

Newsman's accused killer to say it was self-defense

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THE 16-YEAR-OLD charged with binding and stabbing newsman George Weber in a twisted Brooklyn sex-slay will offer a new twist at his arraignment today — he's going to blame his bloodied victim.

John Katehis, who police said stabbed the longtime WABC radio reporter 50 times, was just trying to defend himself against a crazed sex fiend, the Queens teen's lawyer told the Daily News yesterday.

Jeffrey Schwartz will tell a Supreme Court judge that Weber lured his client, whose Web site bragged that he was a Satan-loving, knife-wielding sadomasochist, to his Brooklyn apartment on March 20 and filled him with cocaine and alcohol.

"It was like a spider luring him to his web," Schwartz told The News. "He was lured into the apartment. Weber wanted him to do some funky stuff. . . . He plied the kid with cocaine and vodka."

Weber, 47, who met Katehis online and offered him \$60 for sex, was trying to loosen the tape on his legs with a knife when things got out of hand, said Schwartz.

Last year, Schwartz defended slain 7-year-old Nixzmary Brown's stepdad and turned what many thought was a sure murder verdict into a manslaughter conviction.

"He thought Weber was going after him and there was a struggle for the knife," Schwartz said. "There was a big struggle. My kid had defensive wounds; they're going to find his blood all over the apartment. He had a finger almost cut off."

"He was on cocaine for the first time, he wiggled out. There's more to this case than everyone thinks. This kid was defending himself against a sexual predator."

Katehis, who is being charged as an adult, is being held without bail on charges of second-degree murder and criminal possession of a weapon.

He faces 25 years to life in prison.

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