

# Police drawing is similar

## Task force mulls psychic's sketch of killer

By JOSEPH SULLIVAN

Did the Oakland County Task Force come into contact with the killer or an accomplice of the child killer at Detroit's Gas Station Bar on April 11, 1977?

Dr. Jerry Tobias, who accompanied Dr. Bruce Danto to the bar at Seven Mile and Woodward in Detroit, says a man who offered to buy him a drink that night may have mistaken him (Tobias) for Danto, the man he was supposed to meet.

Tobias Friday also revealed to The Eccentric that a police psychic employed by the task force four months later directed a drawing of the killer which was a perfect match for the man Tobias says wanted to buy him a drink in the bar.

The story of possible contact with the killer was related by Tobias Friday as part of an effort by the task force to reveal formerly confidential information in the hope that someone will come forward who had contact with the killer.

Earlier last week, Michigan State Police Lt. Robert Robertson who headed the task force, made public a tape recording of a conversation Danto had with a man claiming to know the killer.

"It was more than a crank call," Danto added. "He said the right things. He wanted immunity, something an accomplice of the killer would want, and he said he had Polaroid pictures." "I believe most child molesters take pictures of their victims, and he claimed to have them."

Dr. Tobias, a Bloomfield Township resident who has a Ph.D. in education and guidance, is a professor at the University of Detroit and is also a police officer, heading the Southfield Township Youth Bureau.

A member of the Task Force, he was instructed by Robertson to accompany Danto at the Gas Station Bar tomorrow night at 9:00 with letter from Governor of Michigan giving me total immunity in return I give you Polaroid pictures proving he kill them."

The caller grew extremely excited when Danto tried to ask questions, and sounded like he was crying or on the verge of bursting into tears.

Danto said Friday he believes the caller was the same man who had written him a letter signed Allen. Danto received that letter April 5, 1977 about nine days after Danto had written an open letter to the child killer.

nal Tobias sitting at the table, corrected text papers from his college class.

"I looked up from the table and noticed a man with his back to the bar looking at the table," Tobias said. "He looked at me and smiled, and I smiled back."

The man then stopped a waiter and inquired about buying Tobias a drink.

About this time, Tobias said he was called by officers asking if Danto had been approached. Tobias said he had not, and the order was given to scrap the project.

Tobias told the officers on a two-way wrist radio to wait, that there might be something going on.

"It didn't occur to me then that he might have confused me for Bruce (Danto)," Tobias said. "But I wasn't sure."

"He might have picked me out as a policeman, or he might have been a homosexual trying to make a pickup."

The bar is a popular spot for homosexuals, Tobias said, with a dance floor and musical tapes. Tobias sat in the back near the unoccupied dance floor.

"He (the stranger) was almost directly behind Bruce (Danto) about 15 feet away, but facing me," Tobias said.

"I was contacted again saying the project was scrapped and they sent in an undercover woman officer just before 10:00. I kissed her when she came in and acted as though I had been waiting for her," Tobias said. "The man smiling, then raised a glass as if to toast us."

On August 15, the psychic said he had a picture of the killer, and instructed the police artist who accompanied him from New York, to draw the picture.

The resulting freehand picture is an exact replica of the man Tobias says he saw in the bar four months earlier.

"That's him, no doubt about it," Tobias said pointing to the freehand

sketch. "It's an exact likeness."

The original sketch was then transformed to the police number system, the system Tobias used to record his memory of the man in the bar.

"I CHECKED the numbers used in my drawing"

ing, and they used the exact same numbers that I used the night I had the sketch done," Tobias said.

The only difference was that I had some trouble with the mouth. I never quite got that right. But the freehand sketch has it almost perfectly. Tobias said the psychic

worked with the Task Force for five days, and amazed everyone with information they believe he had no way of knowing.

He told us many things we don't think he could have read," Tobias said. "There wasn't a great deal we didn't already know, but he impressed us with what he knew."

Tobias said he keeps an open mind on the possibility of the psychic's ability, not knowing whether to trust it completely or not.

"I just don't know about it," Tobias said. "Maybe he got the impression of that sketch from me, because I was in the room just before he had the artist begin drawing."

"Or maybe it was the killer who I saw that night. It could have been Allen and the killer were one and the same. Or maybe it was just Allen I saw."

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This sketch, portraying a psychic's vision of the Oakland County child killer, is identical to a man seen in the Gas Station Bar the night Dr. Bruce Danto was to meet "Allen," the professed lover of the killer. The sketch, drawn August 15, 1977, was made four months after Danto went to the bar.



An alteration of the psychic's sketch, using a police numbering system for different facial parts, is nearly identical to a sketch police made of a man who tried to buy a drink for Dr. Jerry Tobias, when Tobias accompanied Dr. Bruce Danto to the Gas Station Bar.

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**Area students win in contest**

Four Harrison High School students were winners in an architectural design competition held recently.

The competition, which challenged students to design a "Community Fitness Center," was sponsored by the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Lawrence Institute of Technology School of Architecture, and Detroit Edison.

Clifford Cully took first place in the lighting category and second in the overall design competition, while Robert Mehall placed first in design.

Marco Capicchioni finished third in the design category and Rick Rudofski received an honorable mention.

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