

## LI CONFIDENTIAL TOP 5 MOST WANTED



### THE KILLER OF DR. ANJULA NATARAJAN

In August, 1996, Natarajan's body was found in her Dix Hills home, a victim of death by suffocation. Police believe this man, who was caught using her MasterCard at three cash machines in Queens, is the murderer.



### WESTBURY STATION RAPISTS

These two male Hispanics are wanted for the rape of a female which occurred on Thursday, November 22, 2001 at about 3:40 a.m. The victim was walking home from the Westbury train station, when the skinnier suspect punched her in the face. The two dragged her to the rear of 455 Union Ave., where the heavier suspect forcibly raped her.



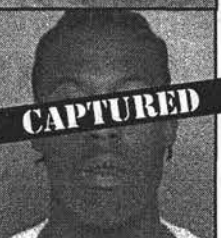
### SHI FU HUANG

Incarcerated for kidnapping and robbery, Huang escaped from Nassau County jail in 1988. He is 5'6", 145 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He would be 38 years old. He has a scar on the right side of his neck from a gunshot wound.



### TANK SMILEY AND SHA BUCHANAN

On January 18, 2003, Smiley and Buchanan forcibly raped a woman in an apartment in Wyandanch. Smiley, 32, aka "Tank," is 5'10", 160 pounds. He has a tattoo on his right arm. Check for him around the Cloverdale Apartments on Great Neck Road in North Amityville. Buchanan, 21, aka "Sha," is 6-foot, 165 pounds. He also has a tattoo on his right arm of his son's name, Jamel. Check for him around his mom's house at 850 County Line Rd. in Amityville.



### MICHAEL GALGANO

A registered sex offender, Galgano, 39, served 10 years in California for raping two women and firing a gun at others who spurned his advances. He is wanted for failure to register his whereabouts. His last known address was in Port Jefferson Station.

*If you have any, and we mean any, information on any of these suspects, please contact Crimestoppers at 1-800-220-TIPS.*

## ANOTHER PRESS FUGITIVE CAUGHT

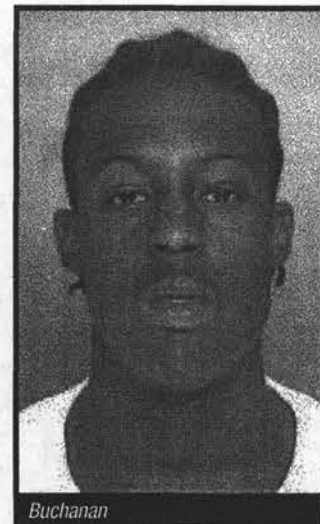
### THANKS TO YOUR TIPS, ALLEGED RAPIST IS BEHIND BARS

Sha Buchanan, who, along with pal Tank Smiley, is part of *LI Confidential's* Top 5 Most Wanted for allegedly forcibly raping a woman in an apartment in Wyandanch, was captured by Suffolk County authorities on May 14.

In Buchanan's Top 5 write-up, which runs weekly, the *Long Island Press* told readers to "check for him around his mom's house at 850 County Line Rd. in Amityville." And sure enough, that's where cops found him, thanks to a call to Crimestoppers from a vigilant citizen.

When Buchanan saw the cops, he said, "Let's just get this over with," according to the police, and surrendered without incident.

Still on the loose is Buchanan's alleged partner, "Tank" Smiley.



Buchanan

*We got one guy, now let's get the other. If you have any information on the whereabouts of Tank Smiley, call 1-800-220-TIPS.*

## UNSOLVED CRIMES

### GUEST OF DISHONOR

BY TIMOTHY BOLGER

Sometimes there's a criminal so petty and ruthless they make you wonder, "Is there nothing left that is sacred?" This week's felon-at-large has targeted numerous catering halls with ongoing wedding receptions in Nassau, Suffolk and Queens over the last two years and has accumulated several grand-larceny charges.

While families normally spend hundreds and even thousands of dollars to have their wedding videotaped and memories of the big day preserved for the rest of their lives, this crook preys on the sanctity of the family gathering. Waiting until the video crew takes a break, the suspect, disguised as a guest in a suit and tie, gets in position to steal the expensive cameras and accessories. Calmly, he simply packs up the equipment and leaves in a hurry with his running getaway car and an accomplice driving.

In one case, on February 3, 2002 at Westbury Manor in Jericho, the thief got away with approximately \$8,500 worth of equipment, although investigators estimate some of the gear could be worth between \$12,000 and \$15,000. Police believe there are a number of channels where the larcenist could cash in on the stolen goods. But third squad Detective Al Barnych says, "More than just the cameraman is the victim." The families who lose the precious memories they paid for are forced to live with the fact that their wedding video was robbed, usually after the majority of festivities have taken place.

As police haven't heard of any wedding robberies in the past year, the case is dead and they are now advising the public to keep an eye out in case he strikes again at a catering hall near you. The suspect, who was caught on a surveillance tape, is described as a male, white or possibly Hispanic in his mid-30s with a stocky build. Ⓛ

*Any of your "friends" lugging around superfly cameras they "found"? Call 1-800-220-TIPS.*



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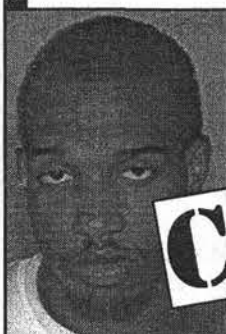
### WESTBURY TRAIN STATION RAPISTS

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### SHI FU HUANG

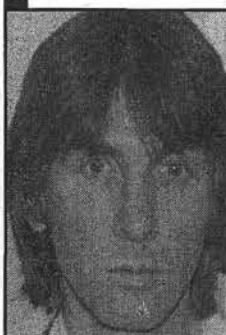
Incarcerated for kidnapping and robbery, Huang escaped from Nassau County jail in 1988. He is 5'6", 145 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He would be 38 years old. He has a scar on the right side of his neck from a gunshot wound. He has been known to work in Chinese restaurants.



### BOX ALLEN

In September, 2001, Bakhosheq "Box" Allen shot and killed Javon Reddick, 24, father of three young sons, in a parking lot. Allen was driving a 1986 four-door Olds Cutlass Ciera. He could be living in Brooklyn.

**CAPTURED**



### MICHAEL GALGANO

A registered sex offender, Galgano, 39, served 10 years in California for raping two women and firing a gun at others who spurned his advances. He is wanted by both Suffolk County and California authorities for failure to register his whereabouts. His last known address was in Port Jefferson Station.

If you have any, and we mean any, information on any of these suspects, please contact Crimestoppers at 1-800-220-TIPS. You can make yourself a cool G for a good tip. If you are wary of the fuzz, contact the Long Island Press at 516-992-1800 or through email at [LIConfidential@LongIslandPress.com](mailto:LIConfidential@LongIslandPress.com). All contacts will remain confidential.

## PRESS MOST WANTED FUGITIVE CAPTURED

### "BOX" ALLEN ARRESTED PLAYING BONGOS ON THE SUBWAY

BY BILL JENSEN

He had been on the *Long Island Press* Top 5 Most Wanted list for only eight issues—Box, we hardly knew ya. Now, you're going to jail.

Bakhosheq "Box" Allen, a man wanted for the 2001 murder of a Suffolk County father of three, has been captured. The *Long Island Press* has been the only media outlet to run information on Box Allen in the past three months.

Armed with a tip from the Suffolk County Police Department, NYPD transit cops closed in on Allen as he played bongos on a New York subway at the Columbus Circle station.

"We got a tip that he was known to be riding the D train," says Suffolk County Detective Lt. Jack Fitzpatrick. "We went there and took a look, but he doesn't play every day." So Fitzpatrick sent a color picture and description of Allen to the transit cops, whose office is located right above the Columbus Circle station at 59th St.

Just hours after looking at the photo during that morning's roll call, Officers Scott Johnson and Chad Acquire spotted three men playing bongos for donations on the southbound D train. When confronted, Allen gave his name as Yisreal Quosha—sources say he even had business cards with the fake name. But the gold teeth, as mentioned in his *Press* Most Wanted write up, were as shiny as ever. Charged with obstructing pedestrian movement with their bongos, Aquoomleyah Wilburn, 24, and Yisreal Yehoyahqueen, 26, were hauled down to the station along with their friend "Quosha." A quick background check revealed that "Quosha's" fingerprints matched the ones on file for Allen from the Suffolk murder. "Quosha" was just one of many aliases Allen was using, another being Anthony Thomas.

The 26-year-old fugitive, who gave a Brooklyn address, was held on a charge of second-degree murder.

Allen was wanted for the shooting death of Javon Reddick, 24, who worked as a clerk at the Riverhead Wal-Mart, on September 7, 2001. Reddick had gone to a private residence at 28 Cypress Avenue in Flanders and walked into the basement with Allen. Gunshots were then heard, and other people in the house raced down to find Reddick on the floor, shot in the leg, chest and head. Some reports have said the murder was over drugs. At the time, Reddick left behind two young sons, ages 7 and 3, and an infant boy just 5 months old. ●



### CRIME FILE #9

## WYANDANCH RAPISTS TO BE ADDED TO *PRESS* MOST WANTED LIST

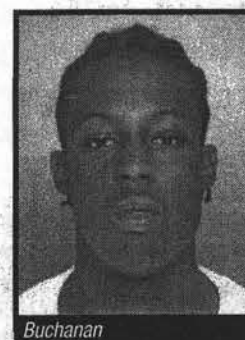
With the capture of "Box Allen," the *Long Island Press* has a vacancy on our Most Wanted List. Unfortunately, there are more than enough criminals on the Island to fill the spot.

On January 18, 2003, Columbus Smiley, Shamel Buchanan and two other men forcibly raped a woman in an apartment in Wyandanch. About a week later, cohorts Anthony Biddle and Melvin Giles were arrested. But Smiley and Buchanan are still on the loose.

Smiley, 32, who goes by the nickname "Tank," is 5'10", 160 pounds. He has a tattoo on his right arm. His last known address is at the Cloverdale Apartments on Great Neck Road, in North Amityville, and sources say he is still frequenting that area.

Buchanan, aka "Sha," is 21 years old. He is 6-feet tall and weighs 165 pounds, and has a tattoo on his right arm of his son's name, Jamel.

Buchanan's last known address is his mother's house at 850 County Line. He has recently been seen at a deli on Route 110. — BJ ●



Buchanan



Smiley



The  
New

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ENTERTAINMENT • LIFESTYLE • NEWS

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LONG ISLAND'S BIWEEKLY PAPER

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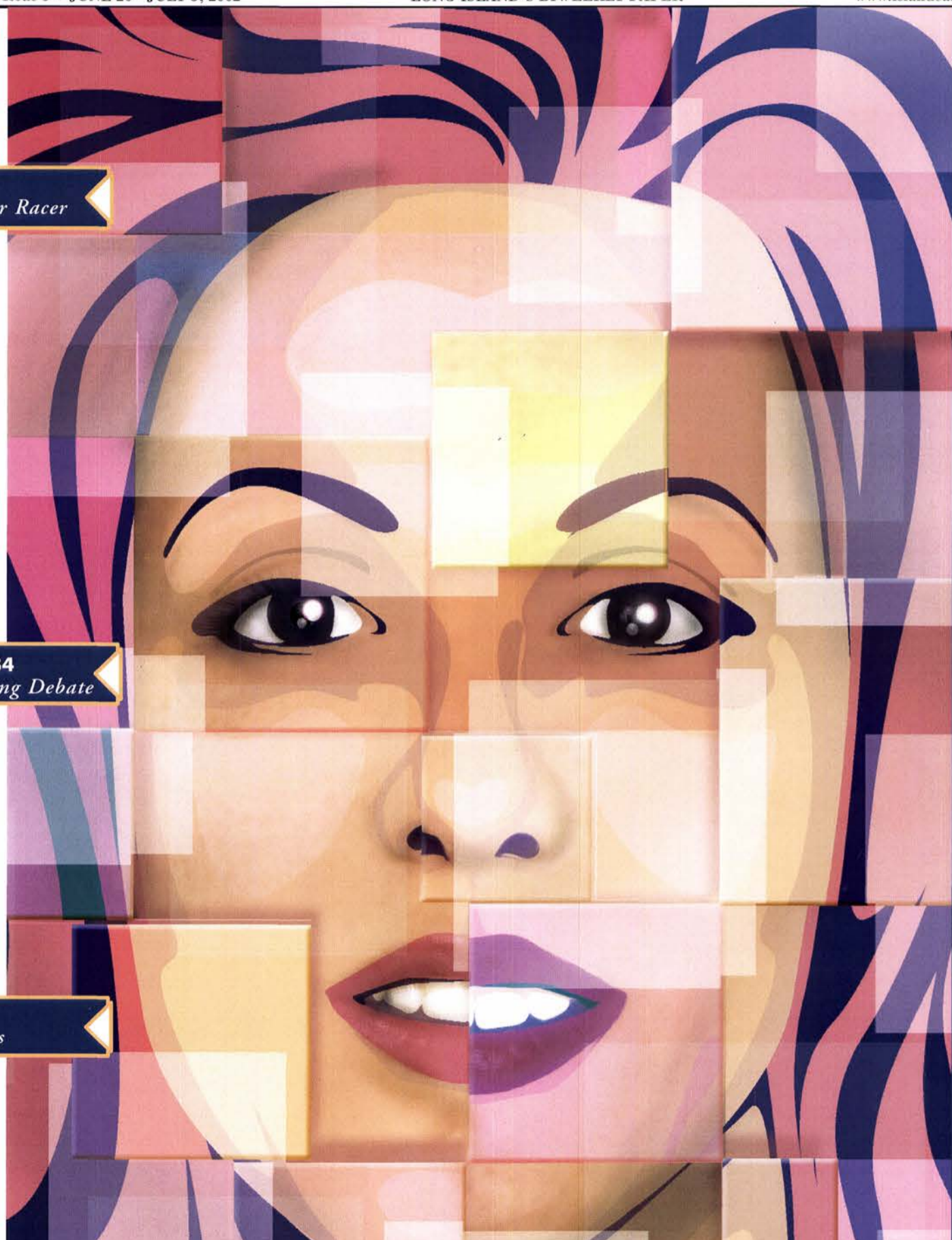
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**PIECING MY LIFE BACK TOGETHER**

AN EXCLUSIVE BY  
P 12

**AMY FISHER**



# Suicide Adds to Mystery Of Corpse Found in Barrel

## After Police Questioning, Man Kills Himself

By ROBERT D. McFADDEN

The mystery of a pregnant woman murdered long ago and hidden for decades in a steel drum under a home on Long Island until her mummified remains were found 11 days ago has taken another strange twist. A day after being questioned by detectives last week, the original owner of the home apparently killed himself.

Howard B. Elkins, 71, the first of five owners of the white split-level home at 67 Forest Drive in Jericho, N.Y., where the body was found, was interrogated by Nassau County homicide investigators on Thursday at his retirement home in a condominium community in Boca Raton, Fla. He was not taken into custody.

On Friday afternoon, the police said, he left home and did not return. His worried family called the authorities to report him missing. Later that evening, he was found by a son in the garage of a friend's house in Boca Raton, the victim of an apparently self-inflicted shotgun blast to the head.

The police, at least publicly, drew no connections between Mr. Elkins's death and the discovery of the woman's body under his former home, or his questioning in that mystery. "We are aware that the man did commit suicide in Florida," Officer Doreen McGuinness, a Nassau County police spokeswoman, said yesterday. "But we're still investigating, and we are not drawing any conclusion."

Whatever the death of Mr. Elkins seemed to suggest, investigators said they were no closer to unraveling a tangled case whose grim discoveries, tantalizing clues and twisting plot might have been drawn from one of Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe mysteries.

Who was the woman?

Why was she killed?

Why was her body hidden where it would inevitably be found?

The case came to light on Sept. 2, when Hamid Tafaghodi, having just bought the Jericho house for \$455,000, found a rusted 55-gallon drum, weighing 345 pounds, in a 36-inch crawl space. He insisted that Ronald Cohen, the seller, take it away.

After garbage men refused to handle it, apparently fearing that toxic waste might have been inside, Mr. Cohen and a real estate agent pried the lid off, found another container inside and spotted a hand and a shoe. They called the police, who removed the body of a woman, her full-term fetus, her apparel and other items, all remarkably well preserved, apparently because the drum had been airtight.

The body, shrunken over time, was 4 feet 9 inches tall, weighed 59 pounds and was clad in a skirt, button-down sweater, high socks and a shoe with a mid-level heel. Around the neck was a religious scapular and a locket with the words, "Patrice, Love Uncle Phil." A wedding band on the left hand bore an inscription "M.H.R. XII-59," there was another ring with a green stone, and an imitation leopard-skin coat and a pocketbook with makeup also were found. The gender of the fetus could not be determined.

An autopsy found that the woman, who was 25 to 30 years old at the time of her death, had been killed by blunt force head trauma, and estimated that she had been dead 25 to 30 years. Despite many clues and searches of missing persons reports, her identity has not been uncovered. No fingerprints were obtainable, but the police hope that DNA samples may provide useful leads. Any DNA taken from the remains of the fetus might help identify its father, detectives said.

Investigators learned that the

house had been built in 1957 and had had only five owners: Mr. Elkins, who sold it in 1972, Arthur and Judith Ebbin, who sold it in 1984, Frank and Bernadette Salmaggi, who sold it in 1990, and Mr. Cohen, who sold it to Mr. Tafaghodi this year. Each of the owners, in interviews with the police and the news media, denied knowing anything about the drum.

But detectives concluded that the murder must have taken place during a nine-year period between March 1963, when the drum was manufactured in Linden, N.J., as a container for paint and plastic pigments, and October 1972, when it was first reported seen at the house in Jericho. Mr. Elkins was the owner throughout that period.

In a telephone interview with The New York Times on Sept. 4, Mr. Elkins acknowledged that he had bought the house new in 1957, and had lived in it for 15 years before selling and moving to Florida in 1972. He also noted that he had built a den off the kitchen that created the crawl space in 1966. Asked if he had ever gone into the crawl space, he replied: "What for?"

He also said he could not remember the name of the contractor who had built the addition, but recalled

## Tantalizing questions remain in a case fit for a Philip Marlowe novel.

that the job had gone smoothly. He said that, aside from gardeners, landscapers and maids, he could think of no one who had had access to the property.

On Thursday, Mr. Elkins was questioned at his Boca Raton home by Nassau County police investigators. He was one of a number of people who had not been removed from a list of suspects. It was unclear what they asked him, or what he told them. In any case, he was not arrested.

About 1:30 P.M. on Friday, his family later told the police, Mr. Elkins left his home and did not return. Relatives later reported him missing, and his son, Steve, found Mr. Elkins dead in the garage of a friend's home nearby and called the authorities.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department reported no signs that the death was anything other than a suicide. It said that Mr. Elkins had been tending the house while his friend was away, and noted that a shotgun was found beside the body, which was in a car parked in the garage, and that no suicide note was found.

Neighbors and acquaintances of Mr. Elkins in Florida and on Long Island recalled him as outgoing and friendly, and said it was hard to imagine that he could have ever killed anyone.

"He seemed like a very sociable fellow," Frank Lonano, a neighbor in Boca Raton, said of Mr. Elkins, whom he had known only casually around the walled and affluent community of town houses overlooking a golf course. "He was just not the type."

Judith Ebbin, who with her husband, Arthur, bought the Jericho house from Mr. Elkins and his wife, Ruth, in 1972, owned it for 12 years, never suspecting all that while that a woman's body lay in a drum in a crawl space under the den. "They seemed like such a lovely family," she said of the former owners.