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Rapist and killer profiled as young, intelligent, 'driven'; Police say he attacks women his own age, needs to dominate

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He's what police profilers call a "power assertive" rapist.

He uses rape and force to express his dominance over women. He has no doubts about his masculinity. He's intelligent and cocky. He thinks he's too smart to be caught.

He is believed to have preyed on at least 11 women. Two disappeared. One was murdered. Police are hunting him down.

While cadaver dogs unsuccessfully searched a wooded area in north Burlington yesterday for the remains of the two missing women, a pair of detectives from **Project Advocate** -- the Hamilton-Halton task force established to find the serial sexual predator -- were at the Ontario Provincial Police headquarters in Orillia working with behavioural science experts to come up with a profile of the raping murderer.

It's the second time they've made the trip. Just after the task force was formed last November, a profile was done, but there have been three new victims and much more evidence since then.

"The more incidents and the more information we have, the clearer the profile," says Detective Sergeant Steve Hrab, **Project Advocate's** lead investigator.

Police profilers have identified four basic types of rapist. There's the "power reassurance rapist," also known as the "gentleman rapist." He's calm, socially inept and indirect -- he'll sneak into a victim's house to sexually assault her.

The "anger retaliatory" rapist is the weirdo who snaps. He's raping women to get even with them for some perceived slight.

The "anger excitation" rapist is sexually gratified by inflicting physical and emotional pain on his victims. Paul Bernardo is a classic example.

The man **Project Advocate** is looking for is a "power assertive rapist," says Hrab, who has been trained in profiling. The rapist is intelligent, possibly an abusive husband and is motivated by his need to dominate women.

Similarities between the basic profile of a power assertive rapist and the man Hrab vows to catch are startling:

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- * The power assertive rapist is the same age as his victim; the suspect police are looking for is in his early 20s and several victims have been teens.
- * The power assertive rapist cruises for his victim; the **Project Advocate** rapist picks them up off the street.
- * The power assertive rapist resides in the area near the crime; the killer police are hunting likely lives or works near Kerns Road in Burlington where some girls have wound up.
- * The power assertive rapist selects victims of opportunity; prostitutes are easily victimized by the man police are hunting.
- * The power assertive rapist leaves a short time span between attacks; the killer-rapist's attacks are often clustered together.
- * For the power assertive rapist, there's prior institutionalization; police believe their man may have done time in jail for property crimes.
- * The power assertive rapist uses a direct approach; the rapist police are hunting often asks women to go with him.
- * The power assertive rapist commits crimes outdoors; all the rapist's attacks have been outside or in his car.
- * The power assertive rapist is an alcohol user; some victims have detected alcohol on the breath of the man police are hunting.

Police say the guy they're after is white and in his early 20s. He is 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-10, with a slim build. Most victims describe him as having short blond hair and blue eyes, but his hair may have a reddish tinge and his eyes could be green. He has a fair complexion. The women have described him as being a clean-cut, preppy type. He is charming, calm and reassuring at first. But when his victims resist, he immediately becomes angry, volatile and violent.

He smokes duMaurier cigarettes, police say.

The attacks began in January 2001. Ten of the 11 victims have been either prostitutes or street people. They have ranged in age from 15 to 43.

One sex trade worker, Susan Gourley, 39, was last seen on November 2001. Felicia Floriani, a 15-year-old prostitute, was last seen in September 2002. The naked decomposed body of Kimlyn Tolgyes, a 19-year-old prostitute, was found near the entrance of Kerncliff Park, off Kerns Road, Burlington, on Aug. 29, 2002.

The first victims were approached on foot, usually in alleys. Later, they were lured into cars. In one attack, the victim was robbed at gunpoint. In another, the victim was strangled unconscious with a ligature, leaving her neck permanently scarred.

Just this week, police added three more attacks to the list.

Last March, a young woman getting off a bus at King and Wentworth was attacked. She struggled free. On June 26, the predator struck twice. The first time, at 1:30 a.m., he offered a prostitute at Main and Wentworth streets \$150 for sex. She got into the car and did crack cocaine while he drove her to Waterdown. When she realized where she was and remembered the warnings she had been given from police about a "bad date" who was taking girls to that area, she said she wanted to go back to Hamilton. At that point, he punched her in the face and upper body. She escaped into the bushes. He drove around trying to find her, but eventually left.

Amazingly, at 5 a.m. that same morning, he was back at it, using another car which police believe was stolen. He offered another prostitute \$150, drove her to Old Guelph Road in Dundas and forced her to perform oral sex on him.

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Hrab says police can deduce many things about the rapist from the information they have.

The killer is getting more sophisticated. He started by approaching his victims on foot in alleys and has progressed to luring them into stolen cars and driving them to remote areas.

Hrab says the killer may know about police techniques and steals cars to throw them off track, or he steals cars because he doesn't have one. And he chooses his victims -- crack users and prostitutes for the most part -- because he knows they are "unreliable witnesses."

"The potential for being identified by them is low," says Hrab.

He knows a lot about the drug culture, although no victim has seen him use drugs.

That day in June when he struck twice, the rapist demonstrated he's a very "driven" man, the detective says. "After a disaster, where a girl bails out on him, he doesn't think twice about going after another one."

He's probably collecting his own press clippings and watching cop shows on television to learn how police conduct investigations.

Hrab says the rapist will continue his attacks until he is caught. "He has made mistakes," says Hrab. "He will be caught."

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