

DA presents reports on 3 murder suspects

Bristol County District Attorney Ronald A. Pina yesterday presented Superior Court Judge Robert S. Prince with reports on the three Fall River people indicted early last month for the murder of 20-year-old Karen Marsden of Fall River.

Assistant District Attorney Lance Garth said the procedure "was for the purpose of getting all the paper work together" before the pretrial conferences later.

Carl Davis, 24, of 481 Durfee St., Carl Drew, 25, of 42 S. Main St., and Robin M. Murphy, 17, of 169 Walnut St., have been charged with Miss Marsden's murder.

A skull identified as Miss Marsden's was found in Westport between Devol and Sawdy Ponds April 13. Miss Marsden was reported missing Feb. 10.

Officials said Drew and Davis were in court yesterday for the pre-conference interviews. Both are being held without bail at the Bristol County House of Correction in New Bedford. Their pretrial conferences are scheduled for June 2.

Miss Murphy is being held with-

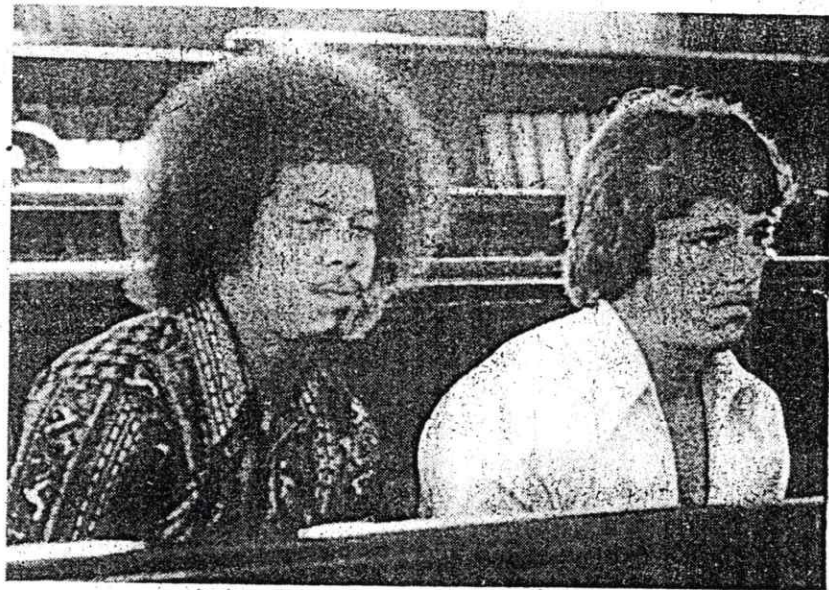


Photo by Norman Sylvia

Carl Davis, left, and Carl Drew, indicted on charges of murdering 20-year-old Karen Marsden of Fall River, listen to the discussion during a pretrial hearing yesterday in Superior Court in New Bedford.

out bail at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Framingham, and was not in court because

of transportation problems. She is scheduled for a June 9 pretrial conference.

City man's trial to open in 'cult' murder

A Fall River man will go on trial Monday in Fitchburg Superior Court, accused in the brutal slaying of a 20-year-old city prostitute in a bizarre case which police said may be related to a Satanic cult known to them here.

Carl H. Drew, 26, of 452 South Main St., faces trial in the murder of Miss Karen Marsden, who disappeared from this city Feb. 8, 1980.

A portion of a skull was recovered in a wooded area off Davol Pond Way, Westport, last April 13.

Police later identified the skull as that of the alleged murder victim, Ms. Marsden. The murder victim's torso was never found.

Identification of the unknown murder victim found in those Westport woods was made through a blood-stained blouse, a pair of women's high-heel shoes, a clump of dark hair, pair of blue and red socks, a red comb and several pieces of costume jewelry found within a quarter-mile radius from where the skull was

discovered. Police said all those items belonged to Ms. Marsden.

A co-defendant in the murder, Carl Davis, 24, of 481 Durfee St., also of Fall River, is to go on trial after the Drew case is concluded.

A third co-defendant, Robin Marie Murphy, 17, is serving a life sentence at Framingham Women's Prison after she was allowed to plead guilty to second-degree murder in Miss Marsden's killing on Jan. 14, in exchange for testimony against the two co-defendants.

Miss Murphy testified before a Bristol County grand jury that she slit the alleged victim's throat with a knife on orders from one of several unnamed participants in the killing who then wrenched the head off the body "and kicked it around like a football."

Atty. Kenneth L. Sullivan, when he allowed his client Miss Murphy to plead guilty, told the court, "The victim (Miss Marsden) was taken to a lonely, secluded spot where certain ritualistic acts were performed along with other acts of violence and the girl died."

"There were three persons present

that night, two males and a female," Sullivan added, "There was some indication that depraved activity took place such as the anointing with blood and there was a knife wound to the throat of the victim and the head was removed from the body."

Sullivan also said that if Miss Murphy was brought to trial he would introduce expert testimony from a psychiatrist. "He would offer testimony directed toward cults where those in the cult have their wills overcome by a strong person. They do what the master orders or wills them to do," he stated.

The attractive dark haired, dark-eyed, slim-built Miss Marsden, who was the mother of a young child, was threatened a number of times, according to her grandmother in an interview published in The Herald News May 9, 1980.

Those threats came when she attempted to break away from the group in control of the girls on the street, her grandmother stated.

"Karen was threatened by men and women—those worshipers," she declared, "Karen was afraid she was

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Carl H. Drew
The accused



Karen Marsden
The victim.



Robin Murphy
The witness.

Marsden murder trial opening in Fitchburg

By HAROLD E. BARKER
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

FITCHBURG, Mass. — The murder trial of Carl Drew, a 26-year-old Fall River pimp charged in the slaying of a prostitute last February, begins here tomorrow in a Gothic courthouse that once played a minor role in a Hollywood drama called "By Love Possessed."

The trial has been moved here from Bristol County at the request of Drew's New Bedford lawyer, John Birknes, and with the approval of Superior Court Judge Francis Keating — who has a reputation for never doing such things — because of publicity that has surrounded this case and the slayings of two other Fall River prostitutes in late 1979 and early 1980.

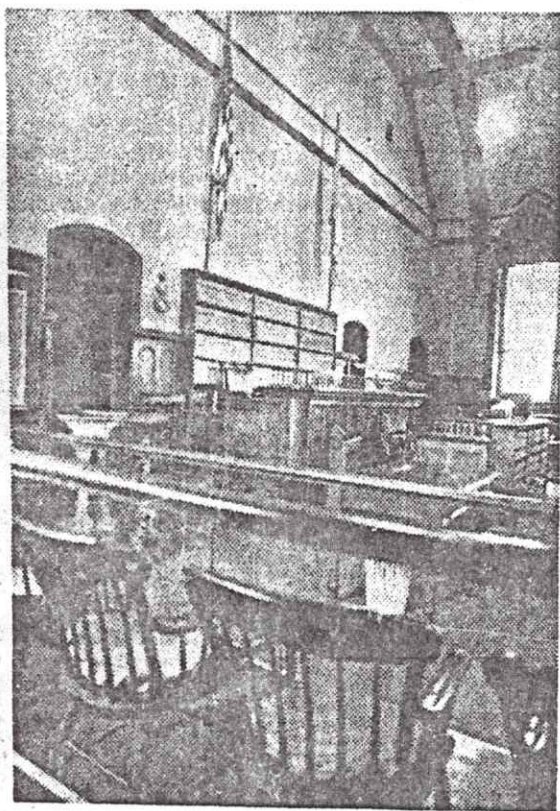
Television cameras will be focusing on a tale of the underside of life in Fall River, including allegations of a satanic cult made up of prostitutes and pimps.

Neither Bristol County District Attorney Ronald A. Pina, nor his assistant David Waxler, the prosecutor in the Drew case, has acknowledged that such a sect exists, or that there is even a link among the three murders, despite five arrests and two convictions in connection with the killings of the Fall River women.

Drew is accused, along with another man and woman, of murdering Karen Marsden, 20, whose skull and clothing were found in the woods of Westport more than a year ago.

Carl Davis, 25, another pimp, and Robin Marie Murphy, 18, an admitted prostitute, also were indicted

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—Journal-Bulletin Photos by WILLIAM K. DABY

TRIAL SETTING: This is the courtroom in Fitchburg where the trial of Carl Drew for the murder of Karen Marsden will begin tomorrow.



Journal-Bulletin photo by Peter Morgan

Pamela Coady, 21, of Somerset breaks down on the stand as she testifies during the Carl H. Drew murder

trial in Fitchburg yesterday. She was led from courtroom, saying she didn't want to be involved in the trial anymore.

Jury to get Marsden murder case today 3-13-80

By Carol Rosenberg
STANDARD-TIMES CORRESPONDENT

FITCHBURG — Carl H. Drew says he was in a Fall River bar the night Karen Marsden, a 20-year-old Fall River prostitute, was killed in a wooded area of Westport.

Drew, 26, took the stand in his own defense yesterday, saying he was working as a pimp on Feb. 8, 1980. Testimony in the murder trial ended yesterday, and the case will go to the jury today.

Drew's testimony came after two defense witnesses refused to testify, citing their constitutional right against self-incrimination. A third witness was led from the courtroom in tears, saying she didn't want to be involved anymore.

The first witness refusing to testify was Carl Davis, 25, who also

has been indicted in the Marsden murder. He was brought from the Bristol County House of Correction to testify in Drew's behalf. Wearing blue jeans, sneakers and a black leather jacket, he invoked his rights before the jury entered the courtroom.

Davis won't talk

A third person charged in the Marsden murder, Robin M. Murphy, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was given a sentence of life in prison. She already has testified during Drew's trial.

Maureen "Sonny" Sparda of Fall River said yesterday her lawyer advised her not to testify. Without Drew or the jury present, she told Judge Francis W. Keating she

wouldn't testify because "I was threatened that Carl Davis wrote a letter saying I was at the scene of the crime and wanted to testify in the case. I want the jury to hear both sides of the story because I know both sides. These guys scared the hell out of me."

Pamela Coady, 21, of Somerset burst into tears during her testimony, saying "I don't want to remember nothing, don't you understand?"

She began her testimony by saying she took a trip to Texas with Robin Murphy some time after Miss Marsden's death. She said she overheard a telephone call between Miss Murphy and Miss Sparda in

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Key Witness Sworn In

Robin M. Murphy, right, an 18-year-old, convicted of murdering her lesbian lover, Karen Marsden, is sworn in as a witness at the Carl H.

Drew murder trial. Drew, far-left, a Fall River pimp, sat in court all day as the witness testified that during a Satanic ritual Drew or-

one of his prostitutes killed. He handed a knife to Murphy, who then cut the victim's throat in wooded area

of Westport Feb. 8, 1981 court security officer sit the right of Drew. (Sent photo by Timothy Morgan

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Local News

The Standard-Times, New Bedford, Mass., Thursday, March 12, 1981

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Prostitute gives murder suspect an alibi

By Carol Rosenberg
STANDARD-TIMES CORRESPONDENT

FITCHBURG — A Fall River prostitute says she was with Carl H. Drew, her pimp and fiancé, on the night he is accused of murdering Karen Marsden.

Margarita Revorido, 25, said she was with Drew all night on Feb. 8, 1980, except for 15- to 20-minute sessions when she was with customers.

Miss Revorido testified yesterday as the 11th defense witness. Drew, 36, is accused of murdering Miss Marsden, 20, another Fall River prostitute. Attorney John A. Birknes Jr. said testimony will possibly conclude today, and Drew may take the stand.

Spent night in bars

Under cross-examination by prosecutor David H. Waxler, an assistant Bristol County district attorney, Miss Revorido said she had previously made statements she had been with Drew every Friday night during the winter of 1979-80, including the night of the murder.

She testified she and Drew spent that Friday night in Bedford Street bars in Fall River until they closed. She said that once the bars closed, they went out for dinner and returned to their Pleasant Street apartment. She told Birknes she saw Miss Marsden with Carol Fletcher

Robert Bomun, 17, of Fall River testified that he was at the home of Maureen "Sonny" Sparda on Feb. 8, 1980, the night Karen Marsden was killed. He said Robin Murphy came in and said, "Karen is gonna' get killed, and Carl is gonna' get framed for it."

and Robin Murphy, other Fall River prostitutes, in a car on Bedford Street that same night.

Miss Murphy has pleaded guilty to the murder of Miss Marsden, her lover, and has been sentenced to life in Framingham State Prison for women. She could be paroled in 12 years.

Miss Fletcher testified Tuesday she was at the murder site in a wooded area in Westport with Drew, Miss Murphy, Miss Marsden and Carl Davis, 26, who is also charged with the murder. Miss Fletcher has been given immunity from prosecution in exchange for her testimony.

"Busy night"

Miss Revorido testified yesterday she has known Drew for four years and had made plans with him before his arrest to marry. She described Friday, Feb. 8, as a "busy night" and said she went in and out of the Pier 14 bar "for work" while Drew waited for her.

"He would stay in the bar and just sit there," she testified. In between

customers, she would join him at the bar for drinks, she said.

The prosecution concluded its case yesterday with testimony from William Q. Sturmer, a Rhode Island pathologist. He said that the skull found in the wooded area in Westport matched X-rays taken of Miss Marsden's head in 1979 in a Fall River hospital.

Sturmer also said that an average woman could pull hair from another woman's head and also could cut through the neck of another woman. He also testified, "It could be possible for a man to continue it and remove the remainder of the head once the first portion had been severed."

Defense witnesses yesterday included two Fall River policemen; friends of Drew; Miss Murphy's mother, Maureen Murphy of Fall River; and Drew's stepmother, Carol Drew.

Mrs. Drew testified that she had known the defendant for 25 years and was once married to Drew's father.

She said that she knew of no satan-

ic cults in Fall River and that her stepson had never told her he believed in Satan. "He believes in God."

Robert Bomun, 17, of Fall River also testified on Drew's behalf, saying that he heard Miss Murphy say "that Karen (Marsden) is gonna' get killed and Carl is gonna' get framed for it."

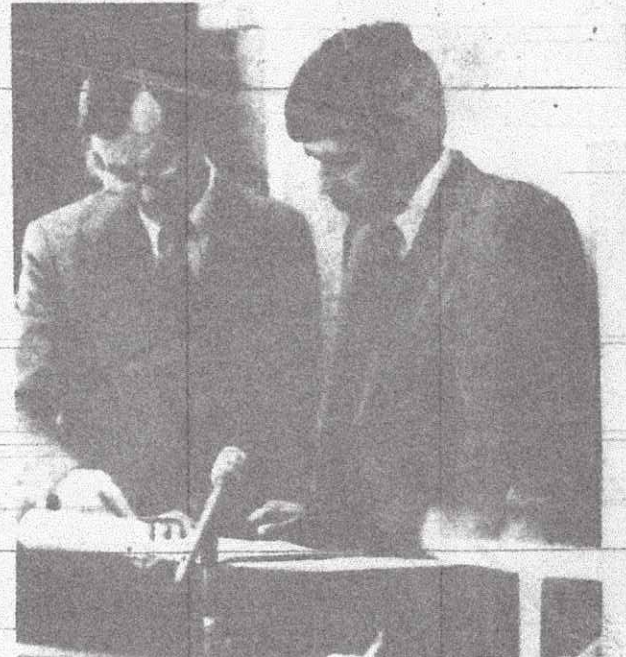
Predicted killing

Bomun testified that he was at the home of Maureen "Sonny" Sparda on the night of Feb. 8. He said that Miss Murphy came in and made the statement. Under cross-examination said he might have heard Miss Murphy incorrectly and that she might have said "blamed" for the murder and not "framed."

Superior Court Judge Francis W. Keating told the jurors to weigh evidence of a cult "only for corroboration of what is alleged at the scene."

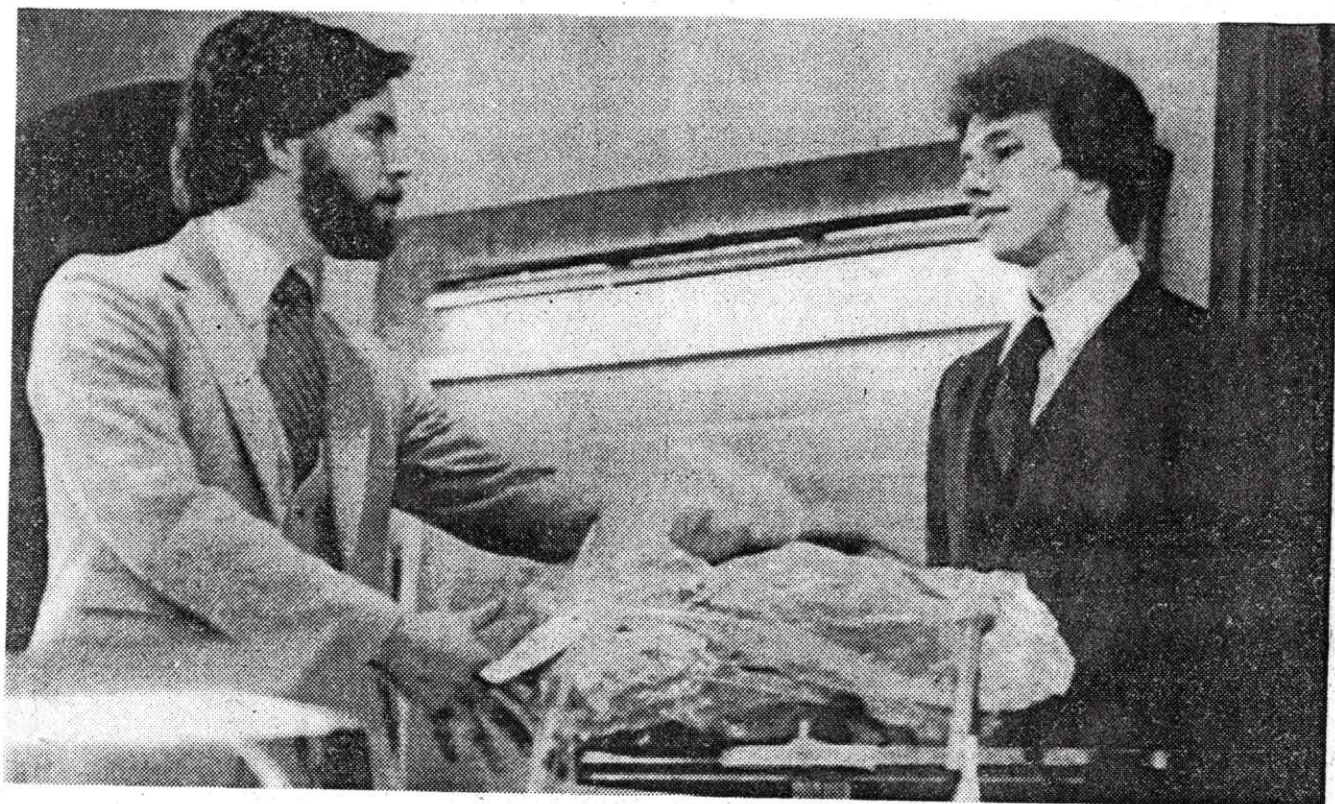
"I don't want any juror giving consideration to cults or Satan or anything else because we don't convict people for their beliefs. As you protect the rights of the most humble and the most deprived in society, you are protecting your own rights," he said.

Birknes said he would call four or five witnesses today. He also said Drew had not decided whether he would testify. "I think it will probably be a good thing if he does."



Staff photo by Ron Rolle

John A. Birknes, lawyer for Carl H. Drew, goes over evidence with Fall River Detective Alan Silvia yesterday in Fitchburg. Silvia testified at the trial of Drew, accused of the February 1980 murder of Karen Marsden.



Carl Drew took the witness stand Thursday during his trial for the murder of Karen Marsden and denied all charges against him. Prosecutor David Waxler, left, cross-examines Drew as he opens plastic bag containing the victim's clothing.

UPI Photo

Drew case nears end

By Fred Rhines
Staff Reporter

FITCHBURG—The Carl Drew murder case enters its final hours in Superior Court here today, but in spite of two weeks of testimony the whereabouts of the body of Karen Marsden, the 20-year old Fall River prostitute who allegedly was slain in Westport in February, 1980, still remains a mystery.

As the case was passed over to the jury for its deliberation, the closest

hint as to how the body was disposed of came during the testimony of Carol Fletcher earlier this week, who said after the murder took place she had heard the trunk of her rented car being opened and closed while stopped on a secluded road in Westport.

Beyond that, there was no direct mention of what might have happened to the body.

Only a portion of Marsden's skull was recovered by police. An an-

thropologist from the Smithsonian Institution last week identified the piece of skull as that of the murder victim.

In Thursday's court session, several bizarre developments occurred, including one involving a defense witness who was excused by Superior Court Judge Francis Keating after she invoked the Fifth Amendment and refused to testify.

Drew, the accused killer, also took the witness stand and stoutly de-

nied he had participated in the Marsden murder. He said he couldn't have committed the murder because he was working as a pimp on Bedford Street in Fall River at the time the crime took place.

Defense attorney John Birknes characterized his client as "a street person. He's not Mister All America. He's not Jack Armstrong. But he's a human being and is entitled to be judged as a human being."

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3-13-81

Drew guilty, sentenced to life



Carl Drew was sentenced to life imprisonment after trial at Worcester Superior Court. Jury found him guilty of first degree murder of Karen Marsden of Fall River.
UPI Photo

FITCHBURG, Mass. (UPI) — The alleged leader of a devil worship cult of pimps and prostitutes began serving a life term for the grisly, ritual slaying last year of a young prostitute who allegedly had sought to leave the group.

Carl Drew, 26, of Fall River was convicted Friday of slaying Karen Marsden, 20, and immediately afterwards was sentenced by Superior Court Judge Francis W. Keating to life in prison.

Wearing a three-piece blue pin-striped suit, Drew was taken out of the court in shackles by sheriff's deputies and sent to Walpole State Prison.

He stood pale and expressionless as the verdict was read at the end of the two-week trial. The nine-man, three-woman jury deliberated for 3 hours and 43 minutes.

Miss Marsden, also of Fall River, was allegedly killed, mutilated and beheaded by Drew and two others in a nighttime ritual in a wooded area because she wanted to leave the cult.

Keating, in an hour-long charge, warned jurors that testimony describing the bizarre satanic cult rites of a group of pimps and prostitutes should not sway them because information about the cult was "not offered as evidence."

"You can believe in anything you want to in this country," he said. "You will not be sidetracked by that issue."

Drew, the final witness in his own defense, denied all charges against him, including being involved in a cult.

Defense attorney John Birkness, in his summa-

tion, attacked the credibility of the state's star witness, Robin Murphy, 17, a prostitute allowed to plead guilty to second degree murder in exchange for turning state's evidence.

Miss Murphy said she participated in the Marsden murder, and claimed she was present when another woman, Doreen Levesque, 19, of New Bedford, was killed by Drew in October 1979.

Drew, she testified, ordered her to cut Miss Marsden's throat after he crushed the victim's skull with a rock. She said Drew whispered words in a strange language, used blood from the body to paint a cross on her forehead, then wrenched the head from the body with his bare hands.

Only a portion of the skull was found in the Westport woods.

to right are Jeffrey Lebeau, Claudette DeLoux, Oscar

Herald New

2-16-85 Drew seeks new trial in Marsden slaying

A motion for a new trial, filed by Carl Drew, who is serving a life term at Walpole State Prison for the 1980 slaying of Karen Marsden, is scheduled to be heard in New Bedford Superior Court March 1.

Bristol County District Attorney Ronald A. Pina announced the motion would be heard by Judge Francis W. Keating, who presided at the murder trial of Drew, convicted by a jury in Fitchburg Superior Court in February of 1981.

Pina said David Waxler, a former assistant district attorney who prosecuted at the Fitchburg trial, would be named as a special assistant

district attorney to handle the new trial motion. Waxler resigned from the D.A.'s office several months ago.

Attorney Francis W. O'Boy of Taunton filed the motion in behalf of Drew, 29, of this city, because the state's key witness at his client's murder trial admitted she gave perjured testimony in another murder case.

Robin Murphy, 20, testified last December she lied to a grand jury that returned a murder indictment against William Smith, 41, of Newport, in the 1979 death of Doreen Levesque of New Bedford. Smith was set to go to trial, but the D.A.'s office dropped the murder charge after Murphy's admission.

Murphy was the state's star witness at Drew's trial, testifying he killed Marsden. Murphy is serving a 20-year to life term at Framingham for her part in the slaying of the Marsden woman.

Drew also has an appeal of his murder conviction pending before the state Supreme Judicial Court.

Court to hear request for

Fall River, Mass., Herald News, Friday, July 29, 1983.

new trial in murder case

The defense motion for a new trial for convicted murderer Carl H. Drew, 28, formerly of Fall River, will be argued in September in New Bedford Superior Court.

Drew wants a new trial in the February 1980 murder of 20-year-old Karen A. Marsden of Fall River. He was convicted of first-degree murder after an eight-week jury trial in March 1981 at Fitchburg Superior Court and sentenced to life in prison.

Drew's lawyer, Francis O'Boy of Taunton, contends in a sworn court statement that the state's key witness against his client, Robin Marie Murphy, has told him that just before the trial the prosecutor encouraged her to lie about her presence at another murder.

The court document alleges that Miss

Murphy told District Attorney Ronald A. Pina and assistant D. A. David Waxler, just before taking the witness stand at Drew's trial, that she wasn't present on Oct. 13, 1979, when Doreen A. Levesque, 17, of New Bedford was murdered

beneath the bleachers at Diman Regional High School.

The prosecution at Drew's trial maintained that the Levesque girl's slaying was the motive for Miss Marsden's murder.

FALL RIVER HERALD
12-18-88

Carl Drew maintains innocence in murder

By John Moss
Herald News Staff Reporter

NORFOLK — The table was small and square. Two chairs and a waste basket made up the remainder of the furnishings. The beige needed paint. Carl Drew's shirt sleeves were partially rolled up, revealing tattoos on both arms. His voice was calm but firm. Every move he would make was closely watched.

Drew, blond hair and green eyes, had a story to tell — the same story he told to a Superior Court jury in Fitchburg on March 12, 1981. Carl Drew admits to living a life outside the law. He says he was once a pimp but emphatically denies he is a murderer. Seven years after a jury found him guilty of killing Karen Marsden, a prostitute, Drew, who refused to cop a plea during his trial, staunchly maintains his innocence and denies he ever had any link to a Satanic cult.

Drew was interviewed inside the gloomy walls at MCI, Norfolk, where he is serving life sentence without parole for conviction of first-degree murder in the 20-year-old woman's death.

The interview was conducted in the dingy lawyer-inmate conference room, where prison guards peered through a window. The prisoner, who is ineligible for parole, places his only hope for freedom on having his case reversed.

Witnesses testified the Marsden murder occurred during a Satanic cult-style ritual in which Marsden's throat was cut and her head wrrenched from her body. Also convicted in the killing was Robin Murphy, who is serving a life sentence at MCI, Framingham, after pleading guilty to second-degree murder in exchange for promise to testify against Drew and others.

Drew turned down a prosecution offer to plead guilty to second-degree murder, in which he would have been eligible for parole consideration after 15 years. When his lawyer went to the prison to give him the message, Drew recalled, "I told him to tell them to stick it . . . I'm innocent."

Admitting that he did run a prostitution ring here, Drew said, "If anything, I should have been prosecuted for that. As far as taking a life — never in my life. If I knew anything like that was going to happen to her (Marsden), I would have stopped it."

DREW RECALLED the night of Feb. 8, 1980, when the slaying is alleged to have occurred in a wooded area of Westport. "It was a Friday night. A busy night (for the prostitution racket). That was my money-making night. I was at the bar (on Bedford

road) and he thought the bartender was going to be his alibi witness. But the man was the only one of a number of witnesses, Drew alleged,

that either failed to help his cause or destroyed it by putting him at the scene of the crime or failed to provide the alibi he expected.

Marsden was missing for some time before a portion of her skull was found in the Westport woods. The rest of her body was never found. Drew recalled that he was "flying back and forth to Florida" prior to Marsden's death, and he canceled a flight there when police began to question him and others about Marsden's whereabouts.

"I canceled it so as not to look guilty," he said. "I did what I could to find Marsden. She had a tendency to take off. She'd go to New York. She had a pimp out there to work for," Drew related.

DREW REQUESTED an interview after learning of the latest article, alleging a cult connection to the 1979-80 murders of Marsden, Doreen Levesque, 17, and Barbara Raposa, 19. The *Herald News* story focused on a book, *Under the Influence*, being written by Danielle Jeanne Blair.

Blair, who alleges the slayings were cult-related, suspects further that followers still practice their rituals secretly in this area, and the activities may be linked to a national organization.

"I want to deny anything about the cult," Drew affirmed. "Every year, there's something in the paper. *Globe Magazine* did something last year, and they had me beside the Son of Sam (David Berkowitz, convicted of several murders in New York City)."

Drew explained that he was tired of the alleged links between him and the cult, saying, "It's hard on my family out on the street."

You know how they (people) make accusations," Drew did not deny that a cult existed, but refuted any claims that he was involved.

Drew, now 33, said his mother visits him regularly. He has four children, two girls, ages 12 and 14, and 13- and 14-year-old boys. The girls are in this state, and the boys live in New Hampshire. "One son has my name. It's hard for him."

"I'm trying to get my case overturned, but I can't do that with this cult stuff all the time. They (the public) think I'm like a Charles Manson."

"I've been sitting here almost nine years (including time served awaiting trial), trying to figure this whole thing out . . . I was shocked when they came back with a guilty verdict." Indicating that he would never be eligible for parole, Drew said, "The only chance I got is getting this case tipped."

Referring to Murphy, the state's key witness against him, he said, "She's an unreliable witness."

"The judge caught her in so many conflicting statements. And when the judge addressed the jury, he told them to disregard anything about the cult."

DREW ALSO WAS indicted in the October 1979 murder of Levesque of New Bedford, while he was being tried in the Marsden case. That charge was dropped after Murphy recanted. Levesque's body was found under bleachers at Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Murphy had testified that Marsden was slain because she witnessed the Levesque girl's death and could place Drew at the murder scene. Murphy alleged that that murder also was carried out during a Satanic ritual. Drew denied any connection with a Satanic ritual or the Levesque girl's death.

Drew said he was alleged to have Satan-related tattoos. He opened his shirt to reveal an American bald eagle on his chest where someone had claimed Drew had a symbol of Satan tattooed. He remembered that at his trial, he showed the judge and told him the American eagle is a symbol of Satan, this country's in serious trouble."

Drew was transferred to Norfolk from Cedar Junction at Walpole in 1983 because of "good behavior." He said he spends much of his time reading, mostly the Bible, and working out with weights. He also works at the prison and is doing his best to educate himself, he said. "I go to school here. I don't have a fifth grade education. I'm taking a computer reading course."

"My family can't understand how I can deal with it (alleged wrongful imprisonment) mentally. I'm not the person they say I am out on the street. That's only what they read in the papers. They feel that it wouldn't be in the paper if it's not real." Referring to that kind of thinking, Drew advised, "That's what got me convicted in the first place."

As for his accusers, Drew said, "I can't comprehend how they can live with themselves."

The location of Marsden's body remains a mystery, and Drew could offer no clue. "I wish I did know," he said. "At first, they said I threw the body in a swamp. They dragged it and found nothing. Then they said I burned the body. But the fire marshal said there was no fire hot enough to consume a body . . ."

"They did everything they could to make me look guilty," he said. "They needed a conviction because of all the publicity on this case, and I was more or less the guinea pig."

The interview ended with a handshake. A prison guard approached Drew, routinely searched him for contraband, then escorted him back to his cell.

One could almost sense that the inmate took back to his cell the hope that some day something positive might arise from all this.

New trial for 'cult killer'

By **DANIEL FOWLER**
Herald News Staff Reporter

TAUNTON — Following a discovery motion hearing at Superior Court Friday, it is still unclear whether convicted "cult killer" Carl Drew will be granted an evidentiary hearing, which could pave the way for a new trial.

Drew is seeking a new trial after spending the past 23 years in prison for the murder of a Fall River prostitute that resembled a number of other slayings in and around the city at the time.

In addition to requesting an



Drew

search of evidence relating to the case, an order to grant funds to pay for an expert witness to examine some of the evidence and immunity for the witnesses

evidentiary hearing, Drew's lawyer, Michael Cutler, also asked Judge John Connor for the ability to examine the prosecutor's files in

Drew undecided

who have come forward to testify at an evidentiary hearing on Drew's behalf.

"The judge said 'maybe' to number one (ability to examine prosecutor's files), 'no' to number two (funds to pay an expert witness), 'probably not,' as I understood it to number three (immunity for witnesses) and I still think that he is thinking about whether ... to have the evidentiary hearing," Cutler said.

According to Cutler, the judge did not provide a date for when he will rule on the request for the hearing.

"This is a very good judge and

a very busy judge," Cutler said. "Smart people don't let things that are complicated hang around. He is probably going to write this up soon. He has probably made up his mind."

Drew, 48, was convicted of the 1980 killing of Karen Marsden, a teenage prostitute.

He also allegedly took part in two other cult-like ritualistic slayings — of Barbara Ann Raposa and Doreen Levesque, who were also teenage prostitutes in the Fall River area during the same time period.

Following a number of failed attempts by different attorneys at

retrials and appeals, Cutler obtained significant new evidence that could eventually free Drew.

New evidence submitted to the court includes sworn affidavits from key witnesses who are now recanting their original testimony, as well as evidence suggesting that there was prosecutorial misconduct and incompetent representation by Drew's initial attorney.

"I think this judge is giving this case very serious attention and I think there is some very serious evidence to support the legal claim that the original trial

was not fair," Cutler said.

"If the judge is convinced that that is so then he should grant an evidentiary hearing."

Should Connor allow the hearing and decide that the witnesses' testimony has credence, he could then decide to grant Drew a new trial.

"I just want to have my day in court and have these witnesses testify in front of him," Cutler said. "But I think I have proven enough as a matter of law to get into court and have this hearing."

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