

Dad's relentless search

After 26 years, still hopes to find daughter

By JOSE MARTINEZ
 DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

[Milton Nerenberg](#) can't stop trying to find his daughter.

It has been more than 26 years since [Audrey Nerenberg](#), an 18-year-old schizophrenic, walked out of her Canarsie, Brooklyn, home for a pack of cigarettes and never returned.

But her father, now 70 and retired in Florida, refuses to give up hope - or his effort to find clues as to whatever became of his brown-haired daughter.

"What else can I do?" he said. "God told me to keep her face in the crowd."

Since Audrey vanished on July 15, 1977, the search has consumed Nerenberg. He published a small book about his daughter, floods Internet sites with details of her case and carries business cards with photos of how she looked at age 18 and how she might look now.

Although he could offer only a modest \$500 reward back when his daughter disappeared, he will now pay \$10,000 to anyone with information that helps him find her.

He still makes regular trips to New York, where he pokes around for new leads and checks in with detectives.

"There are other families that give up," said Nerenberg, a retired



Maisel NEWS

Milton and Evelyn Nerenberg hold book detailing disappearance of daughter, Audrey, 18, from their Canarsie, Brooklyn, home in 1977.

computer programmer, "but I won't. I have a right to know what happened to my daughter."

Nerenberg is back in the city this week to celebrate the birthday of his wife, Evelyn, who turns 71 today. Flyers with his daughter's photo and copies of his book, "Give Me Back My Daughter, Audrey!" are stuffed in his luggage.

"It's been so many years, but she's never far from me," he said.

Investigation continues

Lt. Brian Burke, a police spokesman, said the search for the missing woman remains an active investigation. He added that as recently as three months ago, detectives interviewed an ice cream man who worked near the Nerenberg home at the time of the disappearance.

"It didn't pan out," Burke said.

The tip came from Milton Nerenberg.

"Generally, as in this case, leads come in from family members who remember things," Burke said.

Still, Nerenberg is no closer to finding out what happened than he was in 1977, when Audrey took a walk with a few dollars in her purse and no identification cards.

"She was doing okay with her medication," he said. "She was going around on her own."

After a few hours, her family started getting worried when she didn't return to their Ryder St. home. They're still worried 26 years later and are hoping against long odds that she's still alive.

"There's always someone who knows something," said Audrey's brother, Steven, 41. "No one just disappears."

Originally published on August 18, 2003

 [Email a Friend](#)

 [Printer Friendly Version](#)



Visit other Real Cities sites

[Home](#) | [News & Views](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Business](#) | [Boroughs](#) | [City Life](#) | [Services](#)

All contents © 2003 Daily News, L.P.
[Disclaimer and Copyright Notice](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#)