

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

DETROIT (AP) — It may only be wishful thinking that someone will call in and identify 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. It was played on a talk show headed by psychologist Sonya Friedman.

Robertson said there was no way of knowing whether the unidentified man on the tape actually knew the killer.

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 (at) 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 said.

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 Ms. 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."

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

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



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)

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

Airing the tape was worth a try, even if it may be only 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," Rob-

ertson said. "I just hope someone who knows the killer has a change of heart or the killer himself has a change of heart."

Ms. 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."

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