children. He called him "a squirrel-kind of killer who strikes when it snows."

In his open letter to the killer, published March 27, 1977, Danto said: "I feel your murdering Timothy King, Jill Robinson, Kristine Mihelich and Mark Stebbins was connected with your personal

childhood experiences . . . Whenever you abduct a child you are taking him away from his parents in the same way that you once felt deprived of your parents when you were a child."

IN THE LETTER he wrote to Danto, Allen claimed to have ridden in the car with the killer as he looked for boys but said he was never along when the killer killed anyone.

The voice played by WXYZ on Wednesday had a heavy foreign accent and became hysterical a few seconds into the conversation.

"You be Gas Station Bar tomorrow night, 9 o'clock, with letter from governor of Michigan giving me total (unintelligible word), and in return, I give you Polaroid pictures proving he killed . . ." the voice said.

Later on the tape, the man was screaming and appeared to be crying.

"Be there," the voice said. "No police. Gas Station Bar. You be there—Gas Station."

"I know everybody in there," the man said.

The tape was played on a listener call-in show featuring clinical psychologist Sonya Friedman.

Full transcription: Oakland killer tape

TRANSCRIPT, from Page 3A

Danto: (unintelligible.)

Caller: This is a bar (unintelligible screaming).

Danto: "I don't know what you're telling me. I don't know where to go."

Caller: "Gas Station Bar at Woodward. Be there. No police. Gas Station Bar. You be there. Gas Station (unintelligible). I know everybody in there (unintelligible). You be there by yourself. You be there, 9 o'clock tomorrow."

Danto: (unintelligible.)

Caller: "No, it's a bar."

Danto: (unintelligible.)

Caller: (unintelligible). That's all I say."

RADIO TO AIR TAPE

Lead on Oakland child killer?

There's a sense of frustration in Robert Robertson's voice, brought on by more than three years of trying to catch the elusive killer of four children in Oakland County. So he's willing to try something new.

Wednesday at 2 p.m., WXYZ radio will air portions of a tape allegedly made by a man known as Allen who once said in a letter that he was the lover of the Oakland County child killer.

The tape was made available to the station by Robertson, the State Police lieutenant who once headed the task force of police trying to find the killer. The task force disbanded late last year.

"When they (the radio station) proposed this program I said, 'Well, we're at rock bottom and if something else is tried that might work, let's try it,'" said Robertson.

"We've done a lot of things" — including bringing in a psychic — "and when you've done as many things as we've done, I guess one more like this (the tape) won't hurt," he said.

THE STATION'S advertising and public



Lt. Robertson



Dr. Friedman

relations director, Calvin Richards, said the tape will be broadcast on a show moderated by Dr. Sonya Friedman, a psychiatrist.

Richards said the tape was made by Dr. Bruce Danto, also a Detroit psychiatrist, who recorded Allen's telephone call on April 7, 1977.

The tape, said Danto, lasts about 11 seconds, "and you can hardly hear it. He did not want to have the call traced."

In the tape, Danto said the caller asked Danto to meet him at 9 p.m. April 11 at an area bar. Danto said when he began to ask directions to the bar, the caller hung up.

The caller never showed at the bar. Danto said he feels the call was "legitimate."

The call came after Danto said he received the letter from the man called Allen, in which the writer suggested he was the lover of the Oakland County child killer.

"THIS IS REALLY old hat," said Robertson. "They're rehashing it. First of all you have no idea that it's a legitimate letter. One can only assume the tape and letter came from the same person.

"We don't know the value of it (the tape)," he said.

The voice on the tape, said Danto, "speaks with an accent."

"Most of (the tape) you can't understand anyway," Robertson said.

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7A THE TIMES HERALD PORT HURON, MICH. Wednesday, May 16, 1979

Detroit the metro area

Chrysler votes dividend despite deficits

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — Dividends seem to speak louder than words at deficit-plagued Chrysler Corp.

Though neither Chairman John Riccardo nor President Lee A. Iacocca would predict when the nation's No. 3 automaker will start to make money again, directors of the company Tuesday declared a 10-cent dividend on common stock.

Omission of the dividend, the same amount paid in the past two quarters, had been widely expected among Wall Street analysts and stockholders. The company stopped dividends for six quarters in a previous financial crunch in 1975 and 1976.

"No one can promise any easy answers, or any quick turnaround in our company's fortunes," Iacocca said. "The problems are too complicated for that, lead times are just too long and the competition is just too intense."

Iacocca, appearing at his first Chrysler annual meeting since being fired as president of Ford Motor Co. last year, told shareholders he thought concern over gasoline supplies in some parts of the country was "very close to hysteria." He noted the concern had deflated demand for larger cars and vans and imposed new demands for small cars that Chrysler did not have the capacity to produce.

"We can be sure the small-car demand will flatten out," Iacocca said.

Shareholders at the company's first meeting held outside Detroit had high praise for Iacocca, but flayed what they said were management mistakes like poor planning, bloated executive staffs and sloppy quality and financial control.

Chrysler lost \$205 million last year and \$33.8 million in the first quarter

while other auto manufacturers were reporting record profits — a comparison stockholders did not fail to notice.

Nonetheless, proposals by the chief dissident stockholder group, the Committee for the Preservation of Chrysler Corp., got less support than it did last year.

Child-killer tape

DETROIT (AP) — The special task force hunting for the Oakland County child killer was disbanded late last year, but Lt. Robert Robertson is going to try a new approach today for some answers.

A tape that was allegedly made by a man known as "Allen" who once wrote in a letter that he was the child killer's lover will be aired on radio station WXYZ in Detroit today.

Robertson, who headed the special team of investigators seeking clues in the deaths of four children, made the tape available to the station.

Portions of the tape were scheduled for broadcast at 2 p.m. today on a show moderated by Dr. Sonya Friedman, a psychiatrist, said Calvin Richards, advertising and public relations director for WXYZ.

"When they (the radio station) proposed the program, I said, 'Well, we're at rock bottom and if something else is tried that might work, let's try it,'" Robertson said.

"We've done a lot of things — including bringing in a psychic — and when you've done as many things as we've done, I guess one more like this (the tape) won't hurt."

The tape was made Dr. Bruce Danto, a Detroit psychiatrist who recorded Allen's telephone call on April 7, 1977, Richards said.

The tape runs only 11 seconds, Danto said.

Strange twist in child killings

Airing tape 'was worth a try'

DETROIT (AP) — It may only "be wishful thinking" that someone will call in and identify himself as the Oakland County child killer, but airing a tape of the killer's alleged lover was worth a try, says Lt. Robert Robertson.

The minute-long tape was played on a Detroit radio station, WXYZ, twice Wednesday afternoon in the hopes that someone would identify the voice or "have a change of heart" and identify the killer, Robertson said. It was the first public release of the tape recording, station officials said.

Robertson, of the Michigan State Police, was former commander of a special police task force investigating the killings of four children — two boys and two girls — between December 1975 and March 1977.

"You be Gas Station Bar tomorrow night at nine o'clock with letter from the governor of Michigan giving me total immunity," the voice says. "In return I give you Polaroid pictures proving he kill them."

THE CALLER, allegedly a man

named "Allen" who had written a letter to police saying he was the killer's lover, was telling Dr. Bruce Danto, a Detroit psychiatrist, to meet him at the Gas Station Bar at 7 Mile and Woodward, Robertson explained.

The call was received April 10, 1977 at 2 p.m., he said.

"You know where Gas Station Bar, you listen to me," the caller says. "This only time I'm calling you. You want hang up, you hang up, but this is what I'm telling you."

Later in the conversation, the caller warns Danto to come alone to the bar.

"You no bring police," he says. "I know everybody in there. You no bring police. You be by yourself."

The call ends with "I prove he kill them, that's all I say."

The caller is "clearly hysterical," said Dr. Sonya Friedman, a clinical psychologist in Bloomfield, adding that the caller appeared to have some kind of accent. "As you listen, you can see the frustration and apparent fear of the man who is talking."

DR. FRIEDMAN said she warned persons who called the radio station with tips to be sure the leads could be documented.

"Don't call in with your fantasies," she said.

After the broadcast, she admitted the only responses were from people who were shocked to hear the frantic conversation.

"They couldn't believe what they were hearing," she said.

Airing the tape was worth a try, even it may only "be wishful thinking," Robertson said.

"I personally support the theory that the guy isn't around here anymore, but that doesn't mean his grandmother doesn't know that he is the killer," Robertson said. "I just hope someone who knows the killer has a change of heart or the killer himself has a change of heart."

Dr. Friedman said she and Robertson are hoping "to bring the case to a state of rest. Even if the person is dead, we should know or there will never be a psychological closure to this thing."

I just bet you do.

Miliken
Ag Frank Kelly

Oakland child killer sought through tape of 'lover' on radio

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Psychologist Sonya Friedman, who heads a talk show in Detroit, inserts a tape cartridge containing a recording by a person believed to be an intimate of the Oakland County child killer.

(AP Photo)

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