

Associated Press, March 9, 1981
Atlanta Letter-Writer Claims Killings

ATLANTA (AP) ---Someone claiming to be the Atlanta child killer has written taunting letters sprinkled with police jargon, and a man making the same claim has been telephoning the minister of a church near the site where the 20th body was found.

The latest developments have fueled some existing theories about the case that has baffled investigators and terrorized the black community for 20 months. The police jargon written in the letter, written to reporters at the Atlanta Constitution, could spur speculation that the killer poses as a police officer to gain the trust of victims.

The minister said the body was found near the church soon after, and a man who said he was the killer, contacted him on the church's 24 hour help line. There has been evidence the murderer responds to publicity, and the minister had issued a well-publicized plea for the killer to contact him.

The letters purportedly written by the killer were disclosed Sunday by the Atlanta Constitution and the Atlanta Journal. The newspapers said they decided to publish only part of one letter because it contained a veiled threat that another child may be killed Tuesday during a benefit concert for the investigation.

Television station WAGA, however, reported Sunday that one of the letters was signed "Ghost Killer" and included a phrase suggesting the writer was responsible for more deaths than have been contributed to him. The letter contained police jargon and phrases taunting police.

The CBS affiliate said the letter referred by initials to three Constitution reporters who have written about the cases, and that the newspapers responded by placing a classified ad in the personals section, addressed to "GK" for ghost killer. The ad read:

ATTENTION GK: *Received your message, your information informed and challenged us. Send us another verse and chapter.*

Atlanta Journal and Constitution, March 9, 1981 Classifieds