

(a few yrs ago I wrote this + sent it to CBS helpful for details -S-

48 HOURS: A Proposal

I was asked to write to you about my brother, Mitchel Weiser's disappearance. I thought of getting in touch with CBS (48 Hours) after watching "Crystal's Courage". I was reminded of our story. All those people killed by Tommy Lynn Sells and all their family and friends who either never found bodies or found the killer. I, personally, felt such relief for the mother and sister who finally knew that it was a random murderer and not one of their community.

Briefly, or that was my intention, Here is our story: I was told by your staff that this is a potential cold case. However, there has been so much updated activity this past year, after 28 years, and police involvement continues actively, though currently, they are hardly working solely on Mitchel or Bonnie case.

My brother, Mitchel Weiser, 16-yrs-old and his girlfriend, Bonnie Bickwit, 15-yrs-old, disappeared without a trace 28 years ago. They were on their way to a big rock concert called Summer Jam in Watkins Glen, July 28, Sat (Allman Bros, Grateful Dead). Mitchel left home, Thurs, July 26 to pick up Bonnie at Camp Wel-Met in Narrowsburg, NY.

On Friday, July 27, it's been verified that Mitchel got to the camp and ate breakfast in the dining hall with Bonnie. Friday morning they supposedly left Camp Wel-Met in a camp truck to hitchhike to the Watkins Glen concert (advertised to rival Woodstock).

Sat, July 28th, day of the Summer Jam concert.

Sun, July 29th - both should have started home. Neither one was ever heard from again. We never knew if they even made it up to the concert. Foul play was imagined. My father went to his Brooklyn, NY precinct on Mon, July 30 and was treated with great disrespect. I was there. The News media, incl. TV, Channels 2,4,7, and 9 got involved in our case. As well as NYC area newspapers, ie, NY Times, Daily News, Post, some national papers and radio stations. It got attention. (see NY Post article, Aug 1973)

In 1994, a Newsday reporter, Eric Greenberg took up our story. He's still involved. He got in touch with Sullivan County, Monticello, NY Det. Anthony Suarez. Suarez told Greenberg he was going to keep the case open. (see Newsday, Aug 13, 1994)

In 1998, Greenberg continues to investigate. Now with the Jewish Week (a nat'l paper) He writes the enclosed article (Jewish Week, July 24, 1998). A psychic, Maurice Schickler, after seeing the article comes forward to graphically report how Mitchel was murdered, who murdered him and where. After Eric Greenberg meets with him, the psychic comes to my house, I was creeped out, I had a wild feeling - maybe this man is the murderer. He was kind of describing himself. Mr. Schickler told me he made repeated attempts to work with Det Suarez to no avail.

In summer of 1999, Alison Gilbert and Matthew Schwartz (?) from UPN, Channel 9 TV, Secaucus, NJ did a segment of our story on the 10 o'clock news. The psychic, mentioned above was featured, as well as Camp Wel-Met.

Then in June, 2000, 27 years after they vanished, Mitchel and Bonnie's high school friends had a John Dewey Reunion. I was invited. A Japanese tree was planted with a memorial stone in remembrance of their vanished friends. The press was invited. I spoke, as did several friends. It was an incredible gift for me. We called on NY Attorney Gen. Elliot Spitzer and Gov. George Pataki to give us investigators to finally make a long-needed statewide probe. (see enclosed articles from The Jewish Week, the NY Daily News, and the NY Post.)

July, 2000, NYS Attorney Gen. Spitzer and Gov. Pataki each gave us a top level investigator to work on our case only. It was incredible. Inv. William Kilgallon, from NYS OAS and Inv. Roy Streever from The NYS Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations-Major Crimes - Troop F. They interviewed everyone from 27 yrs ago who were involved at Camp Wel-Met. They tried to recreate Mitchel and Bonnie's last day.

July 2000, MSNBC (Arnold Shapiro/Ruth Golden) did a very good piece featuring Mitchel and Bonnie on their upcoming show "Missing Persons". The segment featured myself, Bonnie's mother and sister, the kid's friends, the reporter, Eric Greenberg, and the psychic, Maurice Schickler, and Det Suarez. The psychic fully describes the killing and takes the crew on a tour of the murder scene. Det Suarez doesn't follow up. The new investigators were not featured.

Oct. 6 & 7, 2000: The MSNBC show "Missing Persons" airs. The police got four leads. One lead was pursued. Alan Smith, from Providence, RI claimed to have hitched with Mitchel and Bonnie and to have witnessed their drowning. Investigators Streever and Kilgallon went to Rhode Island and brought him back with them to try to locate the spot and question him. They interviewed him several times.

Smith said that he and Mitch and Bonnie got into an orange VW Bus with Pennsylvania license plates, the day after the concert to hitch home. Smith, 24-yrs-old in 1973 described himself and the driver as very stoned. The kids not. And there was a stoned out guy sleeping on the floor in the back. He said they stopped at a big river, the Susquehanna or Chemung to cool off. He heard Bonnie scream and then saw her in the river. He saw Mitchel jump in after her to save her. He said he and the driver watched as the kids were pulled by the current around a bend. Smith and the unknown driver went back in the van and drove away. They never notified police of the "accident" or tried to get help. Smith and the driver parted ways at the turnoff to Pennsylvania where the bus was headed. Investigators Streever and Kilgallon felt this was a plausible story. Inv. Streever was not totally convinced, he felt that Smith gave conflicting information and to this day shows no remorse about not reporting it. He shrugs off any attempt to discuss guilt. He is now 400 pounds.

Based on Smith's story, Inv Streever and Inv. Kilgallon checked out all the coroner offices along the Chemung or Susquehanna rivers. No bodies had ever been found matching their descriptions, who hadn't been claimed. NYS Forensic expert, Judy Van Vranken told me this is highly unlikely. During these 27 years a body, (bones) let alone two bodies should have "surfaced". Frankly, she was a bit suspicious of Smith's story.

Dec. 5, 2000 Investigators Streever and Kilgallon came to my house to tell me and Bonnie's mother their findings. They wanted us to feel closure based on Smith's story even though we had no tangible evidence. It was all based on what he said. Smith never could identify Mitchel and Bonnie from photos or clearly describe what they wore. He claims not to find ID, yet their belongings still had to be in that VW bus after they drowned. Det. Streever found some of what he said conflicting and strange. Therefore, he wanted to give him a polygraph test. But he didn't want him to lawyer up until more questions were answered by this still cooperative person. But Inv. Streever never got to satisfy his questions because he was pulled off the case, as was Inv. Kilgallon.

Some of Mitchel and Bonnie's friends and my friends and family were very disappointed that so close to possibly having real closure the investigation was stopped. For example: We can try to find this unknown driver. By asking the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Dept. to send us a list of owners of orange VW Buses registered in Pennsylvania in 1972/1973. Try an appeal on TV for this man to come forward to corroborate Alan Smith's story. In Dec, 2000 Chris F, a NY Post Reporter spoke with Smith. Smith told him he went to Yonkers, NY after he left this driver. He originally told Streever and Kilgallon he headed home to Rhode Island.

As a favor to me, Inv. Streever called the psychic, Schickler, to let him finally speak about his ideas regarding the case. Schickler was cold and brushed off Inv. Streever. He said I'm going out of town, call me back after Jan. 10, 2001. I found this very odd. Since 1998, this psychic had been "whining" that the police rebuffed all his entreaties to help solve the case. Yet, finally, when a detective was willing to talk with him and give him the time of day - he is cold and can't wait to hang up. This made me suspicious of him again.

August, 2001: In the past few months the police have gotten some new leads. Inv. Roy Streever has been allowed to work on new leads. Also, Det. Suarez, Monticello, has retired. Det. Don Starner has taken over the case. I spoke with him this week and was impressed with the change. Det Starner grew up in the Watkins Glen area, lived there in the 1970s, and had been a teenager at the Woodstock Festival. He is from our generation, like Streever. Det. Suarez was from Brooklyn and did not travel to investigate outside the Sullivan County region. Det. Don Starner, however, is being allowed to travel interstate with Inv. Streever for our case.

They have recently returned from Maryland, where they were tracking down a new lead.

In April, 2001, inmates in a Maryland jail, wrote to the police and said they heard a fellow inmate, a serial killer confess to murdering Mitchel and Bonnie. Det. Starner told me he is very crazy. The FBI has been working with this psychopath and Inv. Streever and Det. Starner travelled to Maryland to interview those concerned. Det. Starner told me that they are definitely not dismissing him as a nut job. Especially, since the FBI has a time line on this killer. The FBI places him in Poughkeepsie and New Hyde Park, NY in 1973. To return home, Mitchel and Bonnie may have travelled back to NYC via these cities, along the NYS Thruway or the Taconic. So they are continuing to work on this lead. Det. Starner also said it shouldn't be too difficult to track down owners of orange VW Buses from 1973. He said he would do so

August, 2000: Last weekend, MSNBC re-aired "The Missing Person's Show" featuring Mitchel and Bonnie. Unfortunately, they ran the old footage with the psychic, which may or may not be relevant. It would have been very useful to have updated the story to include the new investigators: Bill Kilgallon, Roy Streever and Det. Don Starner. Nothing about Alan Smith and the "drownings" was added.

It would be of great value to put this story on national TV, prime time: Update the story with the new leads and the new investigators. Report about Alan Smith and what he supposedly witnessed. Ask the driver of the VW bus to come forward and corroborate. Possibly a news reporter from a local paper remembers writing about 2 teenage bodies found somewhere along the river or in the woods. We have computer age-enhanced photos for the TV viewing world to look at and identify. And we have the investigators looking into a Maryland psychopath. (I was told that he pretends to dress up and be his victims. He was Bonnie for a while. Last week he was Kristin).

I feel the universe has really opened up this past year. And I feel that we will have our questions answered.

People involved with the Case:

1. Investigator Roy Streever : (845) 344-5344 (direct) or (845) 344-5300
New York State Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation, MAJOR CRIMES, Troop F Headquarters, Crystal Run Road, Middletown, NY 10940.
2. Investigator William Kilgallon: (518) 474-8592 , Fax: (518) 474-8219 . State of New York Office of Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341.
Inv. Kilgallon has suffered a stroke and is not working.
3. Jim Horton is William Kilgallon's boss. (518) 474-474-2011, Fax: (518) 474-8219
Email: JamesHorton@oag.state.ny.US
4. Detective Don Starner, Sullivan County Sheriff's Office (845) 794-7100
8 Bushnell Ave, Monticello, NY 12701.

5. Det. Anthony Suarez (retired). (845) 791-9529 (home). Original detective in Sullivan county.
6. Judy Van Vranken, Forensic case manager, NYS Dept of Criminal Justice Service, Unit – Missing Children, (800) 346-3543 or (518) 457-6326.
7. Ruth Golden/MSNBC (freelance): cell phone: (323) 791-5110. She did the interview. Eric Hanan, MSNBC, One MSNBC Plaza, Secaucus, NJ 07004 (he called to tell me it was being rebroadcast this Aug.)
8. Eric Greenberg, Jewish Week reporter, (212) 721-7822,ext. 232, Email:EJGreenb@aol.com
9. Allison Gilbert, Channel 9 News, 9 Broadcast Plaza, Secaucus,NJ 07076, (201) 330-2268.