

In Parade today: Are our children overmedicated?



SUNNY  
70°/43°  
Page B14

ARTS & TRAVEL



Plenty to do and see in Tennessee  
PAGE F1

SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 12 1997  
NO. 38,360

★ ★

# THE MORNING CALL

\$1.75

© 1997 The Morning Call Inc. All Rights Reserved

LEHIGH VALLEY'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Sunday

SPORTS



Eagles face Jaguars today  
PAGES C1, C14

A Nation, World • B Local • C Sports • D Business, Classified • E Sunday Magazine • F Arts & Travel • G Real Estate/Home

## Despite acquittal, doubts remain

Jean Sufrich was murdered five years ago this week. Although suspect Lori Scheirer was acquitted, police say they had the right person.

By DENISE REAMAN  
Of The Morning Call

The bleached blonde with purple fingernails smiles as she slides into the red booth in the diner's non-smoking section and orders a Coke.

These days, no more cigarettes. No booze or heroin. No prostitution.

Lori Scheirer says her mission now is to stay straight, accomplish something. And to find out who murdered Jean Theresa Sufrich five years ago this week in an overgrown Bethlehem Township field.

Scheirer, an admitted attention-seeker with a history of mental illness, spent a year in prison on charges she killed Sufrich. After a 10-day trial in 1994, a Northampton County jury acquitted her.

The case remains open.

But township and state police, still haunted by the crime, say they know who shot Sufrich.

They say the killer is Lori Scheirer.

"We are confident we had the right person," says township Police Chief Joseph Barner. "It's been solved in our minds."

Scheirer, who implicated herself in the

murder, understands why. She knew details and told police she dreamed about the homicide. Later, she recanted her dream.

"I feel guilty that I lied and that I may have prevented the real killer from getting caught," Scheirer says. "I suppose that if I had actually done it and got away with it, I probably would have run off with my tail between my legs. But I just knew I didn't do anything wrong."

Martha Barbaric, Sufrich's mother, isn't so sure. She thinks Scheirer knew

Please See SUFFRICH Page A2▶



A portrait of Jean Sufrich hangs on the wall at the home of her mother, Martha Barbaric, in Bethlehem. The woman charged in her murder was acquitted; the case remains open.

DOUGLAS BENEDICT  
The Morning Call

## THE New HEART OF The Steel

■ Some 650 miles away from the city that gave the company its name, Bethlehem Steel is alive and well—in Burns Harbor, Indiana.

By WENDY WARREN  
Of The Morning Call

BURNS HARBOR, Ind. — Scrap steel waits for molten iron inside a squat furnace. The iron is ready—cooling slightly in a 275-ton ladle—but the shop isn't. Two other furnaces are in full, scorching operation, and the pollution-control system can handle only so much smoke.

Finally, the ladle tips and liquid iron streams white, showering sparks, into the third furnace. A pipe pierces the iron with a painful whistle, blowing oxygen. Garnet billows of smoke turn yellow, then disappear into flame.

Steel is born and poured into a ladle to be cast into slabs 10 inches thick. More iron arrives. The lance whistles again.

On the chilly, southern tip of Lake Michigan, Bethlehem Steel is busy with the familiar process of steel-making. Though the Lehigh Valley's oxygen furnaces are idle, those at the Burns Harbor plant in Indiana are busy 24 hours every day, even Christmas.

This is the new heart of The Steel, where the nation's second-biggest steelmaker has decided to regroup. Now that Bethlehem Steel has sold or closed several unprofitable businesses, this single plant is now half of Bethlehem Steel's total assets and generates half of the company's sales.

Please See STEEL Page A7 ▶



## Elusive Enis

CRAIG HOUTZ / Associated Press

Penn State running back Curtis Enis (with ball) eludes the tackle of Ohio State's Matt LaVar and runs 26 yards for the winning touchdown in the Nittany Lions' 31-27 victory over the Buckeyes on Saturday.

Penn State stayed unbeaten while handing Ohio State its first loss. Enis, an Ohio native, rushed for 211 yards to help the Nittany Lions overcome a 10-point deficit in the second half. Coverage, C1

## Clinton: Drugs shouldn't be stars

President urges the entertainment industry not to glorify drug use.

By ROBERT L. JACKSON  
Of The Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Declaring the nation must do more to reduce teen-age drug use, President Clinton urged the entertainment industry Saturday to "do its part" by avoiding the depiction of "warped images" that glorify drugs.

Hailing a new \$195 million advertising campaign financed by the federal

government, the president said his administration soon will launch a positive effort involving "an unprecedented high-profile, prime-time media campaign" of public service anti-drug messages four times a week.

In his weekly radio address, Clinton said he regretted that "movies, music videos and magazines" often have promoted "warped images of a dream world where drugs are cool" and have failed to highlight their of-

ten fatal effects.

Comparing the danger of drugs to the health hazards caused by smoking and drinking, the president said: "That is why we acted to protect our children from tobacco advertisements and why we've urged the liquor industry to refrain from running hard-liquor ads on television."

Appealing directly to the movie

Please See CLINTON Page A5 ▶

## Is satanic cult behind Miss. killings?

Pearl residents talk of teens who dress in black, call themselves 'The Group.'

By MARTHA MENDOZA  
Of The Associated Press

PEARL, Miss. — Stan Harrell swears he'll never fuss at his daughter, 16-year-old Kelly, for being late to school again. If she had been on time on Oct. 1, she would have been in the line of fire when the shooting started. Thursday night, Stan overheard

his daughter in her room. Like many in this largely Baptist community of 22,000 people, she was praying.

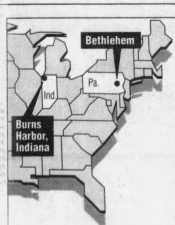
What folks here are wondering now is just who some of the other kids in town may have been praying to.

In the aftermath of the killings and arrests, there is dark talk of a satanic cult, of a clique of misfit teens who

dressed in black and called themselves "The Group." Prosecutors and civic leaders seem to think there may be something to it.

Bordering the city of Jackson, Pearl is a peaceful-looking town of red-brick, one-story ranch houses.

Please See PEARL Page A4 ▶



### BURNS HARBOR: THE NEW HEART OF STEEL

The hopes of Bethlehem Steel—and of its pensioners and stockholders—rest on 3,300 acres just behind the dunes of Lake Michigan where the Burns Harbor plant provides half of The Steel's yearly sales and a growing percentage of its profits.

Employment: 6,000  
Payroll, in 1996: \$301.7 million

Products:

- ▶ About half of Burns Harbor's sheet steel is sold to automakers.
- ▶ Appliance makers and office furniture makers also use cold-rolled sheet steel.
- ▶ Construction, farming equipment and railroad cars use Burns Harbor plate.



SOURCE: Bethlehem Steel Corp.

LARRY PRINTZ/The Morning Call

Fairland Farms-Lots on Sale  
Municipal Water & Sewerage  
Parkland Schools-Call 610-767-5018

Pumpkin Patch Adventure  
Everyday at The Game Preserve  
Call for Reservations 799-4171

AAA Caribbean Vacation Sale  
Travel Now through 11/17  
Call 821-8300, Enter 1431

Satellite TV:  
The Cable Alternative  
Call 821-8300, Enter 8501

Play Pick the Pros  
Win \$100 and More  
Call 821-8300, Enter 5000

Gregory S. Thom  
Call 821-8300, Enter 4003  
New Home Builder Directory



Jean Sufrich is buried in Farnersville Cemetery, where her mother and siblings laid flowers recently. Above, Lori Scheirer stands at the site in Bethlehem Township where Sufrich's body was found. Scheirer, who asked that her face not be fully shown, was tried and acquitted of the murder.

Beltman met her in prison, although their attorney-client relationship wasn't the best. "Lori, in my mind, was very difficult to communicate with," Monahan recalls.

She passed time by laundering clothes for other inmates. She waited for her mother and daughter to visit. She listened to the radio, scanned the newspapers. It was from the paper that she learned Assistant District Attorney Stephen Baratta, who was prosecuting his first murder case, would seek the death penalty for her.

By June, Scheirer took her first step outside into the prison courtyard. It was drizzling, but she didn't care. The air felt good. The rain on her face felt even better.

Another half-year would pass until her trial in Northampton County Courthouse. During the 10 days of testimony in January 1994, two feet of snow fell. Schools shut down. Traffic halted. The snow's weight collapsed the roof on Perkins Restaurant, blocks from the courthouse.

Inside his courtroom, however, Judge James C. Hoggin kept the trial going. Deputies picked up stranded jurors at home and drove them to court.

Baratta and fellow prosecutor Joseph A. Corpora II sought to prove Scheirer's guilt, offering her dream, her details. Their case was largely circumstantial, but police were convinced it was strong.

Monahan - who Scheirer now says unsuccessfully tried to persuade her to plead guilty to third-degree manslaughter - set out to show there was no physical evidence and enough doubt, that she made up her story based on her observations of hearsay and news articles. Scheirer was mentally ill and suffered from multiple personalities, her lawyer asserted.

Scheirer took the stand. Closing her eyes, some of her other personalities emerged before a crowded courtroom. Each had a name: "Laura," who possessed a nasty, vindictive side; "The Other Lori," developed during her alleged abuse; and the "real" Lori, who openly wept.

As the case progressed, District Attorney John Morganbell began to assist the prosecution. To Monahan, it was a sign that prosecutors knew they were in trouble.

After closing arguments, the snow continued. Barbarics stood in a waiting room with Lipare and Vazquez while the jury deliberated. The detectives told her they had the right defendant. After seven hours of deliberations, the verdict came by 10 p.m.

Not guilty. Barbarics, Sufrich's mother, sat in the rear of the courtroom with her children. She was stunned. "I had to hold back my one daughter because she was so angry. I thought she was going to jump over the rail," she says. "I was very angry. To think we'd go through that whole trial and because of what she knew and what she said and then, she walks scoot-free."

At the same time, Scheirer watched as her lawyers begged. By now, she had estranged herself from them, particularly Monahan. Due to the weather, no one from her family was there.

She stood alone, not quite sure what to do. "She was free. But she couldn't leave. She learned an unpaid traffic citation caused a tie-up. She might have to spend another night in prison."

"To think I spent a year in prison for a murder I didn't commit and now I might have to stay another night because of a ticket?" she recalls. After some phone calls, the

matter was cleared. Her mother braved icy roads to pick her up. Once back in Allentown, Scheirer reunited with her daughter. Finally, she was free.

Just over a year ago, Scheirer walked with her daughter to the Discovery Zone indoor playground in Whitehall Township. As she approached the door, a man held it open. Lipare.

They hadn't seen each other since the trial, some two years earlier. "He asked me how I was doing," Scheirer chuckles. "I asked him the same."

She's called Vazquez numerous times, but stopped a few months ago. Vazquez believes Scheirer's bothered because he remains adamant that she committed the crime. It's the only homicide arrest he's made since 1983 that ended in an acquittal.

Now 32 and an Allentown College student, Scheirer has three declared majors: criminal justice, psychology, social work. Sitting in class one night, she overheard a student say he was a Bethlehem cop. It turned out he worked for Bethlehem Township.

She told him her story. "I really fell for him," says Scheirer, who now lives in Allentown. "We were kind of friends, but he started pulling away from me. Really, it's not fair because I didn't do it and now he thinks I did. I know I shouldn't have lied about my dream. But once it started, I couldn't stop."

Scheirer has a career history of helping abused children. She hasn't seen her father since the trial. She insists she wants to find Sufrich's murderer. She wants to clear her name.

Brain is raising Scheirer's daughter, a doc-and, inquisitive girl who attends a Christian school. "I'm trying to do better with my granddaughter," Brain says quietly. "I tried to help my daughter, but it didn't work out. She always wears Scheirer still has multiple personalities. Scheirer doesn't think she ever had them."

Monahan has considered writing a book on the case. Lipare, whose department has two large boxes filled with reports on it, remains bothered by the murder. "I think about it a lot," he says.

On Oct. 4 - a day before what was to be Jean Sufrich's 38th birthday - Barbarics joined a few of her children at the Farnersville Cemetery.

There, they laid a blanket of flowers on Jean's grave.

# SUFRRICH

Continued From Page A1

too many details and might know the murderer.

"If she has a conscience, she should come forward," says Barbarics, tears trickling down her face. "I want to know who took my daughter from me."

That October night in 1992, someone chased the 33-year-old Sufrich to the southeast corner of a rectangular tract at 9th and Linden streets, across from the old Miller Heights Sportswear Factory.

There, in a clump of trees and scrub brush, the killer placed a high-velocity, large-caliber gun to Sufrich's dark-blond head and pulled the trigger, sending pieces of her skull into branches 20 feet above. A \$20 bill remained in her pocket. Next to her lay her fanny pack.

Next afternoon, a team of landscapers cutting grass discovered the body. Within hours police knew the victim was Sufrich.

Sufrich had a history of prostitution. Jean Attinello, a policeman for the township and Freemansburg, identified her. Attinello, who knew Sufrich, told detectives he had seen Sufrich get into a car with a group of men the night before.

Investigators later testified that Attinello lied so he would appear an outstanding cop. Police never found the gun or bullet, or a witness.

That night around 8, township Detective Scott Lipare, who probed the case with Detective George Boksan, knocked on Barbarics' door. He asked her to sit down. He showed her a picture of Sufrich.

"What did she do now?" Barbarics asked. Lipare told her: Jean was murdered. Her son, William Barbarics, went to claim his sister's body. It was a difficult task because the family was close. They almost had to grow up in a small, crowded duplex in a housing project where she was the second eldest in nine children.

As an outgoing and athletic child, Sufrich earned merits and achievement awards at Lincoln Elementary and attended Bible school. But when Sufrich headed to middle school, she found the wrong crowd. Later, she got hooked on cocaine.

"It's hard to grow up in this environment and not be tempted by drugs," says her brother Mike Barbarics. "Most of us kids who had been involved some way or another. Jean couldn't kick the habit."

Before she turned 21, Sufrich tended bar at Sackey's on Pembroke Road, where she always tried to get served. Despite her addiction, she loved family get-togethers and parties, buzzing around her nieces and nephews, making sure they joined in the fun. She promised to take care of her mother in her golden years.

And in the projects, she'd often play peacemaker, placing her petite frame in the middle of brawls. "She didn't like violence," Mike says, twirling a Marlboro. "But she was a fight-cat. She wouldn't take crap from anyone."

Prostitution, however, brought her a lot of abuse. Often, she'd shop at her mother's home with blackened eyes, bruises, a broken jaw. A few months before her death, Sufrich went to a family picnic at

Hart's Lake in Hellertown. She rowed to the middle of the lake with her sister and nephew. The boat snagged on a tree trunk and the scene, captured on video, turned controversial. Sufrich laughed as she tried to free it with the oars. "She seemed so happy," her mother says. "She wanted to start church again."

Days before Sufrich turned 33, she walked into her mother's house carrying a single red rose. "Why did you get a rose? It's not your birthday yet," her mother asked. Sufrich smiled: "This isn't for me. This is for you, for putting up with me for 33 years."

It was one of the last times Barbarics saw her daughter.

Two days after Sufrich's murder, Lori Scheirer called Bethlehem Township police. She knew some of the same people as Sufrich and seemed eager to talk. They were eager to listen. She told Detective Lipare she had walked into her mother's house carrying a single red rose.

"Why did you get a rose? It's not your birthday yet," her mother asked. Sufrich smiled: "This isn't for me. This is for you, for putting up with me for 33 years."

It was one of the last times Barbarics saw her daughter.

Two days after Sufrich's murder, Lori Scheirer called Bethlehem Township police. She knew some of the same people as Sufrich and seemed eager to talk. They were eager to listen. She told Detective Lipare she had walked into her mother's house carrying a single red rose.

"Why did you get a rose? It's not your birthday yet," her mother asked. Sufrich smiled: "This isn't for me. This is for you, for putting up with me for 33 years."

It was one of the last times Barbarics saw her daughter.

Two days after Sufrich's murder, Lori Scheirer called Bethlehem Township police. She knew some of the same people as Sufrich and seemed eager to talk. They were eager to listen. She told Detective Lipare she had walked into her mother's house carrying a single red rose.

"Why did you get a rose? It's not your birthday yet," her mother asked. Sufrich smiled: "This isn't for me. This is for you, for putting up with me for 33 years."

It was one of the last times Barbarics saw her daughter.

Two days after Sufrich's murder, Lori Scheirer called Bethlehem Township police. She knew some of the same people as Sufrich and seemed eager to talk. They were eager to listen. She told Detective Lipare she had walked into her mother's house carrying a single red rose.

"Why did you get a rose? It's not your birthday yet," her mother asked. Sufrich smiled: "This isn't for me. This is for you, for putting up with me for 33 years."

job at an industrial plant. By 1996, she was juggling part-time jobs to pay the bills. But the small wages weren't enough to fuel her urges, primarily heroin. So she returned to streetwalking.

Her life worsened. Three times in 1996, she attempted suicide and was committed to mental wards. "It had a lot to do with the prostitution, getting laid off, feeling like a failure," she says. "And of course, drugs never let you think clearly. I didn't think I was worth anything. I felt that I had nothing to live for."

During a 1987 detox stay, she befriended another patient. He eventually fathered her only child. "The doctor wanted me to have an abortion because of my drug problems," she says. "My mother wanted me to have it, but I never wanted kids. Yet, I was really happy when Lori was pregnant. I thought maybe I could actually do something right for once."

She vowed to stay clean and later that year gave birth to a healthy daughter. Her mother began to care for the child. "I suppose that if I had actually done it and got away with it, I probably would have run off with my tail between my legs. But I just knew I didn't do anything wrong."

Lori Scheirer found not guilty in 1994 trial.

She vowed to stay clean and later that year gave birth to a healthy daughter. Her mother began to care for the child. "I suppose that if I had actually done it and got away with it, I probably would have run off with my tail between my legs. But I just knew I didn't do anything wrong."

Lori Scheirer found not guilty in 1994 trial.

She vowed to stay clean and later that year gave birth to a healthy daughter. Her mother began to care for the child. "I suppose that if I had actually done it and got away with it, I probably would have run off with my tail between my legs. But I just knew I didn't do anything wrong."

Lori Scheirer found not guilty in 1994 trial.

She vowed to stay clean and later that year gave birth to a healthy daughter. Her mother began to care for the child. "I suppose that if I had actually done it and got away with it, I probably would have run off with my tail between my legs. But I just knew I didn't do anything wrong."

Lori Scheirer found not guilty in 1994 trial.

She vowed to stay clean and later that year gave birth to a healthy daughter. Her mother began to care for the child. "I suppose that if I had actually done it and got away with it, I probably would have run off with my tail between my legs. But I just knew I didn't do anything wrong."

Lori Scheirer found not guilty in 1994 trial.

She vowed to stay clean and later that year gave birth to a healthy daughter. Her mother began to care for the child. "I suppose that if I had actually done it and got away with it, I probably would have run off with my tail between my legs. But I just knew I didn't do anything wrong."

Police started reconsidering her. On Nov. 30, Scheirer called police again, but her story changed. Under questioning, she told Lipare and state Trooper Joseph Vazquez that her earlier details weren't accurate.

Scheirer told them she and Sufrich argued over the \$20. She pushed Sufrich, threatening to kill her. Sufrich laughed, saying she was going to die anyway because she had AIDS. The two had shared a mattress for months.

Later Scheirer took another polygraph to see if her information was accurate. She failed again. In early December, nearly nine weeks after the murder, Lipare and Vazquez drove to Scheirer's Emmaus apartment. They asked about her gun. She told them she gave it away, but she asked them to return in a few days.

They did. This time, she told them about her dream. In it, she fought with Sufrich at the Coffee House Tavern. She dragged Sufrich into her car and drove her to 8th and Linden in Bethlehem Township where Sufrich jumped out of the car. Scheirer chased her for a block and caught her. The pair fought again.

Scheirer told them she dreamt that she held Sufrich by the knees, grabbed her hair, pulled out a gun and shot her.

Afterward, in her dream, Scheirer rolled Sufrich onto her back, straightened her legs and removed Vazquez's fanny pack to look for the money or heroin. Finding neither, she drove to a market and called a male friend. The pair went back to the scene, looked at the body and headed to Easton. Sufrich's blood splattered on Scheirer's shirt, pants, hands and jacket. The friend cleaned the gun, gave her a clean shirt, told her to go to work.

Investigators asked her to repeat her dream account. She agreed, and also went to the murder scene with police.

At the lot, Scheirer showed Vazquez how, in her dream, she shot Sufrich, placing her hand on his head and pretending to pull the trigger. Police tried to trick her. They suggested Sufrich fell one way after she was shot. Scheirer corrected them - giving the true placement of how the body was found. They told her Sufrich's legs were bent. She corrected them. In her dream, she straightened Sufrich's legs.

She dreamed she took off the fanny pack and saw its contents: hypodermic needles and cosmetics. "She literally, verbatim, told me with preciseness what was in the fanny pack," Vazquez says.

In early January, Scheirer admitted she was the Carmen Bayon who called police. She used a fake accent. By then, she told her friends, her mother and a lawyer that she was cooperating with police. They advised her to tell police the truth - that she created her dream for attention.

But Scheirer was infatuated with Vazquez. She wanted to talk to him. She'd find reasons to see him. She doubted that he believed she was guilty.

On Jan. 13, Vazquez and Lipare arrested Scheirer. She didn't resist.

In prison, Scheirer sat shell-shocked. She hadn't confessed. Police had no physical evidence. She remained optimistic. Public defenders Brian Monahan and Anthony

### Pennsylvania

**YESTERDAY**  
SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 1997  
Daily Number Big Four  
424 2029  
Cash \$ 01,04,16,23,27  
Keystone Jackpot  
02,04,08,13,15,25  
08

**LAST WEEK**  
FRIDAY, OCT. 10, 1997  
Daily Number Big Four  
344 1631  
Lotto 03,10,20,26,27,41  
Wild Card 17

THURSDAY, OCT. 9, 1997  
Daily Number Big Four  
625 4435  
Cash \$ 05,16,24,26,28

### New Jersey

**YESTERDAY**  
SATURDAY, OCT. 11, 1997  
163 9926

**LAST WEEK**  
FRIDAY, OCT. 10, 1997  
Pick-3 Pick-4  
865 0737  
Cash \$ 01,06,08,12,13

THURSDAY, OCT. 9, 1997  
Pick-3 Pick-4  
055 5808  
Pick 6 16,21,36,41,44,45  
Bonus 84306

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 8, 1997  
Pick-3 Pick-4  
456 7476  
Cash \$ 01,06,23,29,30

TUESDAY, OCT. 7, 1997  
Pick-3 Pick-4  
040 9544

MONDAY, OCT. 6, 1997  
Pick-3 Pick-4  
4966 31272  
Pick 6 18,25,28,29,31,42  
Cash \$ 04,12,19,24,29

SUNDAY, OCT. 5, 1997  
Pick-3 Pick-4  
474 0207

APPAREL E28  
ARTS F3  
ASTROLOGY G6  
BIRTHS B2  
CARS C1  
CLASSIFIED D8-30  
COMMENT A25-29

CROSSWORD F8  
DEAR ABBY F3  
GAMES B13,13  
DEEDS G2,4  
I.P.D. C0  
MISS MANNERS E12  
OUTDOORS C6

PETS OF THE WEEK B11  
RADIO B3  
TELEVISION F10  
THEATER F8  
TRAVELER'S B21A,B,6  
WEATHER H4  
WEDDINGS B1,5