

Washington Daily News
November 16, 1971
Page 3

The Washington Daily News, Tuesday, November 16, 1971

Girl, 15, found dead on ramp police link to 'Freeway Phantom'

The body of an unidentified girl in her early teens was found stabbed to death early today a few feet from a Baltimore-Washington Parkway exit ramp early, police said.

The body was found by a Cheverly policeman on routine patrol.

Police said the girl had several stab wounds in her stomach. She was dressed in a short skirt, blouse and underwear.

Police said they could not tell immediately whether she had been sexually molested.

Police said they believe there may be a link between her death, and the killings of five other young teenage black girls whose bodies have been found near area highways in the same general area. Those deaths have been attributed to a killer called the "Freeway Phantom" by the press.

Police said they think the girl was dead before her body was left by the side of the ramp, only a few hundred yards from Prince Georges County Hospital.

The girl's body was on federal property, and Park Police, FBI agents, Prince Georges detectives, several officers from the District and the Maryland State Police crime wagon rushed to the scene.

The exit ramp is about one mile inside the Beltway, and is only about two miles from the Route 50 and Kenilworth-av where one of the five earlier victims was found.

Of the five earlier Freeway Phantom victims, three were strangled and one was shot in the head.

The fifth girl was found 11 days after she disappeared from home, and her body was too

decomposed for police to tell what caused her death.

Police said it appeared that all five had been sexually molested.

The earlier victims were:

• Carol Denise Spinks, 13, of 1058 Whaley Place se, who was found strangled off the Annapolis Freeway on May 1,

• Angela Denise Barnes, 14, of 4117 Martin Luther King-av se, who was found shot in the head on the side of a road in Waldorf on July 13;

• Darlenia Denise Johnson, 16, of 391 Wheeler Road se, whose decomposed body was found on July 19 a few yards from the spot where the body of Carol Spinks had been found.

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- Brenda Fay Crockett, 12, of 2214 12th Place nw, who was found strangled near the intersection of Route 50 and Kenilworth-av near Cheverly on July 27;
- Nenomoshia Yates, 12, of 4952 Benning Road se, who was found strangled in the woods along Pennsylvania-av extended in Prince Georges just across the District line on Oct. 1.

The police have never been able to find a conclusive link between the deaths of the six girls, one District detective said last October that there is "a possibility" that the first five murders were the work of one person.

And at that time, a Prince Georges homicide detective said, "We've got to get something on this before there's a sixth victim."

Another Girl



The body of an unidentified girl is found at the Ch everly exit of the W

*The EVENING STAR
CAPITAL SPECIAL EDITION
November 16, 1971
Page 1*

Page 1 of 2 pages

Slain

The body of a teen-age girl, who had been stabbed, was found early today just off the Baltimore-Washington Parkway near the District line. She is the sixth young black girl killed in this area since May, and all of the slayings share similarities.

Prince Georges County police said there was no immediate identification of the girl, whose fully clothed body was discovered about 4:50 a.m. this morning by a Cheverly town policeman on patrol.

The girl wore knee-length black boots, a black-and-white miniskirt and a black knit blouse. The body was lying in the open on the Route 202-Landover Road exit from the parkway, not far from the access road to the Prince Georges County Hospital.

A preliminary examination, according to a member of the county medical examiner's staff, showed at least one stab wound in the abdomen. He said the girl apparently had been dead for some time.

She was lying on her back, perpendicular to the busy access road, with her hands thrown across her head. No purse or identifying papers were found on or near the body, county police said.

It was learned that a note was found, but there was no immediate information on who had written it.

County police, with District homicide squad detectives joining the investigation, were checking a report of a missing 15-year-old District junior high school student from Southeast Washington.

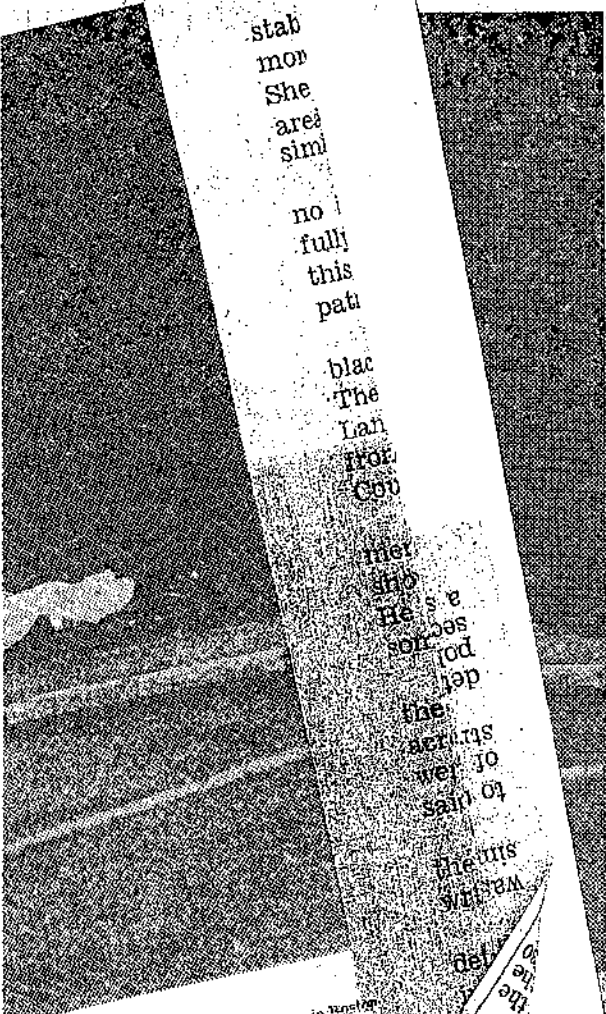
The girl, a student at a District junior high school, was reported missing by her parents at 11 p.m. yesterday. She had last been seen, according to the report, at midmorning.

However, the description of the clothing she was wearing at the time she disappeared was similar to the clothing on the body.

Five similar victims were found from May 1 to Oct. 2. Four of them lived in Washington, east of the Anacostia River. Three of the five were strangled and some had been sexually molested.

District police assigned a large homicide detail to investigate the slayings. According to police sources, an escapee from the maximum security facility at St. Elizabeths Hospital may be a suspect in at least two of the killings.

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GIRL

Body of Teen-Ager Found Off Parkway

Continued From Page A-1
Shortly after the body was discovered, about a mile north of the District line, Lt. Joseph O'Brien of the District homicide squad was dispatched to assist Maryland authorities. FBI agents were also taking part in the investigation, presumably on the assumption that the girl was from the District, where they have immediate jurisdiction.

As some 40 uniformed County and Park Police and state policemen were combing the area around where the body was found, rush-hour traffic was slowed to a crawl.

An autopsy was to be held later today at the Baltimore morgue. The mother of the girl reported missing in the District was being taken to the morgue in an attempt to establish identification.

The first of the young black girls killed was Carol D. Spinks, 13, of 1053 Whaler Place SE. She was reported missing April 25 and her body was found May 1, just off the Anacostia Freeway. She had been strangled.

The next girl was found July 13 on a road near Waldorf, Md. She was Angela Denise Barnes, 14, of 4117 Martin Luther King Ave. SW. She was killed by a bullet in the head.

Six days later, the decomposed body of Darlenia Denise

Johnson, 16, of 3922 Wheeler Road SE, was also found off the Anacostia Freeway, not far from where the Spinks girl was discovered.

Eight days later, on July 27, Brenda Crockett, 12, of 2214 12th Place NW was found dead in Prince Georges County near the intersection of Kenilworth Avenue and John Hanson Highway — about half a mile from where the body was found today. She was found with a rope around her neck. An autopsy showed she had been strangled and sexually molested.

The fifth black girl was killed on Oct. 2. She was Nemoshia Yates, whose body was found by a hitchhiker on Pennsylvania Avenue SE, just across the District line in Maryland. She also had been strangled and raped. She was a 7th-grade student at Kelly Miller school, and was last seen when she went to a grocery for her father.

In another slaying during the same period, a 17-year-old Hyattsville girl, Diane Dimms, was found beaten and shot through the heart near Mitchellville, Md., on May 24.

Miss Dimms was white. She was last seen at the Capitol Plaza Shopping Center on Route 450, less than a mile from where the body was discovered today.

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Body Is Found, Fully Clothed, Near Parkway

The body of a teen-age girl, who had been stabbed, was found early today just off the Baltimore - Washington Parkway near the District line. She is the sixth young black girl killed in this area since May, and all of the slayings share similarities.

Prince Georges County police said there was no immediate identification of the girl, whose fully clothed body was discovered about 4:50 a.m. today by a Cheverly town policeman on patrol.

The girl wore knee-length black boots, a checkered skirt and a black knit blouse. The body was lying in the open on the Route 202-Landover Road exit from the parkway, not far from the access road to the Prince Georges County Hospital.

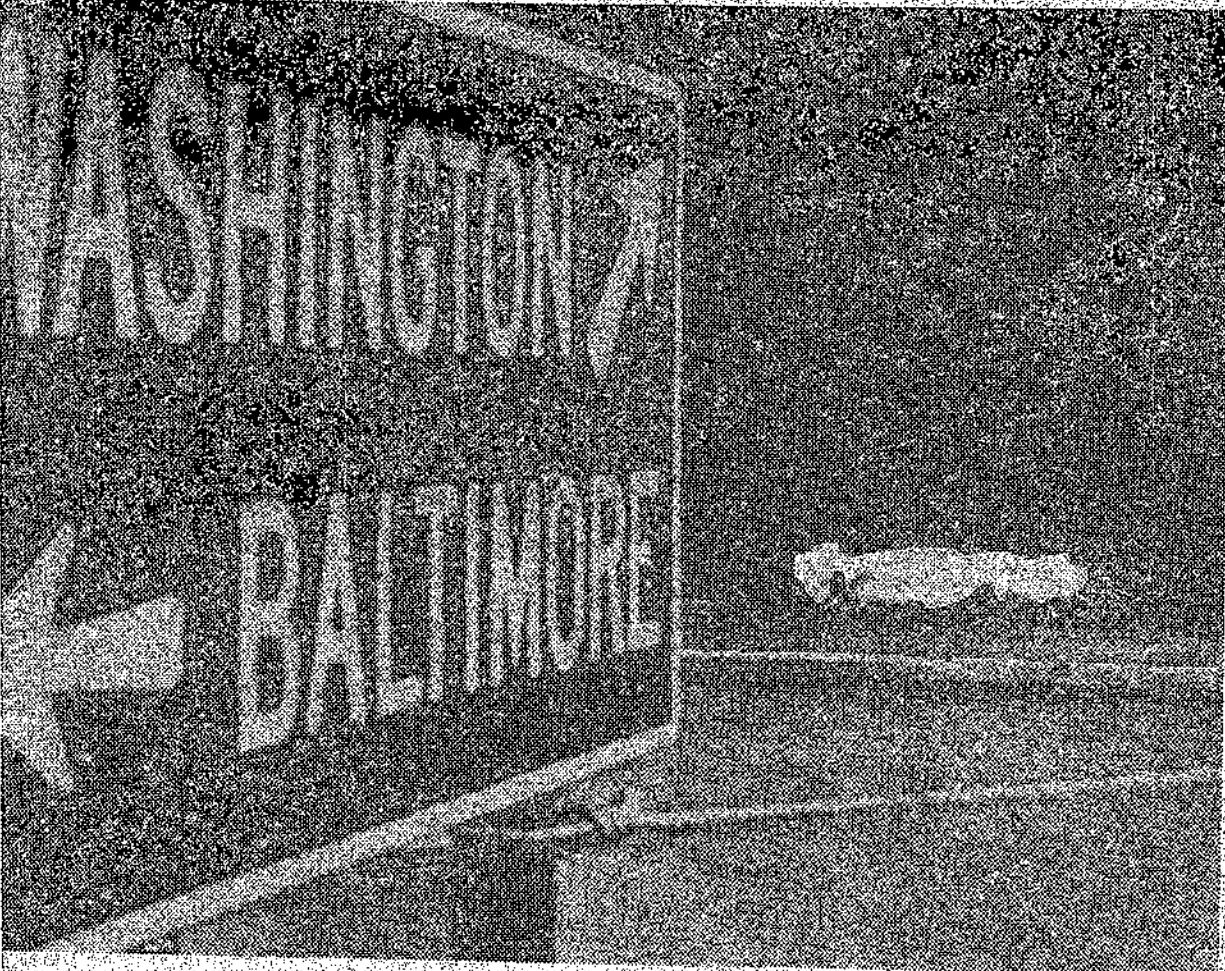
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No Identification

She was lying on her back, perpendicular to the busy access road, with her hands thrown across her head. No purse or identifying papers were found on or near the body, county police said.

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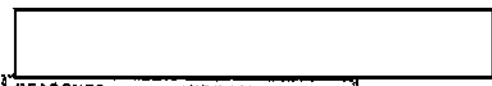
County police, with District homicide squad detectives joined in the investigation.



Star Photographer Bernie Boston

Body of an unidentified girl is found at the Cheverly exit of the Washington-Baltimore Parkway.

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checking a report of a missing 15-year-old District junior high school student from Southeast Washington.

The girl, a student at a District junior high school, was reported missing by her parents yesterday. She had last been seen, according to the report, at about 11:30 p.m.

The description of the clothing she was wearing at the time she disappeared was similar to the clothing on the body.

Three Strangled

Five victims slain under similar circumstances were found from May 1 to Oct. 2. Four of them lived in Washington, east of the Anacostia River. Three of the five were strangled and some had been sexually molested.

District police assigned a large homicide detail to investigate the slayings. According to police sources, an escapee from the maximum security facility at St. Elizabeths Hospital may be a suspect in at least two of the killings.

Shortly after the body was discovered, about a mile north of the District line, Lt. Joseph O'Brien of the District homicide squad was dispatched to assist Maryland authorities. FBI agents were also taking part in the investigation, because of concurrent state-federal jurisdiction of the area where the body was found.

As some 40 uniformed County and Park Police and state policemen were combing the area around where the body was found, rush-hour traffic was slowed to a crawl.

Autopsy Scheduled

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Six days later, the decom-
See GIRL, Page A-6

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The fifth black girl was killed on Oct. 2. She was Nenomoshia Yates, 12, whose body was found by a hitchhiker on Pennsylvania Avenue SE, just across the District line in Maryland. She also had been strangled and raped. She was a 7th-grade student at Kelly Miller school, and was last seen when she went to a grocery for her father.

There is a seventh case which is similar in part, but has not been linked directly to the other six.

In another slaying during the same period, a 17-year-old Hyattsville girl, Diane Dinnis, was found beaten and shot through the heart near Mitchellville, Md., on May 24.

Miss Dinnis was white. She was last seen at the Capitol Plaza Shopping Center on Route 450 less than a mile from where the body was discovered today.

The Murders: Is One Man Responsible?

By RONALD SARRO
Star Staff Writer

Young people in the near Northeast and the near Southeast neighborhoods talk of a single, fiendish killer-rapist when they talk about the slayings of six young black girls in the past six months.

And police privately acknowledge that there are enough similarities to suspect a single person of killing all six girls, whose ages range from 10 to 18.

But there are enough differences—mainly centering on the method used to kill the girls—that police are cautious about

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The Evening

WITH SUNDAY MORNING EDITION

119th Year No. 321

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WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, NOV

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them all as one big, use.

ators must proceed on, they say, that while the slayings may seem related, others may be done by different killers to make them fit in of earlier cases.

say they do not know they are looking for white suspects and are closely guarding any might have developed a potential suspect's of all the cases.

pite the reluctance of discuss the cases, some

similarities in all are evident.

Five of the six girls resided in the near Northeast and near Southeast area, along the Anacostia River and the Interstate Route 295-Kenilworth Avenue freeway system. The one exception was the girl abducted near 14th and U Streets NW.

Four of the six bodies were found along the Route 295-Kenilworth Avenue-Baltimore Parkway, a continuous freeway. The fifth was found about two miles from this system, and the sixth was found in Waldorf, Md.

Four of the girls had the middle name Denise.

The bodies of four of the victims who lived near the freeway system were found along that system, left on the shoulders of the roads in similar fashion.

All the girls were young or slightly built and appeared young. Their ages were 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18, but the older girls apparently could have been mistaken for younger.

The girls were young or abducted off the streets while on errands to grocery stores, or walking to work or to their homes and apparently could have easily

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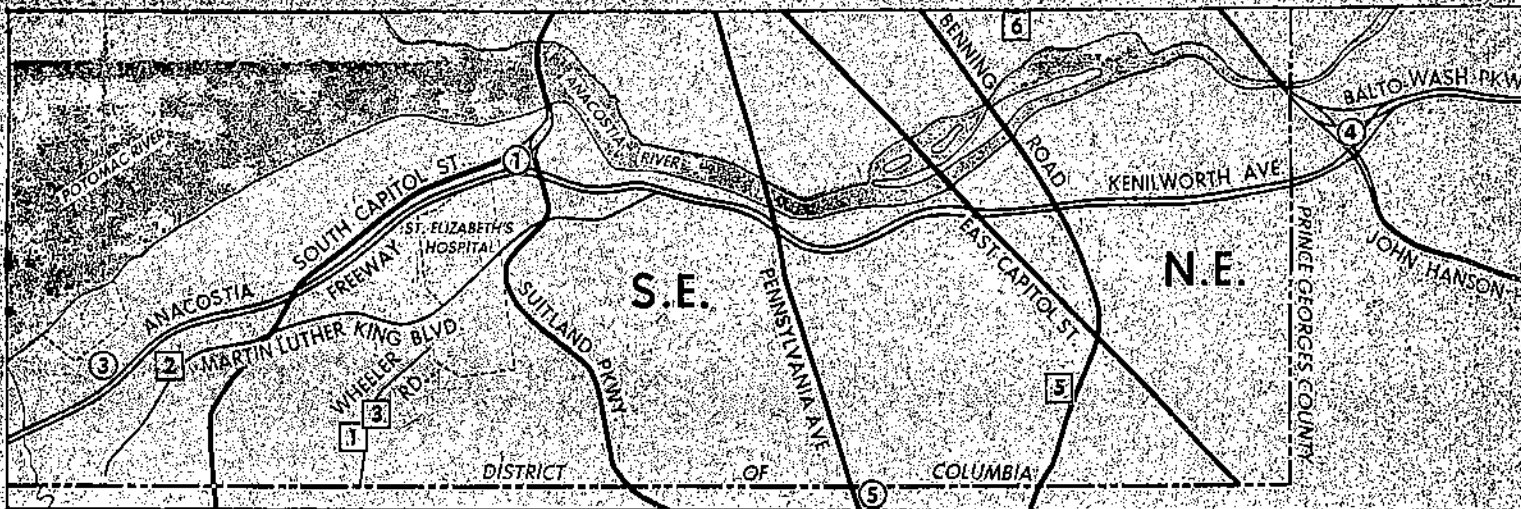
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NEWS



This map of the area along the Anacostia River shows the residence squares of slaying victims who lived within the area and the general locations (circles) of where their bodies were found. The victims were: 1. Carol Denise Spinks, 13; 2. Angela Denise Barnes, 14; 3. Darlenia Denise Johnson, 16; 4. Brenda

Fay Crockett, 10; 5. Nenomoshia Yates, 12; and 6. Denise Woodard, 18. The Barnes girl's body (circle shown) was found in Waldorf, Md. The Crockett girl (4, not shown) lived in the Northwest.

Is Suspect in Slayings Just One Man

Continued From Page A-1
 been overpowered and forced into a car.

No Timing Pattern

At least four of the victims definitely were sexually molested and police have not ruled out this factor in the other cases.

Three of the girls were strangled, one was shot in the head, and one was stabbed repeatedly. The cause of death in the other case has not been determined.

There appears to be no particular pattern to the timing of the killings. The bodies were found on Thursday, April 1, Tuesday, July 13, Monday, July 19, Wednesday, July 28, Saturday, Oct. 2, and Tuesday, Nov. 16.

Here is information made available by police on the six killings:

1. Carol Denise Spinks, 13, of 1058 Wheeler Place SE was reported missing on a walking trip to a store in the Wheeler Road-Southern Avenue area on Thursday, April 1. Her body was found Saturday, May 1, just off the Anacostia Freeway

(Route 295) about 200 yards south of Suitland Parkway in Washington. She had been strangled and sexually assaulted.

2. Angela Denise Barnes, 14, of 4119 Martin Luther King Ave. SW was reported missing on a walking trip from her girlfriend's house to her own home. Her body was found on a road near Waldorf, Md., 25 miles from Washington on Tuesday, July 13. She was killed by a bullet in the head.

3. Darlenia Denise Johnson, 16, of 3922 Wheeler Road SE, disappeared after leaving home on Thursday, July 8, for her job as a counselor at the Oxon Hill Recreation Center. Her decomposed body was found Monday, July 19, just off Anacostia Freeway near the Naval Research Laboratory, in the vicinity where Carol Spinks' body was found. The cause of death has not been determined.

4. Brenda Fay Crockett, 10, of 2214 12th Place NW was missing on a walking trip from her home to a grocery store near 14th and

U-streets NW at 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 27. She reportedly had tearfully telephoned the family twice and said she had been abducted and taken to Virginia by a white man. Her body was found the next day on a grassy shoulder of John Hanson Highway, 100 feet from Kenilworth Avenue in Maryland. She had been strangled, apparently with a rope found around her neck, and had been sexually molested.

5. Nenomoshia Yates, 12, of 4952 Benning Road SE was last seen when she went to a supermarket in the 4900 block of Benning Road, a block from home. Her body was found on Saturday, Oct. 2, on Pennsylvania Avenue SE, just inside the Maryland line. She had been strangled manually and sexually assaulted.

6. Brenda Denise Woodard, 18, of 2107 Maryland Ave. NE was last seen by friends at 8th and H Streets NE, apparently after attending a high school course on Monday night. Her body was found at 4:50 a.m. yesterday just off the Baltimore-Washington parkway at the

Cheverly exit in Maryland. She had been stabbed several times in the chest. There was no report on sexual molestation.

There was a seventh killing that has some similarities to the other six, but which also has major differences that make investigators discount connections with the others. That was the slaying of Diane Kay Dennis, 17, of 6927 Decatur Place, whose body was found May 24 in a wooded area of Mitchellville, Md., about two

John Hanson Highway. She had been hit 15 times with a blunt instrument in the chest with a .38-caliber gun.

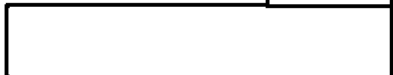
Miss Dennis was not sexually molested when she disappeared from Capital Plaza Station just off Baltimore Parkway and the Woodard girl's body was found yesterday.

EVENING STAR

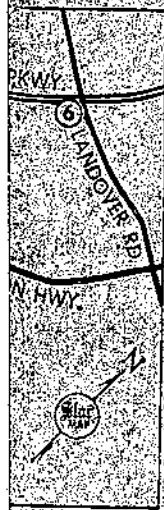
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SLAYING

FBI Presses Manhunt Here

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Office Building Oct. 1. He had been stabbed 33 times.

"We're not sure there's any connection there either," police said last night. "We have not reached any conclusions."

Miss Woodard was found on the grass near the Landover Road exit ramp of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway shortly before 5 a.m. by Cheverly Police Pvt. D. A. Norman, who was on patrol.

She was lying face up at the base of a brush-covered slope and was dressed in a black and white checked miniskirt, a black knit turtle-neck sweater turned inside out, and calf-high black boots. A purple imitation fur coat was tossed over the body. Police said she also was wearing pink panties, a black bra, had a green ribbon in her hair and four rings on her fingers.

She Was Happy

The slain girl's father said today he last saw his daughter when he drove her to her night class at Cardozo High School at about 6:30 p.m. Monday.

The father, a porter at a Giant Food Store in the District, said his daughter was unusually happy when he left her because she had an appointment for a job interview the next day.

He said he asked her if she was coming home after her classes and that she said, "Sure, Daddy, I'll be home."

"She said it with a giggle," Woodard said, "in a way that made me want to kiss her. But I didn't."

Miss Woodard, who had dropped out of Spingarn High School last spring, lived with a friend near her parents home and frequently visited there, her father said.

He said she usually came to her parents' home after class, at about 9:30. On Monday, she had not arrived by that time and her parents assumed she was with her roommate. At 11:30, her roommate called and said she had not seen Miss Woodard after class.

It was then that her parents called police. At about 2 p.m. yesterday, they filed a missing persons report for their daughter at police headquarters and

night that her body was warm when it was found, indicating recent death. However, a medical examiner on the scene told reporters that rigor mortis had begun to set in and because of the coldness of the night it would be impossible to pinpoint a time of death.

The wounds produced very little bleeding, the examiner said, which police indicated might mean she had been stabbed first and then slashed after she died.

"We feel the body had not been out there long before it was found," Hoxie said.

The State Medical Examiner's office in Baltimore, where the autopsy was performed, said they do not have any positive

evidence she was sexually molested, but that a final ruling will be made when tests are concluded.

Last night and today county police, park police and FBI agents blockaded the entrances and exits of the Baltimore Parkway in Cheverly, asking drivers if they passed the scene Monday night and saw anything unusual.

As-area police intensified their investigation of the Woodard slaying and other unsolved murders, District police today increased their vigilance over known criminal offenders in the city, expanding the surveillance to include court-referred patients of St. Elizabeths Hospital.

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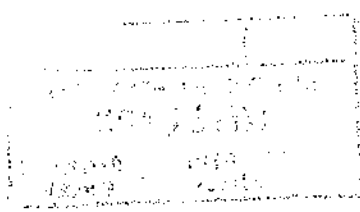
Miss Woodard's parents described her a "quiet, nice girl" who liked to work with children, and wanted to be a teacher in an elementary school. She had worked as a playground assistant at a youth center on North Capitol Street this summer and did babysitting for friends in her apartment building occasionally.

Her parents said she got along well with her five brothers and sisters, Diane, 17, Jennifer, 16, Deborah, 13, Edward Jr., 9, and Charles, 6.

Her father said, "She wouldn't get in a car with anyone unless they knew or unless they forced her to."

He said that he "always liked to know where my kids are. I don't let them just walk up and down the street. You can't be too careful."

An autopsy performed yesterday determined that she died from a stab wound in the chest and that she had four slash wounds across her right breast and chest and a deep slash in her stomach. Police said last



FBI Joins Hunt For Girl-Killer

FBI agents have joined in a massive areawide manhunt for the slayer of an 13-year-old District girl whose stabbed and slashed body was dumped on a roadside near Prince Georges Hospital in Cheverly yesterday morning.

Police officials said they also are investigating the possible link between the slaying of Brenda Denise Woodard of 2107 Maryland Ave. NE and the slayings of five other young girls whose bodies were found on roadsides in the vicinity of Anacostia Freeway and Kenilworth Avenue in recent months.

Prince Georges County police said a note found in the dead girl's coat pocket yesterday alluded to other crimes, but they decline to release the contents. District police sources said yesterday the note contains a threat to kill again, but county police said "there was absolutely no threat in the letter."

May Be a Confession

John Hoxie, information officer for the Prince Georges police force, said that at an analysis of the slayings, held yesterday afternoon after FBI agents joined county police, U.S. Park Police, Maryland State Police and District police, officials obtained a ruling from the Justice Department not to release the note's contents. It was believed the crime involved a crossing of jurisdictional lines. Also, the parkway location where the body was found is under federal jurisdiction.

"We apparently get some loonies who confess to these things," Hoxie said, explaining that police hope to use the note to "test the veracity of their story."

However, sources close to the

investigation said this morning that the handwritten note which was torn from a white paper notebook contains "clues which we feel might possibly lead to the arrest of a psychopathic killer and the solving of this crime." In the note, it is believed the killer confesses to five other slayings.

Police noted that there were some similarities between the slaying of Miss Woodard and the killings of the five other Washington girls, aged 10 to 16, whose bodies were found in the vicinity of area freeways. Four of the six were found in an area along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway-Kenilworth Avenue-Anacostia Freeway corridor and four of the six had the middle name Denise.

Reed Case Cited

However, police did not conclude immediately there was a link between the slaying of Miss Woodard and any of the other crimes. They said there also are similarities between the type of note in the Woodard case and the one left beside the body of 30-year-old Cheverly economist Ritchie Reed, who was slain in the bathroom of the Executive

See SLAYING, Page A-9

Public Help Asked To Solve Murders

By Robert F. Levey
Washington Post Staff Writer

Police issued an extraordinary appeal for information from the public yesterday to help them solve the murders of Brenda Denise Woodard and those of five other girls since May.

"Somewhere in the community is an individual who probably has a clue that will help solve this case," said Mahlon Pitts, D.C. chief of detectives. "Somebody knows a sex deviate or a child molester. Somebody knows something."

Police said their investigation into the six murders is totally stalled. They said they did not know who they are looking for or how many people they are looking for. They said they know of no connection among the victims that is more than coincidental.

Pitts did say that he is interested in talking to several escapees from St. Elizabeths Hospital, the city's mental hospital. He said the escapees are suspected no more than because of their past history of sex offenses.

Miss Woodard — a young, black, female Washingtonian like the other five victims — was found dead beside the Baltimore-Washington Parkway in Cheverly at dawn Tuesday.

An autopsy completed yesterday by Charles Springate, assistant Maryland medical examiner, indicated the cause of death was a stab wound in

the chest, one of six wounds Miss Woodard suffered.

Tests to determine if Miss Woodard had been sexually assaulted have not been completed, Dr. Springate said in a telephone interview. But he added that Miss Woodard suffered one small broken bone in the neck — probably from squeezing.

Four of the other five victims had been sexually assaulted, tests showed, and all five were found dead beside busy local highways — although in different areas.

In addition, four of the six victims had the common middle name Denise. But Pitts dismissed that fact yesterday as coincidental.

"I can't conceive that (the killer or killers) is out looking for girls with the middle name of Denise," Pitts said.

The police investigation involves five different agencies: the Washington, Prince George's County and Cheverly police departments, the FBI and the U.S. Park Police.

Washington police have assigned full-time six homicide detectives to the six murders. The other departments have assigned a total of 100 men.

County police pressed their investigation yesterday by stopping all traffic at both rush hours going onto or leaving the parkway at the Land-

See SLAY, B4, Col. 1

of the recruitment drive, records show.

Other police officials said reasons for the high attrition rate include younger, more mobile police officers often inclined to experiment with a career, an unusual one-year probationary period that allows officers to be dismissed more easily, and a probable overselling of police careers during the one-month recruitment drive that added almost 2,000 officers to the force from August, 1969, to September, 1970.

The force expansion also means that more than 80 per cent of the officers assigned to precinct patrol work have less than two years experience, according to records. Police say that 10 years ago an officer could not be expected to be assigned to a patrol car, for example, until he had at least five years with the force.

Nearly 30 per cent of the police officers are black, according to records, but the percentage is increasing. For example, 47 per cent of the officers now in the training academy are black. In the early 1960s, the force was about 20 per cent black.

Murray, who is the top rank-

See RECRUIT, B8, Col. 1

Hassan's Suit Is Dismissed

Black nationalist Hassan Joru-Ahmed's libel and conspiracy suit against the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith was dismissed yesterday in U.S. District Court.

Details on Page H2

charges of bribery, perjury, conspiracy to obstruct justice and conspiracy to violate conflict-of-interest statutes. The trial of the 59-year-old congressman will resume Monday.

Cohen, former president of the Monarch Construction Company, a now defunct Silver Spring home improvement firm, was named as a coconspirator, but was not indicted. He has testified that he paid \$25,000 to Dowdy for Dowdy's help in blocking federal investigations of Monarch's and Cohen's activities.

Although her son readily admitted on the witness stand that Monarch swindled many Washingtonians on home improvement jobs between 1963 and 1965, Mrs. Cohen, who was Monarch's office manager and bookkeeper, said today she knew nothing of the firm's illegal activities.

Under direct examination by special prosecutor Stephen H. Sachs, she testified that sometime in September, 1965, "Nathan came to me and told me there was a federal investigation going on."

She said her son told her he or someone else had spoken to Dowdy concerning payment of \$25,000 to Dowdy to "take care of the investigation."

Mrs. Cohen said her son asked to borrow some money, and on Sept. 21 and 22, she obtained \$16,200 in cash through a savings withdrawal and a loan and gave the money to her son.

As her son and Monarch salesman Julius B. (Jack) Levitt had testified earlier, Mrs. Cohen said the entire \$25,000 in cash was assembled in the offices of the National Research and Development Co.

See DOWDY, B3, Col. 1

POST
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CAROL DENISE SPINKS



ANGELA DENISE BARNES



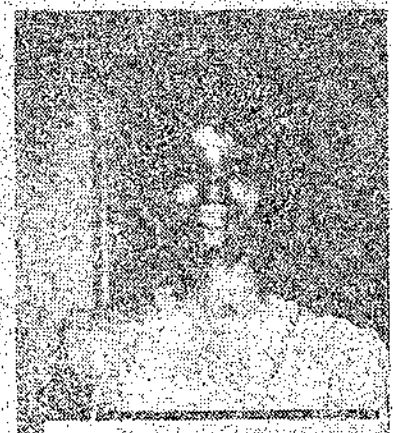
DARLENTA DENISE JOHNSON



BRENDA FAYE CROCKETT



NENOMOSHIA YATES



BRENDA DENISE WOODARD

This layout was provided by the metropolitan police of six young black murder victims here since May. Police hope that the photos may lead to information from the public concerning the killer or killers of the girls.

*Post. 11/15
News.*

Police Ask Public's Aid In Slayings

SLAY. From B1

over Road exit near which
Miss Woodard's body was
found.

"All we got was drabs and
drabs," said the county's
spokesman, John Hoxie.

All five police agencies con-
tinued to withhold from re-
porters the contents of a note
—apparently written by Miss
Woodard's killer—that was
found in her coat pocket Tues-
day.

Washington homicide squad
chief Lt. Joseph O'Brien said
yesterday that, despite pub-
lished reports, the note was
absolutely not signed. The
Freeway Phantom.

O'Brien added that the hand-
writing on the note had been
analyzed by a police specialist
and that the writer was not
the same person who had left
notes on the bodies of two men
slain here this summer.

To receive the public re-
sponse to their plea that they
expect, police said they had
established six special phones.

The confidential number is
393-2222. The other five num-
bers are 626-2145, 2146, 2147,
2148 and 2149. Pitts said that
"all calls—even the cranks—
will be checked," except those
to the confidential number.

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EVENING STAR
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NOV 18 1971	
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Police Ask Help on Killings

By RONALD SARRO

Star Staff Writer

District police officials apparently are becoming more and more convinced that one person killed six young District girls in the past six months.

This impression emerged as the department announced a major campaign to seek community help in obtaining information which might lead to the killer or killers of the girls, who ranged in age from 10 to 18.

Police officials note that the homes of the girls, the locations from which they disappeared, and the places most of the bodies were found were heavily concentrated along the Anacostia River area.

"WE FEEL THAT because the girls are over in this area, that somewhere in the community there are individuals or an individual who has a clue to help us in these cases," said Deputy Chief Mahlon Pitts, head of the criminal investigation division.

Sheldon L. Freud, a specialist in criminal psychology who is sometimes consulted by Washington area police, said that a note and other clues left near the latest victim's body in Cheverly on Tuesday probably indicate the killer is unconsciously trying to turn himself in.

In an interview, Freud said he had no evidence the slayings were by the same man. But he said that if they were, the killer is most likely psychotic with overtones of pathological behavior.

He said it is conceivable such a man could live a normal working life, although he would probably be subject to sudden fits of bad temper and be known as a hothead, especially in the period just preceding each crime.

Freud, whose main experience has been in Air Force prisons, said he believed public reluctance to get involved was the major obstacle in finding the killer. "Many clues have not been given to the police," he said. "Many people must have seen things."

STARTING AT 6 A.M. today, special lines are operating at police headquarters to take calls on the case. Citizens may telephone 626-2145; 626-2146; 626-2147; 626-2148; 626-2149; or make confidential reports over 393-2222.

Of course, anyone with information may also tell any patrolman, visit a district station house, or report to the homicide squad.

The campaign for citizen help was initiated by D.C. Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson after he met with Mayor Walter E. Washington yesterday afternoon for a progress report on the investigation.

Meanwhile, a special squad of six D.C. detectives, Prince Georges County and Maryland state detectives and FBI agents are investigating the slayings.

Police officials continued to guard any

clues they might already have developed on the suspect. They refused to discuss any possible hairs, skin fragments or other materials that might have been found on the bodies of the victims.

"WE MUST WITHHOLD some information to weed out any crackpots who might come forward in these cases," Pitts said. Officials said they are working closely with Maryland officials, but feel a particular need to launch the citizens campaign because all six girls were abducted in the District.

Pitts said police feel there is a possibility that the victims were not sexually molested or raped in a car in an open area, and may have first been taken to an apartment or house by the killer or killers.

Pitts emphasized the killer or killers may have tried unsuccessfully to abduct other young girls. Information on any such attempted abduction could help in the investigation, he said.

The following are examples of the type of information which would help police in their investigation from anyone:

- Who may have seen the girls before or after they were last spotted by witnesses currently known to police. (See police reports of the girls' activities below.)
- Who may have seen the girls being forced or enticed into a vehicle, or who may have seen the girls struggling in a vehicle. (See police report on the locations and probable times of the abductions.)
- Who witnessed any suspicious activities by any persons in the areas from which the girls disappeared about the time of day each girl disappeared.
- Who saw young girls resembling the victims.

Continued on Page B-6, Col. 4

DENISE IS MISSING

A 15-year-old Washington girl, with history of running away, has been reported missing from her Northeast Washington home. She is Denise L. Minor, of the 1300 block of Montana Avenue, NE, who was reported missing by her mother, Marline, shortly after midnight.

Four of the six black girls from Washington slain since May had the middle name Denise.

The girl's mother said Denise Minor had run away before, staying away once for a week. She said also that her daughter had been threatening to leave this week.



SECTION B

on Killer



CAROL DENISE SPINKS



ANGELIA DENISE BARNES



DARLENIA DENISE JOHNSON



BRENDA FAYE CROCKETT



NENOMOSHIA YATES



BRENDA DENISE WOODARD

B-5

Metro

THE EVENING STAR
Washington, D. C., Thursday, November 18, 1971

Police Ask Public Aid On Killer

Continued From Page B-1
(see photos), or wearing similar clothing (see police information below) in any suspicious circumstance during the periods the girls were abducted.

- Who may have seen girls answering the descriptions of the victims being taken in or out of any apartment, house, or business establishment after their abduction.
- Who may know persons in their neighborhoods, particularly the near Northeast and Southeast areas, who have a history of sexual deviation, enticement of children or undue fraternization with young children.
- Who might have seen or heard the slayings or sexual assaults being committed, or anything sounding suspicious during the periods when the victims were abducted.

The victims were:
CAROL DENISE SPINKS, 13, of the 1033 Whaler Place SE. On Sunday, April 25, about 7 p.m., she was sent to a 7-Eleven Store at Wheeler Road and Southern Avenue by an older sister. She was seen in the vicinity of the store by her mother, who reprimanded her for being away from her home. Later that day, her mother reported her missing. On Saturday, May 1, Carol's body was found by children playing in a grassy area along the northbound lane of Interstate Route 295 near Sully and Parkway. The children called a police cruiser.

When found, the victim was wearing blue shorts, a red sweater and brown socks. Her shoes were missing. She had been dead 2 or 3 days. Her whereabouts between April 25 and May 1 are unknown. Cause of death was strangulation. Sexual assault is an open question.

DARLENIA DENISE JOHNSON, 16, of 3922 Wheeler Road

left home about 10 a.m. to work at the Oxon Hill Recreation Center in Oxon Run, but did not arrive. The next day, Darlenia's mother filed a missing person report.

On Monday, July 19, the girl's body was found in a grassy area of the northbound lane of I-295, near Suitland Parkway, by an employe of the telephone company. She was wearing blue shorts, a green sweater, red-white-and-blue horizontally striped miniskirt, a blue blouse and no shoes. The body was decomposed. Cause of death has not been determined. It is not known if she was sexually assaulted.

ANGELIA DENISE BARNES, 14, of 4117 Martin Luther King Ave SW. She had visited friends in the vicinity of 8th and Barnaby streets SE and reportedly was enroute home from the area about 11:45 p.m. on Monday, July 12. She was last seen walking alone.

At 6:35 a.m. Tuesday, July 13, her body was found beside the roadway on Maryland State Route 228, about one mile west of Waldorf, by a passing motorist. She was fully clothed, but D.C. police had no description of her clothing. She was killed by a gunshot wound to the head. There was no evidence of sexual molestation.

BRENDA FAYE CROCKETT, 10, of 2214 12th Place NW. About 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 27, Brenda was sent to the Safeway market in the 1900 block of 14th Street NW by her mother. The girl was seen walking alone in the 1300 block of W street NW. When she did not return home by 9:30 p.m., family members searched the streets and notified police she was missing.

At 5:05 a.m. Wednesday, July 28, a hitchhiker found her body in a grassy area on John Hanson Highway near Kenilworth Avenue in Prince Georges County. The body was clad in a pair of blue shorts and a blue and white blouse. There were no shoes. She was strangled, and had been sexually molested.

NENOMOSHIA YATES, 12, of 4952 Benning Road SE. At 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1, the girl was sent to a Safeway market at 4801 Benning Road NE by her father. She was seen in the store. Articles she purchased later were found outside by an employe. She was not seen after leaving the store.

At 9:50 p.m. the same night her body was found in a grassy area along Pennsylvania Avenue, three-tenths of a mile inside the Prince Georges County line. She was wearing brown shorts, a sweatshirt, white tennis shoes and socks. She had been strangled. She had been raped.

BRENDA DENISE WOOD

ARD, 18, of 2107 Maryland Ave. NE. About 6:30 p.m. Monday, she left home to attend classes at Cardozo High School, rode a bus to 8th and H streets NE, after classes, and was not seen again. She was reported missing by her parents at 1:45 p.m. Tuesday.

About 5 a.m. Tuesday, her body was found in a grass service area along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway at Maryland Route 202, by a Cheverly town policeman. The body was clad in a black turtleneck sweater, turned inside out, a white and black checkered shirt, black boots and a burgundy coat. She was stabbed to death. A report on possible sexual assault is pending.

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-Star Photographer Pete Schmick

PUBLIC RESPONDS TO POLICE APPEAL

More than 2,000 calls have been logged to the special District police telephone lines set up as part of a city appeal for information into the slayings of six black teen-age girls. The body of the last victim was discovered early Tuesday. Police said that while some of the calls were

"farfetched," many merited checking. The special numbers are 626-2146, 2147, 2148 and 2149. Meanwhile, a 15-year-old Northeast girl, Denise Minor, reported missing yesterday, has returned home, police said. Four of the slain girls had the middle name of Denise.

626-2146/71

*EVENING STAR
11/19/71*

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NOV 19 1971	
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\$9,000 CASHWORDS

WINTER COMING—Clear and cold tonight; low in 20s. Tomorrow sunny; high near 40. Today's low, 34 at 7:30 a.m. Today's high, 39 at 10 a.m. Details: Page B-4.

The

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119th Year No. 326.

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The Evening Star Newspaper Co.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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NOV 22 1971	
FBI—WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

'TIPS ANONYMOUS'

Reward: \$5,000

The Star received a steady stream of telephone calls yesterday and today from persons responding to an offer of a \$5,000 cash reward to anyone providing a tip leading to an arrest and conviction in the slayings of six young black girls in the area this year.

The number of The Star's special "Tips Anonymous" phone is 543-9299. The line will be operated from 7 a.m. to midnight today, other weekdays and Saturdays. On Sundays, the line will be in operation from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The system is designed so that a person providing a successful tip can have total anonymity and receive the \$5,000 in cash secretly, with no questions asked. Neither The Star nor the police need to know the person's identity.

The slaying victims were Carol Denise Spinks, Angelia Denise Barnes, Darlenia Denise Johnson, Brenda Faye Crockett, Nenomoshia Yates and Brenda Denise Woodward. The bodies of the girls were found along highways during the past six months. Similarities in the cases have indicated one person may have committed all six crimes.

Yesterday was the first day of operation for "Tips Anonymous." The Star today gave high police officials information from the calls.

The Star's system for guaranteeing anonymity works like this:

Anyone phoning the special number, which is not connected to The Star's switchboard, can identify himself by dictating any sequence of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7. (For example, he could choose 3742165.)

The Star will record the number with the person's tip, and if the information leads to a conviction, the person can notify The Star's metropolitan editor, Scott Smith.

The person has to tell Smith only the nature of the tip and the seven-digit number. After confirming the number, Smith will arrange to give the tipster the \$5,000 in cash.

Or, a person can mail information in a letter. If he wants to remain anonymous, he must use the same system of identifying himself by any combination of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Additionally, he must tear a corner off the letter paper, leaving a jagged edge.

If that tip leads to a conviction, the person should call Smith. He will match both the number and the piece of paper with the torn corner.

Of course, it is important for persons to keep the identification number and the torn corner as proof that he was the source of the information.

Remember, the phone number is 543-9299.

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TUE. 11/23 STAR

\$5,000 REWARD

Star Offer Brings Calls

Calls continued to pour in today to The Star's special telephone set up to receive tips in the investigation of the slayings of six young girls whose bodies have been found near area highways.

The tips were being sent quickly to high police officials.

The Star is offering \$5,000 in cash to anyone providing a tip leading to an arrest and conviction in the slayings. In addition, the newspaper has a system to guarantee complete anonymity to anyone providing information and will arrange to deliver the reward money secretly.

The number of The Star's special "Tips Anonymous" phone is 543-9299. The line will operate until midnight tonight, from 7 a.m. to midnight on other weekdays and Saturdays, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

The slaying victims were Carol Denise Spinks, Angelia Denise Barnes, Darlenia Denise Johnson, Brenda Faye Crockett, Nenomoshia Yates and Brenda Denise Woodard. Their bodies have been found along highways since late April, and similarities in the cases have suggested that one person may have committed all six killings.

The Star's system for guaranteeing anonymity works like this:

Anyone phoning the special number, which is not connected to The Star's switchboard, can identify himself by dictating any sequence of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. (For example, he could choose 3742165.)

The Star will keep a record of the number with the person's tip, and if the information leads to a conviction the person can notify The Star's metropolitan editor, Scott Smith.

If there has been a conviction, the person has to tell Smith only the nature of the tip and a seven-digit number. After confirming the number, Smith will arrange to give the tipster the \$5,000 reward in cash.

Or a person can mail information in a letter. If he wants to remain anonymous, he should use the same system of identifying himself by numbers. Additionally, he should tear a corner of the letter paper, leaving a jagged edge.

If the tip leads to a conviction, the person should call Smith, who will match both the number and the piece of paper with the torn corner. Of course, it is essential for a person to keep the torn corner and record of the identification number as proof that he was the source of information.

Thus, neither The Star nor the police need to know the person's identity.

Remember, the phone number is 543-9299.

Handwritten: Judy Star - Tips Anonymous

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\$5,000 Reward

D.C. police say they are checking out hundreds of tips which have poured into The Star's special telephone setup designed to aid the investigation into the slaying of six young black girls.

The Star is offering \$5,000 in cash to anyone providing the tip leading to an arrest and conviction in the slayings. In addition, the newspaper has a system to guarantee complete anonymity to anyone providing information and will arrange to deliver the reward money secretly.

The number of The Star's special "Tips Anonymous" phone is 543-9299. The line will operate until midnight tonight, from 7 a.m. to midnight on other weekdays and Saturdays, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Anyone phoning the special number can identify himself by dictating any sequence of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

and 7. The Star will keep a record of the number and if the information leads to a conviction the person can notify The Star's metropolitan editor, Scott Smith.

If there has been a conviction, the person has to tell Smith only the nature of the tip and the seven-digit number. After confirming the number, Smith will arrange to give the tipster the \$5,000 reward in cash.

Or a person can mail information in a letter. If he wants to remain anonymous, he should use the same system of identifying himself by numbers. Additionally, he should tear a corner of the letter paper, leaving a jagged edge.

If the tip leads to a conviction, the person should call Smith, who will match both the number and the piece of paper with the torn corner.

Remember, the phone number is 543-9299.

Star - Wed 11/24/71

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11/24/71*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 24 1971	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

b7A

Tired Police Battle Rash of Murders

By J. Y. Smith and Albert E. Lewis
Washington Post Staff Writers

The homicide detective was leafing through a stack of notes from phoned in leads. Like many of his colleagues, he had scarcely had a day off in weeks, and he looked it.

"We're bone weary," he remarked.

It is the duty of the detective and his colleagues to face up to a remarkable and grisly fact: there have been 250 murders in the District of Columbia so far this year, and 36 of them remain unsolved.

Many officers say they have a theory; it goes like this: it may be that only two persons are responsible for

eight of those unsolved slayings; it may be that a third person is responsible for four others.

It may be, police think, that the six girls whose bodies have been found along well-traveled roads in the area since May were the victims of one person. Four of the six came from Southeast Washington. Five were sexually molested. (The body of the sixth was decomposed, and officers could not tell whether she had been assaulted sexually or not). Three were strangled, two were stabbed and one was shot.

It may be, police think, that it was the same person who stabbed fatally Marine Cpl. Christopher Brady, 22, at the Washington Navy Yard on Sept. 1, and Ritchie H. Reed, 30, in a fifth-floor washroom in the New Executive Office Building Oct. 1.

Finally, it may be one person who shot to death two Australian girls, Sharon Tapp and Sheral Frahm, in their apartment at 2714 Quarry Rd. NW., and who shot to death Gilberto Sanchez, and his wife, Teresita, in their home at 1814 Irving Pl. NE. There was no apparent motive in either case.

See MOOD, B13, Col. 1

DATE 11-26-71
PAGE B-1

- THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- THE EVENING STAR
- THE SUNDAY STAR
- THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

b7A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 30 1971	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

Weary D.C. Police Sift Clues in Rash of Murders

MOOD, From B1

Officially, police express confidence. "We're still optimistic that we're going to break these cases," said Inspector Ernest Prete, the acting head of the criminal investigation division.

Privately, officers talk about frustration and fatigue. They are frustrated because none of the more than 5,000 telephone tips about the six slain girls has so far paid off. If they are getting closer to the assailant, or assailants, they do not look it and they do not act it. They are tired because of the long hours of investigation they have put in on each of these leads.

There also is an element of anxiety. Are they dealing with one or more mad men? Will he, or she, or they strike again? Is there a pattern to be discerned in any of the slayings?

What the police may really be thinking or planning now are subjects that they refuse to discuss. But despite the silence, some of what they have done, and some of the things they currently are thinking about, have emerged.

On the morning of Nov. 1, for example, a curious inci-

dent occurred as the unmarked car carrying Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson pulled away from his Northwest Washington home and headed downtown for the office.

What happened was that a second unmarked police car fell in behind and followed the chief. In it was at least one officer detailed to guard Wilson, or, as the expression has it, to "ride shotgun" on him.

It is not usual for Jerry Wilson, whose reputation for personal courage is very high indeed, to be guarded.

At 4 p.m. Nov. 1, a second curious incident occurred. Eighteen police cars were specially deployed throughout the downtown area. Top department personnel were on duty at headquarters.

They were all waiting for a murder.

They were waiting because Marine Cpl. Brady had been killed on Sept. 1 and government employee Reed had been killed on Oct. 1. There was the chance that the killer, or killers, would hit again on Nov. 1.

Police have yet to acknowledge it officially. But the fact is that a note was found at the site of Reed's death. It had "racial overtones," according to reliable sources, and it mentioned

Chief Wilson's name. Hence the special escort for him.

A note with similar racial overtones, but apparently without mention of Wilson, was found near Cpl. Brady's body.

These are not the only notes that police are studying. The most recent of the girl victims was Brenda Denise Woodard, 18. A note signed "The Phantom" was found on or near her body.

Miss Woodard died Nov. 9. Several days later, writing on the wall signed "The Phantom" was found in a washroom of the Government Printing Office building.

Police have not officially acknowledged the existence of either of these messages, and further details about them could not be learned.

Then there is the fact that there was no apparent motive in the deaths of the Sanchezes or of the Australian girls, Miss Tapp and Miss Fraham. But the manner in which all four died was similar and the two double-slayings occurred within walking distance from the area in which Sanchez made his living.

In a ghastly way, the

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NOV 30 1971	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

preoccupation of police with murder came into being Oct. 1.

On that day, Reed was killed in the New Executive Office building. Later that day, Nenomoshia Yates, 12, 4952 Benning Rd. SE., was sent to a supermarket by her father. Three hours later, her body was found along Pennsylvania Avenue SE. just inside the District of Columbia near the Maryland line.

That same night, Robert L. Ammidown, 2700 North Pollard St., Arlington, told police he and his wife, Linda Elizabeth, were forced into their car on Independence Ave. after eating at the Flagship Restaurant on Maine Ave. SW., and forced to drive to a place beneath the East Capitol Street Bridge. There Mrs. Ammidown, 47, was killed.

Police subsequently

charged Ammidown and a friend, Richard Lee, with murder in the case, and charged four others, including a woman, with extortion in connection with the slaying.

The especial concentration of the police department on solving murders dates from Oct. 1, officers say privately. They say, sure, we solved the Ammidown case. But there is something familiar about killings within families: the parameters of the crime are neatly set out, like the borders on a family portrait.

But what about the other deaths? Officers shake their heads. Among themselves, they describe the other slayings as "bizarre."

For upwards of 30 special detectives, Thanksgiving was no holiday. They spent the day in pursuit of presumably unknown murderers.

Message in victim's handwriting

'Phantom' dictated note

By CHRIS LORENZO

The "Freeway Phantom" note found in the coat pocket of Brenda Denise Woodard was apparently dictated by the killer and actually written by her. The Washington Daily News learned today.

The News also learned the three line note, written on school notebook paper in pencil mentioned the killer's feeling and "insensitivity" to women and ended with the phrase "catch me, if you can."

It was signed "Freeway Phantom"

Miss Woodard, 18, who shared an apartment with another girl at 2105 Maryland ave, ne, was last seen on Nov. 15 at a bus stop at Eighth and H streets ne. Her fully-clothed body was found early next morning, lying face up with her hands folded under her head near Prince Georges Hospital, just off the Baltimore-Washington Expressway.

An autopsy report showed she had been sexually molested and that she died of three stab wounds, one in the stomach and two in the chest. Dr. Charles Springate, who performed the autopsy, said also her neck was bruised and fractured.

Hers was the sixth since May in a string of acabre killings of black girls, five of whom were raped, four strangled, four had the middle name of Denise, and all six dumped near freeways here.

Since Miss Woodard's body was discovered, both District and Prince Georges police have set up special "Phantom Hunting" squads. Homicide detectives have been assigned around-the-clock to run down the thousands of tips called into police after District Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson appealed to the public for help and set up six hotline telephone numbers.

As a result of one of the 7,000 calls, police are looking for the driver of a flash red Mustang with a dark-colored racing stripe going from the middle of the hood, over the roof and down the back of the trunk which was seen near the grassy spot where Miss Woodard was found.

In addition, The Washington Daily News has turned over to police scores of letters that it received after setting up a special box for tipsters. Information can be mailed to The News, Box M-1798, 1013 13th st nw, Washington, D.C., 20005.

The other victims:

DAILY NEWS
12/2/71
P. 2

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DEC 2 1971
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE

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Place, whose body was found May 1 in a grassy area along the Anacostia Freeway near the Suitland Parkway. She had been raped and strangled.

- Darlenia Denise Johnson, 16, of 3922 Wheeler Road se, found July 19 a few yards away from where Carol's body was discovered. Cause of death could not be determined because Darlenia's body was badly decomposed.

- Angella Denise Barnes, 14, of 4117 Martin Luther King av se, found July 13 along Maryland Route 228 a mile west of Waldorf. She had been raped and shot in the head.

- Brenda Eaye Crockett, 10, of 2214 12th Place nw, discovered July 28 alongside the John Hanson Highway near Kenilworth av. She had been raped and strangled.

- Nenomoshia Yates, 12, of 4952 Benning Road ne, found Oct. 1, lying along Pennsylvania av just past the District line. She had been raped and strangled.

Mannequin Built To Aid Slayer Hunt

By Ivan C. Brandon and Alfred E. Lewis
Washington Post Staff Writers



This is mannequin used by police to make up a picture of Brenda Denise Woodard, who was slain Nov. 18.

The metropolitan police department yesterday released color pictures of a mannequin designed as a likeness of Brenda Denise Woodard, whose body was found Nov. 18 near Prince George's County Hospital.

Police officials said yesterday that they would distribute the pictures in the hope that someone would recognize Miss Woodard and give some information that would shed some light on her disappearance and murder.

Miss Woodard, 18, of 2107 Maryland Ave. N.E., was last seen alive about 11:45 p.m. Nov. 15 at the corner of 8th and H Streets NE after she got off a bus on her way home from a night course at Cardozo High School. Her body was found the next day on an access road near Prince George's County Hospital. She had been stabbed three times and sexually molested.

Miss Woodard's murder was the sixth killing of a Washington girl in southeast Washington since May. Three of the other murder victims had the middle name Denise and all of the victims' bodies were found near major highways.

The mannequin was prepared by the exhibits section of the FBI after a joint conference between the metropolitan police department, the FBI, the U.S. Park Police and the Prince George's County police on Nov. 24.

The last time the FBI designed such a mannequin in Washington was following the kidnap-murder of 7-year-old

Michael Condetti in November, 1960. The FBI credits the pictures for providing the information that led to an arrest and conviction in that case.

In the pictures released yesterday, the mannequin is wearing a black turtleneck sweater, a black-and-white plaid mini-skirt, black wet-look boots, and a maroon three-quarter length coat. Her hair was styled in an afro.

Police said that at the time of her disappearance, Miss Woodward was carrying four books: Gregg Shorthand, punctual methods diamond jubilee series, which is a yellow book with red and green horizontal panels on the cover; Twentieth Century Typewriting, complete course, 9th edition, a red book; Modern Algebra, structure and methods book one, which is multicolored with a red top and a blue and white criss-cross design; a gray book with no writing.

WASH. POST
12/3/71
P. B-2

b7A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 3 1971	
FBI—WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

Message in victim's handwriting

'Phantom' dictated note

By CHRIS LORENZO

The "Freeway Phantom" note found in the coat pocket of Brenda Denise Woodard was apparently dictated by the killer and actually written by her, The Washington Daily News learned today.

The News also learned the three line note, written on school notebook paper, in pencil mentioned the killer's feeling and "insensitivity" to women and ended with the phrase "catch me, if you can."

It was signed "Freeway Phantom".

Miss Woodard, 18, who shared an apartment with another girl at 2105 Maryland av ne, was last seen on Nov. 15 at a bus stop at Eighth and H streets ne. Her fully-clothed body was found early next morning, lying face up with her hands folded under her head near Prince Georges Hospital, just off the Baltimore-Washington Expressway.

An autopsy report showed she had been sexually molested and that she died of three stab wounds, one in the stomach and two in the chest. Dr. Charles Springate, who performed the autopsy, said also her neck was bruised and fractured.

Hers was the sixth since May in a string of acabre killings of black girls, five of whom were raped, four strangled, four had the middle name of Denise, and all six dumped near freeways here.

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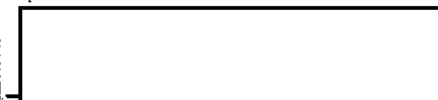
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DATE 12-2-71

PAGE 2

- THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- THE EVENING STAR
- THE SUNDAY STAR
- THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

b7A



SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1971	
FBI-WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE	

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By Ivan C. Brandon and Alfred E. Lewis
Washington Post Staff Writers

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DATE 12-3-71

PAGE B-2

- THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- THE EVENING STAR
- THE SUNDAY STAR
- THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

b7A

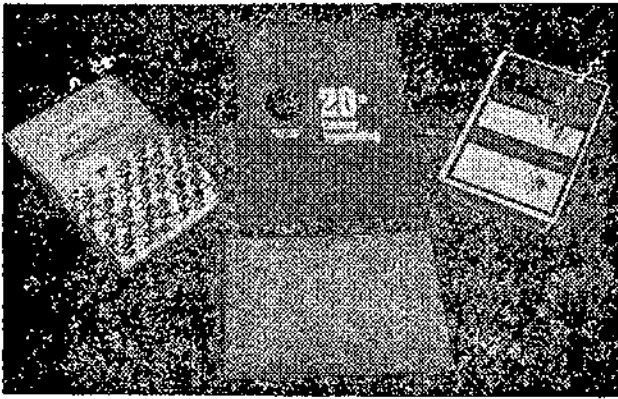
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SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 10 1971	
FBI—WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE	
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This is mannequin used by police to make up picture of slain Brenda Denise Woodward, slain last Nov. 18.

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
NOV 1971	
FBI - WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE	
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b7A



\$5,000 Reward

The Star is offering \$5,000 in cash to anyone providing the tip leading to an arrest and conviction in the slayings of six young black girls here.

The number of The Star's special "Tips Anonymous" telephone is 543-9299. The line will be open from 7 a.m. to midnight on weekdays and Saturdays.

Anyone phoning the special number can identify himself by dictating any sequence of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. The Star will keep a record of the number and if the information leads to a conviction the person can notify The Star's metropolitan editor, Scott Smith. After confirming the number, Smith will arrange to give the tipster the \$5,000 in cash.

Or a person can mail information in a letter. If he wants to remain anonymous, he should use the same system of identifying himself by numbers, and should keep a jagged corner from the paper.



-FBI Photo

RECOGNIZE THIS GIRL?

The FBI has developed this likeness of Brenda Denise Woodard, 18, sixth victim of a sex-killer being hunted by law enforcement agents here. As pictured, she was last seen at 11:45 p.m. Nov. 15 at 8th and H Streets NE, wearing a purple coat, black turtleneck sweater, black and white plaid skirt, black wet-look boots, and a brown Afro bush wig. Pictured below are books she carried then. They were not found with her body Nov. 16 at a Cheverly access road to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Police hope the photos will help develop leads in the killings.

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DATE 12-3-71

PAGE B-6

THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

SERIALIZED	INDEXED
FILED	FILED
DEC 8 1971	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

Slay suspect queried on Phantom deaths

News
12/20/71

District police today are checking out a man charged yesterday with the slaying of a 10-year-old girl to see if there is any link with the recent "Freeway Phantom" murders.

Eugene Welby Walker, 38, of 4917 Frank-st. e. is charged in the strangulation death of Janice Ann Coates, was found in the basement bathroom of an apartment house at 624 Massachusetts-av nw, Saturday.

When questioned about the possibility of a link between the slaying of Janice and the murders of six young black District girls

whose bodies all were found dumped near area freeways — homicide detectives said, "We haven't eliminated it; we're looking into that."

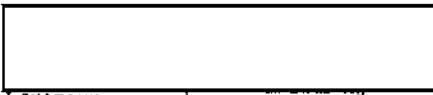
However, the detectives added they are skeptical that Janice was murdered by the Freeway Phantom.

The six girls thought to be victims of the "Freeway Phantom" include 12-year-old Nenomoshia Yates, who lived about a block and a half from the house when Mr. Walker lives. Janice lived with her mother, Ella Louise

Washington, at 452 K-st nw. Police said Mr. Walker is known to Mrs. Washington, altho "their association is unclear." They said Mr. Walker left the mother's apartment at about 3 o'clock Saturday to make a phone call and took the girl with him.

Janice was found by Emma Clark, 34, of 412 I-st nw, who was visiting the tenants of one of the basement apartments. The bathroom is used by occupants of all the basement apartments.

Police said the girl has been manually strangled and sexually molested.



b7A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 20 1971	
FBI - WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

Suspect Arrested In Hitchhiker Rape

A 29-year-old Silver Spring man was arrested last night and charged with the rape of a 16-year-old hitchhiker, Montgomery County police reported.

Albert Leon Budd of the 1000 block of Quebec Terrace, Silver Spring, was being held without bond in the Montgomery County Detention Center pending arraignment on the rape charge, police said.

The 16-year-old girl told police she was hitchhiking along Muncaster Mill Road in Rockville yesterday afternoon when

she was picked up by a man who was driving alone in his car. Police said she willingly got in the car with him.

The man then drove to a secluded area in the town along Avery Road, about a half-mile south of South Lawn Lane, where he parked.

He then forced the girl to disrobe and raped her, police said. The teen-ager managed to escape from the car and ran home, where her parents took her to Montgomery County General Hospital for treatment and called police. The girl had noted the car's license plate, police said. The girl was not otherwise injured.

Police said that after an investigation, Budd was identified as a suspect and a warrant was obtained for his arrest. He was arrested at his apartment last night, police said.

County police said they have not linked the suspect with any other rapes of female hitchhikers in the county.

In the last six months, there have been eight rapes and seven sex assaults, most involving teen-aged hitchhikers, county police have said.

Last month, a 21-year-old Takoma Park woman and two teen-aged Chevy Chase girls who were hitchhiking were raped in separate incidents.

After the rash of attacks on hitchhikers, county police tried to alert the public to the hazards of thumbing rides with strangers.

DATE 12-20-71

PAGE D-4

___ THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

✓ THE EVENING STAR

___ THE SUNDAY STAR

___ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

___ WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

b7A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 22 1971	
FBI-WASH. FIELD OFFICE	
R	

Hitchhiking girl, 16, is raped here

Sixth case in Montgomery in month

A 16-year-old girl hitchhiking to her Rockville Home was picked up last night and raped—the sixth such assault in Montgomery in a month, police said.

They said the girl was picked up about 5:10 p.m. on Muncaster Mill Road and driven to a wooded area off Avery Road about a half mile

south of Southlawn Lane in Rockville where she was raped.

Early today, police charged Albert Leon Budd, 29, of 1026 Quebec Terrace, Silver Spring, and charged him with rape.

Last month, police said they were alarmed at the increasing number of attacks on young girl hitchhikers. Police estimated 200 girls a day thumb rides on county roads.

"Young girls are putting themselves in places that makes it utterly simple for the rapist," said Maj. John Bechtel, chief of Montgomery's Investigations Bureau.

"They've even compounded the issue hitchhiking at night and in lonely spots. It makes it even more difficult for police to bat."

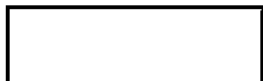
Last month, Capt. M.R. Daniels, chief of detectives, said that attacks on young hitchhikers had become such a serious problem that police were unable to assure the safety of girls who take to the road.

Capt. Daniels said that since the publicity given hitchhiking assaults by The Washington News there has been a "dramatic" decrease in the number girls hitchhiking.

DATE 12-20-71

PAGE 5

- THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- THE EVENING STAR
- THE SUNDAY STAR
- THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN



b7A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 22 1971	
FBI—WASH. FIELD OFFICE	

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whose bodies all were found dumped near area freeways — homicide detectives said, "We haven't eliminated it; we're looking into that."

However, the detectives added they are skeptical that Janice was murdered by the Freeway Phantom.

The six girls thought to be victims of the "Freeway Phantom" include 12-year-old Nenomoshia Yates, who lived about a block and a half from the house where Mr. Walker lives.

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b7A

DATE 12-20-71
 PAGE 5

- THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- THE EVENING STAR
- THE SUNDAY STAR
- THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 22 1971	
FBI—WASH. FIELD OFFICE	



Attending the Grand opening of the CLASSIC III SUPPER CLUB which is located in Camp Springs, Delegate John W. Wolfgang; Secretary of State Fred L. Wineland; Alfonso Procopio; Judge Samuel Deblasis; Albert Procopio; Hugo Procopio; Geaton Decesaris.

Bulletin Free Newspaper
Brandywine, Md
1/13/72
Vol. 4; p. 8

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DATE 1/31/72

PAGE 12

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

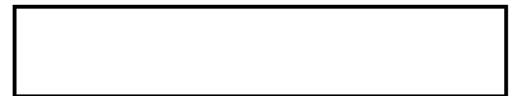
THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRICAN AMERICAN

National Enquirer
Vol 46 No. 23
February 6, 1972
P. 12

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The Freeway Phantom Turns Washington, D.C., Into a C

By ROBERT H. ABBORINO

Washington, D.C., is today a capital of fear.

Parents of young daughters in the nation's capital, long ranked as one of America's most crime-ridden cities, quake before the District's latest crime terror, the Freeway Phantom.

The Phantom, a murderer reminiscent of the Boston Strangler and San Francisco's Zodiac Killer, has struck six times since May 1, leaving the assaulted bodies of his young female victims on the capital's freeways.

Following his last murder, the Phantom challenged police with a "try and stop me" note. Police fear the challenge is also a threat the Phantom will strike again.

Rep. Mario Biaggi of New York, America's most decorated policeman before he became a congressman, calls Washington "truly a city of fear and terror where mothers are afraid to let their daughters out after dark." Law-



VICTIM NO. 1
Carol Denise Spinks



VICTIM NO. 2
Darlenia Denise Johnson



VICTIM NO. 4
Brenda Faye Crockett



VICTIM NO. 5
Nenomoshio Yates



Congressman Mario Biaggi

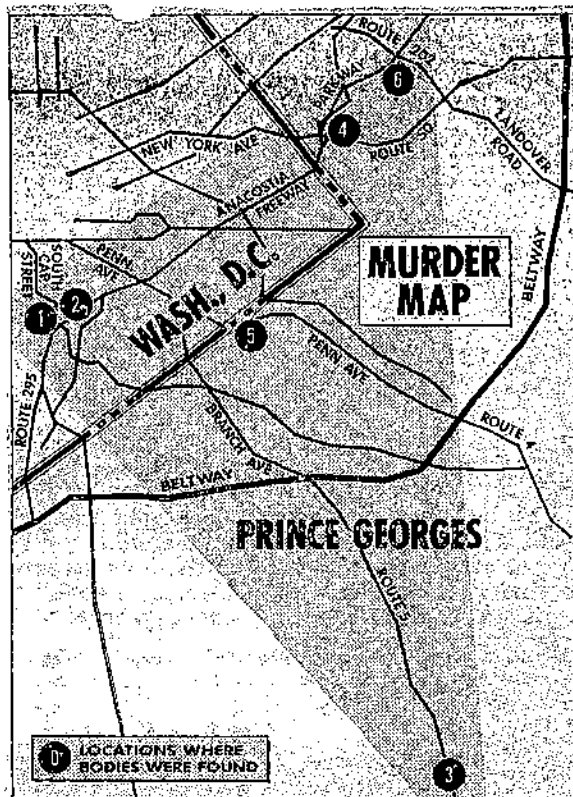
enforcement officials have no concrete clues as to the killer's identity, despite all-out efforts of city and county police and some 40 FBI agents, pledges and pleas from city and federal officials, a \$5,000 reward offered by the Washington Evening Star, and six "hot-line" phones to encourage anonymous tipsters.

"We know nothing more about him today than we did at the start," admits Lt. Joseph O'Brien, head of the District of Columbia homicide squad.

O'Brien explained to The ENQUIRER: "All the victims ranged in age from 10 to 18:

FEBRUARY 6, 1972 PAGE 12

Into a Capital of Fear



VICTIM NO. 3
Angela Denise Barnes



VICTIM NO. 6
Brenda Denise Woodard

All were attractive and petite. The bodies were all found on shoulders of outbound lanes of freeways.

Four of the victims had Denise as middle names. Two had Brenda as first names. Some of the bodies appear to have been undressed and then dressed again. Some of their garments were on improperly — backwards or inside out. Four were missing their shoes.

Sex was probably the motive in all the slayings. The killer had a base of operations, possibly a house or an apartment, where he took the girls, assaulted them and killed them. He then redressed the bodies, took them to busy highways and dumped them," said O'Brien.

Dr. Sheldon Freud, an internationally-known psychiatrist who has been helping police, told The ENQUIRER.

"Any girl named Denise should be especially careful now. Assuming that the killer is a man, we might assume he has some hostile association with the name Denise or even the letter 'D'."

The Phantom's last victim was Brenda Denise Woodard, 18, who was found stabbed to death on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway on November 16. In her pocket was found a bizarre three-line note, written on blue notebook paper in pink ink and signed the "Freeway Phantom."

is truly an abandoned city. "These recent murders by the Freeway Phantom have made the District more afraid than ever before. The signs of terror are everywhere. Motorists drive with their car doors locked and mothers keep

daughters home after dark. "The Freeway Phantom is just one more reason why Washington has become a city of fear," said Biaggi, who keeps his own two daughters in New York City, despite that city's own high crime rate.

The note taunted police: "catch me if you can." In it, police say, the killer admitted to the five previous murders. "There's no question that Washington, D.C. has become a city of terror," Democrat-Conservative Congressman Biaggi said. The former hero-cop told The ENQUIRER: "Public officials as well as private citizens are afraid to walk in the District. At night, the capital

Shadow of the Freeway Phantom(s)

By WALTER TAYLOR
Star Staff Writer

The telephone tips that once flooded police switchboards now come in sporadically — perhaps two today, one last week, six the week before that.

Still, a cadre of seasoned police investigators doggedly labors to solve what has become one of the most baffling series of crimes in recent years: six murders thought possibly to be the work of a single killer who became identified in the press as the "freeway phantom."

The first of the six murder victims — all of whom were young, black District girls — disappeared from near her home nearly a year ago.

But after months of intensive investigation, police say they have run out of solid leads in the bizarre slayings.

In conversations last week, homicide

detectives in the District and Prince Georges County acknowledged for the first time that little credence was ever given to speculation that a single killer was responsible for all six deaths.

And, they say, the fact that four of the victims had the same middle name, Denise, always has been viewed as a coincidence.

BUT FEW investigators can agree completely even now on which — or how many — of the cases might be related.

Sgt. Leo Spencer of the D.C. homicide squad said some of his detectives think they may be looking for as many as four killers.

Lt. Albert Kulle, who heads the crimes against persons section of the Prince Georges County police, says his men consider the possibility that two,

three, or even four suspects may be involved.

The likelihood of more than one person being responsible for the deaths of the girls is all the more frustrating to police; one person conceivably could commit a so-called perfect crime, perhaps even six times.

Six murders by as many as four killers defies probability.

Authorities say they have little physical evidence. More precisely, they say, they have three hairs, some semen specimens and a note written by one of the victims.

HERE IS THE information police have disclosed about the six cases:

The first victim was Carol Denise Spinks, 13, of 1058 Wahler Place SE. She was reported missing on a walking trip

INDEX NEWS PAPER

ARTICLE 1 RE

Freeway Phantom ca

4/9/72

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 10 1972	
FBI-WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE	

DATE

4-9-72

PAGE

D-1

THE WASHINGTON POST
& TIMES HERALD

THE EVENING STAR

THE SUNDAY STAR

THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

WASHINGTON-AFRO AMERICAN

to a store in the Wheeler Road-Southern Avenue area on Thursday, April 1:

Her body was found Saturday, May 1, just off the Anacostia Freeway (Route 295), about 200 yards south of Suitland Parkway in Washington. She had been strangled and sexually assaulted.

On Thursday, July 8, the second victim, Darlenia Denise Johnson, 16, of 3922 Wheeler Road SE, disappeared after leaving home for her job as a counselor at the Oxon Hill Recreation Center.

Her body was found Monday, July 19, just off Anacostia Freeway, near the Naval Research Laboratory.

Because the body was decomposed, the cause of the Johnson girl's death has never been determined positively. It also is not known if she was sexually molested.

Because the two girls lived in the

same general area and because their bodies were discovered in almost the exact same location, police have little doubt that the two killings were committed by the same men.

BOTH GIRLS were fully clothed except for their shoes, which never have been found.

Angela Denise Barnes, 14, of 4117 Martin Luther King Ave. SE was reported missing after leaving the home of friends in the vicinity of 8th and Barnaby Streets SE. About eight hours later, at 6:35 a.m. on Tuesday, July 13, her body was found alongside Maryland Route 228 in Charles County.

The Barnes girl, police say, was shot once in the head. Her body was fully clothed. Police officials now say that semen traces were on the pelvic area of

the body. She had not been raped, however, police maintain.

Because Angela Barnes was the only girl who was shot and because her body was found so far from the Washington area — about 25 miles — homicide detectives doubt that her death is connected with the other murders.

Some investigators believe that the cases of Brenda Faye Crockett and Nenomoshia Yates — victims four and five — are linked. Both are believed to have been abducted from Benning Road, and both were sexually molested and strangled.

AT ABOUT 8 P.M. on Tuesday, July 27, Brenda Crockett, 10, of 2214 12th Place NW, was sent to a grocery store in the 1900 block of 14th Street NW by her

See PHANTOM, Page D-4

PHANTOM

Shadow on Six Killings

Continued From Page D-1

mother. She never returned home, although she was later seen in the Benning Road area.

Her body was found the next day on a grassy shoulder on John Hanson Highway, 100 feet from Kenilworth Avenue in Prince Georges County.

Like the Spinks and Johnson girls, Brenda Crockett was fully clothed except for her shoes. Laboratory tests revealed a human hair in the clothing, but detectives are quick to point out that the strand could be from one of the investigators who touched the body or possibly from someone who casually bumped into the girl.

The Yates girl, 12, of 4952 Benning Road SE, was last seen on Friday, Oct. 1, en route to a supermarket in the 4900 block of Benning Road, a block from her home.

Two hours later, at about 9:30 p.m. her body was found by a hitchhiker on Pennsylvania Avenue, less than a mile inside Prince Georges County.

Articles the girl purchased in the grocery store were found outside the market the next day.

The final victim was Brenda Denise Woodard, 18, of 2107 Maryland Ave. NE. She left home at about 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 15, to attend night classes at Cardoza High School.

AFTER CLASSES she left school and rode a bus to 8th and H Streets NE, the last known place the girl was seen.

About 5 a.m. the following day, a Cheverly town policeman found the girl's body in the grass area of a service roadway near the Baltimore-Washington

Parkway and Maryland Route 202, about a quarter mile from Prince Georges County Hospital.

The girl had been molested, police said. She had been strangled and stabbed to death.

Investigation of the sixth death turned up more evidence than any of the earlier slayings.

A note was found near the body, police say. In it, the girl's killer claimed responsibility for murdering the other five girls. It was signed the Freeway Phantom.

Police officials now say, however, that the note apparently was written by the Woodard girl before she was slain, and that knife wounds on the body indicate that she may have been tortured into writing it.

TWO HAIRS — one from a white person and one from a Negro — were found in the clothing of the dead girl. Again, however, detectives say there is no way to be sure they belonged to her slayer.

Lt. Kulle says investigators are convinced that the sixth killing cannot be directly linked to the first five, the "confession" notwithstanding.

"We're pretty much convinced that the nut who did this is some clown who read about the others and got an idea."

Sgt. Spencer agrees that this is likely, though he emphasizes that there are some similarities between all six deaths.

Following the Woodard slaying, police stepped up their investigation to a near-24-hour operation. A public plea for aid was issued, and special telephones were set up to receive telephone tips.

In addition, The Star set up a \$5,000 reward fund for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer or killers — an offer that remains open.

SPENCER SAYS more than 1,500 tips were turned into the homicide unit. Most were checked out painstakingly.

At the height of the investigation, the District had 22 detectives working on the cases, Prince Georges County had 10. In addition, the facilities of the FBI and the Maryland state police were available to detectives.

Of all the tips that have been received, all the leads that have been checked out, all of the witnesses and potential suspects that have been questioned, none has shed any light on the slayings, police say.

"Nobody saw any of those girls abducted," Spencer said. "It's unbelievable, but I guess that's the case."

While police have not been able to solve any of the phantom killings, they have closed several other cases — including three rapes — on the basis of evidence accumulated during their investigation.

In addition, a wealth of intelligence information has been acquired on known sex offenders and suspected degenerates in both the District and its Maryland and Virginia suburbs, Spencer says.

An obvious question remains: Why hasn't the phantom — or phantoms — struck again?

Kulle and Spencer speculate that he, or they, may have been scared off by the intensive investigation. Or he may have been arrested and imprisoned on another charge, or admitted to a mental hospital.

INDEX

Girl's Body Found In Takoma Park

The body of an unidentified young woman was discovered at 6:20 a.m. today behind the Takoma Park Elementary School at 201 Philadelphia Ave.

Walter Lee Hamrick, a trash truck driver, who discovered the body, said the girl appeared to have been beaten on the head. The girl was fully clothed and was halfway between the school steps and a trash hopper, Hamrick said.

Takoma Park police were investigating.

Hamrick, a driver for Shayne Bros., Inc., said he was driving toward the school to make his daily pickup when he saw the body.

"She looked about 19 or 20," Hamrick said. "She wore red-and-white checked pants and a short-sleeved sweater. A little jacket lay about 6 feet away. She had bruises around her head and looked like she'd been beaten."

Hamrick said he immediately called his dispatcher on a two-way radio, and the dispatcher alerted Takoma Park police. Montgomery County Coroner Dr. Belden Reap examined the body at the scene before it was moved to the

state medical examiner's office in Baltimore for an autopsy.

Detective Gary Sherman said no identification was found on the body and it was not known whether she had died where she was found or whether the body had been dumped there.

Sherman said there was a mark on the head indicating that she might have been struck, but there were no other visible wounds.

An autopsy will be performed later today in Baltimore and an FBI fingerprint check will be made to try to identify the girl.

DATE 5-10-72

PAGE A-1

- ___ THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- ✓ THE EVENING STAR
- ___ THE SUNDAY STAR
- ___ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- ___ WASHINGTON AFRO AMERICAN

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