



Last rites for murder victim

The grieving family of Henry Bedard Jr., 15-year-old Swampscott High student who was murdered this week, arrives at St. John the Evangelist Church.

Swampscott. Lower photo, classmates of the young athlete file into the crowded church.

(Item photo: Crosby)

Probe focuses on baseball bat

By JACK BUTTERWORTH

SWAMPSCOTT — Police today continued running down leads on the baseball bat they suspect to be the weapon used in the brutal slaying of a 15-year-old high school sophomore, while grieving students and friends of the family filled St. John the Evangelist Church for the funeral.

The bat found near the body of Henry E. Bedard Jr., 15, 21 MacArthur Circle, Tuesday afternoon was a Louisville Slugger, Police Chief William J. Carlin said, the same type used by the high school baseball team.

Police spoke with Athletic

Director Stanley Bondelevitch about the bat Thursday afternoon, but also learned that most school teams use the same brand bat.

Carlin declined to state if there were any other identifying marks on the bat, which was being examined today by state police pathologists for bloodstains and fingerprints.

The funeral for the boy, the son of Henry E. and Gloria Bedard, was expected to be attended by an

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estimated 500 students from the high school and junior high, 425 of them walking from the high school to the church in a group.

A junior high spokesman said this morning, "I couldn't possibly tell you how many students are going. There are so many of them in the office now I couldn't begin to give you a number."

Young Bedard took a bus from school to the Vinnin Square shopping center Monday afternoon. He was last seen around 3 p.m. walking along Paradise Road in the direction of the wooded area off Suffolk Avenue where his body was found 24 hours later.

Dr. Albert Shub, Essex County medical examiner, said Wednesday following an autopsy that the boy had been beaten to death with a blunt instrument at the location where the body was found.

Chief Carlin said the investigation was progressing. "We have leads and we're following them," he said. "We're spending a great deal of time on this case. We'd still like someone to come forth with information about the case, we're always looking for a break, but we're also going out and digging. If necessary, we'll even start our investigation from the

have to take up his criticisms with state officials.

Dr. Shub did say however that he had contacted the state pathologists as soon as he was informed of the discovery of the body, and that they had come to his knowledge as soon as they could.

Chief Carlin said the fact that there are only four approved pathologists for this type of examination does not help Swampscott in its investigation, adding that years ago the service was faster.

High School Principal Bertrand G. Roger said this morning that in addition to attending the funeral, some students had already begun making donations for a memorial to young Bedard amounting to more than \$300, and some had already begun soliciting merchants.

Roger said the use of the money would have to be decided at a later date, probably by members of the Bedard family, students and faculty.

Roger described the mood of students at the school as "unbelieving but concerned about the loss. Young people at that age have trouble accepting death."