

I'm gonna get you, 'suckers'

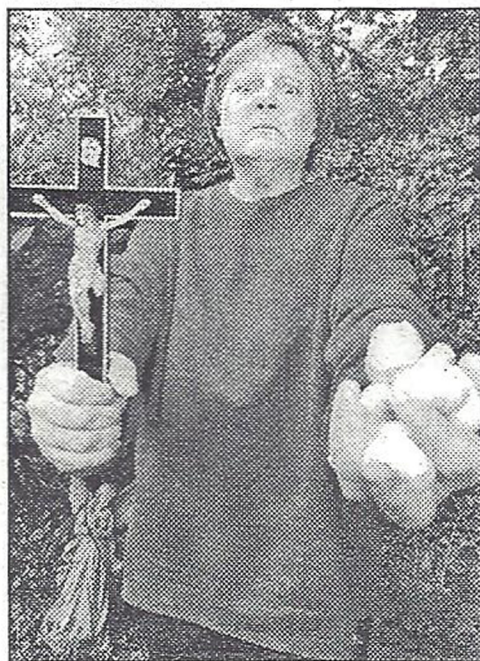
By CANDICE M. GIOVE

If that pale charmer sitting next to you at the bar asks, "What's your type?" — he might be talking about blood.

New York vampire hunter Joel Martin is A-positive that hundreds of bloodsuckers walk among us, often hanging — right-side up, that is — at downtown watering holes.

"It's not at all like the 'Twilight' movies, but they're right there in the city," the Long Island occultist asserted.

The downtown Draculas can be found in Gothic-themed bars in SoHo, TriBeCa and Greenwich Village, he said.



JOEL MARTIN
Van Helsing-wannabe.

Martin, 55, found tales of vampires hard to swallow, but became a believer after interviewing the late "Vampires Are" author Stephen Kaplan

on Martin's WBAB radio show in 1974. He then began investigating the taboo topic with Kaplan.

Kaplan's Vampire Research Center is now based in Martin's Babylon home, the last house on a dead-end street. Martin, a former city school teacher, also hosts the Internet radio show "The Spiritual Truth" and has penned a number of books on the paranormal.

And he claims that he regularly corresponds with four vampires in Manhattan, one in The Bronx and one in Queens.

"You honest to God don't know if the guy driving the cab you're in is one," he said.

Helaine Seidman