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The Reinert Mystery: A Special Report

No Sex Attack on Reinert, Autopsy Shows

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Bradfield, neighbors said, was a regular overnight guest at Reinert's home. They said he would compliment her children on the pancakes they cooked for him for breakfast. But at 10 p.m. on the day her body was found, he left as planned on an American Airlines jet for Sante Fe, N.M., where he took summer courses at St. John's College.

His blue Volkswagen was delivered to him there later. The driver, identity unknown, is being sought for questioning.

Reinert had joined Upper Merion High's English department, where Bradfield was a teacher, in 1971. Four years ago, after separating from her husband, Kenneth, she began what close friends described as "a roller-coaster" affair with Bradfield.

DURING HER SEPARATION, Bradfield offered to give her a down payment on a home, a friend of Susan's said. When she told friends about Bradfield's offer, they advised her against it, because "there would be too many strings attached," one said.

By the time she was divorced in 1976, Reinert was seeing Bradfield regularly — though both were taking pains to keep the relationship secret, according to close friends. One of Reinert's closest friends said Reinert would meet Bradfield secretly in such places as New York, Harrisburg, New Hope and French Creek State Park.

A Reinert confidante said the woman never met Bradfield's parents, who lived in nearby Valley Forge. The divorced Bradfield explained to Reinert, "I don't know how they'll (his parents) take it," according to a mutual friend.

Reinert was looking forward to the marriage so she could stop the secret meetings, which were causing her "an inner struggle," a friend said.

HOWEVER, VINCENT Valaitis, a friend and fellow teacher who lived in the same apartment building as Bradfield and Myers, told friends he thought Reinert's view of her relationship with Bradfield was self-deceiving and that he knew of no romantic involvement between Reinert and Bradfield.

Reinert told one friend that Bradfield had "showed concrete evidence" of his love, by moving out of the apartment he shared with the 36-year-old Myers in the Alpine Gardens complex in Charlestown, Chester County, and into his parents' home.

The friend also said Bradfield told Reinert that Myers had moved in with a girl friend.

However, Bradfield reportedly continued to live with Myers at the same time he was a regular overnight visitor at Reinert's house.

Only three weeks before Reinert's murder, Myers told Valaitis not to bring a girl friend — or anyone else — to their apartment because she and Bradfield didn't want anyone to know they were still living there together, according to a neighbor of Valaitis.

Reinert's plans to marry Bradfield seemed firm three months before her death, when she told her friend that she and her children had passports and planned to go to England at July's end — expecting Bradfield to follow a few weeks later.

Reinert said she and Bradfield would be married in England and try to find teaching jobs there for at least a year. She planned to rent, not sell, her Ardmore home, the friend said.

She had already written a letter of inquiry to a school in England, including a letter of recommendation from principal Smith. Later Reinert worried that Smith's letter might come back to haunt her, if her prospective employers found out about Smith's arrest record.

MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO Upper Merion High School officials, Bradfield told them nothing that would indicate he was going to England. On the contrary, Bradfield was expected to return to the school, where he was president-elect of the teachers' union.

Other references to Reinert's intended marriage to Bradfield are found in both her revised will and the two large insurance policies, which named Bradfield as the recipient of up to \$860,000. In those documents, Reinert referred to Bradfield as "my future husband."

In the weeks just before she was murdered, Reinert appeared to be in an uncharacteristic rush to acquire large amounts of life insurance.

Last December, Reinert asked the United Services Automobile Association, a San Antonio, Tex., mail-order firm, to insure her life. She also asked New York Life for a policy. Both turned her down.

She persisted, however, and both companies eventually issued the policies. The San Antonio firm issued a \$500,000 policy with a \$200,000 accidental death rider. New York Life issued a \$160,000 policy. The police are trying to learn

ship with Smith was "adversarial" and "sometimes starkly confrontational," because Bradfield is president-elect of the teachers' union. But he said the relationship had never been "bitter" or "acrimonious," and he was a reluctant alibi witness for Smith.

"No one wants to be involved in a trial like this," Bradfield testified. "It had occurred to me much to my distress that I was with Smith that weekend. Then I proceeded to wonder whether I wanted to get involved. Dr. Smith frankly means nothing to me or I to him."

Before that testimony, however, in late March 1979, Bradfield and Smith were seen leaving the Mari-Nay Diner on Lancaster Pike in Rosemont, a mile from Reinert's home, according to an Upper Merion teacher.

"I WAS GOING in as they were coming out together," the teacher said. "I saw them and realized it was Bill Bradfield and Smith. They

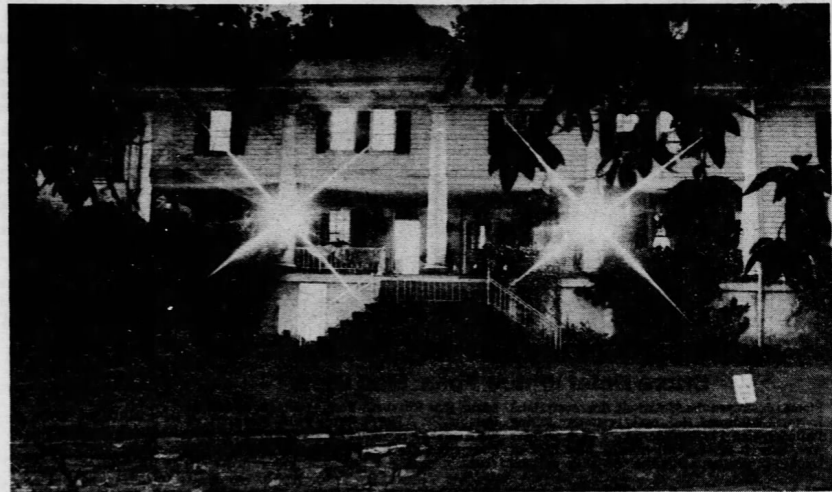
against a backdrop of scandal and upset at the high school.

Concluding his brief court appearance June 25, Smith casually turned to his attorney, John O'Brien, flipped him his car keys and said: "Here. My car's on the lot."

WHILE A PUBLISHED report said Susan Reinert may have been the victim of a satanic cult, placed on an altar and stripped, tortured and sexually assaulted before being ritually murdered, the Daily News has learned that the autopsy report shows she was not raped or sexually molested in any fashion.

In addition, the report concluded that Reinert was not naked when she was bound. Tiny fibers of cloth in the bruise marks left by small chains, probably bicycle chains, indicate she was clothed when she was bound.

Reports of bizarre sexual activity surfaced recently with the discovery of a diary kept by



The house near Phoenixville where teachers Bradfield, Myers and Valaitis live

Photographed by E. W. Faircloth

why she was at first turned down and if she had undergone physical examinations for both policies.

IN ADDITION, she had three other insurance policies, collectively worth \$75,000, although the beneficiaries of those policies were not known.

It is not known if Bradfield, who on his lawyer's advice will not comment, has attempted to collect on the two policies.

Bradfield testified at the robbery trial of Upper Merion's ex-principal, Smith, in May, a month before Reinert was slain. Smith, 50, is serving a 25 years at the State Correctional Institution at Dallas, Pa., for the \$53,000 robbery of the Sears store in St. Davids, Delaware County, Aug. 27, 1977.

At that trial, Smith, accused of impersonating a Brinks guard, claimed he was in Ocean City, N.J., at the time, and Bradfield supported his claim in court.

Bradfield testified he met Smith around 12:30 p.m. that day in front of an Ocean City restaurant. Smith, Bradfield said, accompanied him on a visit to the new summer home of mutual friend and fellow teacher Fred Wattenmaker, head of Upper Merion High's languages department.

In his testimony, Bradfield said his relation-

stood on the parking lot a little while and talked, before they got in their cars and left."

When Reinert was told that Smith and Bradfield had been seen eating together, she said, "Oh, that explains why Bill was late (2 hours) for our date."

But when Reinert asked Bradfield why he had met with Smith, Bradfield denied ever dining with Smith, and, according to a friend of Reinert's, told Reinert that her girl friend "must be mistaken. I never met Smith."

At 5:15 a.m. Monday, June 25, Reinert's nude body was found in the rear of her red 1978 Plymouth Horizon in the parking lot of the Host Inn just a few miles from Harrisburg. The car was seen on the lot four hours earlier.

At 10:45 that morning, after apologizing to Dauphin County Common Pleas Judge Warren Morgan that he was late because he'd been stuck in a gas line, Jay C. Smith surrendered to be sentenced and then begin his jail term.

Last August, Smith had been arrested in a Devon, Chester County, shopping center parking lot after being seen wielding two revolvers. Since that time, he has been charged and convicted of two Sears robberies, pleaded no contest to weapons offenses, and faces trial on drug charges next month — all of this coming

Smith's wife, Stephanie, who died of cancer earlier this month.

The diary found among Mrs. Smith's personal effects detailed a double life involving drugs and deviate sex in which her husband allegedly participated. The diary portrays a man who openly sought other "swingers" for group sex and the use of various sexual devices.

Two years ago, in an interview, Smith boasted of his large library of sexual reading material, which included works on homosexuality and bestiality.

A RUBBER PHALLUS described by police as a male sexual aid was found in the springs beneath the front seat of Reinert's car when her body was discovered.

Also found in the car was an umbrella, a matchbook cover from a Gettysburg motel (where she had attended an educational conference last year), several fast food wrappers and an empty Coke container. They are the only physical evidence available to investigators, who still don't know where she was murdered.

The Daily News has learned that Bell of Pennsylvania last Friday sent Vincent Valaitis

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