



Dec. 31, 2024

**AN ALL-NEW '20/20' INVESTIGATES THE DISAPPEARANCE OF A YOUNG COLLEGE STUDENT**

**ABC News Chief National Correspondent Matt Gutman Reports for This Special Airing Friday, Jan. 3 (9:01-11:00 p.m. EST), on ABC, Streaming Next Day on Hulu**



ABC News\*

Blaze Bernstein was a 19-year-old pre-med student at the University of Pennsylvania, but when he left college to head home for winter break, a meeting with a former high school classmate ended in murder. What led to Bernstein's disappearance and ultimate death? A seven-yearlong investigation by ABC News, chief national correspondent Matt Gutman reports on this shocking case in **an all-new "20/20," FRIDAY, JAN. 3 (9:01-11:00 p.m. EST)**, on ABC and next day streaming on [Hulu](https://www.hulu.com).

When Blaze mysteriously vanishes while home on winter break, his family is frantic. With help from Blaze's sister, the Bernsteins uncover Snapchat messages Blaze exchanged before his meeting with former classmate Samuel Woodward, and police begin their investigation. Woodward was affiliated with an anti-gay, neo-Nazi group, and prosecutors say he lured Bernstein, who was gay and Jewish, to a park and stabbed him to death in an act of hatred. Bernstein's body was eventually discovered with over 20 stab wounds, buried in a shallow grave. DNA from the crime scene linked Woodward to the murder. Charged with murder and a hate crime, Woodward is eventually convicted of all charges and sentenced to life in prison without parole. "20/20" sits down exclusively with Bernstein's sister, Beae, who uncovered evidence including her brother's social media correspondence and text messages which led police to the killer.

Additional interviews include Capt. Jack Anderson and Sgt. Dylan Jantzen of the Orange County Sheriff's department and ABC News legal contributor Matt Murphy who sits down with Blaze's mother and father, Jeanne Pepper Bernstein and Gideon Bernstein. The "20/20" report also features police interrogation interviews with Woodward.

ABC News' "20/20" is an award-winning primetime program anchored by David Muir and Deborah Roberts. A proven leader as a long-form newsmagazine for over 45 years, "20/20" features unforgettable, character-driven true-crime mysteries, exclusive newsmaker interviews, hard-hitting investigative reports, and in-depth coverage of high-profile stories. Janice Johnston is the executive producer. The two-hour "20/20" events air Fridays from 9:01-11:00 p.m. EST on ABC and are available to stream on ABC News digital platforms and Hulu.

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